

SELF-DIRECTED STUDY TITLE : Roles of Forest Extensionists in
Community Forestry. A Case Study
of Khon Kaen Regional and
Provincial Forest Offices,
Thailand

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study is to investigate the roles of community forestry in the development of Khon Kaen rural area, roles of forest extensionists in community forestry, problems and constraints in the implementation of community forestry programs which have been performed by Khon Kaen Regional and Provincial Forest Extension.

A set of questionnaires and interviews were used to collect data. The results were as follows.

Community forestry concerned not only tree planting activities for community benefit, but also for social improvement that can contribute to the well-being of the rural people as well as to the ecological improvement of the area.

Forest extensionists played critical roles to promote community forestry programs. They elaborated extension plans based on existing local condition and resource availability, formulate useful technical information, and educate target groups to be aware of dual objectives environmental conservation and economic benefit from tree planting. Moreover, they cooperate with other agencies to facilitate target groups to adopt community forestry practices.

Many factors influenced program implementation. In addition, physical and social constraints that directly obstructed participatory forest management.