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TIPPAWAN PONGCHAROEN: HOUSEHOLD FOOD ACQUISITION AND
NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF CHILDREN 0-5 YEARS OLD IN FOREST AND NONFOREST
COMMUNITIES : A CASE STUDY OF PHA TAEM NATIONAL PARK, UBON RATCHATHANI.
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In rural areas, food available to the household comes from three food acquisition means: production, gathering and purchasing. Forests can be very important sources of foods and other resources for people living near them. Traditionally, people depended on products from forests as a major source of income and food. Because of deforestation, food acquisition patterns may change.

A cross-sectional study was conducted in the forest area, Naphoklang subdistrict and the non-forest area, Nongsangyai subdistrict, Khong Chiam district, Ubon Ratchathani, during December 1996 and April to May 1997. The study aimed to determine and compare household food acquisition patterns, nutrient intake and nutritional status of children 0-5 years old between forest and non-forest communities. Socio-economic and demographic data and household food acquisition data collected in 253 and 245 households, respectively, were analyzed in this study. Nutrient intake data and nutritional status data were evaluated for all children 2-5 and 0-5 years old, respectively.

Generally, the methods of household food acquisition, namely purchasing, production and gathering, were similar but pattern differed between the forest and non-forest areas. Food acquisition means of households in the forest area were mainly purchasing and gathering, whereas the main acquisition means in the non-forest area were purchasing and production. Rice obtained primarily through in both areas. Since income was higher in the non-forest area ($P < 0.001$) and markets are more accessible, the amount of food purchased in this area was greater than in the forest area. Moreover, food production in the non-forest area was higher than in the non-forest area, although land size was comparable. Average energy intake per person of the non-forest area (1657 kcal/person/d) was higher than in the forest area (1461 kcal/person/d). In both areas, rice contributed the largest part of energy intake, follow by the meat and egg group. The energy from meat and egg group was higher in the non-forest area than in the forest area ($P < 0.05$).

Breastfeeding was still practiced in the two areas but complementary feeding tended to be too early or too late. There was no statistical difference in nutrient intake of the children 2-5 years old in the two areas. Nutritional status of children 0-5 years old from non-forest area was better than the forest area in terms of weight for age, height for age, and weight for height ($P < 0.05$).