

Abstract

Studies on biodiversity of fishes, plants as food, medicinal plants and edible mushrooms in the ecosystem of the lower part of Mekong basin at Ubonratchathani province between April-September 2008. Four villages which settled at nearby the Mekong river were selected for the research area. These villages are Ban Bungkeeklek, Amphoe Kemarat; Ban Donghiew, Amphoe Na-tan; Ban Songkhorn, Amphoe Phosai and Ban Thalong, Amphoe Khong Chiam. Participatory action research (PAR) was used in the research. Researchers consist of the researchers from Ubonratchathani Rajabhat university and the local wisdom of these community (villages).

Studies on the ecosystem in the Mekong river at dry season found that there were many sub-ecosystem, the local name called bung, had, don, kun, vern, kang, pha and bok. Those sub-ecosystem are the habitats of the different fishes. Study on water qualities in the Mekong river are suitable for living ground of fishes.

Sixty eight species of fishes from 19 families were found in the Mekong river. The main families were Cyprinidae and Siluridae. About 32 species were economic species. There were 9 species of 6 families which was regarded as threatened species (for the Red Data of Thailand). Study on the economic fishes of Ban Thalong found 32 economic species with total weight of 11,532 kilograms and the value 1,115,499 baht. At Ban Songkorn 23 economic species were found with 775 kilograms and the value 64,901 baht.

The number of people who are fisherman in the villages are reduced in the present (excepted Ban thalong) because the number of the fishes were diminished. There are many people in the villages had cultured some of vegetables at bank of river or riverside in the dry season. The agriculture at the bank of the river are livelihood of these community for security of food and economic. The community which settled at the riverside had utilized bioresources from the forest which they lived around it. Most of the forest are the dry dipterocarp forest which there were many diversity of plants and wild mushrooms. Survey on the ecosystem of the dry dipterocarp forest of Ban Thalong found the plants used for food were 24 species of 14 families and medicinal plants were 21 species of 15 families which used by local community as an indigenous knowledge. Sixteen species of edible mushrooms were found in the forest. The people who harvested the wild mushrooms utilized it as food in their families and some of the mushrooms were sold in the local market.