

Thanakiat Chunlapamonsri 2010: People Participation in Forest Resource Management in Ban Phu Yang, Tambon Thung Luang, Amphoe Pak Tho, Changwat Ratchaburi. Master of Science (Forest Resource and Environmental Administration), Major Field: Forest Resource and Environmental Administration, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Vipak Jintana, Ph.D. 100 pages.

This research aims to investigate socio-economic conditions and level of participation in forest resource management of the local people in Ban Phu Yang, Tambon Thung Luang, Amphoe Pak Tho, Changwat Ratchaburi. Influences of the socio-economic factors on the participation levels were evaluated. Heads or representatives of all 86 households in the study village were interviewed using a structured questionnaire. Group meeting was organized in order to find out the people attitudes toward the management of their forest resource. Data was analyzed using computer software. Simple statistics such as mean and percentage were used. F-test at a significant level of 0.05 was calculated for testing the study hypothesis.

All of the respondents were Buddhist and comprised of 65.10% male. A half was between 31-50 years old. Most of them 95.30% have been settled in the village for more than 15 years. About 86.00% were married with on average 4 members in the family. About 81.40% had their owned land, 79.10% were members of various groups within the community. About 67.40% finished an elementary school. Nearly two third 65.20% earned from agriculture and 59.30% relied on non timber forest products as a minor income. About 41.90% generated income from 20,000-40,000 baht per household per year. However, 67.40% stated that their income were sufficient. Whereas, 75.00% of those who answered their income were insufficient have to borrow cash from the village fund and the rest 25.00% loan from the Bank of Agriculture and Cooperatives (BAC).

The finding from the assessment on people participation in forest resource management revealed that the average point was calculated at 2.72 which indicated a high level of participation. Activity that showed the highest average point at 2.78 was the monitoring and evaluation activities. Followed by forest resource protection and restoration activities, problem formulation and planning activities, and utilization of forest resource activity with the average points were 2.74, 2.71 and 2.65 respectively. The differences in socio-economic conditions of the respondents such as the number of household's members, the membership in various community groups, accessibility in the information, and the knowledge and understanding on the forest resource were found to be the factors influencing the level of participation in forest resource management ( $p < 0.05$ ). In order to promote people awareness and participation in forest resource management, the respondents suggested that forest conservation network should be established and various activities related to forest resource management should be organized continuously.

---

Student's signature

---

Thesis Advisor's signature