

Seumsitthi Soumountha 2010: The Participation of Farmers on Irrigation Water Management: A Case Study of the 6th Km Irrigation Project, Xaythany District, Vientiane City. Master of Science (Resources Management), Major Field: Resources Management, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Saroj Aungsumalin, Ph.D. 116 pages.

The objectives of this research were to study socio-economic conditions, to study the level of understanding and the participation in irrigation water management, and to figure out the factors correlating to the participation of farmers in irrigation water management. The data were collected from interviewing 128 head of sample households by using questionnaires. The analyses were done in terms of both descriptive and quantitative. The description was done in the form of quantity, percentage and average. Chi-square was the statistical tool for quantitative analysis.

It was found that most of the head of households were male, had , on the average, 45 years of age, finished primary school. Growing rice was their main occupation and selling out labor was the main secondary occupation. There were 1-2 adult labor forces in any household. The average size of land holding was less than 3 rai. Most households owned their agricultural land. The distance from land to the irrigation canal was less than 500 meters. The households had an annual income between 32,000- 52,000 baht, had no debt, and had no social position in the villages. However, they were members of water user groups, got the news from village leaders and through public announcements, contacted with extension officers 2-3 times, and attended trainings 2-3 times. The study on the level of understanding in irrigation water management comprised of two parts. With regard to the necessary part, it was found that if anyone or any group is cheating by secretly digging any unapproved canal, and/or applying chemical harmfully would be reprimanded and/or pay penalty fees. Regarding the sufficient part, most farmers realized that the irrigation would provide sufficient water for cultivation. The study found that the overall participation in irrigation water management of farmers was at the moderate level. However, the participation in terms of receiving water was at the high level. The Chi-square analysis revealed that sex, main occupation, number of household labor, size of irrigated land, indebtedness and the receiving of information correlated with the level of participation. Yet, age, experiences in irrigation water management and social position did not correlate with the level of participation. It was recommended that to improve the flow and sufficiency of irrigation water, the frequency or timing to regulate irrigation water should be modified and the cooperation between farmers and officials has to be increased.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature