

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT TITLE : THE PROCESS AND ADOPTION OF LAND ALLOCATION
IN THE FOREST VILLAGE PROGRAMME OF
SAI-THONG VILLAGE, DONGMUN SUB-DISTRICT,
NONGKUNGSRI DISTRICT, KALASIN PROVINCE.

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study were to analyze (1) The process of land allocation in the forest village programme, (2) the acceptance of land allocation in the forest village programme and (3) the factors that related to the acceptance of land allocation in the forest village programme among villagers of Ban Sai-Thong Dongmun Sub-district, Nongkungsri District, Kalasin Province.

The study has employed concepts and the related research outputs to serve as guidelines for the development of conceptual framework. The study was done through quantitative and interview methods upon the population of Ban Sai-Thong, Dongmun Sub-district, Nongkungsri District, Kalasin Province. According to the Local Administration Department's census records, the village has the total of 117 households. Since a number of villagers have gone to work in other provinces and some others have had their houses already moved to some other places, interviews were done with the remaining 83 households. The data analysis was done in percentage, mean, and chi-square.

The research findings :

1. The land allocation in the forest village programme is an approach that had been used by the government to solve the difficulties of the villagers who had occupied the land of the national forests, so that the latter could legally own stable housing and land for production. At the same time, it would also solve the problem of natural imbalances. On 29th April 1975, the Cabinet had endorsed this programme and assigned the Royal Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and cooperatives to implement it. In the process of land allocation, criteria and procedures had been set to guide the implementation of the programme by the Royal Forestry Department, starting from designing master-plan, public relations, reporting land occupancy, inspecting land occupancy, building up public utilities, considering villagers who are entitled to land allocation, assigning land plots to villagers and the issuance of documents of permission for the villagers who received the land allocation. As for the villagers of Ban Sai-Thong, this procedure has been adhered to. But at the step of consideration for entitlement to land allocation, after which the entitled villagers would be allocated into the plots, problems with the villagers occurred - the villagers did not accept some criteria of land allocation in the programme. At the same time, there was a change in the government's policy, namely, the implementation of the programme was changed hand to the Land Reform Office for Agriculture. As a result, the land allocation in the forest village programme has been delayed since 1993

2. The acceptance of land allocation in the forest village programme is divided into 2 parts : the acceptance of the criteria of land allocation in the forest village programme and the acceptance of the procedures of land allocation in the forest village programme. It was found that the villagers accepted the criteria of land allocation in the forest village programme. Fifty point six percent of the villagers were of high-level of acceptance, while 42.2 % and 7.2 % accepted the programme at middle-level and low level respectively. As for the acceptance of the procedure of land allocation in the forest village programme, 54.2 % were of high-level of acceptance,

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while 28.9 % and 16.9 % were of middle-level and low-level of acceptance respectively. However, the villagers did not accept some criteria and procedures

3. With regard to the factors which are related to the acceptance of land allocation in the forest village programme, from the statistical testing of the relationships between 2 factors, with chi-square statistical figures, at the confidence-level of 95.0 % the findings are as follows. The factors which are related to the criteria of land allocation in the forest village programme are : access to information, social relationships with leaders and neighbours, compatability, the officials' operating strategy, human relationships of the programme's officials, and knowledge and competency of the programme's officials. Factors which are related to the procedures of land allocation in the forest village programme are : social relationships with leaders and neighbours, compatability and knowledge and competency of the programme's officials.