

Parichat Nakares 2011: Mangrove Forest Conservation through Oyster Spat Nursing Group Paknumprasae Sub-district, Klaeng District, Rayong Province. Master of Science (Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management), Major Field: Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Vipak Jintana, Ph.D. 73 pages.

This study aimed to survey the socio-economics conditions of the oyster spat nursing group (OSNG) in Paknumprasae sub-district, Klaeng district, Rayong province. Problems related to mangrove forest conservation as well as the solving measures were identified and compiled. Rapid rural appraisal (RRA), structured interview and small group meeting were applied for data collection. Simple statistics were used for data analysis.

The results revealed that the OSNG being composed of 18 members, both men and women are equal in numbers. Their average age was about 45 years old. About 44% of them relied on the oyster spat nursing as their main source of income. Thirty-nine percent of them owned no land. They used the Prasae-phangrad mangrove forest as for fishery by setting the nylon lines with a number of round cement plates along the mangrove canals to allow oyster spats nurturing in the area lived at. About 2 months later the spats can be collected for sell. This occupation generated quite good income and mostly invested by their owned household labors. In order to conserve the mangrove forest, the group established customary rules and regulations concerning the utilization. Various measures such as participatory mangrove planting and mangrove awareness campaign were regularly organized. Problems related to mangrove conservation were such as the different opinions on the cultivate land, illegal logging of outsiders, water pollution from shrimp farms and industrial factories, and insufficient financial support. The group proposed several measured to solve the problems such as arranging platform for exchange opinions among various groups, educate people who used the mangroves to have a better understanding on the importance and values of mangrove forest. Moreover, awareness of young generation on the necessity of mangrove conservation measures should be built continuously.

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Thesis Advisor's signature