

Arnon Yodyadthai 2008: Communities Forest Resources Utilization in Upper Part of Mae Sa Watershed Area, Mae Rim District, Chiang Mai Province. Master of Science (Resource Management), Major Field: Resource Management, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Nuchanata Mungkung, Ph.D. 129 pages.

The objectives of this study were to determine the socio-economic characteristics and the utilization of forest resources, as well as, factors affecting the utilization of forest resources in the upper part of Mae Sa Watershed Area, Mae Rim District, Chiang Mai Province. The data were collected by employing a designed questionnaire with the cooperation of the Forest Resource Utilization and Environmental Awareness of Hill Tribe People in Northern Thailand project. The sample size was 332 households, which comprised of 218 Thai households and 114 Hmong households. The employed statistical analysis methods were percentage, mean, maximum and minimum, while the Logit Model was used for analyzing the factors affecting the utilization of forest resources.

The results showed that the respondents utilized 10 kinds of forest products, namely, fuel wood, bamboo, mushrooms, bamboo shoots, wild vegetables, wild fruit, insects and products of insects, wildlife, medicinal plants, and wild orchids. The collected forest products were for home use and sale. The mean annual net value of forest resources utilization for all households was 1,658.55 baht per household, while the mean annual net values for the Thai and Hmong were 2,150.01 and 718.74 baht per household, respectively. The net value of forest resources utilization overall for the upper Mae Sa Watershed was 2,215,822.80 baht per year. Moreover, factors affecting the forest resources utilization of all studied communities were age, education level, total annual household income and household labor. The obtained results from separate analysis indicated that the relevant factors were age for Thai respondents; and age, education level, total household income and household labor for Hmong respondents.

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