Om Maeng Village Baseline Survey

Om Maeng, 1/16/99
Tambon Kong Kaek
Interviewers: Jean, Bia, Mun, Soonthorn
3 villagers: 1 CP rep for the village, 1 assistant headman

Village Baseline Survey
Population: 574
Households: 140~
Ethnicity: Thai
List of names: received

A. Infrastructure

1. Schools: 1 Elementary When? 20 yrs (another said 30-40)
2. Health Clinic: No (Kong Kaek) When?
   Before water generator, 2527
5. TVs: almost every house
6. Vehicles (pickups): 21
7. Other Facilities: Corn Mill
8. Roads: One main road through village has been concrete 3 years. Each year 100 m. Sois are still dirt. Budget r.p.ch. government, 300 meters total.
   Road to Mae Chaem many years
   Seasonal Use: into village bad in the rainy season.
9. Travel to Market (most frequently used means of travel): pickup, songtaew, motorcycle
10. Travel time: MCh? 10 km, 15-20 min Hot? 2 hrs ChM? 4-5 hrs (often travel through Hot)

B. History

1. When was the village established? Over 100 years ago – old village, many broke off from this one like Na Yangdin, Pha poeng, and they even said Long Pong as well.
2. Did this village expand or break off from another? No
3. If so, why did it break off?
4. How many households originally? About 70
5. How many people in the village originally?
6. Was there any time that the village grew or shrank dramatically? When?
7. Have there been any major events in the village – 10 yrs, 2 yrs, etc.?

C. Land

1. Land Area: over 2,000 rai Pre-crisis: a bit less 10 yrs: only 200 in field crop area
2. Irrigated by run-of-river: Princess project built a dam and canals 7 years ago. Also other area has a river running through it.
3. Irrigated by other means (well, pipe):__________rai When constructed?
4. **Forest:** __________ rai  
   Conservation: __________ rai  
They have a conservation forest, but didn’t seem much interested or knowledgable about the forest.  
   Community: none  
   Other: none  

5. **Home-gardens:** __________ rai  
They plant vegetables along the river to eat.

6. **Prevailing land quality /soil description:**  
   They say the soil is OK because they allow cattle to graze there in the dry season and they only plant one crop a year.

7. **Tenure:**  
   **Owners:** Around the village is N.S.3

8. **Any communally controlled land? (specify)**  
   No

9. **Major crops and rotations:**

   They plant rice to eat in the paddy near the village and a small amount of upland rice. Rotating with the rice they also plant soybean and vegetables to sell (garlic and onions) and mostly to eat along the river/canal.

   The major cash crop growing area is 9 kilometers from this area where they have a whole other village where people live during the rainy season to grow corn (almost exclusively). About ten years ago they began clearing this area and grew animal feed corn. CP has come in making it easier to sell corn and they are also now contracting to grow corn for seen with CP. Therefore, they have been expanding this area over the past ten years little by little. This year they will plant about 2,000 rai of corn as opposed to just 200 rai a few years ago. But now they have expanded the land area all that is possible and the forest department will not let them go further. They plant corn every year in the entire area (no fallow).

10. **Major changes in land use by crop:**

    Used to plant upland rice where corn is now but wasn’t enough to eat so started planting corn to sell.

    They are beginning to plant lamyai and other fruit (mango and sari) in the corn growing area, but most of the trees are still small. Began this just 2-3 years ago. Some people have Begun planting these trees because the road to the area has improved and now they can transport the fruit OK. That area is about 9 kms from the main road (10 km from the village itself on the main road) and the road in is dirt and rugged, but passable. That makes a total km from village to other village of about 20 km by road and about 30-40 min travel time. They used to walk from the village to this area, but now only drive and there is a separate village (Huai Sam Sop) with homes that are empty now, but supposedly full during the rainy season. This area is all (S.B. G., S.T.G.) tenure or can only be used to plant, cannot be bought or sold…..(and yet it has been expanded?).
Reasons:

11. Major land use (crop) decisions by HHs or community? HH.

12. Major changes in land management (fallow, input use):

Person we talked with is the contact person for CP. People bring their corn to him to sell to CP. CP gives seed, fertilizer, pesticide and technology package then they deduct from final sale price.

Use of fertilizer has increased over the years. Started using about 7 years ago. Much of the fertilizer use depends on the availability of capital. But they use a lot because they didn’t have enough to eat before.

Plowing depends on the crop. 10 years ago didn’t have large tractors. They did have small tractors ten years ago. Now everyone uses tractors. Large tractor 170 Bt. Each rai for first plow. More detailed plowing after 400 Bt. per rai for second plowing. Also pay own fuel.

Everyone has a small tractor so don’t rent.

Pesticide machine: 300 Bt. per day. If you have a lot of land must rent.

13. Major land investment decisions made by HHs or community?

Used to have terraces that were suggested by District Ag. 10 years ago – not many rai and they have worn down on their own.

14. Are there other decisions in which community takes the lead?

15. Major agricultural problems – Rank:
(rainfall, reliability of irrig., soil quality, prices, input costs, labor availability/cost, credit).

This year problem with rice – brown hopper. Before had problems but weren’t bad and so didn’t use pesticide. This year lost a lot.

They have flood problems every year – but is common and they don’t lose much.

16. Other areas of concern or interest at village or community level.

17. Have the last two years been special in any way?
How has the crisis affected the village?

Big effect because price of crops went down but input prices increased. Fewer people buying produce. 1998 started problems.

D. Major sources of information
1. Agricultural development or other projects in village: When begun?

   No tambon council in this village (tambon?). Not enough people and taxes and so they got no ‘budget from the government.

   Cargill came before and some planted but they didn’t come and buy. Before CP – maybe 35-36

2. Credit institutions: (When people need money where do they borrow from?)

   Agriculture: Ag Coop, Ag Bank (mostly)
   Some borrow from relatives.

2. Where do people learn about market prices?

   Middlemen come and buy and tell prices. Corn go to kamnan to sell at his mill.
   Many different guys come for soybeans.

   Have gone to sell in city but transport costs were high and the price not high enough to make up for it.

4. Where do people learn about job opportunities and wages outside amphoe?

   They say that people just leave and look for work. Sometimes people come back and tell of opportunities but not many.

5. Where do people learn about agricultural crops and technologies?

   District agriculture suggests new crops and changes, but it’s the villagers who decide what to use and what not to use. Some villagers have studied ag and come back to show others.

E. Labor and migration

1. Do people leave the village to look for work elsewhere? Yes, especially this year. Teenagers – boys.
2. When did people start to leave?
3. Who leaves? (age, sex, married) The single people, mostly men, and those who are educated.
4. Why do they leave?
5. How long are they gone? Have people gone ten years, but maintain their names/residence in village.
6. Where do they go? Mostly to Bangkok
8. Have people been moving into the village recently? No one new can move in unless they marry in. Some people have come back from Bangkok to live with parents.
9. Are they former residents or new people? Former residents.
10. Where do they come from?
12. What do they do when they return? They don’t have anything to do and so help in parents
fields.
13. Any problems with people returning? Don’t have anything to do. Just help mom and dad with land. Some come back to marry.
F. Prices

1. Agricultural wages: 1. 100 Bt., 2. 100 Bt., 3. 60 Bt.

3. Tractor Services: 1. 170 Bt. (1st time), 400 Bt./rai (2nd time) 2. 110-120 Bt. (1st), 300 Bt. (2nd), 3. Didn’t use tractor.

4. Farm Gate Corn (animal feed sold as ear-to middleman with own mill) 1. 2.5 Bt/kg, 2. Didn’t sell as ear before
   (milled) 1. 3.5 Bt/kg, 2. 4 Bt., 3. 1.6 Bt.
   CP (seed – as ear) 1. 11.75 Bt/kg, 2. 9 Bt.

5. Farm Gate Soybean: 1. 8-10 Bt/kg, 2. 6-7 Bt., 3. 4.5-6 Bt. (depends on the grade)

6. Farm Gate Rice: (unmilled) 1. 70 Bt/t, 2. 40 Bt., 3. 25 Bt.

6. Fertilizer: Rabay – 1. 550 Bt./Grasop (50 Kg), 2. 280, 3. 200~ (mostly use for rice)
   CP – 1. 450 Bt., 2. 350 Bt. (but quality varied and so are not same fertilizer).
   Rabbit Brand – 1. 420 Bt., 2. 200-300 Bt. (use for soy and rice)

7. Diesel: 1. 10 Bt/l, 2. 8 Bt.

7. Gasoline: Benzene – 1. 15 Bt/l, 2. 11 Bt.
   Super – 1. 16 Bt., 2. 12 Bt.

9. Rice (Consume): 1. 220 Bt/t (20 liter), 2. 150 Bt., 3. Didn’t buy

9. Cement: (Tiger brand) 1. 108 Bt./grasop, 2. 80 Bt., 3. 60 Bt. (buy in Mae Chaem)

Cement Blocks: 1. 3.5 Bt/block, 2. 1.5 Bt., 3. Didn’t use

12. Cooking Oil: 1. 25 Bt/small bottle, 2. 12 Bt., 3. ?
13. Fish Sauce: