Thung Yaw (Mae Thaen), 2/10/99
Tambon Chang Khoeng
Interviewers: Jean, Bia, Mun, Tuang
8 villagers – one woman, assistant headman from Mae Thaen came at the end

Village Baseline Survey
Population: 425, (m) 209, (w) 216
Households: 97
Ethnicity: Thai
List of names: Received

A. Infrastructure

1. Schools: They have elementary B.1-6. Before the school was in the temple but separated off. (Probably around 26 but not sure). Kids go to highschool M. 1-3 in Mae Chaem. About 10 kids are now studying there. There is a vehicle that takes them and picks them up each day – they pay a monthly fee for this transport.

2. Health Clinic: Mae Chaem
3. Telephones:

There are two phone booths in the village and came in 40 (last year). But the service is not consistent. The line comes down from Mae Ming where there is a receiver and is not very clear.

4. Electricity: Electricity came in 2533.

5. TVs: yes, some
Vehicles (pickups): 5-6 Motorcycles: every household 100~

6. Other Facilities:
   Rice mill

7. Roads: Seasonal Use:
2519 the road began to be built. The budget came from Glom thang luang (government-ministry of communication and transport). Before that is was just a thin walking path that the villagers kept up.

8. Travel to Market (most frequently used means of travel): passenger vehicle to Mae Chaem costs 5 Bt. Twice a day they run., use motorcycles to get to fields and Mae Chaem.

9. Travel time: MCh? Hot? ChM?

B. History

1. When was the village established?

Started with 3-4 families doing paddy first. They expanded to upland fields because they didn’t get enough rice from the paddy. When they had about 20 households they became a village and had a temple (over 100 years ago). Most people came from Chang Koeng. 40 years ago they had 40-50 households (when one old man was young). Mae Thaen separated off about 10 years ago. People moved there because they had their land there and decided to just build their homes there instead. It’s about 3 km from Thung Yaw. People in Mae Thaen
were people in Thung Yaw whose parents didn’t have paddy area in Thung Yaw. So they only had upland fields and could move.

They started in the upland fields with shifting cultivation on a 4-5 year rotation between fields. 26 they had to set field boundaries and stop shifting because it became an O.P.B. (Ongkhan Asa Patthana BokBong ton eng – government project in the land development department to help villages with ag etc.). So the LDD came at the same time to teach about terraces. They built terraces but they don’t exist anymore. They also taught about methods for planting rice. At that time the paddy fields yielded about 20 tang/rai (they didn’t sue any fertilizer). After they started using fertilizer they got 160-180 tang/rai. District ag came to teach about planting and using fertilizer.

About 20 years ago they had a time when people in the village had close to a famine. Rats came in and ate all the rice in the paddy fields – they had other pests as well. So they didn’t have enough food for about 2-3 years. They were in debt as well to the rich people in the village who still had enough. They borrowed 10 tang and had to pay back 18-20 tang. The government sent help and dropped rice into the fields for the people (same as Mae Najon). This was during the time of U-Thai as governor of the district.

About 10% of the people didn’t have land of their own to use. Before they would ask for land form the village committee in the village forest to use. But now they can’t give land like that to people to use. Now everyone has some land but some people have very little.

The government came once to dig a well but it doesn’t have water.

The village has asked for them to come again to dig wells in three places in Thung Yaw and two places in Mae Thaen but they haven’t come yet.

C. Land

1. Land Area:

2,800 rai – paddy and upland fields together (from headman info)

The paddy are is near Thung Yaw on the Mae Uam River, but all the upland fields are around Mae Thaen. The people who live in Mae Thaen mostly have only upland fields there. But Mae Thaen people only have about one third of that land the rest is used by people who still live in Thung Yaw.

Mae Uam comes down from Doi Inthanon. That paddy area also has people from Mae Ming (Karen). Only one person from Mae Thaen has paddy on Mae Uam. There is a small amount of paddy near Mae Thaen as well but only about 5 rai. Only 3 people have paddy here – the assistant has 3 rai. They plant upland crops just once a year. If the water is good they can plant soy after rice in the paddy – but hasn’t been good lately.

At the end they also mentioned that they use some land up near Mae Ming (not sure if this is a Karen village or not – but I think so).
2. Irrigated by run-of-river: Paddy yes.
3. Irrigated by other means (well, pipe): none

4. Forest:

The forest they use is along the road between Thung Yaw and Mae Thaen (about 3km)

5. Home-gardens:

They have started planting tamarind for two years – about 80 trees. One of the people in the group has planted some in upland fields. But they can’t sell yet.

6. Prevailing land quality /soil description:

The old lady said they have problems with the soil in the paddy. It is mostly sand and their production in this paddy compared to others is not very good. But this has always been the type of soil they had.

7. Tenure:

   NS3 – 327 rai (paddy)
   STG and SBG – 288 rai
   No title – 2,185 rai

8. Any communally controlled land? (specify)

9. Major crops and rotations:

There is a company from Sanpatong (Ban Biang) the name of the company is KC to do contract farming with the sweet corn. The buy the corn for 2 Bt/kg – this is good because they sell the whole ear and the middleman comes to the village to buy.

The village headman suggested some people plant marigolds. They tried 3-4 rai and the price was 2.5 Bt/kg. But they didn’t get good results because of the lack of rain.

Corn for animal feed they plant just a little bit. The area they plant to this area they borrow from other villages to use (Mae Ming). They say that this is extra land that Mae Ming does not use – or cannot use every year. They don’t have to pay any rent for the land.

They would like to plant corn for seed with CP – but they haven’t started. (We think they have seen others do this with mixed results and are waiting to see what works).

One of the middleman who lives in Mae Thaen runs the operation for sweet corn. They plant about 400~ rai of this. He is a representative of a company that is in Sanpatong.

Before they planted upland rice and started planting soybean around the same time as became O.P.B. village (26). Also when Ag came in to suggest planting. They have planted a lot of soy up
until last year they had problems with pests and production. We think many people plant both soybean and sweetcorn in their upland fields by splitting their fields. They may also plant sweetcorn in their paddy fields if enough water.

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

Used to raise buffalo to plow but don’t have buffalo anymore. They still raise cattle – a lot of cattle. 2-3 years ago they had a problem with cattle because they didn’t have enough area to graze the cattle because everyone was planting all the area to soy or corn or whatever. They couldn’t let the cattle graze. But this year they are raising more cattle because much of the land in the dry season is not planted because of the drought. Easy to graze the cattle. They have about 300 heads of cattle in the village. They have middleman coming all the time to buy cattle. They also can use the cattle as collateral. They are easy to both buy and sell.

12. **Major land investment decisions?**

They started having tractors 5-6 years ago. The first person to buy a tractor in the village did in 21 (about 20 years ago) – small kwai lek). But 2-3 years ago still had a few buffalo – now they don’t. They have 20~ small tractors now in the village.

13. **Major agricultural problems –**

   The biggest problem is with water. They’ve had a problem with water for about 4 years but the last two years have been especially bad. The problem is both with water to consume and water for their fields. But the problem is mostly with water for agriculture. They have a village system that pumps from a well. They built it 2 years ago in Thung Yaw. Mae Thaen doesn’t have water to the village and have to come get it in Thung Yaw.

   Mae Thaen also uses water from a reservoir for household use but they are afraid that the water has a lot of pesticides etc. that have run down from above and don’t like to use this water this way.

   10 years ago the biggest problem was that they didn’t have enough rice to eat (their production was very low). They had problems with pests and disease and didn’t know how to address the problems.

   Last year they also had problems with the brown hopper. They had to spray pesticides and then immediately put more fertilizer on or the plants would die. Then the pest still came back and they had to spray and use more fertilizer (one lady explained.)

14. **Other areas of concern or interest at village or community level.**

17. **Effect of economic crisis?**

People who have left to work outside for salaries have lost their jobs (in Bangkok mostly) and come back. They come back and work in the village with things like shelling corn. In the time of lamyai harvesting there is a lot of work to gather the fruit in other places for the season etc.
They used to raise pigs and chickens a lot but now it is very expensive to buy little pigs and animal feed so fewer people are raising them.

D. **Major sources of information**

1. Agricultural development or other projects in village: When begun?

   At this time they sold their cattle, buffalo, pigs etc. in Jom Thong to buy rice. But the village got better when it became an O.P.B. village because they helped with various types of development – ag, infrastructure etc. Ag taught about using fertilizer, pesticides etc. They also helped with animal raising – taught methods. The rice bank was also started then – interest same as others 10 tang pay back 12 tang. Started by giving 500 tang (district ag). The savings group that still exists in the village also started that year. Each share costed 5-20 Bt. at that time. Now a share costs 20-100 Bt. They pay dividends on the 1\textsuperscript{st} of January every year. There are 5-6 people on the managing committee for the group. There are about 235 members (it was written on a board in the meeting room we were in). Each month people save on average 200-500 Bt.

   There are a total of 5 groups in the village – savings, rice bank,

   Rice Bank – usually sell rice at the end of the year but last year and the year before there was none left over because it was all borrowed. People didn’t have enough to eat.

   Savings – Interest is 2\% monthly. And they are paid the interest once annually. Only members can borrow from the group savings. Now Mae Thaen has broken its portion off from Thung Yaw. But they are still listed as part of the 235 members because they just broke off last year. People usually borrow for expenses from this fund – not so much for agriculture.

   Medical/Health Group – Mostly a village pharmacy for basic ailments.

   AIDS Fund/Group – This money came in 39-40 (we think from Health ministry). They haven’t done anything with the money yet.

   Songkhro Mubaan – emergency fund for the village. (Glom Brachasongkhro – don’t know which ministry).

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

   T. – Has 40~ people in about 5-6 groups. There are more members of ag bank

   S. – Has about 37 members in the village. (Doesn’t seem as important in this village). They said that it’s not so important because most people sell to middlemen which is more convenient than selling to the cooperative. The middlemen from the village are about 3-4 people. About 10 people come from outside to buy. There are people who have come for years but also new people come in.
3. Where do people learn about market prices?

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

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

**E. Labor and migration**

Sorasak talked with the older woman there. She has 5 children – 4 boys and a girl. The girl married a man from Kamphaengphet. They came back to the village for three years but the man wasn’t good at agriculture. So they moved to Bangkok and have two children now. They don’t send money back but the lady is just happy if they can take care of themselves.

They four boys live in the village. Two live on their own. They first split the land of their father but they also have land of their own now (probably got when still doing shifting cultivation). The other two boys are not married and still live with the old woman and have split her land to work.

One older man in the group has three children that all work somewhere outside of the village and have salaries. They send money home and he doesn’t really have to do anything anymore. But he still has paddy and upland fields land and so he hires people to work the land for him. He is one of the few people in the village who do this though – the woman explaining said it’s unusual. He also usually sells rice which is also unusual.

People go to work in Chiang Mai mostly in construction. Some go to Mae Chaem and some to Bangkok. Usually people will go for 1-2 months – and about 50 people. When work runs out they return home. They also have people who go and get salaries by working with agriculture for the Royal Project in Doi Inthanon – there are about 10~ families who have done this. When they go they leave the land in the village for their children or relatives to work. But some of their land is just sitting idle – no one is working and they don’t want people to work it.

There was one person in the group who had done this. He was gone for 12 years and left his land fallow. Now he has returned and is planting again. Before when he first left to work like this it was good money and enough to live on. But now with increasing expenses the salary is not worth it and he is also getting older so he decided to come back.
**F. Prices – 1=last year, 2=two to three years ago, 3=10 years ago**

Agricultural wages: 1. (w) 80 Bt/day, (m) 100  2. 50-60 Bt/day  3. 40 Bt/day (within the village)  
(They don’t hire much labor – they mostly do shared labor – and often the whole village comes  
together to work (70-80 people). After work is over the host takes them home to feed them.  
Wage to spray pesticide: 120-130 Bt/day

Tractor Services: small - 1. 400 Bt/rai, 2.  300 Bt/rai  3. Still buffalo mostly (pay own fuel costs).  

Farm Gate Corn (animal feed) –1. 1.7  Bt/kg (ear),  2. Didn’t plant  

Sweet Corn: 1. 2 Bt/kg, (sell as ear) 2. Didn’t plant  

Farm Gate Soybean: 1. Didn’t get any so don’t have a price  2. 8 Bt/kg, (shelled) 3. 6-7  
Bt/tang  

Fertilizer: Rabbit Brand 16-20-0  1. 350  Bt./g, 2. 320  Bt/g, 3. 270   Bt./g  

Gasoline: Benzene – 1. 11  Bt./l, 2. 9-10   Bt/l. 3. Didn’t use  

Herbicide: Kamuckson 1. 800 Bt./5l  2. 400 Bt/5l   3. Didn’t use  

Pesticide: Furidon Brand (use with soy) 1. 40 Bt/can, 2. 27  Bt/can  3. Didn’t use  

Milling Cost: (they have a rice mill – mid size) 
1. 12  Bt/g (3 tang – charge per unmilled grasop), 2. 10 Bt/g, 3. 6-7 Bt/g  

Rice (Consume):  They don’t buy from outside (only from the rice bank) 
This year they are trying not to eat much (old lady said). 
Rice sell unmilled  1. 85 Bt/tang, 2. 80 bt/tang, 3. 50 Bt/t  

Fish Sauce  
  Large bottle 1. 18  Bt, 2. 14-15  Bt, 3. 10-12 Bt  
Cooking Oil:  
  large  1. 32  Bt, small 15 Bt.  2. Didn’t sell (the man we were asking)  

Cement: 
Buy in Mae Chaem – buy together and rent a car to bring and this costs 100 Bt./trip.  

**Notes:**  We chose the little village of Mae Thaen for our sample because it is directly on the  
road but surrounded by upland fields. But this village is actually still part of Thung Yaw and  
that is where the headman lives. So we interviewed in Thung Yaw to get a full picture. The  
assistant headman for Mae Thaen showed up at the end. We also have the list of names of  
the whole village which separates people living in Mae Thaen (only about 20 households). I  
think we should choose our sample mostly from Mae Thaen with a couple representative  
households from Thung Yaw. This group was middle age to older men with one older  
woman participating. It was not as lively a discussion as in other places but they did politely  
answer our questions. This village was recently surveyed by the Australian research group  
and so this may have something to do with the apathy toward more research in the village.  
We should try to avoid sampling the same people who were chosen by the Aussies.