Na Yangdin, 1/19/99
Tambon Kong Kaek
Interviewers: Jean, Bia, Mun, Soonthorn
5-6 villagers: 1 soldier- (national guard), 1 assistant headman, 2 other men, 2 women

Village Baseline Survey
Population: ?
Households: 54
Ethnicity: Karen
List of names: received

A. Infrastructure

1. Schools: no  When?
2. Health Clinic: No (Kong Kaek)  When?
3. Telephones: no  When?
4. Electricity: no  When?
Water well, 2 months ago
5. TVs: no
7. Other Facilities:
8. Roads: One main road through village dirt from main road to field area 2.5 km. Built about 5 years ago.
   Seasonal Use: Use all year.
9. Travel to Market (most frequently used means of travel): songtaew
10. Travel time: MCh? 30 min , 13Bt. MCh – Jomtong, 45 Bt. Jomtong-ChM, 19Bt. Hot?
     2 hrs  ChM? 3 hrs (often travel through Hot – only two connections) – 35Bt to Hot, Hot to ChM 49Bt.

B. History

1. When was the village established? Before WW2. (26)
2. Did this village expand or break off from another?
3. If so, why did it break off?
4. How many households originally? 8 hh (2526)
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: 100 rai  Pre-crisis: more 10 yrs: revolving, more area about 10 rai per family.
2. Irrigated by run-of-river: 2 rai
3. Irrigated by other means (well, pipe):
4. Forest: None belonging to them
But there is government forest around their planted area.

5. **Home-gardens**: 5 rai are planted to trees, together, owner owns the tree, not the land.

6. **Prevailing land quality /soil description**:
   Soil not good, sandy – 2536 started problems with soil – can’t plant rice, doesn’t have grain on the plants.

7. **Tenure**:
   Don’t have any titles
   If people leave who gets the area – family who stay.

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

9. **Major crops and rotations**:

   Mostly plant corn and soybeans. Started corn 4-5 years ago (35). Before was rice and soybean. Soybean started in (30) – 10-12 years ago. Last year (98) planted corn for seed with CP and didn’t get any produce.

   Ag Coop members planted with CP. They are now all in debt to CP up to 37,000 Bt.

   Most of the land is steep and they plant soybean and if there is enough water they will plant corn right after. If not, no.

   There is cattle raising only a couple families.

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

    Before was revolving with fallow every three years. When they didn’t use the land, people from kong Kaek came and started using it so they lost area. Now cannot have fallow at all.

    Last year planted only corn and not soybean (probably because of CP).

    When it was revolving didn’t need to use fertilizer. Now if they don’t use fertilizer they get nothing. And the prices for produce have not increased but inputs have increased a lot.

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

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

    Planted rows of Gatin started in (28) with help from Care. Also suggested they plant mango. But it was a local variety and they can’t sell, but it can withstand dry. Not very delicious. Kg. .5 Bt. don’t sell. But they eat some though don’t like them much.

    Terraces started in 24 with help from the land development department. But villagers built the terraces. Still there – some. Not too many because much of the land is too steep.
Before had labor sharing and still help each other only within this village. Even with CP they prepare the land before and then help each other. One family takes 3 days to finish and then they move to help others.

They planted corn twice this year (CP and their own) but neither had anything.

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

Household – discuss with their wives.

**Are there other decisions in which community takes the lead?**

14. **Major agricultural problems –**

Land availability – they have lost much of their land to Kong Kaek. They don’t have enough land. One of the men showed us the changes in ownership. Actually counted beans to show how many owners come from Kong Kaek (look at photo)! They now have more land than Na yang din in that area. Nayangdin has about 40% of the area. They don’t have any rights to the land. Kong Kaek could expand the area because they have money and also know powerful people like soldiers. And they could also plant trees because they have better claims to the land. Na yangdin is not sure if they will be able to keep the land so they don’t want to invest.

Also Thapha. A smaller portion – 7 years or so that they came in.

Before they used to plant lots of places. After harvest they would leave and work elsewhere and the land would get taken by others. They saw that Yangdin was getting good results from the soybean and so they came in to plant. They also had more capital.

In the beginning 2-3 rai by hand.

If rain not good then the soybean doesn’t have peas. Even if you use fertilizer if there is no rain then they don’t get good results.

**Capital**

Rain – especially last year they didn’t get anything from their crops.

**Water is a problem as well – the river is drier.**

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

The land issue is big with their Thai neighbors and they can’t fight them. Also no one has studied in the village to represent. People who have studied come back and have nothing to do – not worth it.

5 HH don’t have any land to use. Are ag wage workers only.

Go to Long Pong and even Om Goi (this is far).
Electricity doesn’t come to the village even though its right by the road. They have problems getting anything from Om Maeng. They are part of Mu of Om Maeng, but don’t get any assistance from them. They described themselves as the child of the lesser wife (mia noy). When Om Maeng has meetings they don’t tell anyone from this village – they have never been told of these official gov’t meetings. They don’t feel like they can ask for anything they have no rights. But they hope things will get better.

In their village they are careful with the fire so that it doesn’t go into the forest, but others are not careful. They get blamed when there is a fire, but they say it is no one in that village. There are more tourists now and maybe its them – not sure.

17. Effect of economic crisis?

Don’t have work to do in agriculture – input costs increased – prices for produce declined.

Before they used to be able to get advances on their wage work from employers – now no. Also used to get tips but not anymore. Before if they asked for 200 Bt. advance would get 500 even. Now, ask for 200, they get only 20 Bt. advance.

D. Major sources of information

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

   District ag never comes.

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

   Sahagon: mostly borrow from ag coop. But CP debt when they have a problem they send the debt to the ag coop to service the debt with the members and the coop gets a percentage. The one farmer had 7,900 debt already from planting soybean for many years. After CP the debt increased by 30,600 – now over 36,000. And this is as much as he could live on “all his life”.

   Also borrow from other villages – Om Maeng. They borrow from their employers. They only borrow for ag – not for other things. They get from wages.

4. Where do people learn about market prices?

   Middlemen come and buy and tell prices (actually saw a trader that day coming to sell things like dried peppers etc.)

   They buy their seed in the market.

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

   People who have gone before know employers and they will call them back if they need people. Or they will go and call themselves from Om Maeng.
5. Where do people learn about agricultural crops and technologies?

See what others have done and copy. See in places they have worked as wage laborers like in Jomtong.

Before thought it was like wheat – tried to eat it that way but it was hard.

**E. Labor and migration**

1. Do people leave the village to look for work elsewhere? 2 years ago many went to work in Chiang Mai – 10-20 people, women and men but more men - mostly to do construction. They only go after done with harvest. Dry season. They go to Mae Chaem or Mae Hong Son. This year no one has gone to work elsewhere because there is no work – they have stayed around there.

They call people they know to see if there is work.
F. Prices

1. Agricultural wages: 1. 80 Bt.  2. 100 Bt.  3. 30~Bt. (different for women but not sure)
2. Tractor Services: n/a
3. Farm Gate Corn (animal feed)
   (milled) 1. 2.5Bt./kg. 2. 3-4 Bt., 3. CP (seed – as ear). Got nothing.
4. Farm Gate Soybean: 1. Didn’t plant (98) (97) 9 Bt. 2. 10-11 Bt. , 3. 6-7 Bt. (depends on the grade)
5. Farm Gate Rice:
6. Fertilizer:  Cattle Brand 1. 600 Bt. (soybean but use less), 2. 350 Bt.
   Rabbit Brand – 1. 420 Bt., 2. 280 Bt. 3.
7. Diesel: 1. 10 Bt./l, 2. 8 Bt., 3. 5 Bt.
8. Gasoline:  Benzene – 1. 13 Bt./l, 2. 10 Bt.

9. Rice (Consume): 1. 210 Bt./t (20 liter), 2. 170-180 Bt., 3. 70-80 Bt.
10. Cooking Oil: 1. 45 Bt./large bottle, 2.
11. Fish Sauce: 1. 15 Bt., 2. 10 Bt. 3.
12. Detergent: 1. 6 Bt./small box, 2. 5 Bt.

Notes: Also returned in the afternoon to visit the planted area. Saw that the kong Kaek owners are investing in things like fruit and teak trees. One of the villagers had a lot of information about the area. He had lived there a long time (born there) and was 45 years old now. His mother also lived there though she came from Mae Yang Sarn. His father was from this village as well. This villager could remember when much of the area was teak forest. He said that there was only one year he could remember that was dry like this one. He thinks that part of the problem with water is the fact that people up on higher slopes are using more water and less is coming down.

We also saw a mining/stone and cement operation further along the road. This also must be in “forest” area. There is another village further along the road as well though we couldn’t see it from where we stopped.