Village Baseline Survey

Population:
Households: 42
Ethnicity: Karen
List of names: Soonthorn to pick up later

A. Infrastructure

1. Schools: no – go to school in Pha Nang When?
   Have a child care center
2. Health Clinic: No When?
3. Telephones: no When?
4. Electricity: no When?
5. TVs: no
6. Vehicles (pickups): 0 Motorcycles: 10
7. Other Facilities: Water system for village that comes from the river-canal and services the 6 villages built in (26).
8. Roads: Dirt from main road Seasonal Use: rainy season the road into village very difficult
9. Travel to Market (most frequently used means of travel): songtaew or motorcycle
10. Travel time: MCh? 11 km, 30 min., 15 Bt. Hot? ChM?

B. History

1. When was the village established? This was the first village of the 6 that are included in this Mu Thi.
2. Did this village expand or break off from another? They had to leave during WW2 because the Japanese were around. But then they came back.
3. If so, why did it break off?
4. How many households originally?
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: haven’t measured, but have 4-5 rai per household Pre-crisis: 10 yrs:

2. Irrigated by run-of-river:
3. Irrigated by other means (well, pipe):

4. Forest:
   There is forest above the rai on the mountain, which they use. They share this with the other villages in this mu thi. They are each responsible for a portion that is set, but they line up
together. In Mae Raek they have planted a few trees but they didn’t grow. Now they just protect against fires. They do still cut trees with permission.

If a new person comes into the village and don’t have land to work they will call a meeting and the headman can give a portion of the forest or a portion of families plot to that couple.

5. **Home-gardens:**

6. **Prevailing land quality /soil description:**

7. **Tenure:**
They own the rai but don’t have titles. It used to be where they practiced rotating/shifting cultivation. Now they have permanent plots in the uplands there. There is a patch of paddy right next to their village but this belongs to Pha Nang which is the Thai village next door. When asked why the Thai village owns this land one guy explained that it had been that way since he was a child (30 years?). In those days the Karen were not interested in the lower areas, but only uplands – perhaps to grow opium. They weren’t interested in growing paddy rice. So the Thai started using the land for paddy rice. Now the Karen regret that they didn’t start growing rice there. There is also a section of rai that they now rent from people in Pha Nang. It used to be theirs to use but now they have to rent from the other village.

Don’t have any titles.

8. **Any communally controlled land? (specify)**

9. **Major crops and rotations:**
They plant rice, upland rice, soybean. They have paddy that they rent to plant paddy rice – 3 people – 1.5 rai per person - produced 200 tang total on these rai (after shared part with owner of land). The reason they rented this land – they had not enough rice to eat before and the production from upland rice is uncertain because it depends on the rain. Land they rent is irrigated but belongs to Pha Nang.

They have planted a little bit of corn before to feed to their animals. They want to plant more in future.

They are beginning to plant corn because they’ve seen Thais planting it.

Soybeans have been planting for over 20 years and selling too. Saw Thais planting them and so tried themselves.

They sell to middlemen at the village. Also sell to the ag cooperative because they have borrow inputs from them ag coop. There are over 10 families who are members that are Karen from all 6 villages. In this village 4 households are members. There may be other Thais from Samsop that are members.

Changed to permanent fields with boundaries 6-7 years ago. Now they use less land area. Now the most land a family has for permanent cropping is 6 rai. Most people have 4-5 rai.

4-5 years ago started renting land from Pha nang. They rented on a 4 year contract to use this land – have paid in both rice and money.
They would like to grow CP corn for seed in this paddy want to have CP staff come and look at the land.

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

    Now they plant rice and rotate between years with soybeans on their fields to improve soil fertility. They have gotten better results with this.

    Soybean mostly all for sale. Eat a small portion.

    They have a rice mill – 11 Bt. per tang. Opened 2 years ago. It uses gasoline to run.

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

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

    2 small tractors they also rent these. But mostly use their hands to plant.

    40 buffalos in the village.

    Don’t have terraces but do have hedgerows (came with Care in 26). They still have them and they help with the soil. They trim them so that they grow more bushes.

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

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

14. **Major agricultural problems –**

    Upland rice they have had problems with not grain in the pods – rain and soil.

    They’ve been using fertilizer for about 10 yrs – and now they have to use more and if they don’t use it they don’t get anything. Before 1 bag – now 2-3 bags.

    Last year had problem with disease on the soybean.

    Before used to ask for help from District Ag – but they would come and spray the whole village’s crops, not just the affected crops. The villagers don’t like this and so didn’t ask for help this year. They used methods of the old people in the village this year and it worked OK too (it was a method of using an offering to the spirits in the field).

    One christian in the village – others buddhist and animist mixed.

    Rice has had problems with brown hopper last year.

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

    They would like to have some sort of vocational training for the youth and the women so that they have something to do to earn money.

    They would like to find another crop that they can grow in a small area that would produce
a lot and have a good market. It would be good if it takes careful management as long as it doesn’t use a lot of land. The headman is thinking of trying strawberries or something.

Another guy took our black beans to try!

17. Effect of economic crisis?

Fewer people are hiring for agricultural help in the neighboring villages. Especially in Pha Nang. Fertilizer and other inputs are expensive. Produce prices are low.

D. Major sources of information

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

(26) started rice bank at Samsop then they moved it to Mae Raek in (37) when the village headman moved to this village. Now have in both places. Each person contributes 3 tang/year. If borrow ten then you must pay back 12 tang. It is managed by a group of 12 people – divided into 3 groups with 4 people representing each.

District ag helped Sam sop get it started and then Mae Raek copied.

Care came in in 26 – First suggested they plant chilis. Then they suggested lynchee, mango and jack fruit. And helped with sanitation/health hygiene. Also showed how they could eat - maybe had nutrition trainings or things like that.

They have a housewives group but mostly just helps with village events like funerals etc. Weaving doesn’t work much – no markets, no capital to invest. So they just weave for home use.

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

3. Where do people learn about market prices?

Mae Chaem and middlemen in the village

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

Watershed dev. Project came to tell them about the forest fire work.

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

Watch what Thai neighbors are doing.

E. Labor and migration

Do people leave the village to look for work elsewhere?
People (men) go to put out forest fires on Doi Inthanon and Phu Ping. They go from January to April and stay there. Each day get 120Bt. This started 7-8 years ago.

Women stay home and take care of kids.

Watershed development project told them about this opportunity.
F. Prices

1. Agricultural wages: 1. Last year Women 80, men 100 2. 2-3 years ago 80 Bt for men 3. 50-60 Bt.
4. Tractor Services: -
5. Farm Gate Corn (animal feed) – don’t sell

6. Farm Gate Soybean: 1. 8-9 Bt. 2. 4.5-5 Bt., 3. 4 Bt.
7. Farm Gate Rice: don’t sell

6. Fertilizer: O.T.G. 1. 260 Bt. last year, This year they think its about 400 Bt.

Gasoline: Benzene – 1.14 Bt./l, 2. 9 Bt. 3. N/a

8. Rice (Consume): sticky rice consume 1. 200 Bt./t (20 liter), 2. 160-170 Bt. (last year) 3. 60 Bt. (this was regular rice – one man prefers this and knew about this only).

12. Cooking Oil: -
13. Fish Sauce: 1. 18 Bt./large bottle, 2. 8-9 Bt. 3.
14. Detergent: -

Notes: Tambon council used to have 2 members, one quit just now the one guy. He’s from Samsop Bon but married to a Mae Raek woman. His land is up there.