Village Baseline Survey

Population:
Households: 70~
Ethnicity: Karen - buddhist
List of names: Soonthorn to pick up later

A. Infrastructure

1. Schools: no – asked for an elementary only got adult ed center When?
2. Health Clinic: yes When? 8 years ago
3. Telephones: no When?
4. Electricity: no When?
5. TVs: no
6. Vehicles (pickups): 2 Motorcycles: 10~
7. Other Facilities: Temple - 5 years, Adult education center – teacher teaches 5-6 times per month.
8. Roads: Built in (25) by Watershed Development project, used to be walking path Seasonal Use:
9. Travel to Market (most frequently used means of travel): songtaew, catch at big road
10. Travel time: MCh? 12 km, 30 min Hot? ChM? To Jomtong 45 Bt., JT to ChM 19 Bt.

B. History

1. When was the village established? Been here over 100 years many generations.

About 10 years ago before the area was set they used to do rotating ag and each family had about 5 plots to rotate. They created boundaries about 10 years ago. When they rotated fields they planted rice mostly but also vegetables and other things to eat – watermelon, vegetables. They also planted opium poppies (10 years ago) and then govt suggested cash crops instead like corn and soybeans.

After stopped planting opium moved down and set boundaries. This caused problems between villagers also the setting of boundaries for the forest. 4-5 years it took to adjust to this set area for planting and for forest.

Conservation forest can’t cut trees at all but can gather things like medicinal herbs. Community forest, can cut trees with permission.

2. Did this village expand or break off from another?
3. If so, why did it break off?
4. How many households originally? 50-60 households about 80 years ago.
5. How many people in the village originally?
6. Was there any time that the village grew or shrank dramatically? When? Had a time when there was disease in the village killed a few people. They stayed for a year and fought it but then
people left the village (some sort of dysentery- maybe cholera?)
7. Have there been any major events in the village – 10 yrs, 2 yrs, etc.?

C. Land

1. Land Area: 995 rai (ag land) Pre-crisis: 10 yrs:
Paddy have 102 rai as well (in addition to 995) – will grow soy if there is enough water after rice in the dry season.

Rainfed ag only.

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

4. Forest: Conservation forest is 1,500 rai. Before (10 years) they used to use it for crops (opium, upland rice, vegetables and fruit trees – lynchee, tamarind) but then the forest dept. came and cut it all down to plant/reforest. Used to plant trees with crops underneath.

Many years ago grew opium. Govt suggested other crops. So they started growing trees and field crops there. Then govt cut down to “reforest” in rows. Not good for the animals because they couldn’t hide. Now they have been managing as a conservation forest – more naturally. Animals are returning and he even said they have 3 tigers there now (Note: doubtful – but perhaps one)

Started Cons. And use forest in 29-30. Had problems in the beginning separating cons. And use forests. People were using both.

They have a forest area for village use. 440 rai.

Have a group to manage the forest – 7 people with headman as head of committee. If someone does something wrong they warn them first. If again then they collect a fine and the money goes into the village fund. After they hung up the sign with the rules they don’t warn anymore they just fine. Same for people inside and outside village. Everyone in the village is a member of the committee but have 7 people who manage and set the rules.

Before suggested by forestry to have a conservation forest the villagers were already doing it which made it a good forest that the dept. wanted to preserve.

5. Home-gardens:
    Have fruit trees around the village but not too many - use to eat.

6. Prevailing land quality /soil description:

7. Tenure:

No land title for the 995 rai. They ask for permission from Forestry. This includes the village area too.

102 rai of paddy some Thai people come and use and a lot. The Karen don’t say anything. They come for many years 25-26.
They have title to this as J.P.T 6 (don’t know what this is???)
8. **Any communally controlled land? (specify)**
   Cons. And use forests.

9. **Major crops and rotations**

   Last year planted about 300 rai of rice (upland). Also had 102 of paddy.

   They plant corn and soybean and upland rice. Plant rice in one area - half the area. In the other area will grow soy and then corn. The next year they will switch areas. They don’t burn anymore.

   They have gratin rows for soil conservation.

   Starting to have areas planted to fruit trees, but just beginning.

   Still plant upland rice but combine with soybean.

   Sell soybeans to middleman who do the shelling for them. Last year 8 Bt/km shelled – 7 Bt. if not shelled.

   2-3 years ago price for soy was 6-8 Bt. depending on quality (degree of water in seeds).

   10 years ago about 6 Bt. – steady price.

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

    5 years ago started planting corn and began with 50-60 rai. Price 2 Bt./km steady. This year 2.5 Bt a little change. This is to sell as ears – if grain already then would be 3.8 Bt. this year. But for this need to go sell in the amphoe and the transport cost is .30 Bt/km.

    Fertilizer buy in Mae Chaem.

    Care and Land Development helped with terraces and hedgerows. 38-39 Care came in and suggested the hedgerows.

    Terraces suggested by LDD (27).

    Last year did not plant any soybean at all – planted only corn. They think this helps with pest problems. All agree to not plant a crop so that any problems or pests die off.

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

    Some crop decisions made as a community because it is their method to deal with pests.

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

    6 small tractors. They rent per “job” or land area. Negotiate by piece of land with the owner.

    Buffalos don’t have anymore.

    Have a rice mill that they use a motor to run that uses fuel.
13. Major land investment decisions made by HHs or community?

Are there other decisions in which community takes the lead?

14. Major agricultural problems –

Biggest problem is capital and then also pests.

Ag coop members 15 people.

Usually borrow for inputs and get it in fertilizer etc. Don’t borrow much cash. Don’t borrow to consume.

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

17. Effect of economic crisis?

They don’t have much money to use. Don’t have people hiring. 39-40 ag wage was 100-110Bt. Now 60-80 Bt. Ten years ago 30-40 and the highest was 50 Bt. Different now because if they don’t do ag wage work they can’t eat – whereas before they had things to eat – not as important.

Last month they had a village meeting to discuss this problem that people who borrowed can’t pay back. Thinking about this problem now – don’t have much money to use. Didn’t get much last year and so those who borrowed from the village fund won’t be able to pay back. Don’t know where to get capital this year.

He thinks they will plant things they are able to that don’t take as much capital.

D. Major sources of information

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

   Have a weaving group – housewives group. Cotton and natural dyes. 25 people. Started 6 months ago. Looking for market for fabric. Provincial (vocational training). Brachasonkraw Changwat were people who suggested starting this group. They came for a training 6 months ago, but it was the villagers who went to ask for help after their bad year. But they came to train in weaving and then just left. The women have no market for what they make.

   (So we bought a few pieces of the fabric! This guy was a good salesman.)

   Rice bank (26) started. Before had one place – now have 2 storage places. Borrow 10 tang then pay back 12 tang. District Ag suggested this activity and gave 50 tang to start it out. Gave money to build the bank for them. If there is rice leftover at year end then they sell it.

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

   Have a village fund – money comes from the following.
1. G.K.K.J. – Ministry of Interior (?), Poverty alleviation fund for villagers to borrow from.
2. Rice bank – not many people need to borrow from this bank so they sell at end of year.
3. Project to help agriculturalists in emergency – Brachasongkro.

Money used for when they have pest problems - use to buy pesticide.
Interest on this money borrowed is 1% per month.

Family – they borrow from sometimes. ]
Also can borrow from other villages.

Also use some money from Forestry they got for taking care of the forest well – that went into village fund as well.

Mostly borrow from this village fund. Make a contract with borrowers about what they will use it for and how long.

Have had loans up to 10,000 Bt.

3. Where do people learn about market prices?

Usually sell in the village, but sometimes go into Mae Chaem.

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

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

E. Labor and migration

Do people leave the village to look for work elsewhere?

Men go to wage labor to put out fires in the dry season (Doi Inthanon) – about 10 people. People go ever year, but this year seems like more are going.

Started about 4-5 years ago.

There’s another place to put out fires Phu Ping – Chiang Mai.

First a person came from outside to tell them about work – person from forest section in charge of putting out fires. Also villagers came back to tell others.

Women go to work on Doi Inthanon to reforest in a watershed cons. Forest. The men put out the fires.
**F. Prices**

4. Tractor Services:
5. Farm Gate Corn (animal feed)
   (milled) 1. Bt./kg. 2. Bt., 3.
   CP (seed – as ear).

   Sell soybeans to middleman who do the shelling for them. Last year 8 Bt/km shelled – 7 Bt. if not shelled.
   2-3 years ago price for soy was 6-8 Bt. depending on quality (degree of water in seeds).
   10 years ago about 6 Bt. – steady price.

7. Farm Gate Rice:

   Rabbit Brand 1. Bt., 2. Bt.


12. Cooking Oil: 1. 12 Bt./small bottle, 2.

15. Alcohol 65Bt. last year 50 Bt.

**Notes:**