Village Baseline Survey
Population: 450?
Households: 98 addresses. 107 households actually.
Ethnicity: Thai (mostly) – buddhist, 6 christian households (Karen)
List of names: Done

A. Infrastructure

1. Schools: yes elementary When?
2. Health Clinic: yes When? 8 years ago
3. Telephones: yes When? 40
4. Electricity: yes When? 39
5. TVs: yes
6. Vehicles (pickups): 8-10 Motorcycles: 30~
7. Other Facilities:
8. Roads: On the main road between Mae Chaem and Hot

Seasonal Use:
9. Travel to Market (most frequently used means of travel): songtaew, personal truck
10. Travel time: MCh? To MCh 45 min, 25 Bt., 27 km Hot? To hot, 45 min. 25 Bt. ChM?

B. History

When was the village established?

This is a forest village that is in a teak plantation. It began as a place for people working for the forest (O.O.B.) Ongkhan Utsahagam Bamay. (Forest industry organization.) (note: this is a business with private interest but like telephone etc. is monitored and helped by the govt).

Each family got one rai to live on. It is set up in a perfect square with 5 sois. Each year each family had to plant 10 rai of teak in the beginning. They were paid 300 Bt./rai in the first year they planted. After that the second year of each plot the family got 200 Bt/rai. The third year on that same 10 rai plot they got 100 Bt/rai. Each 10 rai plot had a three year contract. They did this for about 10 years. So each family planted around 100 rai. Started in year 16 and stopped in 27. Started again in 32 and stopped in 34 because the organization didn’t have enough money to rent more land from the government. Also the area was full then too.

32-34 just planted within old plots in areas where trees had died or to fix up the plots that were already standing from previous planting.

Each family had to have at least one family member work for O.O.B. regularly as well. In the beginning they got 16 Bt./day for this work.

Villagers began to get agricultural area to work in 34 because the O.O.B. was responsible for them. Got some land within OOB area and also some outside in the forest. Beyond that they also have village forest area that they protect. The amount of land they got in the beginning
depended on the amount of labor they had to clear the land.

OOB had a plan for the area with ag land for the villagers included each family 10 rai. For about 20 families. Still the area is about 10 rai per family.

Started planting upland crops in 22 and were given each 10 rai per family in the forest area to plant with crops. Then planted corn only until 25 when they started other crops like soybean, onions, cabbage and other vegetables. Even then with the agriculture, OOB helped with marketing and whatever they needed without charging them. The rice they ate as well was cheap because OOB brought it in (35Bt.) in 2516 and they gave it on credit as well.

When OOB ran out of money they became their own village and registered with the government. Then they were with Om Khut as Mu. 2. As they got bigger in 33 they asked to be their own village and then separated in 34.

How many households originally? 20~ Came from all over, mostly Mae Chaem, Sanpatong

**C. Land**

1. **Land Area:** 1,041 rai, village 80 rai 10 yrs: ??

The area they use they don’t have title to. And the people have been expanding into the forest and the headman is the person in between that has to contact government officials (he complained about this a lot and his responsibilities in general). He tries to explain that they don’t do much and they need more land. The expansion process is as follows: first year they just cut the trees and get reprimanded, but then they cut more the next year. The forestry officials take the wood that was cut. The villagers plant a little in the third year and then plant more – no longer forest and forestry officials no longer interested.

Irrigated by run-of-river: no irrigation
Irrigated by other means (well, pipe): Drinking water well in the village

**Forest**

They now have a forest area beyond their ag area that they are responsible for. They asked that they be able to set boundaries so that they can protect it for use by community members only. They rely on the forest in the dry season for food and other things and if anyone could go in and use it then they wouldn’t have enough themselves. They also cut and sell from this forest and the headman has to ask that the govt not arrest people for this. There is a committee with 20 members to look after the forest.

They gather Pak Wan – 150 Bt./kg and red ant eggs especially important this year, because other money has been scarce.

**Home-gardens:**

**Prevailing land quality /soil description:**

**Tenure:**

They don’t have titles – see the history above.
They are afraid of people from outside coming in and using their land. They have people from Long Pong, Thapha and Chang Koeng coming in using forest land of theirs. Some have up to 60 rai.

**Major crops and rotations:**

They plant corn and soybean all in upland fields.

- 2517 – Planted 111 rai of teak
- 18 – increased 98 rai
- 19 – increased 419 rai
- 20 – increased 931 rai
- 21 – increased 743 rai
- 22 – increased 218 rai
- 23 – increased 888 rai
- 24 – increased 709 rai
- 25 – increased 735 rai
- 26 – increased 490 rai
- 27 – increased 296 rai
- 32 – increased 282 rai
- 33 – increased 830 rai
- 34 – increased 410 rai

**Total** = 7791 rai of teak planted over 13 years

- 2540 – planted 250 rai of corn, soybean 100 rai, red onion 50 rai, vegetables 20 rai, garlic 30 rai, upland rice 95 rai.

- 2540 - Income from plantation 725,000 Bt. (This was written in their records but we don’t really understand how the villagers could make money off of the trees planted).

- 2540 - 1,713,000 income from upland fields for whole village
- 2540 - 2,498,000 total income for the village.

Income outside agriculture includes wage labor and tree cutting and sawing wood (120 Bt/day about).

Most of income comes from agriculture

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

The assistant headman discussed the choice between planting corn and planting other crops like vegetables. He said that with corn you will never get rich but at least you know you’ll get something. The price has remained the same over the years. But with vegetables if you’re lucky you can make a lot of money, if not you could get nothing. The risk is higher.

**Major land use (crop) decisions? HH**
Major changes in land management (fallow, input use):
Major land investment decisions made by HHs or community?

Are there other decisions in which community takes the lead?

Major agricultural problems –

Biggest ag problem is with pests.

Also now the prices for produce the past three years have been bad.

Have had problems with pests and now the pesticides are more expensive.

Before when they started planting didn’t have any problems at all because OOB helped them with everything. Didn’t have to use fertilizer etc.

Debt is the biggest problem at the moment.

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

The village head asked if we could help their village. They are ready for any help or suggestions about projects or whatever. He then hinted that he really wants to find money to send his daughter to study more so that she can be a doctor.

Very few kids study through highschool. Especially the boys – mostly girls are the ones who study. Right now about 15 kids in highschool.

17. Effect of economic crisis?

Prices for inputs are rising and so are living expenses.

Assistant head says that they will still plant upland crops because that is their career. If they don’t plant rai then they have nothing to do. But they may need to try to decrease their expenses and maybe need to use less of the land. They’ve seen that some crops take less land and still make money. Need to plant at different times when the price is good.

They may have problems with labor but it’s mostly that they can’t find people to come help on their land because other families are fully employed on their own land. So they only do what they can with their own family labor.

(when asked about how they will respond to the crisis and price effects)
Maybe change and use less land and also plant crops that need less labor – depending on the family.

Major sources of information

1. Agricultural development or other projects in village: When begun?
They have their own committees responsible for things. One is a development committee that plans activities and if someone doesn’t show up they are fined 100 Bt./day. Actually don’t want to fine but wants to build community.

There are 8 areas/committees in the village with 7 people each. (like housewives, health, etc.). According to govt suggestions.

Headman has asked for money from G. K.K. J. – Poverty alleviation fund from MOI, but not gotten anything.

There was a project that came to suggest planting flowers (maybe a trader). Headman planted .5 rai and made income. So he planted 4 rai and couldn’t keep up with the weeds and didn’t get any flowers and lost money.

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

   They borrow from S.H.G. the ag cooperative. Headman is up to 80,000 Bt. in debt. 30,000 he said he could handle and pay back someday, but he doesn’t see how he can pay back this much.

Sahagon have 30~ families. T.G.S. (Ag Bank) has 20~ families. In another one or two years are going to start planting seed for CP. Right now gathering names of people interested 43 names right now and are not all S. So S. said that if they are members of Ag Bank then ask that one member of family become member of S. But if want to be a member of S. have to have 550 Bt. to join (membership fee).

Also borrow from traders some. Headman started borrowing inputs from a trader to plant tomatoes for the past three years. But the prices for the inputs are especially expensive because the middleman takes a large cut. If he buys fertilizer for 550Bt then he will charge the farmers 650 Bt. If pesticides are 200 then he will charge 250 Bt. Traders take advantage of the farmers in this way – with prices too.

First two years he made losses and was in debt to the trader. In the third year he made money (3,000) even after paying off debt. He took this 3,000 to plant rice and this year got nothing.

3. Where do people learn about market prices?

Middlemen come to village to buy

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

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

Middlemen

E. Labor and migration

Do people leave the village to look for work elsewhere?
Some do leave to work elsewhere. He estimated that about 30 people have left to work in the city or wherever. He also mentioned that there are a few families that leave altogether and don’t return. Mostly he says they go back to their original homes (everyone in this village came from somewhere else originally.) One family returned to a place past Hot (Doi Tao) to look after a lamyai orchard. And is receiving 3,000 Bt/month for looking after the orchard and has a place to stay. Thinks it was relatives.

Young people who leave are both men and women to Chiang Mai and Bangkok – not so much in Mae Chaem. They do wage labor and take care of children.
F. Prices

Agricultural wages: 1. 80 (dry) 100 (rainy) Bt. 2. 70-80 Bt. 3. Didn’t hire
Tractor Services: 1. 200-250 Bt/rai don’t usually use tractors, only with corn – usually plow by hand.

Farm Gate Corn (animal feed)
(milled) 1. 2 Bt./kg. 2. 2-2.5 Bt., 3. 2-3 Bt.
started planting corn when they arrived, one person worked for forestry and other planted corn (didn’t ask where or how much back then).

Farm Gate Soybean: 1. 8.5-9 Bt./kg 2. 6.5-7.8 Bt. 3. Didn’t plant
Started planting 4-5 years ago.

Fertilizer:
Rabbit Brand 1. 450-550 Bt./g., 2. 350-400 Bt./g 3. Didn’t use – started using in 34 when they got land.

Diesel: 1. Bt./l, 2. Bt., Bt.
Gasoline: Benzene – 1.11 Bt./l, 2. 10-11 Bt.

Rice (Consume): 1. 200 Bt./t (20 liter), 2. 200 Bt., 3. 70-80-100 Bt. depended on quality.

Cooking Oil: 1. 14 Bt./small bottle, middle bottle 25 Bt. 2. 10 Bt./small, mid 20 Bt. 3. Didn’t use.
Fish Sauce: 1. Bt., 2. Bt. 3. Didn’t use.
Detergent: 1. 6 Bt./small box, 2. 5 Bt., 3. Sold in bag, 1 Bt.

Canned fish 1. 10 Bt., 2. 7 Bt., 3. 5 Bt.

Cement-tiger 1. 102 Bt./g, 2. 85-95 Bt./g 3. Didn’t buy

Notes: The village is right behind the plantation forestry office. It’s a square with evenly spaced houses. Many (perhaps most) of the houses are quite nice. Most have concrete bases and wood for the second floor. We saw a few vehicles and many motorcycles. A few houses even had things like washing machines and refrigerators. There are 2-3 noodle shops as well. Seems to have benefitted from growing economy but from the descriptions of the villagers is feeling the crunch now with the turn in the economy and debt problems caused by the bad rain year. The consumption levels appear high as in Bon Na (also having problems with debt!). The village headman talked of wanting his daughter study higher and perhaps as in Bon Na people are using ag loans to finance education for their children – just a guess. Though we explained we are all students and just wanting information they still asked if we could help suggest anything. As usual, we said that we would be writing about the problems that villagers are having but that’s all we are able to do. Though I did give my number in Chiang Mai to him in case his daughter needed help here.
The headman was quite nice but did a lot of talking (and complaining) about his responsibilities. The assistant on the other hand was very informative and we could tell that he has been thinking about the economic problems himself and analyzing them. Would be a good person to go back to with follow up questions in the future.