Ban Long Pong, 1/31/99
Tambon Kong Kaek
Interviewers: Jean, Bia, Mun, Soonthorn
3-5 villagers: headman, assistant headman, and 2-3 others came and went

Village Baseline Survey
Population:
Households: 84 total (only the three main areas = 66) 52 – members of Ag Coop
Ethnicity: Hmong
List of names: Received

A. Infrastructure

1. Schools: yes When?
2. Health Clinic: yes When? 41
3. Telephones: yes When?
4. Electricity: yes When? 39
5. TVs: yes
6. Vehicles (pickups): 45 Motorcycles: less than 10
7. Other Facilities:
8. Roads: On the main road Seasonal Use: constant
9. Travel to Market (most frequently used means of travel): personal car

B. History

1. When was the village established?

Came from up in the mountains on the border between Hot and Mae Chaem (Mae Hae Tay). Used to grow opium but fewer people were buying so they came down to grow other things. They asked for permission from the headman at Om Maeng to come and settle in the area. The headman gave this permission and they started ag in that area. They came down on their own initiative to look for land to use.

2. Did this village expand or break off from another? They’ve been here for awhile but just broke of administratively from Om Maeng 2 years ago.

How many households originally? 5-6

18-19 - had a conflict with the govt over use of forest land for agriculture. Stopped cutting trees and govt broke up the area into ag land 4,648 rai (332 people then – members of S.) and around that was forest of OOB. They asked the ag coop to manage the land. Since then have been expanding into the forest. At first ag coop gave each member 14 rai. 21-22 gave this land to members (14 rai).

Before 19 they had students come and demonstrate against the forest destruction in Bangkok. Then govt told OOB to come and take over all the area. But the villagers didn’t agree —fought back and went and demonstrated themselves in Bangkok. Asked for them to split the area into forest area and ag land. (Also the time of the communist.)
They said that the expansion came mostly from S. members having children and splitting their land – but also having family members spread out around their land. The area had now expanded up to the mountain and can’t expand anymore.

Some plots of Thai are mixed in the area of the Long Pong villagers too though they tend to be clustered.

2508-9 Village started with about 10 households.

C. Land

1. Land Area: 1,000~
The ag cooperative area is 10,000~ rai – started with about 4,000 When first set up (21-22)

2. Irrigated by run-of-river: none – rainfed only
3. Irrigated by other means (well, pipe):

4. Forest:
   They don’t have any forest to use. They can go cut in the forest but must ask permission from OOB.

5. Home-gardens:

6. Prevailing land quality /soil description:

7. Tenure:
   Most Thais who have land there come from Chang Koeng but other places in the district as well. Over 400 people from other places. The land was good and even before the S. came in there were Thais there clearing the forest as well.

   If they had money they could buy more than their original 14 rai. Hmong used to sell land to the Thais but now the Hmong are buying land from the Thais again. The area has expanded. But before a sale both parties have to report to S. You can only sell if you don’t have any debt.

   There have also been people who have sold their land without telling S. So there are now members who don’t have any land. They would lose their membership if they reported the sale.

8. Any communally controlled land? (specify)

9. Major crops and rotations:

   Started by planting upland rice and then began growing potato. Then started with the vegetables.

   Red Onion, corn, vegetables, tomatoes, prik (chili)
They hire people to come work for them – mostly from Om Koi (Karen). They send trucks to pick them up but some come on their own to look for work. Also have people from Mae Chaem district. 120 Bt/day wage (men and women). But for Red Onion when they carry it far the men get 200 Bt.

There is a small portion of land with plots that are not part of the ag cooperative.

They tend to plant more vegetables than the Thais in the area who seem to prefer mostly corn.

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

They plant various vegetables according to the market conditions. The headman is starting to plant fruit trees, because he says he’s looking to the future. He won’t have to use fertilizer as much or pesticides either. Also don’t need much water and don’t have to invest much. Until the trees grow he is growing garlic and onions around it. Don’t have to weed either – takes less effort. But he also has paddy land in another district. And it seems like he has land in many places. Also appears that he is confident to hold on to this land even without title.

They have large peppers and other chilis and tomato that they do as contract farming with traders who give all the inputs – but still don’t promise a price only that they will come and buy their produce.

Corn and onion will borrow S. money to plant, but usually sell to traders, not S.

They don’t say one is better than the other just different.

They combine in different ways depending on land and also risk.

11. **Major land use (crop) decision? HH**

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

Used to plow (dig) themselves because trees were still there. Then S. brought a large tractor in for them to rent for 105 Bt./rai but last year went up to 150 Bt. Various tractor owners come in and bid for the job (closed bid) every year.

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

14. **Major agricultural problems –**

Assistant headman feels the biggest problem is marketing.

S. has total members of about 500 people. From this village over 50 (52). S. lends inputs and money to farmers. Money for the first year was 4,500 Bt. per member. But right now people are borrowing 50,000 Bt. per group (each group has 3 people) at the most. Can receive 30,000 as monev and 20,000 as inputs. Also helps find market – but the farmers are not always happy with
the prices. They do have the right to sell to others. Older farmer gets more than newer members. But also can take your title and put it up and get more – up to 100,000Bt. (Note: This must be title from other land somewhere else because they cannot hold title to S. land.)

Sometimes the S. uses traders that they make contracts with traders for inputs and agree to sell to them but then when it comes time to sell they don’t get a very good price. They also have had the situation where the trader takes the produce away and doesn’t pay then – it can be a month or more or whatever. And they even have not agreed on a price and then they will get the price two months later.

S. cannot buy everything they produce because people do not follow the plan and there will be too much of something all at once. Also especially with perishable crops they often have to sell to traders because S. cannot process it fast enough.

When you borrow from S. they have a plan for the area that you are supposed to follow. S. gives the seed and all the inputs and plans. But no one follows the plan because no one can check. And they want to decide for themselves based on what they got last year or what others got. But when they don’t follow the plan they have problems because everyone tends to grow the same things at the same time.

S. each member started with 14 rai, but if they split among kids they can become members as long as the plots are at least 5 rai. But sometimes people may join their plots in order to borrow.

Income from agriculture – the most comes from Red Onion. The others are tomato and chilis. They plant corn every year they can because they can always make a little. Some years they grow three crops (corn, vegetables then corn again) but it depends on the year.

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

Some discussion of education in the village – not a concern, just a discussion. Their daughters are both studying in a school outside the village. They think the kids will all come back to work with their families, but they don’t know yet. The priest/catholic church pays for many kids to go study in other towns like Chiang Dao for highschool.

Never worked for anyone else. He himself (assistant) has never worked in Chiang Mai.

17. Effect of economic crisis?

Fertilizer and pesticide prices have increased.

4-5 years the rain has not been very good. Makes rain the biggest problem – nature – not economy really.

D. Major sources of information

1. Agricultural development or other projects in village: When begun?
2. Credit institutions: (When people need money where do they borrow from?)

Sahagon lends money and sells inputs and everything. Also help find market for produce.

Asked if they got income from this borrowing. Still make money with this capital – assistant headman said he still gets 60%. (Seems they still are making good money with it all). But the prices of the inputs have increased and they use more now. It’s twice the price than it was before – 380 is now 500 Rabbit Brand Fertilizer.

Before didn’t have to use much pesticide but now they have to use a lot. Because people are planting the same things and the pests just move from one plot to another – people don’t spray at the same time. (Not much cooperation in what people are planting.)

3. Where do people learn about market prices?

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?

no
**F. Prices**

Agricultural wages: 1. 100 Bt.  2. 80  Bt.  3. 40 Bt.
Tractor Services: -
Farm Gate Corn (animal feed) – sold as ears 1. 2.5 Bt, 3.8 if milled, 2. 3.0 if milled, 3. 2-2.5 Bt

Red Onion:  1. 3-12 Bt depends on quality and size, 2. Same, 3. 2.5-6 Bt.

Green Pepper: 1. 12 Bt/kg-50 Bt/kg, 2. 12-40 (or 50), 3. None

Red Chili: 1. 4-9 depends on market availability 2. Same

Tomato: 1. 3 Bt., 2. 10-15 Bt.


Fertilizer:  1. Bt.

Gasoline: Benzene – 1.  Bt./l, 2.  Bt. 3. 

Canned Fish 1. 10 Bt., 2. 7 Bt., 3. N/a

Rice (Consume):
1. 380 Bt./g (35 kg), 2. 400  Bt./g (that was 90 kg) 3.
Cooking Oil: -
Fish Sauce: 1.  Bt./large bottle, 2.  Bt. 3.

Little things buy in Mae Chaem
Larger things buy in Hot.

**Notes:** I asked about the marketing of cabbages as well. They said that it’s separate from the agricultural cooperative but they use their space and their scales at Long Pong. I didn’t ask if this village was directly involved. They answered as if they weren’t involved, but I’m not sure. Also we had a few villagers at first but then it became just the headman and assistant headman. We asked a lot about the cooperative just because it is so important there. The assistant was happy to talk about the coop and problems with marketing. But I could see that it was making the headman nervous. He kept looking at my taperecorder as the assistant was talking. He wanted to know what exactly we wanted to know and so we explained the project again and said that we were only asking about marketing here because it is important for the whole district. I also told him later that the taperecorder was because I could not understand everything the first time. He seemed OK with that. At the very end we started talking about land they have elsewhere and other things like fruit trees. The headman has paddy somewhere else and an orchard too. Seems that others in the village probably have land elsewhere as well. But we couldn’t get too far because it had already been a long interview. The village is clearly doing well and yet the level of consumption was not as high (apparently) as in the neighboring Thai village. There were lots of children around and the homes are nice but modest. Headman had a small TV and refrigerator, and there are plenty of trucks around. But there were no really large homes or washing machines etc.