Village Baseline Survey

Population:
Households: 115
Ethnicity: Thai
List of names: Received

A. Infrastructure

1. Schools: yes – elementary B. 6  When?
2. Health Clinic: no When?
3. Telephones: yes  When? 2541
4. Electricity: yes  When? 30

5. TVs: yes
7. Other Facilities: Water system from well, 2535-36, O.B.J. Ongkhan borihan suan changwat
8. Roads:Only 6 kms from the amphoe Seasonal Use:
9. Travel to Market (most frequently used means of travel): Songtaew, pickup
10. Travel time: MCh?: 5 min.  Hot? 1 hr?  ChM? 3 hrs.

B. History

1. When was the village established?

Started with 2-3 households from Praw Num that had land near there. Then it expanded from there with relatives. Separated administratively from Praw Num in 35. It is located on a ridge above the paddy fields thus the name Bon Na.

They needed to separate administratively because they didn’t have a road into the village and they had increased in population. So they asked to be their own M. 14.

They separated in 35 and built a small road to the village. 39-40-41 they improved the road to be concrete. The road up to the village was built by the govt before.

C. Land

1. Land Area: 1,200~
   Village 28 rai

2. Irrigated by run-of-river: paddy 200 rai
3. Irrigated by other means (well, pipe):

4. Forest:
5. Home-gardens:

6. Prevailing land quality /soil description:

7. Tenure:
The paddy land is titled and nearly everyone has some. But the upland fields don’t have title.

9. Major crops and rotations:

They have paddy area of about 200 rai. The upland field crop area is over 1,000 rai. They used to do swidden agriculture on a seven year cycle until just three years ago. 38-39 started to have permanent plots. They would like to have more area to plant. But they can’t now because they are up to the forest and the government won’t let them expand. In the upland fields they grow corn, soybean and upland rice.

Some people have land that is part of M. 15 which used to be part of this village. It is paddy land that borders the river. This is not included in the 200 rai counted before.

Praw Num has area in this 200 rai area but only 7-8 people with not up to 20 rai.

They mostly grow corn in the upland fields, second largest crop in those fields is soy and then upland rice third. They also grow a few cabbages. Paddy they only grow rice and they eat this. They plant cash crops only but with a little rice to eat as well.

They just started growing corn two years ago. Soybean they have grown for over 10 years. They grow everything at the same time in the rainy season and only have one crop.

What they grow depends on the feeling of each individual. Everyone tries to estimate the prices and plants accordingly.

40 – grew a lot of soy and the price fell so they didn’t make money. Had grown a bit of corn to try and the price was good.

41 – grew very little soy but price went up and planted more corn because the price seemed better and it was like the year before. Also planted some rice but had the pest problem.

38- Forestry came and told them they could not do shifting cultivation anymore. So the forest dept set the boundaries and told them they couldn’t expand beyond it.

Within the village they pay men 100 Bt. and women 80 Bt. But if they hire people from outside they pay the same for both.

They get most of their household income from agriculture – not much wage work. The people who have left do send some money home but it’s usually not very much 2,000-3,000 Bt.
10. **Major changes in land use by crop:**

They started having a fertilizer bank in the village in 27. They started using the fertilizer because they wanted to get better production, but now they think that the fertilizer is actually making the soil worse – hard. Also now that they have started they can’t stop using the fertilizer or they will get very little produce.

Tractors: they have small tractors to plow the paddy. There are about 10 of these. In the rai they dig themselves. Before they could bring a large tractor in to plow the upland fields but now that there are terraces they can no longer bring a large tractor in so they dig by hand.

10 years ago they started using tractors. The older woman who was helpful was the last one to sell her buffalo. Before sold buffalo (as a pair) for 120 Bt. But this lady sold her last buffalo for over 20,000 Bt. Now they only keep them to eat as meat.

Deciding what amount to plant is also up to the family – the head and others as well.

What they plant also depends on what is harder or easier to plant. Corn and Soy are easy to plant but difficult to harvest – use a lot of labor at harvest.

They plant 4-5 rai of cabbage each year each person. They plant twice a year at the beginning and end of the rainy season with corn or soybean in between. First time in September and then again in December. It takes about 1 month to grow. Price in September is not good at all. December the price is usually better.

12. **Major land investment decisions?**

Before that land development dept had come to help them build terraces (for everyone - one person said (?). But the villagers built them being paid 40 Bt./day. And women got 37 Bt. This was just after they set the boundaries (39). After the project they didn’t do it anymore. Seemed indifferent to the technology they couldn’t say what was better.

This last year the land development dept is helping them plant grass strips in a big project. But just started – not sure how big or how much.

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

13. **Major agricultural problems –**

Behind the village they use water from Mae Gung. The water is OK until March and April when they usually don’t have water. But this year they already don’t have water and it is only early February. Therefore, they want the govt to come and build a reservoir to catch the water. But they don’t think this will happen because they came to survey already and there will not be enough water for lower areas. In fact the dam that is already built was built for a village that didn’t ask for it. They thought it would irrigate more area than it does so only a village (M. 7) gets any benefit – Ba Ter. The biggest problem in the village with agriculture is water. If they have water they can plant whatever they want. We asked about planting other things like fruit and they said that they still have the water problem and if they plant young trees they will die the first year because there is not
enough water. Can’t plant anything in the dry season which is why they want a reservoir.

The second problem is the increasing prices for inputs. Fertilizer had gone up from 300-400 Bt. last year. But the price of corn has stayed the same.

CP came in a few farmers planted trial plots but the quality wasn’t very good so CP didn’t come back.

Rice usually weighs about 10-11 kg/t but this year weighed only 8 kg/t. The rice was bad quality, because of the pests.

Complained about rice because it is expensive in Mae Chaem. Expensive because they don’t grow very much rice in the district – not much paddy.

The old man talked about an MP that used to go look for water for the village and worked hard but he died and the old man regrets it. Asked us to help with the water.

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

17. Effect of economic crisis?

Actually the economy in the village is not good because they don’t have enough water. Also had a problem with pests – brown hopper - this year. Other years they have had enough to eat but this year not enough and they’ve had to buy rice to eat. Before used to get 600 tang of rice and this year they got only about 200-300 tang. Older lady said she has had to eat rice that is not very good.

Last year they bought water by using electric pumps to pump water from Mae Chaem into Mae Gung for them to use. But this was very expensive so not sure what they’ll do now.

D. Major sources of information

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

They have a rice bank. Started in 26. Govt (District Ag?) came to suggest and gave 50 tang. They started themselves. But last year was the first year they got rice from the King and the forest department. But the rice was still not enough. The rice is all gone.

Pig Raising group – Money came from Community Development Department of MOI. There are 20-30 pigs at present. They are all for food. There is still money but there is no one to take care of the pigs. Each group member gets money to care for the pigs and then must pay back the money. Before many people did this but now fewer. Maybe because animal feed is more expensive etc. (not sure but guessing).

There was a project that came to suggest planting sunflowers (from a middleman). They planted the flowers and then the middleman never came back. They also didn’t get much produce – quality not good. So didn’t continue.
They have a group responsible for looking for money and household goods for the poor in the village. So they have a group, but the group has no money.

Fertilizer Bank – Money came from Watershed development project (27). They lend and get interest (small interest).

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

Many villagers are member of S. and also T. (ag bank). For S. members they will borrow as inputs. First time can not borrow more than 8,000 Bt. If you have title to put up for collateral you can get 20,000-30,000. They charge interest 1.8 Bt. per year. But they borrow on short term for one crop only.

Don’t have to sell their produce to S.

T. G.S. – They have to borrow as a group of 12 people. First time can borrow 5,000 Bt. If you pay back then you can borrow 20,000 the next year. Third year you can 30,000 Bt. which is the most you can borrow in one year. Interest is 1.2 Bt./year. If you can just service the debt (pay interest) then you can borrow more. But right now they cannot even pay the interest (this year). They are in debt.

They want to expand their area because they are in debt and want to pay it off. One younger man complained about the S. system because it put them in debt. If they want to borrow they had to use fertilizer and borrow too much. Before S. they did fine.

But then an older man responded and said that it’s not S.’s fault but actually their own fault for wanting to borrow too much and then using the money for other things. They used it to send children to school etc. Also they planted whatever they wanted to and didn’t plan well.

10% of the village are not members of either – they tend to have their own money.

They can also borrow from two temple funds. 1) money that belongs to the abbot of the monk 2) also from the old monks that died. Interest is 2% each month. No problem with pay back of this money.

3. Where do people learn about market prices?

Middlemen come to village to buy and they compare to the price that the coop told them before. They mostly sell to middleman because to sell to S. they have to take the produce to them themselves. Also look at the price of both at the time they’re ready to sell. The decision is up to the farmer.

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?

Lots of people have left the village especially this year. People of all ages have left and some as families. One older woman counted out by name of people who left. From Bon Na alone she counted 35 people she could think of. From the village next door (Mae Gung) that is part of the same Mu 14 there were 14 people in her pile. Some young people leave but also people of 40-50 years. Some leave as families and some as individuals. Both men and women about equal number leave. We also saw a truck with household goods leave as we were sitting there. The family is moving to KamPhengphet. As he left he yelled he’d be back in 2543 or about 2 years from now.

They work in many areas – mostly Rap jang (wage labor). A few go down south to Pha Nga to work in rubber plantations. The two daughters of the headman are working down there. Someone said that there are about 7 people (mostly younger) who have gone there.

Some people go for a few months and come back and forth. Others go for the whole year. They have been going steadily for years, but the most have left this year. One guy who helped count had gone to work in Chiang Mai as a security guard and came back last year. But he came back because he hurt himself and couldn’t be a guard anymore. Now he works in the fields as before.

People come back to help in the rainy season as well especially from the south.
F. Prices

Agricultural wages: 1. 100 Bt.(m), 80 (w)  2. 60  Bt.  3. Less than 50 Bt. (within village mostly)
Tractor Services: - small tractor (kwai lek) 1. 200 Bt/rai, 2. 150 Bt./rai 3. Had but not sure of price.
Farm Gate Corn (animal feed) –1. (41) 2.5 Bt ear, 3.5 if milled, 2. (40) 3.5 if milled, 3. didn’t plant

Cabbage: 1. First crop 4 Bt (Sept), second (dec) 7 Bt., 2. 1st .5 Bt./kg (sept), 2nd 1.2-1.8 (dec) 3. 1st .5, 2nd 1.2-1.8 Bt.

Farm Gate Soybean: 1. 8-9 Bt. 2. 7 Bt., 3. 7-7.6 Bt.

Farm Gate Rice: Don’t sell

Fertilizer: Rabbit Brand (16-20-0) 1. 430  Bt./g, 2. 260 Bt/g, 3. Not sure

Gasoline: Benzene – 1. 10.7 Bt./l, 2.8-9  Bt. 3. 8 Bt.

Herbicide: Kamuckson 1. 170-180 Bt./l, 2. 80 Bt, 3. Didn’t use.

Milling Cost: 1. 10 Bt/g 1g=2t

Rice (Consume):
1. 280 Bt./t, 2. 220-30  Bt./t  3. Didn’t buy

Other prices same as Mae Chaem.

Notes: We had a good turnout for this village and it was one of the few times that the headman or an assistant wasn’t present. The headman set the meeting up and did a good job choosing people who knew about the village and its history. I think the fact that the headman wasn’t there at all increased the amount of participation we got from various people. The women seem to know more about migration. This is a wealthy village, but like in Hua Doi the consumption patterns seem to contribute to higher rates of debt in agriculture as well. Didn’t see many young children. This village is right next door to the village where we are staying. Thus, it’s easy to check information with our neighbors at home as well. The area of upland fields belonging to this village is large and you can see it from the road even North of the amphoe.