

Thailand group: Proposed training topics

Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction

Objectives:

1. To use the sustainable livelihood approaches for understanding of poverty
2. To examine sustainable livelihood strategies and their impacts on the upland farming communities
3. To examine policies, institutions and processes that interact to shape the choice of livelihood strategies and their outcomes.

The contents:

Application of Sustainable Livelihoods approach to understand causes of poverty.

Expanded understanding of the dimension of poverty and ways of measurement.

Assessment of vulnerability to natural phenomenon (drought, pest outbreak), market uncertainty, and social conflict, and its impact on livelihood strategies and choices in production systems and practices.

Examination of physical, natural, financial, human, and social capital assets (and the constraints on access to assets) and how the upland communities combine these in their livelihood strategies.

With diverse ethnic communities, the notion of “culture” (belief, traditions, etc.) could have important implications for shaping the choices of the communities’ livelihood options and strategies.

Through selected case studies, examine the varied range of livelihood diversification and strategies that the upland communities pursue, bearing in mind that many different activities including on-farm and off-farm work are pursued simultaneously.

Examination of policies, institutions, and processes that interact to shape the choice of livelihood strategies and their outcomes, which might include more than just income or food security.

The topics:

1. Sustainable livelihood approaches
2. Poverty and its measurement
3. Sustainable livelihood strategies and impacts: diversified interventions (on-farm and off-farm activities)
4. Development and management of rural farm enterprises for upland communities (post harvest handling and marketing)
5. Field trips

Community-based natural resource management (CbNRM)

Systems perspective in NRM for upland agricultural development

Basic principles of CbNRM

- Collective action
- Property rights: eg. private vs public lands
- Land tenure and adoption of resource regenerating technologies for upland agriculture
- Customary laws and regulations
- Conflict resolution

Operationization of CbNRM

- Processes
- Performance criteria
- Impacts

Cases of CbNRM

- Community forest
- Communal irrigation systems
- Rangeland management
- Biodiversity action plan