

The Study on Socio-economic and the Participation of Irrigation Management on Water User Groups, Thoung Harb Tha Ngon Project, Xaythany District, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Author Keopaserth Sourinphoumy
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University Kasetsart University
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Abstract

The objectives of the research are: (1) to study general social-economic condition and resources utilization; (2) to study the level of participation; and (3) to study factors relating to participatory irrigation management of Water Users Groups in Thoung Harb Tha Ngon Project, Xaythany District, Vientiane, Lao PDR. Three hundred forty (340) respondents were interviewed from 2,303 families in 5 villages. The data were statistically processed and analyzed by one-way ANOVA focusing on frequency, mean, and standard deviation. The study also analyzed factors affecting the success of Water Users Groups activities.

The social-economic aspect was studied and analyzed in five (5) villages with a population of 9,821. The population is expected to increase (in 2017, 2022, 2027 and 2032) with a growth rate of 2.60 %, which is considered low as compared to 3.05 % and Xaythany at District Level, but close to 2.80 % at the country level. For the economic growth, the gross product was 16,279.69 million Baht, whereas the agriculture sector was 2,526.71 million Baht. The average per capita income was 62,391 Baht per year which was slightly higher than the Poverty Line of 60,372 Baht per capita per year. There are two (2) headworks and five (5) pumping stations in the Irrigation Project. Each pumping station has the capacity of 23.4 cms, while average rainfall is 1,930 mm/year. Average temperature is 26°C, relative humidity is 78 %, and evaporation is 1,108 mm/year. The average runoff is 261,742 million cubic meter per year. In the project area, 4,112 Rai was cropped with 5 major crops which are rice (main), field crops, perennial plants, fruits and vegetables.

Result of the study showed that most of the respondents were rice farmers with three (3) labours per household on the average. About 52 % of them occupied 6-10 Rai of paddy field on the average and obtained water from the Irrigation Project for rice cultivation and received the average income of 60,000 Baht/year. They have knowledge on irrigation, water management at high level, and participated in water management in paddy fields at moderate level, and participation in all aspects, i.e. getting benefit from irrigation water management, planning of irrigation water use, and irrigation system maintenance at moderate level. In addition, water supply is sufficient for every activity in the irrigation project.

Keywords: socio-economic, irrigation wtermanagement, participatory irrigation management, Thoung Harb Tha Ngon Project, Lao PDR