



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF PARTICIPATION
IN THE LAO- SWEDISH FORESTRY PROGRAMME**

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By

VILAYHAK SOMSOULIVONG

**Thesis Submitted in Fulfilment of the requirement for the
Degree of Master of Science in the Faculty of Human Ecology
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May 2000**



Dedicated to:

**My beloved father "*Lueane*" who laid
my academic career foundation, my beloved
mother "*Chanhdy*" and Family of Somsoulivong**



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia
in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science.

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Chairperson : Dr. Asnarulkhadi Abu Samah

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This study was to assess community participation in the Lao Ngam Selected Field Area Project (LSFAP) and its influencing factors. It was conducted in 12 villages in the Lao Ngam district, the province of Saravanh, Laos, where the LSFAP was implemented. The general objectives of the study were to assess the level of participation and the factors influencing it during the third phase of the project (1992-1995). The specific objectives were to: (1) describe the operation of the LSFAP; (2) examine the socio-demographic background of participants; (3) determine the level of participation existing in the villages in various activities; and (4) identify factors that influenced participation in the LSFAP.

A total of 123 respondents involved in the 2 main activities: rice field ploughing and poultry raising in 12 villages were sampled using the proportionate sampling technique. Data for the study consisted of both qualitative and quantitative nature. The quantitative data was gathered by formal interviews while the qualitative data was collected using group discussion. Additional data were obtained by informal interviews and field observations. Structured questionnaires formed the main tool for the data collection. The quantitative data was analysed using descriptive frequency distribution to present and summarise the data. Pearson Correlation and Chi-square were used to determine the association between participation and all independent variables. The qualitative data was analysed by an inductive content technique.

The study revealed that the level of participation of the project members in the LSFAP was at the medium level in all three stages: decision-making, implementation and benefit sharing. Education, politico-administrative support, project leadership, Community Development Board (VCDB) leadership, project member-project member (PM-PM) linkage and project member-project staff (PM-PS) linkage were found to have significant relationship with all the three stages of participation.

However, in this study, only organisational membership had positive relationship in two stages of participation: decision-making and implementation.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains.

**PEMBANGUNAN KOMUNITI: SATU KAJIAN KES MENGENAI
PENYERTAAN DI DALAM PROGRAM PERHUTANAN LAO SWEDISH**

Oleh

VILAYHAK SOMSOULIVONG

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Kajian ini bertujuan menilai penglibatan anggota komuniti di Loa Ngam Selected Field Area Project (LSFAP) dan faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhinya. Kajian ini dijalankan di 12 buah kampung, di daerah Loa Ngam, Saravanh, di mana LSFAP dilaksanakan. Objektif umum kajian adalah untuk menilai tahap penglibatan dan faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhinya dalam tahap ketiga pelaksanaan projek (1992-1995). Objektif khusus kajian adalah untuk 1) menghuraikan operasi pelaksanaan LSFAP; 2) mengkaji latar belakang faktor-faktor sosio-demografik para peserta; 3) mengenalpasti tahap penglibatan peserta dalam pelbagai aktiviti; dan 4) mengenalpasti faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi penglibatan peserta dalam LSFAP.

Seramai 123 responden terlibat dalam dua aktiviti utama: pembajakan sawah padi dan penternakan, dari 12 kawasan projek yang telah dipilih. Teknik persampelan “proportionate sampling” telah digunakan. Kajian ini menggunakan kedua-dua pendekatan kuantitatif dan kualitatif. Data kuantitatif diperolehi daripada temubual formal manakala data kualitatif diperolehi daripada perbincangan berkumpulan. Data tambahan didapati menerusi temubual tidak formal dan pemerhatian langsung. Soalselidik berstruktur digunakan sebagai instrumen utama dalam pengumpulan data. Taburan kekerapan telah digunakan untuk menganalisa dan merumus data kuantitatif. Kolerasi Pearson dan Chi Square telah digunakan untuk menentukan hubungan di antara penglibatan dan pembolehubah-pembolehubah bebas. Data kualitatif dianalisa menggunakan teknik kandungan induktif.

Kajian menunjukkan bahawa tahap penglibatan peserta di dalam projek LSFAP adalah di tahap sederhana di dalam tiga peringkat: pelaksanaan projek proses membuat keputusan, implementasi, dan perkongsian faedah. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan terdapat perkaitan di antara pembolehubah-pembolehubah bebas dengan pendidikan; sokongan politik-pentadbiran; kepimpinan projek; kepimpinan badan pembangunan komuniti kampung (VCDB); hubungan peserta projek dan hubungan peserta projek dan staf

projek, dalam ketiga-tiga tahap penglibatan tersebut. Walaubagaimanapun, didapati hanya keahlian dalam organisasi sahaja yang mempunyai hubungan positif dalam kedua-dua tahap penglibatan iaitu proses membuat keputusan dan implementasi.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

BBA	Buffalo Bank Activity
CD	Community Development
CP	Community Participation
DAFO	District Agriculture and Forestry Office
DOF	Department of Forestry
ECDU	Extension and Community Development Unit
GAC	Government Agency Concerned
GNP	Gross National Product
GF	Grant Fund
GOL	Government of Laos
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
IA	Irrigation Activity
ICGA	Industrial Crop Growing Activity
LAO PDR	Lao People Democratic Republic
LSFAP	Lao Ngam Selected Field Area Project
LSFP	Lao Swedish Forestry Programme
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
NGO	Non-government Organisation
NOFIP	National Office Forest Inventory and Planning
PA	Paddy Activity
PAFO	Province Agriculture and Forestry Office
PgRA	Pig Raising Activity

PM-PM	Project Member and Project Member
PM-PS	Project Member and Project Staff
PM-GAC	Project members and Government Agency Concerned
PPP	People Participation Programme
PRA	Poultry Raising Activity
RBA	Rice Bank Activity
RFPA	Rice Field Ploughing Activity
RF	Revolving Fund
RMDF	Resource Management and Development Fund
SFAs	Selected Field Areas
SFDP	Small Farmers Development Programme
SFE	State Forest Enterprises
VCDB	Village Community Development Board
WUG	Water Use Group

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), popularly known as Laos, is a land locked country situated in the centre of the Indo-Chinese Peninsula sharing its borders with China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar (Figure 1). It has a population of a little over five million people and occupies an area of about 236,800 sq. km. Most part of Laos is mountainous forests and criss-crossed by rivers. In accordance to its geography, language and the settlement of diverse ethnic groups who have different cultures, customs and ways of living, the population of the country was classified into 68 different ethnic groups. However, all of the ethnic groups are commonly divided into three main groups: Lao Loum or Lowland Lao, Lao Theung or Midland Lao and Lao Soung or Highland Lao. Lao Loum is the main ethnic group, comprises 56% of the total population. The Lao Loum group plays a dominant role in the country's political and economic system. They occupy the flat lowland areas along the rivers and valleys. Most members of the group are engaged in paddy cultivation which is considered as permanent