



Assessing the Potential of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) for Value Chain and Community Forestry Enterprises Development in Northern Thailand

COUNTRY

Thailand

PROPONENT

Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, Bangkok

BACKGROUND

Non-timber Forest Products (NTFP) provide livelihood support for local and forest communities in terms of food, medicine, income, and employment. The direct and indirect values of NTFP are more clearly recognized and are receiving interest from the government of Thailand. The extent of social value of NTFP is not known, but by indirect and subjective assessment based on records from the Forest Management Division, there are around 9,500 villages with 862,500 families and 4.85 million residents living in reserve forests in Thailand. At present, the Royal Forest Department (RFD) allows local people to collect NTFP from their registered forests. There are more than 10,000 official community forests throughout the country.

Most of forest dependent communities in Northern Thailand, living within and adjacent to forests, are among the poorest and marginalized people in Thai society. They depend on forest products and services as source of food, fodder, shelter, medicine, and for income generation.

OBJECTIVES

The goal of this research project is to collect and analyze information on the potential of NTFP to develop the value chain, value addition, and community forest enterprises. Specifically, the project aims to:

1. Study and identify the NTFP with highest potential in the study area, which are widely produced, used, and traded, both locally and nationally;
2. Assess the Net Present Value of selected NTFP species utilization, value chain, actors, market channel, and pricing mechanisms, as well as value addition of the selected potential NTFP; and
3. Identify and analyze opportunities and challenges of NTFP value chain and community forest-based microenterprise development in the Thai context.

PROPONENT



AWG-SF STRATEGIC RESPONSE FUND (ASRF) PROJECT PARTNERS



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EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Socio-demographic information of household involved in NTFP collection;
2. Potential NTFP species, use types and marketing NTFP, distribution of gross income from NTFP collection;
3. Value chain analysis of the selected NTFPs;
4. Increased capacity and knowledge of collectors of NTFP technology and enterprise development; and
5. Policy recommendations for improving and enhancing the development of community forestry enterprises.

METHODOLOGY

The research project relies on data that will be collected through key informant interviews, focus group discussions, participant observation, and household survey. Descriptive statistical methods and techniques will be employed to analyze information. The analysis will present the mean, frequency, and percentage of NTFP utilization and trading. The Net Present Value (NPV), as well as market channel and value chain will be analyzed and presented in the study.

PROJECT AREA

Huay Hin Lad Nai village, Chiang Rai province and Mae Tha community forest, Chiang Mai province

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DURATION

One year (March 2018 – February 2019)

APPROVED BUDGET

12,350 US Dollars