

THE IMPACTS OF A COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROJECT IN THE NORTHWEST WATERSHED OF CAMBODIA: CASE STUDY OF CHAN SAR COMMUNITY FORESTRY, SIEM REAP PROVINCE

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Abstract

The study explores the impact issues related to socio-economic and institution of community forestry project at the northwest watershed of Cambodia. The assessment of economic has been done to analyze the income change of the forest users, identification of household subsistence economic, and examining the marketing system of the community. The Institutional analysis is based on Seven Design Principles of Ostrom, capability of the committee body, and some other social values in order to seek the level of sustainability of the project. The research is targeted to Chan Sar community forestry project of Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO) as its case study.

The findings of the study found that the incomes among the users do not significantly different before and after project. Though the forest is regenerating, its economical returns do not change. However, the biological forest condition improves after three – year period, therefore the users can get forest products for their household subsistence. The marketing system does not improve since the establishment of project; it is due to lack of capacity among the users and financial assistance. The existing marketing system is based on individual or traditional system.

The analysis on social issues is found that the CFP can reduce workload of fuel wood and water collections. Similarly, the project does not increase workload of any field activities related to CF. Moreover, it also does not discriminate workload of daily activities between male and female. In addition, after three years, many rural development projects have targeted in the community like credit, agriculture, infrastructures, and so on to strengthen the community, but they are slightly impacted. However, the CFP does not impact to improve technical know-how, housing condition, employment opportunities and education.

The findings of long-term sustainable forest management can assess the community forestry project to be "moderately robust". There are indications to prove this, firstly Chan Sar meets five Design Principles of Ostrom, excepts Principle 4 on Monitoring and Principle 7 on Minimal Rights to Organize. Secondly, the test of capability of the committee body found to be strong in leadership, and administration skills but poor in financial skill. Finally, the supplemented points to institutional analysis like homogeneity of social group and some variables related to social capital are found to be positive contribution to the study.

Moreover, the results also indicated a major and root causes of constraints encountered to long-term forest management through problem analysis. The main problem of community forestry is inadequate forest protection and management that is derived from many causes such as limited forests monitoring, no forest income and so on.

Based on the findings, requisite factors, which is the most appropriate to use in Chan Sar community forestry, for community forestry development have been recommended