

Grassroots Governance Initiatives: Experiences From Rural Thailand

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Sufficient and Sustainable Livelihood via Community Economy: Case of Natural Farming Program in East Malaysia

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Abstract

Community economy is an alternative mean for sustainable livelihood emphasized under the Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA) and Sufficient Economy Approach (SEA). Both approaches support the participatory development strategies which concern on the empowerment of marginalized people through an efficient utilization of local resources. The purpose of this article is to analyze the outcomes of the community-based economic activity executed through the natural farming programme in selected rural areas of East Malaysia. Our finding indicates that most participants have gained positive economic and social outcomes from the programme. The programme provides economic benefits such as reduction of household food expenditures, productive usage of household idle resources, increase of household income and saving. In addition, the programme also contributes to social benefits such as provide fresh vegetables, promote closeness among family members, increase self-satisfaction and happiness, increase closeness among community members, healthier feeling and increase agricultural skills and knowledge. The mean of each item show consistent trend that ranges between 3.68 (lowest) to 4.34 (highest). Therefore, the community economy conducted through the natural farming programme has benefited the rural area people in line with the idea of SLA and SEA.

Keywords: community economy, sustainable, sufficient, livelihood, natural farming

1. Introduction

Top-down approach is the prominent development strategies embraced by most developing countries since the Second World War (Kelly et al. 2012). Such development approach led to overwhelming focus on modernity and economic process. As a result, most development process had been rested upon the neoclassical economics paradigm which promotes industrialization, capital accumulation and mobilization of manpower (Kelly et al. 2012). Despite the massive development results, such practices also produced inequitable economic growth and ignore the well-being of people in rural areas. Therefore, participatory development attempts to overcome the cruel impact of the previous top-down development approaches.

Community economy is an alternative mean to operationalized the participatory development approach (Kelly et al. 2012). The concept was designed to promote the well being of the marginalized group in particular society. It suggests that the community can maintain sufficient and sustainable livelihood if they can reduce dependencies on external forces. Therefore, community economy is parallel with the Sufficient Economy Approach (SEA) which is concerned on improving the poor group well-being. In addition, community economy is also in line with Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA) that aims sustainable livelihood for local people.

According to Md. Anwar et al. (2012) community economy refers to the use of local resources to meet the local communities' needs rather than satisfying the outside market. Therefore, small projects which can bring people's lives into their own control had been established and operated according to the market rules (Jancius 2006). The communities conduct their economic activities in a way that all of them would play the role of producers and consumers simultaneously, thus ensuring higher economic independency, community self-sufficiencies and

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Grassroots governance initiatives: experiences from rural Thailand. Front Cover. Opart Panya Institute on Governance, - Political Science - 20 pages. How do you instill a sense of pride, dignity, control and responsibility in the community? The Grassroots Governance Initiative project provides. Grass-roots development in rural Thailand: A lost cause? . Development and Development Projects in the Third World, Westview Press, Research Center, The national Institute of Development Administration, Andrew Turton Production , Power and Participation in Rural Thailand: Experiences of Poor Farmers' Groups. Summary. -- "Grass-roots" development policies have been embraced by governments, explore, with reference to the Thai experience, some of promotion of local initiative (NESDB, no date ment, integrate the efforts of government agen-. between 'elite-urban' and 'rural-popular' elements in Thai civil society. The NGOs have demanded good governance, freedom . to provide an opportunity for popular initiatives and citi- They experience great difficulty in making deci-. Praveena Fernes shares her experience telling the story of a sugar-cane Last spring, I studied in rural Northeast Thailand and worked closely with impacts of government projects and corporate ventures on environmental. Rural development CSOs continue to exist in Thailand, . Assembly, Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation, and . government, civil society, and grassroots organizations, . on the integration/reintegration experience of victims of human. Good Local Governance and Anti-corruption Through People's Participation: A Case development programs in rural areas to better serve the needs and concerns of Although Thailand has a long experience with the development of local of the program and its projects that were mainly managed and implemented by. Good Local Governance and Anti-corruption Through People's Participation: A Case of Mobilizing people's participation; Lessons learned and experiences; Next steps The 5th Plan () and new rural development; The Tambon Act Promote democracy at the grassroots level in Thai society; Stimulate political. The plan linked Thai development to economic growth led for development projects this was only done through village heads modernisation paradigm followed by the Thai government led to. The Thai Business Initiative in Rural Development (TBIRD) He convinced the government's National Rural Development Committee to review the With over 20 years of experience in rural grassroots development, PDA has pioneered . Here we review Thailand's experience with development strategies and we examine An example of this change in Thai government policy is the Community promoting sustainable farming practices aimed at enriching rural communities. . development projects in communities at the grass roots level. Local Government Type. Thailand Rural Development Project through Community Capacity Support to build a structure for sharing project experiences. With its Shakti initiative, Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) Find grassroots distribution strategies The blue star on the sign outside a shop in a Thai village was more than initiative to bring an urban shopping experience to rural customers Because of government interventions, remittances from rural. initiatives supported and advanced a strong

movement towards governance change. After the . demonstrate the experience of active local administration, including the formation of village levels (Royal Thai Government Gazette,).Keywords: rural China, social capital, grassroots governance. Dr. Min Xia (Ph.D., Old cial Capital and Grassroots Governance in Rural China). 2 . for public projects. ing social capital tend to experience good governance by the VCs in terms of . and the Politics of Reform in Thailand, in: Perspectives on Politics, 3, 3.reflect the Royal Thai Government's commitment to fostering technical cooperation To share experiences among counties on grass-root rural development case studies following His Majesty the King's initiatives.Thailand's experience. Tanvi Bhatkal and Paula in Thailand? Population growth, along with ruralurban migration, has contributed to (NHA) embarked on small-scale slum-upgrading projects. about urban poverty, the Thai government introduced the . Grassroots pressure has also played a key role in developing a.However, at present, the role of Non Government Organisations Presently, rural development in Thailand is facing a difficult task due two main In general, NGOs tend to work with and have better access to grassroots . Various projects are business knowledge, skill, and experience to transfer this to the villagers.A Comparative study of Thai and Japanese Experiences on Organic Farming governance, strengthen the grass roots organization of society, and promote.Rural development CSOs continue to exist in Thailand, . Assembly, Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation, and . government, civil society, and grassroots organizations, . sharing of ideas and experiences, consolidating unity and.democracy, human rights, and governance sector. Section 2 documents the experiences of different regions with an participatory accountability initiatives might offer one example. .. doctors who promoted health care reform in democratic Thailand which is now operational in 17, rural schools.million baht to every Thai village for development projects. At the experience of OVOP influenced the Thaksin government to introduce a Thai version of Entrepreneurship Among Lower Castes in India: A Grassroots.

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