



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PINEAPPLE FARMING
IN MUANG DISTRICT, LAMPANG PROVINCE,
THAILAND**

TIPPAWAN MANOND

FPP L 1994 14

**WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PINEAPPLE FARMING
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THAILAND**

By

TIPPAWAN MANOND

**Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Science in the Centre for
Extension and Continuing Education
Universiti Pertanian Malaysia**

October 1994



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I profoundly thank the Rajamangala Institute of Technology for providing financial support to conduct the field research that made my Master studies possible. Sincere gratitude is expressed to the Lampang Agricultural Research and Training Center for granting my study leave.

I express sincere appreciation and deep gratitude to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hjh. Aminah Ahmad chairperson of my committee for her wise counsel, guidance, support and encouragement throughout the entire graduate programme. Grateful appreciation is extended to Dr. Raja Ahmad Tajuddin Shah and Dr. Turiman Suandi for serving on my committee and providing invaluable support, suggestions and comments at the various stages of this study.

Sincere appreciation is also extended to Dato' Dr. Hj. Mohd. Nasir Ismail, Director of the Centre for Extension and Continuing Education, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hj. Saidin b. Teh, Head of the Department and the all lecturers at the Centre for their suggestions, great spirit, generosity, friendship and care during all phases of my study.

I am very much grateful to Dr. Cecilia Ng Choon Sim for providing enlightening scholastic comments that improved the quality of this dissertation at the final stage. My special



thanks also go to Mrs. Saodah Wok for advising on the statistical procedures.

I must also express my thanks to Dr. Boonlert Jugsurat for providing useful comments, assisting me in data analysis, and helping me in various ways while conducting the field survey in the study area. The grace of the pineapple farmers' wives in Sa-Dej Sub-district, Muang district, Lampang Province, Thailand of the study site in allowing me to instrument their responses and for patiently answering all the questions is notable and appreciated. I also sincerely thank to Mr. Phajim Tapanol, Miss Waraporn Pingmoy and students from Lampang Agricultural Campus for their assistance in data collection.

I thank all those Thai students who provided help in one way or the other towards the preparation of this thesis. In particular, Mrs. Jinantana Jomduang who helped in typing the thesis proposal and Miss Sirikul Wasee for lending me a beautiful printer. I am also thankful to Dr. Jittrarat Pothimamaka, Miss Rampaipan Apichatpongchai for their inspiration and Mr. Thongsuk Jetana for his assistance in drawing the map for my thesis. Thanks to all of you.

Fellow students Mr. Moses M. Lahai for his enormous advice, suggestions and his patience in editing my research writing and Mr. Mei Rochjat D., who helped me in the data analysis. In particular, my dearest friend Mrs.V. Vanaja for



sharing her ideas, providing support, and encouragement throughout my study period. I must also express my sincere thanks to aunty Saroja for taking care of me during the latter part of my studies

Finally, I am deeply appreciative of my father, mother, my older uncle and auntie, my loving niece, Mitsinee; my younger sisters Pronsawan and Veawrudee for their moral support, understanding and encouragement throughout the entire period of my graduate study.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
ABSTRACT	xii
ABSTRAK	xv
CHAPTER	
I INTRODUCTION	1
Background	3
Statement of the Problem	10
Objectives of the Study	12
Significance of the Study	13
Scope and Limitations of the Study	14
II REVIEW OF LITERATURE	16
Participation of Women in Production and Reproduction	16
Sexual Division of Labour and Subordination of Women	20
Concept of Participation	26
Theories Related to Participation	29
Resource Theory	31
Family Development Theory	35
Motivation Theory	40
III METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH DESIGN	49
Research Framework	49



	Page
Research Hypotheses	53
Location of the Study	54
Sampling Procedure	57
Measurement of Variables	59
Dependent Variable	59
Differential Participation	61
Independent Variables	63
Development of Instrument	66
Participant Observation	70
Pilot-testing and Pre-testing of Instrument ..	72
Reliability Test of the Scales	74
Data Collection	75
Analysis of Data	76
IV FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS	78
Characteristics of Respondents	78
Level of Women's Participation in Pineapple Farming	81
Time Utilisation for Farm Practice	82
Differential Participation	86
Findings from Participant Observation	94
Sign-test of the Differences in Participation on Farm Practice Activities between Husband and Wife	98
Factors Associated with Women's Participation	100
Resource Factors	100
Family Development Factors	106



	Page
Motivation Factors	109
Relationship Between Dependent and Independent Variables	112
Relationship Between Participation and Education	113
Relationship Between Participation and Income	115
Relationship Between Participation and Financial Need for Children's Education	116
Relationship Between Participation and Age	116
Relationship Between Participation and Family Size	117
Relationship Between Participation and Number of Children below Kindergaten-going age	118
Relationship Between Participation and and Value of Reward	119
Relationship Between Participation and Perceived Effort Reward	120
Contribution of Variables in Explaining Participation Level	120
V CONCLUSION, IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	123
Conclusion	123
Implications	128
Recommendations	134
BIBLIOGRAPHY	138



	Page
APPENDICES	
A. Research Questionnaire: English Version ...	147
B. Research Questionnaire: Thai Version	157
C. Additional Tables	168
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH	171



LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1 Distribution of Respondents by Village in Sa-Dej Sub-District	58
2 Reliability Estimates of the Variables	75
3 Distribution of Respondents by Farm Size	79
4 Distribution of Respondents by Income Earner	80
5 Distribution of Respondents by Number of Children	81
6 Respondents' Time Utilisation for Farm Practice Activities	83
7 Percentage Distribution of Husband's and Wife's Time Utilisation for Farm Practice Activities	85
8 Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Categories of Participation in Decision Making and Type of Farm Management Decisions	89
9 Percentage Distribution of Respondents According To Categories of Participation in Farm Practice Activities	92
10 Time Spent on Harvesting Per Season: Comparison between Data from Observation and Interview	97
11 Sign-test for Comparison between Husband's and Wife's Participation in Pineapple Farm Practice Activities	99
12 Educational Attainment of Respondents	101
13 Annual Family Income	103
14 Distribution of Respondents According to Financial Need for Children's Education	104
15 Financial Need for Children's Education	105
16 Distribution of Respondents By Family Development Factors	107



Table	Page
17 Value of Reward From Participation in Farm Activities	109
18 Perceived Effort Reward Probability from Participation in Farm Activities	111
19 Relationship between Participation and Selected Resource Factors	114
20 Relationship between Participation and Selected Family Development Factors	117
21 Relationship between Participation and Selected Motivation Factors	119
22 Multiple Regression for Level of Women's Participation in Pineapple Farming and Independent Variables	121
23 Pearson's Correlation Matrix for the Independent Variables	169
24 Typical Daily Life of Wife During Harvesting Time by Observation	170



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Research Framework	52
2	Map of Lampung Province Showing Location of the Study	55



Abstract of thesis submitted to the Senate of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science.

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TIPPAWAN MANOND

October, 1994

Chairman : Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hjh Aminah Ahmad
**Faculty : Centre For Extension and Continuing
Education**

The main purpose of this study was to determine women's level of participation in pineapple farming at Sa-Dej sub-district in Lampang Province, Thailand. The specific objectives were: (1) to determine women's level of participation in terms of number of hours spent on specific farm practice activities; (2) to determine the differential participation of women in pineapple farming in terms of the operation they undertake in relation to their husbands; (3) to determine the relationship between the level of participation of women in pineapple farming and some selected variables postulated by the resource, family development and expectancy theories; (4) to determine the significant variables in



predicting the level of participation of women in pineapple farming.

One hundred and thirty-three respondents were selected using systematic random sampling technique from nine villages within the study area Thailand. Data collected from the 133 wives of pineapple farmers were analyzed using the computer sub-programme of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS PC+).

It was found that women participated slightly longer in farm practice activities than men. On the average women spent 355.34 hours while their husbands spent 332.90 hours per season in farm practice activities. In particular, women spent more time on marketing activity.

The level of participation of women alone in farm management decision making was low whereas that of their husbands was moderately high. However, in consultation with their husbands, women participated in almost the same way as their husbands in all the farm management decisions.

With regards to farm practice activities the women were found to be involved in all the activities as their husbands but their contributions in comparison to their husbands vary according to each activity.

Results of regression analysis revealed that women's participation in pineapple farming activities were associated



with the resource and family development factors. Among the eight variables studied, two variables that were found to be important predictors were age of the women and the financial need for children's education.

From the results of the findings, it was recommended that planners or implementators of rural development programmes should give equal attention to women as well as men in pineapple farming. The recognition of gender division of labour required women's activities to be identified separately from those of men. Training programmes should provide women with the opportunity to improve their skills in pineapple farming, especially in activities where their participation were found to be high. Extension planners, when designing programme for rural women should consider women's special needs at different life stages as well as their financial concern for children's education.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Pertanian Malaysia sebagai memenuhi sebahagian daripada syarat untuk mendapatkan Ijazah Master Sains.

**PENGLIBATAN WANITA DALAM PENANAMAN
NENAS DI DAERAH MUANG, WILAYAH LAMPANG,
THAILAND**

Oleh

TIPPAWAN MANOND

Oktober, 1994

Pengerusi: Profesor Madya Dr. Hjh. Aminah bt. Ahmad

Fakulti : Pusat Pengembangan dan Pendidikan Lanjutan

Tujuan utama kajian ini adalah untuk menentukan tahap penglibatan wanita di dalam penanaman nenas di Wilayah Lampang, Thailand. Objektif-objektif spesifik adalah: (1) untuk menentukan penglibatan wanita dari segi bilangan jam kerja dalam aktiviti-aktiviti ladang yang tertentu; (2) untuk menentukan penglibatan wanita dalam penanaman nenas dari segi operasi-operasi yang dikendalikan berbanding dengan suami; (3) untuk menentukan perkaitan di antara tahap penglibatan wanita dalam penanaman nenas dengan angkubah-angkubah terpilih berdasarkan teori-teori sumber, pembangunan keluarga dan ekspektansi; (4) untuk menentukan angkubah-angkubah yang signifikan dalam meramalkan tahap penglibatan wanita dalam penanaman nenas.

Seramai 133 responden telah dipilih mengikut teknik persampelan sistematik dari sembilan kampung di kawasan Sa-Dej



di Daerah Muang, Wilayah Lampang, Thailand. Data yang telah dikutip dari 133 suri rumah peladang nenas telah dianalisis dengan menggunakan program pakej komputer SPSS PC+.

Kajian ini mendapati bahawa tahap penglibatan wanita di dalam penanaman nenas dari segi bilangan jam menunjukkan bahawa masa wanita bekerja lebih lama daripada lelaki; wanita terlibat dalam aktiviti-aktiviti ladang selama 355.34 jam semusim berbanding dengan lelaki iaitu cuma 332.90 jam sahaja.

Analisis perbezaan antara penglibatan suami isteri di dalam pengurusan ladang menunjukkan bahawa wanita tidak selalu membuat keputusan secara persendirian. Walau bagaimanapun, dengan rundingan bersama suami, mereka terlibat dalam membuat keputusan mengenai pengurusan kebun. Suami pula didapati membuat keputusan secara persendirian. Hasil kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa wanita terlibat di dalam semua aktiviti-aktiviti ladang setara dengan suami mereka kecuali di dalam kerja-kerja pembersihan tanah dan semburan racun serangga. Wanita didapati terlibat lebih di dalam aktiviti-aktiviti pemasaran, pengendalian dan semburan racun rumpai. Keputusan ujian-sign menunjukkan bahawa hanya wanita sahaja yang terlibat dalam kerja pemasaran.

Keputusan analisis regresi menunjukkan bahawa penglibatan wanita dalam aktiviti-aktiviti penanaman nenas mempunyai perkaitan dengan faktor-faktor sumber dan pembangunan keluarga.

Dua dari lapan angkubah merupakan peramal yang penting bagi tahap penglibatan wanita di dalam penanaman nenas. Peramal yang penting sekali adalah umur wanita dan yang keduanya adalah keperluan kewangan untuk pelajaran anak-anak.

Memandangkan bahawa hasil kajian menunjukkan wanita desa sama terlibat dengan lelaki di dalam aktiviti-aktiviti pemasaran nenas, maka adalah wajar perancang-perancang dan pelaksana program-program pembangunan desa memberi perhatian kepada wanita sebagai kumpulan sasaran supaya dapat meningkatkan produktiviti peladang-peladang nenas. Pengiktirafan pembahagian tenaga kerja mengikut jantina memerlukan keperluan wanita dikenalpasti secara berasingan dari lelaki. Program-program latihan harus memberi perhatian ke atas aktiviti-aktiviti yang dikerjakan oleh wanita dan juga keperluan untuk meningkatkan kemahiran serta pendidikan bagi anak-anak mereka.



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Thailand, located in the fertile basin of South East Asia, has a long history of stability and independence. Thus, it has developed territorially, economically and culturally in a gradual and homogeneous manner. As an open society, the Thai people have been influenced by both Indian and Chinese cultures through Hinduism and Buddhism. In both cultures, a woman's status is much lower than a man's, and the status of boys is higher than girls. The status of a Thai woman, however, is comparatively much better than that of an Indian or Chinese woman (United Nation, 1987).

From ancient days until now, Thai women were not equal in status to men. However, they are not seriously oppressed or discriminated against. The roles of the two sexes have long been distinctively defined and traditionalised. The man was the breadwinner and the head of the family. The women looked after the home and the children, while the menfolk managed the family budget. This division of responsibilities was common in most countries of the world at a time when population was small and natural resources still plentiful. It was not then felt necessary for Thai girls to receive formal education. The



girls of well-to-do families received training only in the art of home-making while those of poor families received on-the-job training as farmers, vendors or labourers. The boys received a kind of formal learning in Buddhist temples.

For centuries, Thai women accepted their roles, although a number of women recently managed to stand out on an equal footing with the men, especially in the economic field and lately in the government sector. Admittedly, traditional discrimination between the two sexes existed, but they were not seriously oppressed. Thus, while women received very little or no schooling, the men in the lower income group were also mostly illiterate. Furthermore, while men were responsible for local and national affairs, most women were the decision-makers in the family and very likely influenced their husbands in the conduct of local affairs.

Economically, Thai rural woman have always been given equal responsibility wherein they can work outside the home as men do especially in the lower income group. They work side by side with their husbands in the fields (Department of Agricultural Extension, 1986). Therefore, female labour in the rural areas is also as crucial as male labour (National Council of Women, 1976). Traditional agriculture favours mutual help among relatives and neighbours in which children and women also participate. Despite all these, rural women not only work alongside the men but do household chores and attend to their husbands' needs. They take care of the household

with respect to the four essential factors: food, clothing, health and shelter. In addition they are also responsible for the security and happiness of the families.

Changing social and economic conditions have also forced women to work outside the home. Thus, Thai women are found in various economic sectors, including industry, handicrafts, agriculture, commerce and services (Prasith-Rathsint, 1989). The two facets of the role of women in production and reproduction should be conceived as complementary and interactive.

Background of Problem

Thailand has a population of 53.4 million. Of these 26.8 million are men and 26.6 million are women. Eighty-one percent of the total population reside in rural areas and out of this 68.5% are employed in agriculture (National Statistical Office, 1987). It is assumed that national development can be attained and will be more rapid if equal recognition is given to the contribution of both sexes to agricultural development. For example, women play two roles in rural society; one is on the farm and the other is in the home. However, the dual role of women in society has been ignored in the past and this has implications for development.

Thomson et al. (1988) commented that high productivity in developing country will not be attained without the involvement



of the farmers, retailers and distributors most of whom are women. Thomson et al., also reiterated that the problem of population, health and education cannot be solved without the active participation of women who bear, nurture and socialise the children nor can nutrition be improved without the contribution of women who produce, process and prepare most of the food. In this regard, Thomson et al., concluded that a more equitable distribution of income will not be possible if women are ignored.

In most developing countries men and women in rural areas face the problems of poverty and backwardness (Rita and Heyzer, 1991). In trying to alleviate poverty particularly in rural areas, the Thai Government launched the National Rural Development Programme in 1962. The Government also requested four ministries namely: (1) the Ministry of Interior, (2) the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, (3) the Ministry of Education, and (4) the Ministry of Health to work together to enhance rapid rural development in Thailand.

To work with these ministries, village organisations which are means for successful implementation of development at the grassroots level were formed. These organisations have been used to direct development process in accordance with government policies. Thus, the Community Development Department (CDD) under the Ministry of Interior for example, organised people in the rural areas into four categories namely; (1) local administrative groups such as village development groups,

(2) farmers groups according to the crops they grow, for example, the pineapple farmers group, (3) credit groups set up by the Bank of Agriculture and Co-operative and, (4) health groups such as the Health Volunteer Group. In addition to the above groupings, there are also special target groups such as the Housewife Group and Youth Group that are to be given special priority in the implementation of the National Rural Development Programme.

The objective of integrating people and making them work together is to guide them to improve their quality of life. Additionally, the following objectives of women's development were taken into consideration in the operation of the programme:

1. To find out the real needs of women so as to solve their problems through programme training and implementation;
2. To allow women to participate in analysing problems, developing plans and implementing these plans themselves;
3. To encourage women to work in groups and to use various institutions to practice democratic principles;
4. To utilise local resources and resource persons; and
5. To enhance women's development. In the process, planning should be made relevant to other plans and

should support each other, such as plans concerning child centres and youth centres (Muntarhorn, 1985).

The above objectives of women's development may stem from desire to help the poor develop as creative human beings. To achieve those objective, change agents must promote two fundamental human values, that bring success of development, namely self-reliance and participation.

Since 1962, subsequent development plans were implemented to achieve the same objectives. At present, the rural women development programmes for housewives supported and promoted by the four ministries mentioned earlier, constitute a core component of the Seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan (1992-1996) in Thailand (National Economic and Social Development Board, 1992). The Thai government policy places great emphasis on developing women.

The special attention given to developing women is intended to enhance better living standards for the rural women. In this regard, housewives are organised into groups and trained in activities like food preservation, cooking, handicraft, sewing, sanitation, health and nutrition, family planning and home management. These trained women are to act as conveyors of new ideas within their immediate milieu. They also help at the family level and contribute towards community, social, economic, political and environmental aspects of development. This, in turn, will benefit group members and

the village community as a whole, so they can remain in the mainstay of the country's development participation (Community Development Department, 1992).

The Thai government has had a policy to promote the quality of life of farm families, especially, farm wives since 1983 until now. However, little attention has been given to women's actual potential roles in non-domestic production and development in general (Sopchokchai, 1990). The impact of National Rural Development Programme efforts on women is difficult to measure as the programme focuses on the rural poor without gender differentiation. While women increasingly share the burden of supporting their families through working on their farm with the men, their status has improved very slowly (Sopchokchai, 1990).

In Lampang Province, situated in northern Thailand, pineapple is one of the main crops grown by the majority of the farmers. Apart from the fact that the ecological conditions for growing pineapples are very favourable in this area, the crop has special significance for several reasons. Firstly, the cultivation of the crop has been the major occupation of the farmers over a long period of time. As a result farmers' wives by tradition are involved in or participate in pineapple farming together with their husbands. Secondly, being aware of the low economic situation of the family, women work hard in the pineapple farms along side their husbands to augment the family income to enable them to meet the day to day