

Ethnic Minority Poverty Reduction in Mountainous Regions: Linking to Markets

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1. Introduction

Mountainous Regions have more difficulty for trading engagement

Ethnic Minority in Mountainous Regions have to face the poverty situation

One resolution approach to reduce poverty

- build channels of market access

Eg. Doi Tung Development Project

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2. Situation of Poverty amongst Mountainous Thais

- The context that discourages the motivation for self and society development
- Lack of the rights to access the basic governmental services
- Unavailability of land ownership,
- the deterioration of natural resource
- Continuing process of transferring the farmers' surplus value to the economic power groups

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- Risks from natural disasters
- Higher borrowing rate
- Low price of agricultural goods
- The inconvenient and distant shipment route.
- Fewer marketing channels and insufficient opportunity to generate income outside agricultural sector
- Economic opportunity involves low labor cost or low wage, sound climate which suits for farming high-value crops

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3. Analysis Framework

Framework used as a solution and development
(by the principle of Arayanization)

- Phase 1 Patiwatn (Reconstruction) is solving out the existing problems to resume the normal state or utilizable state as usual
- Phase 2 Apiwatn (Reformation) is to better advance the society or to diversify the existing satisfactory state to even more satisfactory
- Phase 3 Thammapiwatn (Remoralization) is to advance the society sustainably and completely by employing the morality, integrity, and goodness

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4. Recommended Strategies

Patiwatn (Reconstruction)

1. Revitalize the deteriorated natural environment
2. Initiate a participation of the Minority in Mountainous Regions in revitalizing natural environment by promoting the resource accessibility
3. Campaign for an involvement from every sector in raising income of the Minority in Mountainous Regions.
 - providing the information and knowledge
 - developing a channel to access the source of fund.

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Apiwatn (Revolution)

1. Promote a group aggregation to enhance the trade bargaining power
 - E.g. cooperative of the Ethnic Minority
2. Develop the area to become the tourist attraction
 - integrated farming,
 - sale of freshly produced natural food,
 - sale of handicrafts and any products
3. Promote an access to international goods market
 - Provide the information and knowledge
 - Integrate the transportation infrastructure across the nations, etc.

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4. Promote the key products based on the area strength
 - growing the right plants for the climate and area
5. Brand the product by advertising and public relations as well as organizing various campaigns to promote awareness and repeat the brand identity
6. Produce the innovative product by creating the motivation for innovation and new product development
7. Develop channels for managing different kinds of risk – production and finance
 - Crop insurance
 - creating a mechanism for controlling the oversupply production quantity

Thammapiwstn (Remoralizarion)

1. Utilize the technology at appropriate level
 - balancing between labor resources and applying the machinery or technology to substitute the labor force.
2. Encourage the children to return and develop the area
 - instilling a sense of loving hometown
 - granting scholarships to return for hometown
 - connecting the network for social enterprises
3. Prepare data to be applied to future planning

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Conclusion

- The government should not employ the ‘One size fits all’ policy but promote a self-problem solving.
- Strategies to strengthen and advance several development aspects are recommended

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