

## CHAPTER 2

### Evaluation Methodology

At the start of the evaluation, the Project leader gave the evaluation team a list of items that the Project and the Baptist Union of Sweden wished to have studied. The main purpose of this was "to assess the attitudes of the people toward the work of the project...and to help guide future development work".

Together with the Project leader, 20 villages in the Project Area were selected to be studied. These included those that had received input from the Project in Hot, Omkoi and Sop Moei districts. Within this representative sample all Project activities had been conducted; water filtration and pipeline systems, irrigation ditches, seed and fertilizer loans, sale of fruit and coffee seedlings, demonstration plots which utilized agricultural conservation methods, distribution of vegetable seeds and others. Also, villages both close to and remote from Omkoi and Mae Sariang cities were chosen so that a representative sampling could be conducted. As a check, one village was studied in which the Project had not operated.

The survey was carried out during the months of March and April of 1991. Three Karen students studying in Chiang Mai from the Project area were selected to translate and interview villagers. Of these three, one was fluent in both Pwo and Sgaw, one only in Sgaw, and one in Pwo but also familiar with basic Sgaw. Although the evaluation team leaders had at first wanted all three members to be fluent in Pwo, it proved impossible to locate three qualified Pwo speakers. However, because there are many Sgaw immigrants from Burma in the Project Area, the fact that there was a Sgaw in the group turned out to be an advantage since one of Pwo assistants could not communicate with these Sgaw from Burma.

Three types of surveys were conducted in each village. The first was a general village-level survey in which key leaders participated in a group interview. The second was a survey for those who had participated or benefitted from Project activities. The third was one for those choosing not to be involved. A random sampling of 20 families, 10 involved and 10 not, was done in each village. In a few smaller villages, where everyone had benefitted, 12 surveys of the second type were completed (e.g. Hin Luang). All villagers were interviewed when there were less than twenty households (Mae Sa Ta Noi).

The surveys were pre-tested in Thung Phrao village a few kilometers south of Mae Sariang. Although this village turned out to be atypical in that it was in a recently settled hilly area where no agriculture was conducted, this did give the team members a chance to appreciate the types of problems in the

Project Area. Thung Phrao faced serious water supply problems in the dry season, at which time the villagers had to walk, sometimes over a kilometer to obtain water. This was alleviated to some extent by wells which the Project help line with concrete.

Numerical data were entered into a data-base program for statistical analysis and comparison. Other data, such as villager opinions, were classified and summarized by village. These data are discussed in Part 5 of this report.

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