

Executive Summary

The Development of Co-Operatives and Fair Trade: Phase 8

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A complete research report of “the Development of Co-Operatives and Fair Trade, Phase 8 (The DC&F 8)” was a result of the two-year participatory action research (April 2015 – February 2017) with three research groups: 1) the learning support system development group; 2) the value chain development group of small farmers: case studies of organic vegetables and rice; and 3) the policy and strategic research group which included 3.1) co-operative reform and 3.2) agricultural reform under the new paradigm.

The results were under the Logical Framework. Altogether, 136 activities were conducted, in which 221 domestic and seven international organizations participated. There were 69 researchers and 5,514 participants. The outcomes also included 23 pieces of creative media to the public, 379 articles published on websites, eight issues of “Khon Sahakorn” magazine, 19 academic forum, three international presentations, and four social network groups including the Researcher group, the co-operator Magazine, the Pao Bun Jin (auditor) group, and the Farmer Shop group supporting six living learning centers.

The research outcomes included six major findings and policy proposals as follows:

1) The Capacity Building Framework as a framework for the development of the learning support system for building the three-dimension capacities

2) The Value Chain Development Framework for value-added products for small scale- farmers.

3) The Propose of Strategic Framework for Thailand’s co-operative reform in the second century

4) The Propose of Strategic Framework for Thailand's agricultural reform: Agenda for new economy

5) The Value Chain of Organic Hom Mali Rice Business Model: Satjatham Rice Community Enterprise Group in Amnat Charoen Province and

6) The Value Chain of Organic Vegetable Business Model: Sampran Value Business Group in Nakhon Pathom Province.

The research under the Logical Framework has set the key success factors in terms of both research outcomes and implementation. The empirical outcomes are as follows;

1. The learning support system for building three–dimension capacity, which leads to capacity building in relation to the desirable characteristics of employees in the organization, known as "the Capacity Building Framework". The framework was designed so that the capacity building is in line with the desirable characteristics for career advancement, knowledge management, and knowledge gathering so that the organization will eventually become a learning organization.

2. The framework and model of value chain development of products from small farmers: The case studies of the organic hom mali rice of the Satjatham Rice Community Enterprise Group and the organic vegetables of the Sampran Value Business Group pointed out a number of advantages of value chain development in agricultural and community businesses. The development can obviously add value to farmers' products, enhance the development of various activities balancing the economic, social, and environmental aspects, and bring about business networks supporting and encouraging the integration of the "People–Public–Private Partnership." At present, these models and practices have been developed to six "living learning centers" for public dissemination of knowledge to the target areas both by government organizations and agricultural institutions in Thailand and neighboring countries– for example, Satjatham Rice Community Enterprise Group in Amnat Charoen which is a model for the demand–driven supply network, and the Sampran Value Business of organic vegetables which is the model of People–Public–Private Partnership (PPP).

3. Policy recommendations and the propose of "Strategic Framework for Thailand's Co–operative Reform in the Second Century" have been brought through public hearings and implemented in the 20–year cooperative development policy by Co–operative League of Thailand (CLT) and the establishment of the Central Financial Facility (CFF) by the cooperative bank committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

4. Policy Recommendations and "the Strategic Framework for Thailand's Agricultural Reform: Agenda for the New Economy" have been through the considerations of the Sub-committee for Agricultural Reform, and the National Reform Council. The Farmer Shop Business Model has been applied in the proposal for progressive farmers using the Civil State Smile Shop (C3S) by the Sub-committee for Agricultural Reform, National Reform Steering Assembly. The Ministry of Commerce is also applying the model in trade strategy on foundation economy.

5. Business models as Inclusive Business resulted from the value chain development framework research, for example, Sampran Value Business Group, Satjatham Rice Community Enterprise Group, Kitchakood Fruit Value Network, and Farmer Shop Business Model. These models promote sustainable development in small scale farmers' and stakeholders' businesses, help in agricultural institution management aiming to be a self-reliance institution, and utilize some important innovations such as Functional Upgrading, Product Upgrading, Process Upgrading, and Chain Upgrading which can increase small scale farmers' income from selling their products as well as from the development to be community learning centers (Thailand Research Fund, 2017).

Significant public policy recommendations include:

1.) To promote the implementation of the learning support system based on "the Capacity Building Framework" to create learning platform which can open access and create understanding among farmers in order to develop attitude, mindset, and working life following the sustainable development.

2.) To support research especially participatory action research to promote the value chain development in agricultural institutions following "the Value Chain Development Framework", which can enhance business capability of the agricultural institutions as self-reliance institutions that make use of innovation effectively.

3.) To disseminate business models with best practice for the value chain development in inclusive business between small scale farmers and stakeholders as community learning centers. These centers are allowed for public access for knowledge dissemination so that people in the community can realize the importance of the models and apply them to create development businesses that can balance the economy, society, and environment based on the national development policy and strategy for the country's prosperity, stability, and sustainability.

The researcher hopes that this research has achieved its goals stated in the research framework and can be benefit for the cooperative movement and national development.