Poverty Mangement strategies for Small-Scale Farmers through Alternative Economics: The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy

Yuttaphum Prasomsap
Public Administration Institute, Rangsit University, Thailand
E-mail: yutt_kst@hotmail.com

Anek Laothamatas
Public Administration Institute, Rangsit University, Thailand
E-mail: invisibleaimc@yahoo.com

Abstract

The research studies Poverty Management strategies for Small-Scale Farmers through Alternative Economics: The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. After Thailand has been flourished for creating growth under modernized fundamental, which showed well result of industry development, exporting, public utilities system and higher national income, on the other hand, the development causes economic disparity, and wealth is dense among capital groups. Consequently, the majority of countries, especially small-scale farmers has been suffering from the lack of opportunity and poverty. The government has revised the policy by using Alternative Economics: The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy in order to wipe out the poverty and it showed positive result since a number of small-scale farmers successfully managed to adopt philosophy of sufficiency economy and was able to land on their feet sustainably. The research found that capitalism impacts on small-scale farmers because the state centralized its management in all aspect; it only focuses on competition, efficiency and profitability by encouraging monocultural farming which its regulation is charitable to major producers an advantage. The market system is unfair. It also accelerates the destruction of nature and the environment as well as drives small-scale farmers who lacks of bargaining power and knowledge were taken for grant, discouraged and suppressed. Many people are suffering from bearing the high costs which is not worth trying for. Failure of practicing monoculture farming encourages small-scale farmers switch their method to aquaponic farming; adopting a new philosophy of sufficiency economy. The three-phase strategy include to survive, to be sufficient and to be sustainable immunize the farmers to achieve the complementary nature; adjusting farmland, reducing the use of chemicals, emphasizing the use of indigenous knowledge for well-being of the household to be able to live. Using appropriate technology of integration and professional networking opportunities and generating a steady income immunes the future risk.

Keywords: Poverty Management Strategies, Alternative Economy, Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy

Intrduction

Poverty is a structural issue linked to a set of rules regulated by human in order to deveop, control and connect system in each society. The structure hasn't been the controller or, at least, a problem itself, but the regulator, himself, who choose to follow the structure, which influences majority concerning society, economic and politic (Giddens, 1986). Thailand has faced up with poverty ever since the past, noticeably the issue has successfully penetrated local till rural scales, and so far has been grown as severe state-issue, literally global.

Although there has been an attempt to apply mainstream economy, capitalism, in particular to flourish in the country, the pending poverty issue hasn't been resolved anyway. With respect to debt and poverty situation in Thailand since 2013, the total number of the poorest people, at around 5.4 million, the number showed 3.07 million of farmers accounted for 56.9 percent is in agricultural sector. Despite the fact that these group of people are important to the Thai people and Thailand as a food manufacturer who nourishes national population, and as a product exporter who generates national income. (Prapaitrakul, 2013)

Hence the economic plan and development become vital, the state needs to apply concepts and principles of public administration used in determining the approach to economic situations and society as a result of well-being of citizens and sustainable income. In the past, public policy often means the scope of state management and the performance of government agencies to reach peace, solution and national development under the pursue of growth through the 5 stages of industrialisation based on the concept of Rostow (1960: 4-16), which could not be successful without the cooperation of the private sector and the public at all. As according to Anek Laothamatas (2015: 42-45), state should let its community participation in becoming a pluralistic society, communities can further be adjusted according to specific ethnic groups, languages, cultures and traditions not only foster a strong community-based concept to the internationalization and modernization direction alone.

The mainstream economy or capitalism was introduced by the World Bank in order to observe various problems of lifestyle and circumstances in Thai society that arisen poverty by the year 1957. The strategy provided education, job opportunity and increased more income to people (World Bank, 2001). So the National Social and Economic Development Plan No. 1-7 speeded up its moves to create economic growth, focusing on industrial development and promoting private investment in particular of industrial development for export instead of raising the income. Also it supported jobs, family planning. (Nimpanich, 2006: 15-16)

Even though the results of the development above was noticeable, building, transporting facilities. modern technology along with financial services, which all could possibly make progress of economic growth and national income, a higher problems in the benefiting distributions clearly seen. Plus, resources were accessed by some groups of people who were in close relationship with the state on an account of social conflict, deteriorated environment. According to Seri Pongpinit (2005) concluded that this paradigm, capitalism can create higher revenue, but the woods stared running out because the farmers intruded forest to expand monocultures crop. While the land began to deteriorate as a result of chemicals, the debt started to be mountained. Farmers needed to buy fertilizer to restore the soil which cost much so it ended up with being unable to afford production cost occurred. The new life-style form has spurred demand for industrial good because everyone wanted to live with "Convenience and comfortness" drove the change of community atmosphere suffering ways. The family began to collapse, communities were ignore one another. Such a vulnerable situation like the poverty phenomenon after 1961 is what Thailand had never experienced before. The change happened so quickly that most people were not able to catch up, especially smallholders due to capitalist economic system. Owing to development stragegies by King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the poverty stepped back to fundamental and key rule that fitted to Thai society condition with the saying "developing countries need to follow the steps required to create a fundament of sufficiency economy by using the safer methods and devices but are correct; When you can get a fundamental stability, with enough practice, and then gradual reinforce growth and economic retrieve will be higher next...". And he said that only carrying businesses cannot create self-reliance if extending only a few of "sufficiency economy " followers accounted for only 25 percent of the economy system will be firmly stabilized economic development. (Na Pompetch, 2006: 17-19)

"Sufficiency economy" is a concept whose his Majesty the King has developed for over 40 years, and is a concept based on the cultural foundation of Thailand under moderation as a precaution, regardless of Temperance, rationality, immunity, as well as the knowledge in integrity of life; intelligence and perseverance,"conscious" are added as leading to a truly "happy" life. Thailand has started adjusting the national economic and social development plan, at the plan no 9, which still adheres to population-centric development. The present result in the development of the agricultural sector over rural areas, poor farmers are encouraged to solve the crisis of poverty regarding the philosophy of sufficiency economy in various forms, such as farming, agricultural farms, garden blending, farmers can recover liabilities, livelihood and sustainability. Consequently, Sumate Tantivejakul (2000) provides the concept of sufficiency economy as economies that can help cherish his or herself by themselves; one has to learn to be sufficient to something. The concept of sufficiency economy is not intended to expand economic growth in an only one side but in overall economic foundation. The word Enough which people require to take charge of understanding as being the initial when reaching the basic economic stability by then the next step is therefore extended prosperity and development to a higher perspective. By the ideas corresponding to the operations of the Ministry of agriculture and cooperatives (2015) were pushed to resolve these issue of poverty of small-scale farmers by bringing the philosophy of "sufficiency economy" used as a guideline. The number of people started accounting for 882 under revenue constraint. Labor and resources were reduced to control risks from market. Without such guidelines, it can be seen that 882 farmers succeeded in developing agricultural learning center which is enough to set free from debt and to obtain steady income.

All above, it shows that the poverty strategies of the smallholder farmers by using economic alternatives along with the philosophy of sufficiency economy can be used as a tool for behavior modification and the farming profession, which helps farmers from debt, enough income to live their life as a result of that the economy, family and community levels has strengthened in the sustainable way.

Research Objectives

- 1) study the economic development strategies under the mainstream (capitalism) that affects the poverty situation of the small-scale farmers, according to the Government, private sector and small farmers' perspective.
- 2) Study education strategy that deals with the poverty of small-scale farmers by using economic alternatives along the philosophy of sufficiency economy in the small-scale farmers'view.

Research Method

Poverty management strategies for small-scale farmers through alternative economics: the philosophy of sufficiency economy is a qualitative research, case study. The sample does not include probability in collecting data, but using a specific sample selection method for accuracy. This study focuses on data storage with more in-depth interview method along with monitoring without participation and discussion groups, which are applied studying, collecting information, analising and synthesising documents, both in Thai and in foreign languages, which are related to research topics using as the main set of the ideas and a approach tool for research's sake. The sample group consists of policy creators, academics, NGO representatives and non-profit, 14 samples in order to observe their attitudes and strategies guidelines for addressing poverty issue of small-scale farmers. Farmers from the eastern sector. Seven farmers were polled about the strategy that should be used in resolving the problem of poverty through the in-depth questionnaires and observation. Additionally,

organizing a group discussion of 16 farmers and local philosophers to observe a summary of the strategy that is possibly used in correcting the issues, obstacles and solutions.

Research Results

Thailand's Country Development Strategies Along the Economic Mainstream: Liberal Capitalism to Poverty of Small-Scale

The environmental effect, the mainstream economy focuses on maximum profit regardless of other side effects, such as the environment, quality of life of consumers" (Savameechai, 2016) causing forest invasion for carrying monoculture. With this, the biological diversity of the ecosystem is demolished, the use of long-term chemicals on farmland follow back then. "Because farmers focus on competition, highlight the most targeted growth and expansion without caring that there would then be an impact on the environment and society". (Khammun, 2016) Also, the land used for cultivating degrades its production including the shortage of water source.

The national structure, capitalism under democracy which should give the people the powers, equality and allow people to access to public services is ideal, but Thailand whose succession in democratic system is quite slow generating problems in society, due to subduction systems, competitive markets along with a mechanism which helps cherish investment in "large benefits in the public sector's management. Large capital where can produce comprehensive coverage to the farmers turns into a limited capital so the farmers were not able to access the resources. Occupying an area in purpose of expanding market" (Kiatchokchaikul, 2015) is also sequent to cause unfair share, this enables the farmers who short of knowledge of, and access to essential less are in a state of low-income people, the poor. "Smallholder farmers as those who do not have no competitiveness, and does not have the power to negotiate" (Jiasakul, 2016) by ensuring that the structure is derived from the concept or philosophy for developent with the problems from the beginning.

Consequently, development and management policy of natural resources has been centralized through governor, and natural resources are processed to earn a profit rather than taking into account of the quality of life of its population. As a result, small-scale farmers are lack of the power and right for managing natural resources. There follows structural, political, economic and social imbalances. Most of benefits are arranged more to contribute to public sector, capital groups than farmers who are lack of the opportunity to participate in the management or even to use natural resources yet they should.

Driven by the public sector, The policy aims at developing into a modern world and creating higher income with justice in the society that then follows by income distribution concentrated on a certain individuals as well. "The state lacks of effective management system and market mechanisms to reach the level of fairness" (Viriyasiri, 2015). The mechanism has caused the problem of social inequality as a result in widening a difference between income. This development highlights only in the modern economy, and "the state regulation promotes exclusive rights to a big capital group, who run agricultural business o be more competitive in advantages over economic and market". (Chukajorn, 2016) Capitalism encourages people to focus only the higher economic growth figures, but it overlooks the gap between income that becoming widen. Furthermore, social inequality, opportunity and equality followed by capitalism effect causes centralization, enforcement deviation and lacking of justice because the benefit agent gives legitimacy to ruler who seems out of the law, not public". (Chukajorn, 2016) Thailand's market system is not only unfair but also giving farmers no choice because opportunities are decided by major capitalists. Development focuses on modernization more that fairness in the society. Capitalism pays attention to commerce, trade, export and revenue concentration that mean only a few people who can be rich. It also includes centralized allocation of resources by the state which often determines its use to generate revenues and profitability rather than improving quality of life for farmers. When it comes to tackling poverty, the government provides social welfare rather than encouraging self-reliance. (Suesuwan, 2015)

Small-scale farmers lacks of capacity to compete, no bargaining power; agricultural production goes less ending up with debt that drives consumerism active. "The capitalist economy is the extremists, regardless of the middle way". (Khammun, 2016) The problem affects the quality of life to all farmer as a whole; ones who arms with chances is the one who can gain most advantages. Clearly, the effect of poverty comes from farmers are short of competitiveness against big capitalists while their only opportunities for growing up depends on uncontrolled factors like weather. Low bargaining power, cost management, modern knowledge and technology installation are out of their beyond to improve productivity, thereby causing poverty vicious cycle". (Khammun, 2016) Capitalism has planted major comparativeness among certain group of people in the cycle that is why the government is developing a set of guidelines that do not fit with the community". The current process is centered to base on the interests of investors mindset; it aims to educate how to sell goods on the contrary this knowledge does not encourage farmers to have self-reliance. Therefore most small-scale farmers are hardly to knowingly recognize how they are deceived by marketing materials. "Losses and liabilities" (Jitsanguan, 2016), if the state does not have any balance, farmers will lose their lands, and becoming just cheap labor in the future.

Strategies Used in the Daily Life of Farmers and Small-Scale Farmers

With confidence in his majesty science king The failures, who in the past followed monoculture by lending money from the bank to invest, they suffered losses due to agricultural land was inappropriate and problematic plant diseases. They required expensive chemicals which help to eliminate the pests, which is costly, but being sold at a low price. Loss arose when it comes to debt; the vicious cycle sequences as long as they cannot repay the loan out. Studying case study of successful projects in New Theory, Somsak decided to follow the theory by doing farming without the use of all kind chemicals. He said that his success came from learning to be patience and then to apply the knowledge gained from the theory in hardworking way. He believed that if he follows the philosophy of sufficiency economy, stable and prosperous life occurs because "sufficiency economy is what is really working todays. We can be rich which means no money but wealth, the wealth is what we call four requisites right under our noses." (Khruawan, 2016)

Integrated farming system is a survival method for small-scale farmers. Failure from monoculture farming along with the debt enforced Daddy Wibul life-changing decision. He sold around 200-300 Rai of his farmland to recover debt, and restarted his way, he believed that human labor will be degraded when entering old age. One this is that the problem of agricultural sector is doing monoculture during the short growing labor with the help of chemical which resulted in failures for small farmers. Big Daddy Wibul proved that the "integrated farming system" is a way out of problems and also generated stable income to the family. (Khemjaroen, 2016)

Clean farming is a friendly farming environment in order to achieve eco-friendly relationship among farmers, environment, natural resources. The study found that small-scale farmers became sick because of chemicals use, the health of vulnerable smallholders and degradation caused diseases, especially cancer. "Unlike following philosophy of sufficiency economy in agriculture, which gave farmers good health and a long life" (Kulapruek, 2016)

Discussion

The development along with mainstream economy's guidelines: capitalism researchers agreed that the method fits for developing countries where there is a gap between group of people. But in case of Thailand, because of its structure of centralized government, the

guidelines for the developing community is still not in line with the principles regarding the geography. In practice, the development is still heading in the direction of speeding up the creation of the modern state, and the growth of the revenues of the national economy. This makes a strong capital group, major manufacturers, who will have more advantage due to the availability of capital and technological progress while small-scale farmers face up poverty; no bargaining power and readiness to compete, lack of literacy.

Environmental invasion directly affects forests resulting in a monoculture of biodiversity in ecosystems since the forest has been destroyed. In addition, the use of chemicals on agricultural land becomes widespread, in long-term outcome, the land will gradually be less productive including the lack of water resources for consumption and agriculture.

The national structure, capitalism is tied to democracy, which should empower citizens equally; people access to public services easily than other systems, but Thailand, due to its management mechanism, which is not truly democratic resulting in inequality over the market where is highly competitive as well as the mechanism conducted to be charitable to large capital so the small-scale farmers cannot compete; falling under the low-income and poor condition.

Driven by the public sector, a policy aims at developing into a modern economy with high income along with fairness in society whereas, in real, revenue only is concentrated on certain individuals, the impact of the absence of effective internal controlling system and market mechanisms to achieve fairness is applied to the quality of life for farmers and more profitable.

State aid is still carried out in the form of housing, social welfare, rather than encourage farmers to help themselves. The small-scale farmers realized that they are short sufficient capacity to compete; no bargaining power, agricultural production losses and liabilities. By turning the economic choices, the philosophy of sufficiency economy can rejuvenate the land, plants, and the farmers can succeed in farming practices eyes of sufficiency economy both in living and farming. A poverty management strategies enables small-scale farmers who have direct experience of failure to tackle the problem of poverty by using alternatives philosophy of sufficiency economy until they can recover from the obstacles.

The strategies is a three-step strategy (to survive, to be sufficient and to be sustainable) which is appropriate for helping farmers changing views, thoughts, attitudes and way of living. It brings great change to the lives of small-scales farmers to survive amid competition, accelerating the development of growth and consumerism. The impact of capitalism shown in Figure 1.

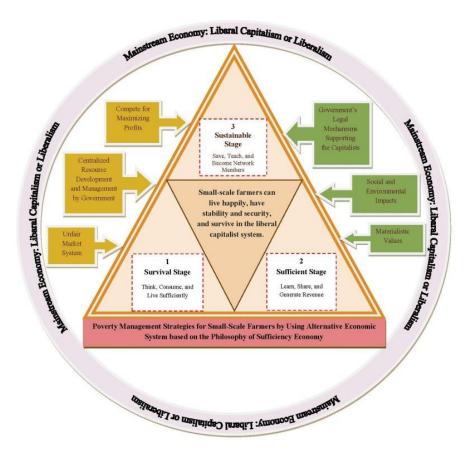


Figure 1 Poverty Management Strategies for Small-Scale Farmers through Alternative Economics: The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy

The key element of the development strategy is to survive the three-sufficiency and sustainable process. Small-scale farmers need to understand that the three is such a deal which cannot be separated from each other, like the steps that must be passed step by step. However, links and related unity as Pit (2007: 59) concluded that a triangle has three angles tied to one another representing "life" or "Pyramid of Life" of small-scale farmers which will be required learning and management because learning provides farmers the knowledge and wisdom. With management system, it helps small-scale farmers build up their sustainable livelihoods appropriately. Complying to poverty management strategies does not mean that farmers will have to reject the capitalist economy, in the current situation, because the world is changing rapidly so the idea cannot win over capitalist economy but the farmers can alternate it. In agriculture, improving productivity, reducing costs and reducing the use of chemicals, which are harmful to the farmers' health, family, society, resources and environment in accordance with Suwinai Krdtubtib (2006) concluded that localism can can be conducted in parallel with the capitalist economy in a manner of fulfillment and reducing poverty in rural areas. Another proof is the conclusion of Business Network Social and Environment, who did not deny that economic is global but it should be used as an alternative; it allows people to save more and can have more benefits. Development report of the year 2007 (Puntasen et al. 2007) concluded that economic prosperity is to survive under the current economic model of capitalism in order to understand the poverty strategy of small-scale farmers with economic alternatives. The philosophy of sufficiency economy follows the three-stage processes, to survive, to be sufficient and to be sustainable. The researcher gives concrete goals of each step as follows:

Table 1 Poverty Management Strategies for Small-Scale Farmers through Alternative

Economics: The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy

Sequence	Step	Performance	Purpose
1	To survive	1) To adjust the way you think and organize	Small-scale
	is when you	life in another way, willingness can push small-	farmers know
	know how	scale farmers think and enable self-analysis to	their roots,
	to think,	determine the cause of poverty	morality to
	live, spend	2) Believe in King's science. (Sufficiency	life.
	thoroughly	Economic) Practice earnestly in order to reach	Proud and be
		four	confident in the
		3) Try to seek for knowledge from who	king's science
		previously was successful in farming and life	as well as
		philosophy of Sufficiency Economy	comply
		4) Farmers should take prior to sufficiency and	strategies to
		self-reliance plan to tackle poverty. Learn to	help create
		help themselves by planting combination.	chances, chann
		5) Immunize by adjusting the agricultural areas	el and fine
		to prepare water resources. A fertile work	livelihood
		without exploitation, both individuals and their	
		nature as well as reducing the use of chemical	
		dissolution	
		6) Taking note of the cost. Try to reduce what	
		is not necessary cost, do not spend more than	
		what is needed. Simple lifestyle plus hard work	
		cause savings, no debt.	
		7) Based on the principle, the money is not	
		being preceded by the intelligence. In	
		agriculture, primarily small-scale farmers	
		should not be aimed at the wealthy but should	
		aim at making a sustainable living a life.	
2	To be	1) Do anything with middle path, balance what	Smallholder
	sufficient is	you are doing or doing with careful in order to	farmers have a
	to learn,	live happily	simple,
	share and	2) Learn to be sufficient, gradual in	sufficient life;
	create	farming. Do not use high cost in production as	enough is to
	income	well as reduce the use of chemicals. If you	eat, spend, live
		want the loan funds, may it also be used in	carefully.
		anything that is useful.	In this step, the
		3) Be reasonable. Farmers need to think	small-scale
		wisdomly, and have a plan in their professional	farmers learn to
		career. Select the appropriate area, planting,	share, exchange
		animal husbandry based on potential. Funds	and begin to
		and the market needs to be ongoing income.	create a
		4) Participate in occupational groups for the	network that
		sake of exchanging knowledge in order to	extends
		reduce costs, increase productivity, value and	households to
		add more negotiating power with market share,	the community.
		including joining groups, resources	
		management community such as the working	
		group master plan community.	

Table 1 (Con.)

Sequence	Step	Performance	Purpose
		5) Connect a career in profession network to develop a community enterprise, including quality and valuable products. 6) Learn from the master to cherish inherited wisdom of ancestors, with a return to the root causes in order to find the "subject" and "social capital".	The village gains and benefit from the learning exchange, administrative infrastructure, environment, and community resources.
3	To be sustainable is the way we save and convey meanings to community	1) Smallholder must carefully farm. Do not be too soon accelerate for expansion but wait until proper application of accurate technology, knowledge, strong academic principles in resources management, and then input all to produce multiple times of operation. Standards and qualities are keys to increase revenue. 2) Small-scale farmers have savings to ensure that they can survive in a sustainable way on local economy of the autonomous communities and networks. Manage to live a life sufficiently including the natural resources management until reaching utmost cost-effective 3) Farmers have life planning, train and nurture their children to inherit the farm under the philosophy of sufficiency economy 4) Farmers are members of the network. The sustainable development will require a total force integration, networking careers or activities like a consultation meeting or Welfare discussion. 5) Farmers participate in planning for infrastructure development, agricultural development including land, water, energy, forestry and the local community marketing system, community advances, and should collaborate with government, academic, communities and the private sector as the main anchor. To create a unique sense of local production that highlights the sustainability of natural resources and be beneficial to the health of consumers as well.	Small farmers can make a quality agricultural careers. There is a steady income with a network marketing career expressing the wisdom, as well as money saving plans, life plans, family plans and community plans.

Conclusion

Development plan according to capitalism focuses only on modernity and progress, economic wealth to create the national income. Even if the goal of the development would suppose to

create a sense of well-being, but, in the reality, the development is short of thoroughness; Concentration is dense in the large capital, who seek opportunity, and the advantage shows a minority in the society. While poverty becomes widespread among people especially the small group of farmers in the agricultural sector; they have faced difficulties in life. A concept of doing agriculture by integrated planting replaces the monoculture which makes farmer income level up. When the crisis was experiencing severe problem in time, a variety of small scale crops reduces risk that can be used to support each other. The income for living themselves cannot be needy. Poverty Management Strategies for Small-Scale Farmers through Alternative Economics: The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy shows the farmer the step to survive with the idea of relying on oneself. The immune system with the integrated agricultural plant and animal husbandry achieve supportive naturally. Arming the land with water resources, improve soil and manage the use of resources level down the use of chemicals. The sustainable development of small scale farmers stages yield quality. With the use of appropriate technology, professional integration and network can create opportunities and stable income as well as immune in the future.

Suggestions

The three-step strategy 1) In managing poverty, survival. Farmers will need to survive in the career of agriculture and learn how to reduce debt to create a good immune system by learning from the master, and then step into a stage where there is progress enough to recognize the exchange trading without the hope you rely on monoculture production of high cost and risk of chemicals, which are hazardous to health and the environment. Integrated production is needed in order to earn a variety of productivity and sustained steps to establish agricultural product, standards and a marketing network to cause collateral matters, income and stability and sustainable living. 2.) To fix the poverty, small scale farmers must adjust the paradigm, integrate operation of all the units starting from government agencies as well as the private sector must play a role and engage with distributed power, agricultural communities, and local organizations in the budget allocation. Personnel and development plan in the community, literally, including the continuity of the people and the Government's policy promote the philosophy of sufficiency economy causing the achievement in order to improve the quality of our agricultural sector. 3) By promoting supportive groups, professional farmers as development associate create a variety of yield processing and link to the commercial market.

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