

**AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND HIGHLANDER CHOICE:  
A CASE STUDY OF A PWO KAREN COMMUNITY  
IN NORTHWESTERN THAILAND**

**RUNAKO SAMATA**

**MASTER OF ARTS  
IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL**

**CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY**

**MAY 2003**

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A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL IN  
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF ARTS  
IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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THIS THESIS HAS BEEN APPROVED  
TO BE A PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
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IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

EXAMINING COMMITTEE

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Lecturer Dr. Kwanchewan Buadaeng

..... MEMBER  
Lecturer Phrek Gypmantasiri

ลิขสิทธิ์มหาวิทยาลัยเชียงใหม่  
16 May 2003  
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It was the first day of September 2001 when I first visited Ban Mae Chang, a Pwo Karen village in Mae Sariang district of Mae Hong Son province. On route to the village, I was jolted by the muddy and slippery road along which there are a number of places giving a distant view of mountains and valleys — the pea-green dry-rice fields and Nile-green cabbage fields alternatively extending on the mountain side nearly up to the ridges. My journey to investigate the life of the highland Pwo Karen swiddeners has been continuing since then. During approximately one and a half years of my fieldwork in Ban Mae Chang and its neighbouring village Ban Dong Luang since then, the Pwo Karen villagers took care of me with their kind hospitality and substantial knowledge. First of all, I wish to thank all the villagers of Ban Mae Chang and Ban Dong Luang for their warm-hearted considerations extended towards me in support of my research.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Yos Santasombat, my thesis supervisor, for his insightful and keen instructions and guidance throughout this study. I would also express sincere appreciation to other two my thesis committee members, Dr. Kwanchewan Buadaeng for her previous research on Ban Mae Chang and precious help for my fieldwork interviews, and Prof. Phrek Gypmantasiri for his useful suggestions and his special lecture for me on the agricultural issues tackled in this study. I was extremely fortunate to have these individuals on my committee as they are not only great scholars influencing my academic work, but are also wonderful persons influencing my life.

I appreciate Dr. Pong-In Rakariyatham, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences for having granted me admission into the RCSD of Chiang Mai University. Deep thanks are also extended to Dr. Chakrapand Wongburanavart, Director of Thai Woman of Tomorrow Project (TWT), who introduced me the study-courses of the RCSD and has continuously encouraged and assisted me. I am grateful to the teachers in the study courses of the RCSD, Dr. Anan Ganjanapan, Dr. Chayan Vaddhanaphuti, Dr. Chusak Wittayapak, Dr. Jamaree Chiengthong, Dr. Pinkaew Laungaramsri, and Dr. Santita Ganjanapan, as well as Prof. Ekamon Saichan and Prof. Benja Jirapatpimal.

I gratefully acknowledge the continuous encouragement toward me from Prof. Umaporn Wongburanavart, Prof. Narawan Poonpipat and Prof. Sriwilai Ponmanee (Faculty of Education in Chiang Mai University). My thanks also go to Dr. Sureeratna Lakanavichian and Dr. Uraiwan Tan-Kim-Yong (Faculty of Agriculture in Chiang Mai University) for their knowledge and encouragement.

I am thankful to the staff of the RCSD for their assistance, in particular to Ms. Chanida Puranapun, Ms. Kanchana Kulpisithicharoen, and Ms. Lara Johnson who supported my study. Appreciation also goes to Ms. Banchewn Tachan for her kindness in taking care of me, and to Ms. Marisa Dempsey for her help to proofread my English.

I would like to express my special gratitude to Dr. Peter Hinton for his pioneering study on my research site in the 1960s from which this study was greatly benefited. I acknowledge Aachan Somphob Larchrojna, the research assistant of Dr. Hinton, for his instruction about the Pwo Karen people in preparation for my fieldwork. I owe Dr. Paul Cohen very much for his useful information provided in his research on the Karen people's activities at agricultural market and for his kind assistance in arranging a meeting with Dr. Hinton at the time of my fieldwork. I am grateful to Dr. Otome Klein Hutheesing for her warm encouragement and informative insights.

I am deeply grateful to Mr. Prinya Kunnika who has continuously assisted me in the conduct of my fieldwork at the Pwo Karen villages. Without his earnest help, I could not have been successful in collecting such valuable information on each household in the two highland villages.

Deep thanks are also due to the generous supports by Prof. Hitoshi Shozawa (Chairman of Asia Seed Institute in Japan) and Mr. Hikaru Shozawa with the staff of Thailand-Japan Technology Transfer Project (TJTTP-OECF), to the Thai Government for having allowed me to carry out my study in Thailand, and to Mr. Pisan Manawapat (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Dr. Orasuda Charoenrath (Office of His Majesty's principal private secretary) and Dr. Phisit Pakkasem (TISCO) for their kind encouragements towards my study on the Thai highlanders. I appreciate the support extended to me by the Vice Governor in Mae Hong Son province, the District Officer of Mae Sariang district and the school teachers in Ban Mae Chang.

Another special heartfelt gratitude extends to Prof. Tatsuhiko Kawashima, who has inspired me to study highland issues in Thailand. He has instructed me in the field-research methods and the data analysis techniques, which have greatly enhanced my academic experiences and knowledge.

I am indebted to the Gakushuin Overseas NGO Volunteer Activity (GONGOVA) programme and its participants, who assisted me in my research at Ban Mae Chang. I also thank Gakushuin University for its support of my study with a research grant in 2001.

My deepest gratitude goes to Mr. Nathan Badenoch for his informative suggestions on the structure of this thesis and keen help in the final proof reading. With his precious help and advice, I have been able to narrow down my plans for a follow-on research agenda based on my valuable experiences throughout the current study.

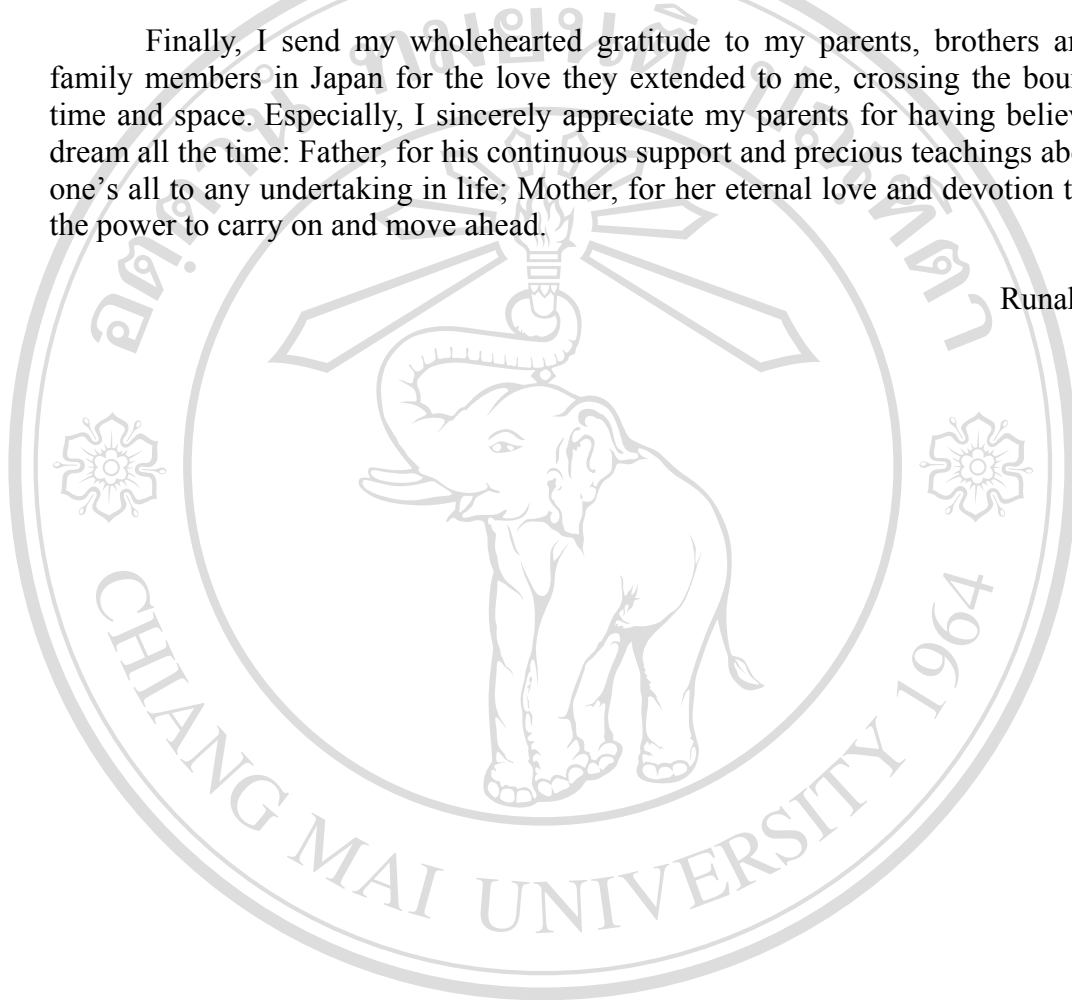
I sincerely thank all of my friends in both Japan and Thailand who have continuously encouraged me to carry out this study. The time and experiences I have shared with my friends at the RCSD hold significant meaning for my life.

Heartfelt thankfulness goes to my Thai family. With their kind consideration,

Khun Taa, Khun Yaay, Khun Phoo, Khun Mæ and Pii-Noon, have always supported me to enjoy my stay in Thailand. Without their affectionate countenance, I could not have attained such a fruitful academic and social life in Chiang Mai.

Finally, I send my wholehearted gratitude to my parents, brothers and all my family members in Japan for the love they extended to me, crossing the boundaries of time and space. Especially, I sincerely appreciate my parents for having believed in my dream all the time: Father, for his continuous support and precious teachings about giving one's all to any undertaking in life; Mother, for her eternal love and devotion to give me the power to carry on and move ahead.

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