

Chapter 7

Conclusion

Homegardens are an important part of the daily life of many ethnic groups especially for providing needs including energy (food plant) and aesthetics (ornamental plant). Homegardens characteristics are related with the ethnicity of their owners. Regardless of the place they are found, homegardens of the same ethnicity share common characteristics. However, they were also affected by other factors like the elevation, and their age.

The plants found in homegardens depended on the ethnicity and also on the place where the homegardens were located. My results have shown that some ethnic homegardens had similar plant species, regardless of the place they are found. On the other hand, some ethnic homegardens were obviously more affected by the place they were located than by the ethnicity of their owners.

The preferences of the homegardeners are an important factor determining the species composition in homegardens. The effects of this factor were obviously on a small scale that is when each individual homegarden was considered. However at a higher level, such as at the village level, the influence of this factor decreased. Other factors like the homegarden size, ethnicity, *etc.* showed more effects.

High diversity and richness are two important characteristics of homegarden which are mentioned in many studies. In this study, I have showed that these characteristics were restricted to only some ethnic homegardens. The scarcity of flat land, house style, and ethnicity habit also constrained the diversity and richness in many ethnic homegardens.

Yard and boundaries are the two main components that were always found in all homegardens. Especially homegarden boundaries which had low variation of frequency

found in each ethnic groups. In contrast with homegarden boundaries, the presence of pots varied from place to place. This homegarden component was related with the availability of flat land and the habit of each habit groups. It was interesting that the proportion of homegarden components in each village was related to the similarity of plant found in their homegarden.

In conclusion, the most important characteristics of homegardens are their diversity. Homegardens were different from place to place and from ethnicity to ethnicity. It could be said that there is a uniqueness of homegardens from the same ethnicity and there also the commonness among homegardens from the same regions. This diversity of homegarden is very important for the conservation of both plant diversity and ethnobotany. In homegardens both of them are well conserved and practiced by the homegardeners. So the understanding of the homegardens dynamics would directly solve many economic and environmental problems which lead to the good future of mankind.



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