

# **The Development of Thai Peasant Labor According to The National Economic Development Plan**

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This study indicates the importance of the peasant labor, a crucial factor of the national power, the size and quality of which must correspond with the national economic development plan for utilizing human and natural resources. Moreover, it reveals the failure in utilizing the peasant labor to attain the national economic development goals.

By comparing the size of the labor forces with cultivated areas, a state of "disguised unemployment," could easily be observed in this country. Also, if one considers the working labor forces of the Thai peasant from the economic point of view, it can be said that there is "underemployment." As a consequence, Thai peasants' incomes are somewhat lower than an adequate standard of living and they have to borrow in order to sustain their living.

According to the above study the author has set up the hypotheses as follows; (1) the present situation of Thai peasant labor is not suitable for the national economic development plan and (2) ways to utilize this labor more efficiently must be developed. The following government policies, which are relevant to the utilization of the labor forces, have been examined; the utilization of labor in increasing the yield per rai ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  rais equal to 1 acre), double cropping, cultivating other crops during non-rice-growing season, the encouragement of the utilization of youth and farm groups, and the utilization of labor in community development projects. The result of the above studies indicates that these government policies will have profound effects on the development of the peasant labor, if they are carried out more fruitfully.

However, the utilization of peasant labor in agriculture policies alone does not give a complete picture of the national economic development plan. Aware of this fact, the author has suggested certain ideas and strategies in order to utilize Thai peasant labor at its full potential. Suggestions have been made about the crucial aspect of economic development, i.e., transferring the peasant labor forces into certain parts of the industrial sector.

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The contribution of this study, is to identify the most important factor of economic development: is the development of human resource. Moreover, it presents alternative, to solving the problems of disguised unemployment and underemployment. It is the author's belief that if Thai peasant labor has been utilized to its full potential, it will create a satisfactory standard of living for the peasants as well as stability and progress for the Thai economy.

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ภาษาไทย (190 หน้า)

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