

สำนักพิมพ์ มหาวิทยาลัยสุโขทัยธำมาศ

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**WOMEN'S ROLES IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF
THE FARMING SYSTEMS IN
PHATTHALUNG PROVINCE,
SOUTHERN THAILAND**

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ABSTRACT

This study on the roles of women in agriculture was carried out in Phatthalung province, a major rice growing area in southern Thailand, as part of a nationwide study on the same subject. Two villages in the province were chosen as study sites for comparative purpose. The objective of the research was to identify and introduce appropriate technology to improve the quality of life of women farmers. The research was divided into two phases: the first phase was to study the differential roles of women and men in the farming systems and to identify the technology, the second phase was to implement the technology and to evaluate the impact of the technology on the women.

In the first phase, the roles of men and women were studied which included the division of labour, decision making, attitudes towards sex roles and community participation. Rapid rural appraisal of the farming systems and classification of farmers were carried out before the differential roles study. Questionnaire, in-depth interviews including participatory observations were used to gather information from villagers and key informants. The time allocation approach was used to differentiate the time spent on various activities.

The results revealed that women farmers spent more time in farming and households' activities than men. They took active roles in decision making and community participation. The farmers also expressed their desire to learn more of agricultural techniques. Their important source of knowledge was agricultural extension officers.

Following careful considerations of various constraints and opportunities, the technology chosen for implementation was poultry husbandry of native breed. Twelve women were selected from both villages for the implementation. A post evaluation of the implemented technology indicated that in addition to their increased income, the women farmers' status in the communities was also improved; hence, their overall quality of life was enhanced.