

Prasnee Tipraqsa

ZEF – Ecology and Development Series No. 35, 2006

Opportunities and constraints of integrated farming system in Northeast Thailand. A case study of the Huai Nong lan catchment, Khon Kaen province

Continuous land degradation is endangering household food security in Northeast Thailand. Since 1997, integrated farming has been claimed to mitigate land degradation and regain productivity compared to the conventional rice-based system. This study tests these claims using survey data from the Khon Kaen province. The performance of the system was assessed using the agricultural multifunctionality framework. The integrated farming system performed better than the conventional rice-based system in all functions of agriculture: food security, environment, economics, and social functions. However, low availability of family labor, high initial investments together with high fixed costs as well as small farm areas constrain integrated resource use on the farm.