

# Managing Land and Bio-resources for Sustainable Food Production of the Karen Community in Northern Thailand

by Asst. Prof. Dr. Budsara Limnirankul  
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**The Karen** is the largest ethnic community in Northern Thailand. Traditionally, they practice slash and burn in the forest fallow-upland rice land use rotation, with fallow period ranging from 3 to 7 years. Increasing population pressure and state authority to regulate and control slash and burn practice has forced the community to reduce fallow period, and/or adopt permanent farming systems. Forest clearing during the early 80s had opened soil surface

and caused erosion. Flash flooding occurs caused by heavy rain and extensive forest clearing and has severe impact on agricultural performance and household livelihoods. This lecture focuses on managing land and bio-resources and livelihood strategies of the Karen living in the Mae Khanad watershed.



We welcome students and teaching staffs who have interests.



**Dr. Budsara Limnirankul** is Assistant Professor of Agricultural Extension Division, Agricultural Economy and Development Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Chiang Mai University. Her current research interests include collective action in biodiversity management, sustainable agriculture and community development and participatory technology development and natural resource management. Her current research is on "Community Assets and Capabilities for Driving Alternative Agriculture and Food Production Systems".

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