



THE PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE SURROUNDING PROTECTED FOREST IN THE REFORESTATION ACTIVITY

A case study
in the protected forest areas of Benuang Galing,
in region of RDK Kepahiang, CDK Rejang Lebong,
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ABSTRACT

The role of people living in the surrounding protected forest determine the success of reforestation it self. To some extent the society participation in these activities would be influenced by several socio economic factors. This study was intended to reveal the success of reforestation activities and its relationship with the level of people participation and factors affecting it.

Socio economic factors considered affecting the participation of people were the size of areas owned by the cultivators, the agricultural and non agricultural income, the income from reforestation, risk, age, education and the kind of business they have. Data were collected by using questionnaire given to ninety respondent of formerly illegal cultivators and another ninety respondent of the legal ones. The level of successfulness of reforestation were measured in terms of survival percentage of the three, two and one year old tree plantation.

Data were tabulated and statistically analysed using Chi-Square (X^2), Contingency Test (C) and Asymetric Lambda Test (λ_a).

Result indicated that the survival percentage of the three year old tree plantation was only 28.9%, which was less than the valid standard survival percentage of 50.0%; so that it was considered a failure. The two and one year old tree plantation grew well with survival percentage of 90.6% and 95.7%, respectively. Those values were larger than the existing standard values (55.0% and 35.0%). This study also revealed that in general the level of participation of people in the reforestation activities was very low. People's income obtained from the reforestation project was found to be the only factor positively affected people to participate. In another word people's income showed a significant relationship with their participation in the sense of giving ideas, working or carrying out the program no matter they are legal or illegal cultivators. The land possession of legal cultivators had a positive influence on their participation, even thought it was only limited to their participation in giving ideas. Other socio economic factors being considered were found not significantly related to the people participation in the reforestation activities.

