

CHAPTER 4

SUMMARY

This study can be used by the Environmental Agriculture Project as a guideline to increase their efficiency of project management. The study focuses on the attitudes and responses of the villagers toward the project which can be used to determine the future direction of project goals.

An understanding of the attitudes of the rural farmer will help project personnel formulate effective strategies to assist rural farmers in dealing with the changing conditions of their environment. This will allow them to maintain their way of life using sustainable techniques to enhance soil fertility without the use of costly chemicals which have a deleterious effect on the environment.

In addition, this information can be shared with other individuals or agencies concerned with the ecology or development strategies.

The Environmental Agriculture Project has clearly stated goals and purposes: to demonstrate and field test environmental agricultural techniques. The main method of operation is to select farmer leaders and, working with the farmer leaders, prepare demonstration plots; to provide extension services and to disseminate knowledge gained through village communicators.

During the five year period in which this research was conducted, it was observed that the activities undertaken by the McKean EAT project achieved its desired goals and objectives. That is, the project has experience with and knowledge of environmental agriculture, is able to test and select appropriate environmental agriculture technologies and disseminate these techniques, and has established village communicators in each target area.

The research team analyzed the structure for working together and found that the methodology for working with groups and village organizations at the community level was able to reach the household level.

In the future there should be a period of time for the spread of successful activities, dissemination of knowledge and experience of both village leaders and project staff. Conditions for success in this endeavor include: establishing a methodology for obtaining knowledge within communities with village leaders having a role in the process. Procedures for strengthening village organizations should be improved. The basic principles of development of the McKean Ecological Agriculture Technology (EAT) is consistent with the desires and recommendations of the villagers as well.