

**Conclusion**  
**The Evaluation of the Impacts**  
**of IDRC-Funded Research Projects**

**Supported**

**by**

**The Department-of Technical and Economic Cooperation**  
**and**  
**the International Development Research Center (IDRC)**

**Content**  
**Conclusion of the Evaluation of the Impacts of**  
**IDRC-funded Research Projects**

	Page
1. Introduction : Background	1
2. Objectives of the Evaluation	1
3. Scope of the Evaluation	1
4. Results of the Evaluation	2
5. Conclusion	5

## Conclusion of the Evaluation of the Impacts of IDRC-funded Research Projects

### 1. Background

Until 1985, Thailand received monetary assistance from the International Development Research Center (IDRC) to conduct research in different field. This assistance was made through the Department of Technology and Economic Cooperation, Thailand. Altogether, approximately 100 projects were funded at the amount of Cnd \$ 12.25 millions or 233 million baht. These research projects covered the areas of education, public health and nutrition, agriculture, population, administration, water resources, etc. A number of these research project were already completed while some are still on-going at present.

There is a tendency that the IDRC will continue the assistance. Thus, for the efficiency in determining the policies, methods and models for the support, and hence for the benefits of country development, the DTEC sees that it is important to evaluate the impacts of these project, and to find a means to extend the research results at the fullest extent.

### 2. Objectives of the Evaluation

Besides evaluating the impacts of the research project and determining a means for the research projects to create most beneficial impacts for the development of the country, this evaluation also aims at finding specific answers to these questions:-

- 1) Are the information and data from these projects utilized? and to what extent?
- 2) Is the utilization of the research results effective? How?
- 3) Are there any potentials of the research results? What are they?
- 4) What should be the next step of implementation to make the potentials viable?

### 3. Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation has been carried out in three separate groups, ie., the evaluation of research projects on social sciences; on public health, and on agriculture. The DTEC has appointed evaluator teams from Chulalongkorn, Mahidol, and Kasetsart University to conduct the evaluation.

The titles of the projects under each group are :-

1. Research projects on social sciences:
  - Research for the Development of Provincial education Planning (RDPEP), carried out by the National Education Committee and the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, 1983-1985.

- Land Distribution and Employment (LDE), carried out by the Agricultural Land Reform Office, 1979-1980.

- A study on Collection and Storage of Roof Runoff for Drinking Purposes (SCSRR), conducted by a research team from Faculty of Engineering, Khon Kaen University, 1980-1982.

## 2. Research project on agriculture

- Vegetable Seed Production in Opium and Rice-Based Agriculture (VSP), conducted by the Department of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, Chiangmai University.

- Groundnut Sheller and Stripper Project (GSSP), Conducted by the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Khon Kaen University.

- Home-processed Legume (HPL), carried out by the Department of Agricultural Products, faculty of Agriculture, Khon Kaen University.

- Cassava Nutrition (CN), conducted by the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Khon Kaen University.

- Cropping System (Thailand) Project (CSTP), carried out by Farming Research Institute, Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Field Crops, Faculty of Agriculture, Kasetsart University.

## 3. Research projects on public health

- Food Supplement Project (FSP), performed by the Nutritional Research Institute, Mahidol University.

- Improvement of Dermatological Practice in Thailand (IDPT), conducted by Institute of Dermatology, Department of Medicine.

- Development of Appropriate and Economic System for Hospital Wastewater (DAES), carried out by Division of Environmental Health, Department of Health.

## 4. Results of the Evaluation

The impacts of different research projects have been evaluated and can be concluded according to the evaluation objectives as follows:-

### 4.1 Research projects on social sciences

#### 4.1.1 The utilization of research results

Because the three projects in this group were pilot projects-never carried out before-there were many direct impacts. Firstly, the research model has been applied all over the country. For example, the model developed by the RDPEP has been used by the Ministry of Education as an example for provincial education planning; the questionnaire used in the LDE Project has been adjusted and used by the Agricultural Land Reform Office as a tool for data collection. Secondly, the information from the research projects has been used in decision making. For example, the information from RDPEP has initiated continuing projects such as Information System Development Project and Planning Personnel Development

Project; the data from LDE project have been used in stipulating land reform areas. As for SCSRR Project, the ideas have been used as a trend toward extensive or related projects such as "Long-term Behaviour of Bamboo-Reinforced Concrete", "Village Level Water Storage and Utilization Practices in Northeast Thailand", and "Water Contamination" which are supported by CIDA, PDA, and IDRC respectively.

#### 4.1.2 The effectiveness of implementation of research results

The implementation of the results of research on social sciences was quite satisfactory. This can be seen in the provincial development plans, both five-year and annually; which are based on the methods instructed in the two manuals produced as a result of RDEPE Project. LDE Project also enabled the Agricultural Land Reform Office to stipulate land reform areas in almost all of the provinces in Thailand.

#### 4.1.3 Business potentials

The research on social sciences involved the state's planning activities; thus, there was no business potential. The continuing project from SCSRR such as "Long Term Behaviour of Bamboo Reinforced Concrete Project" could have such potentials, However, the project is out of the scope of this evaluation.

### 4.2 Research on Agriculture

#### 4.2.1 The utilization of research results

Every research project under this category have achieved its aims. Most of the results are in abstract form, eg., seed production technology, cowpea products menu, or technology of using cassava products as animal nutrients. There is only one concrete object, i.e., a usable machine the performance of which can be measured.

#### 4.2.2 The effectiveness of implementation of research results

Since most of the results are abstract, their implementation depends on other factors. In HPL project, the cowpea products have not been widespread because of the scarcity of raw materials and the difficulty in changing the farmers' eating habits. The technology from CN Project has not been used widely because of the increasing price of cassava. In GSSP Project, the widespread use of machinery has been saturated.

#### 4.2.3 Business potentials

The machinery invented under GSSP Project can be produced on a commercial scale, provided that there is a demand in the market.

#### 4.2.4 Methods to make the potential viable

A feasibility study in terms of economics and marketing must be carried out. Moreover, testings and improvement of the research findings should be done so that they meet with the needs of the market before any commercial investment.

#### 4.3 Research on Public Health

##### 4.3.1 The utilization of research results

FSP project produced supplementary food formula from a mixture of rice,peas,and sesame. However, their production ceased after the completion of the project because no continuing effort had been made to motivate it. The usefulness of the project is the setting up of a policy towards the necessity for needy children to have supplementary food, a policy which has brought about lunch projects for schoolchildren and Provincial Health's Supplement Food Project.

IDPT Project has increased the capacity of general physicians in dermatology,has produced a manual on common skin diseases and a case history form for skin-diseased patients. Evaluation made from users has shown that the manual and the case history form are very useful. They have been applied in hospitals by the trainees who have been trained in the course organized by the project.

DAES project's finding has been a waste water treatment system which is satisfactory to both the designers and the users. A technique of making and using ferrocement has also been obtained. The information of the research project has been provided to interested sections or those who want to adopt the system; by the Division of Environmental Health and Ayudhya Hospital. Moreover,the hospital also gives information on the use and maintenance of the waste water treatment system to the hospital's officers, the patients and their relatives.

##### 4.3.2 The effectiveness of implementation of research results.

The effectiveness of implementation of research results of this group relied on the techniques and approaches of dissemination activities of each project.

FS Project disseminated its results by organizing conferences, by presenting articles in different conferences, publishing articles in periodicals, and arranged monitoring tours. These activities have disseminated the research findings on a large scale,both in the country and abroad.

DAES Project has created a policy to install the waste water treatment system designed by the project. However,the policy implementation is following a gradual approach.

Finally,IDPT Project has provided a policy towards the development of general physicians' competence in dermatology. The implementation of this policy, on the other hand, is not obvious.

##### 4.3.3 Business potentials

It is viewed by the evaluators that supplementary food formula do not have business potentials. Even governmental practices using the results of this project have been limited by the state's conditions.

The business potential of IDPT Project is the

→ incomplete

The business potential of IDPT Project is the trainings for general physicians in private hospitals and clinics. However, thorough considerations must be made as to the appropriateness of such trainings.

The obvious business potential of DAES Project is the possibility to introduce the waste water treatment system in factories, hotels, schools, and big buildings with a large number of residents or office workers (eg., condominium, and office-condominium)

#### 4.3.4 Methods to make the potentials viable

For IDPT Project, as already discussed, the appropriateness must be considered.

The results from DAES Project should be able to be directly applied, or else, the results may be adjusted so that they are compatible to the target population before they can be applied.

### 5. Conclusion

All of the IDRC-funded research projects have achieved their aims. The results or findings have been utilized both as information for extending research projects, and as information yielding important policies for related departments or organizations.

The degree of effectiveness of the utilization of research results varies from one project to another, depending on the nature of the project and its approaches in disseminating its results. When it is considered that the evaluated projects are in the form of research work, the sufficiently-effective extension of their results should be satisfactory.

The research projects on social sciences have no business potentials, owing to the fact that the projects were related to the State's planning activities. The research projects on agriculture and public health have some business potentials. Nevertheless, there are problems concerning the market, and the necessity to test or adjust the research results so that they really meet with the demands of the target population before application.