

Study Report
on
Situation of Home-based Workers' Groups in Urban Areas
and
Target Groups under the Inclusive Urban Planning Project

Submitted to
Homenet South Asia
Compiled by
Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion
October 2010

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1. Background

Home-based workers (HBWs)¹ are generally poor, receiving low wages or income and working long hours, thus earning inadequate income to support their household expenses. These workers live in slum communities² scattered in urban or suburban areas. As a result, it is difficult for them to organize. Their presence is virtually non-existent, not known or socially recognized, and not economically valued as a group of workers that contribute to the urban and national economy. Thus these HBWs have no participatory role in their local or community development planning.

The Inclusive Urban Planning (IUP) Project is developed to build up and strengthen the capacity of HBW's groups by supporting their organization in the form of membership-based organizations (MBOs)³. MBOs will act as representatives of the HBWs in presenting their problems and needs to government agencies so that these workers will be given a chance to participate in the urban planning process, which is suitable for their needs.

This five-year Project (2009-2013) is carried out by Homenet Thailand and its collaborating non-governmental organizations. Homenet Thailand (HNT) was established in 1992 and registered as the Foundation for Labor and Employment Promotion in 2003. The Project's major operation areas are Bangkok, Chiang Rai and Khon Kaen provinces.

In early 2010, HNT in cooperation with its regional networks—Northeastern Women's Network and Northern HOMENET—carried out a survey of HBWs in Bangkok, Chiang Rai and Khon Kaen municipalities. The obtained data and information will be used for the Project's next phase of operation.

2. Objectives

¹ A "home-based worker" means a person who uses his/her home or other premises other than a workplace of the employee as a workplace. There are two major types of home-based workers. First are self-employed or own account workers, who produce their goods—using their own capital and tools—and sell to the market. Second are homeworkers, who are paid to produce goods or provide services for others—Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion.

² A slum community means that most of the community's buildings are crowded, unorganized and dilapidated. The people there live in a crowded and unsuitable environment likely to harm the inhabitants' health and safety. This is based on a standard density of 15 houses per one-rai-area community.

³ Membership-based Organization (MBO) means an organization whose members are individuals that pay their annual membership and actively engaged in shaping the organization's objectives, role, structure and direction. The organization's members work with each other according to clear and democratic rules and regulations, taking into account equitable and comprehensive distribution of the organization's knowledge, information and resources to all members. It will also create economic and welfare systems beneficial to all members, who must have a sense of ownership, confidence in the organization and its leadership, and belief in the future success and progress.

1. To study the conditions of the HBW's groups located in Bangkok, Chiang Rai and Khon Kaen; and
2. To select the target groups of the Project's next phase of operation.

3. Methodology

1. Studying the samples of HBW's groups to be developed during the Project's next phase of operation and those groups listed by the municipalities;
2. Focusing the study on group working, employment conditions and living conditions of the HBWs; and
3. Basing the study on in-depth interviews and focus-group discussion;

4. Findings

No compilation of HBWs—consisting of own-account workers and homeworkers—in Thailand has been formally conducted. In 2007, the statistics surveyed by the National Statistical Office found that 294,290 households engaged in home work. And there were 440,251 people of 15 and upwards working as homeworkers. Most of them, 73.7%, lived outside of the municipalities while the remaining 26.3% live within the municipal areas. In 2005, those homeworkers living outside of the municipalities amounted to 68.70% while 31.3% lived in the municipalities. Regionally, it was found that most homeworkers, or 27.10%, lived in the Northeast, followed by 26.50% in central region, 23.20% in the North, 11.80% in Bangkok, and 11.40% in the South.

Homeworkers could be divided into three types. First was a sub-contracted worker, who took orders from the hirers and produced products by themselves and sometimes subcontracted their work to others too. This type of workers amounted to the highest number of 85.70% or 377,449 people, higher than the number in 2005, which was 80.70%. Evidently, working continued to increase. Second were helpers of the sub-contracted worker, who would help doing certain work for the sub-contracted workers, with whom the helpers lived in the same houses. This type amounted to 60,230 workers or 13.70%, which was lower than the 2005 number of 18.80%. Third were contractors, who took orders from the employers then subcontracting it to other workers. This type amounted to 2,572 people or 0.60%, which was higher than the 2005 figure of 0.50%.

In addition, it was found that most of the homeworking activities related to non-agricultural industrial production. Of all the industrial production, 87.30% was in the manufacturing sector, followed by wholesale and retail business, 11.30% and others, 1.40%. In terms of product type, most homeworking, or 54.20% associated with clothing and textiles; followed by wood and paper products, 8.60%; jewellery and accessories, 8.10%; leather, ceramic, glass, rubber appliances and plastic furniture, 6.0%; miscellanies, 5.80%; and other products, 4.60%. The survey also found that 28.50%, which was the majority of the homeworkers, had problem on occupational health and safety more than anything else.

This study included both own-account workers and homeworkers, living in three major cities: Bangkok, Chiang Rai and Khon Kaen. Generally, own-account workers would be more organized than homeworkers, but the former’s organization was often loose, lacking clear and systematic management. The homeworkers were mostly unorganized and scattered. Government support, therefore, targeted more on the own-account workers. Furthermore, the living conditions in the city also played a significant role in the HBWs’ livelihood. The lack of housing security and necessary infrastructure made it more difficult for these workers to improve their quality of life. The situation of the HBWs would be summarized, as follows:



1. Type of Work

It was found that the home-based work varied, ranging from textiles to food processing, leather ware production to various types of handicrafts. In Bangkok and Chiang Rai, which are tourist destinations, most HBWs’ groups were engaged in textiles production more than in

any other types of production. In Khon Kaen, the production of HBWs was not as related to outsiders as that of Bangkok and Chiang Rai, its production thus focused more on food processing.

2. Organization

Most of the HBWs located in Bangkok, Chiang Rai and Khon Kaen were loosely organized, without any clear aims and direction. Their main objective was to get access to market, work and government resources. Those officially registered with government offices would be the groups that were clearly structured. According to the study, three out of eight groups in Bangkok and eight out of nine groups in Chiang Rai—which had been organized by Chiang Rai Municipality—were officially registered. But in practice, the groups' management and decision making were up to the chairpersons only. Thus, group members' participation and sense of ownership of the groups were lacking. The remaining unregistered groups had no clear organizational structure.

In brief, the grouping of the HBWs in Bangkok, Chiang Rai and Khon Kaen was not strong and essentially lacking the capacity of a member-based organization (MBO). Most groups had their committees, but without any rotation of the committee members whereas the group members had no mutual aims and direction. The groups' decision depended on their chairpersons only and their joint activities were minimal and discontinuous.

3. Production Mode

There were three modes of production of the HBWs, as follows:

1. Self-employed production: Two groups in Chiang Rai, one in Bangkok, and eight in Khon Kaen;
2. Homeworking: Three groups in Chiang Rai, three in Bangkok, and eight in Khon Kaen; and
3. A combination of the first and second modes: Four groups in Chiang Rai and four in Bangkok; though there were many groups of homeworkers in Khon Kaen, each group had a few members.

Urban HBWs lacked employment security; their work was discontinuous. When they were employed, the low wages forced them to work long hours, 4-12 hours a day, so that they could make as many pieces of work as possible to earn enough income to support their family expenses. Their income, however, was also relative to housing areas. Most of the groups earning the lowest average daily income of 50-100 baht lived in suburban areas. The groups earning the highest income still differed. In Khon Kaen, the average daily income was over 300 baht; in Bangkok, 300 baht; and in Chiang Rai, 150 baht. These highest income-earning groups lived in the inner and central city areas.

The HBWs in Bangkok, particularly those engaged in textiles production, saw their work continue to diminish because the manufacturers have relocated to other countries. Moreover, modern technology, such as computerized sewing machines, has been used and thus making the work done by the sewers using manual sewing machines redundant.

In terms of welfare benefits, most HBWs were entitled to free medical treatment provided by the government. Though some groups attempted to establish their savings activities, no certain benefits have been given to their members.

Most of the work-related problems included low wages, lack of market access, high production costs, lack of revolving funds, discontinuous employment, and occupational health and safety. The workers were found to suffer from physical pains and stiffness, occupational allergy to dust and poor lighting condition of their workplaces.

4. Government Support

Bangkok-based urban HBWs have received very little support from the government, except the Hijab Sewing and Embroidery Group of Sam Yaek Khlong Lo Lae that was given 10 sewing machines by the authorities. Comparatively, the HBWs' groups in Chiang Rai and Khon Kaen have been given more support from their local authorities than their counterparts in Bangkok. Such support came in four types: financial support in the forms of credit and loans, or grants given as revolving funds for production; provision of study trips to develop ideas on how to earn their living; and occupational training and provision of free market space. The case in point included five out of nine groups of HBWs in Chiang Rai and 12 out of 17 groups of HBWs in Khon Kaen—most of which were self-employed groups—that had been supported by their local administration organizations. As for the groups of homeworkers in both Chiang Rai and Khon Kaen provinces, no government support was given to them at all.

5. Access to Work

Urban HBWs' access to work was relative to their housing areas. Those HBWs living in the inner and central city areas could get access to work and market more easily than their counterparts in suburban communities because of the formers' more convenient transport and proximity to work, which contributed to the not so high costs of reception and delivery of work. The suburban HBWs living far away from the city centers, which were major sources of work, and lacking convenient transport could not get direct access to work. Thus, they had to resort to homeworking rather than self-employed production. This meant that they had to be the second and third subcontract workers, whose wages were lower than those paid to the HBWs living in the inner city areas.

6. Housing and Transport

Most of the urban HBWs were poor and their housing was scattered across the central and inner city areas and the suburbs. Though those living in the central and inner city areas could get better access to work, their housing condition was congested and stuffy. More importantly, they lacked housing security because they had to live on private owner's rented land and vulnerable to being evacuated. The study found that three groups of Bangkok-based HBWs lived on private owner's rented land in the central city area, which was crowded. Only one of these groups participated in the government's Collective Housing Program. The other three groups were evacuated from the inner city area to live in new communities in the suburbs and built their houses on own land, where the transport was inconvenient and too difficult to get access to work. Meanwhile, most of the HBWs in Chiang Rai built their houses on own land.

There were only two groups building their houses on government land. These two groups jointly urged the implementation of the Collective Housing Program to improve their housing and environment.

In brief, the HBWs in Bangkok suffered from housing and transport more than their counterparts in Chiang Rai and Khon Kaen. This was because most of them were poor people migrating from rural provinces to look for work, encroached upon government or private owners' land and built their houses on it. When Bangkok became increasingly urbanized, the economic need for land use was rising. Therefore, these poor people were evacuated to live in the suburbs, where the government provided them with low-priced land that they could pay by long-term installments. But it was far from the city center, which was a source of work and markets while the transport was inconvenient.

7. Infrastructure

In general, the HBWs could get access to electricity and running water. But those living in rented houses might have to pay higher prices for electricity and running water—charged by the owners of the houses at flat rates—than those living in own houses. Moreover, the HBWs living in Bangkok's suburban areas had to suffer from flooding since the authorities had to release waters flooding the city's inner economic zone during the rainy season to the suburbs. Therefore, suburban people had to suffer repeatedly, thus exacerbating their already difficult access to work.

8. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, HNT proposes the following recommendations to support and develop the HBWs, as follows:

1. Supporting group organization and management by building the groups' capacity to become an MBO, particularly those unorganized and scattered groups of HBWs;
2. Promoting health security by providing the knowledge about, understanding and awareness of occupational health and safety to the HBWs so that they can prevent health risks and protect their personal health, especially to such highly vulnerable groups as the Crispy Rolls, Buffalo Horn Carving, Fish-Net Making and Santong Lueng Sewing Groups;
3. Promoting welfare system by supporting each group's management of its savings and basic welfare benefits, as many groups attempted unsuccessfully to set up savings activities to serve their members—whose mutual help among them would in turn strengthen the groups' capacities;
4. Developing their occupations by facilitating for the HBWs' access to new sources of work, which pays fair wages; generating other occupations to replace the decreasing work to give them more occupational alternatives; providing market access to their products and enabling the HBWs to get access to existing funds;
5. Providing the HBWs with the knowledge about worker's rights and legal protection of the HBWs so that they can use the existing laws and policies to better their quality of life; and

6. Supporting the solutions to housing and infrastructure problems by coordinating with other groups and organizations, such as the Collective Housing Program.

5 Details of the study

BANGKOK

As a big city with over an unofficial 10 million population living here, Bangkok had as many as 243 groups of own-account workers registered with it. Some were no longer in business while others were small-scale groups that had no participating members. The Project thus studied both groups of workers and particularly focused on the details of the eight groups to be further developed by the Project, as follows:

1. Buffalo-Horn Carving Group, Moo Ban Sethakit (Sethakit Housing Estate)

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Background

In the past, the buffalo-horn carvers earned their living by producing polished brass handicrafts at their former homes in Phrong Akat subdistrict of Chacheongsai province's Bang Nam Priaw district. When this group of people migrated to live in Bangkok's Lat Phrao area 1952, they continued producing polished-brass spoons, forks and knives. Buffalo horns were used to make knife handles. These people's products were sold to S. Samran Thailand Company, an exporter of Thai goods. Later on, they turned to carving buffalo horns into various figures, such as Viking ships and 12-Lunar animals and present them to shops for sale. From then on, so many orders from Japan were coming in that the producers decided to organize themselves. However, carving buffalo horns also produced a lot of dust. As more people settling in Lat Phrao community area, they made their complaint against such production of dust. As a result, these carvers had to relocate to Moo Ban Sethakit in Bang Khae district since 1970. At the time, Bang Khae was on the outskirts of Bangkok, with lower population density than that of Lat Phrao, which was an inner part.

In boom times, buffalo horn carvers could make a lot of money. There was a large influx of orders coming from Japan, Europe and the US through their local business agents, such as Naraibhand Pavillion and B Horn Companies. Later, purchasing orders from Europe and the US began to decrease because the imports of products made from animals were banned. Now the Group only makes its goods to the order of B Horn Company, which exports the products to such Asian countries as Japan and Korea.

At the time of writing, there were only eight families—five in Rathphiphat Community and three in Sirikasem Phatthana Ruamchai Community—producing buffalo horn goods. This resulted from many constraints. For instance, the work was done in a dusty atmosphere; thus not many younger persons would take it on. In addition, the job was dangerous and prone to mechanical accident. While the orders were decreasing, the buffalo

horns—which were essential raw materials for the production—were becoming increasingly scarce.

Production

The production of buffalo-horn handicrafts relied on the buffalo horns bought from factories located in Pathum Thani (Thai Bone Industry), Samut Prakan (Thai Union Factory at Bang Pu) and Chiang Mai provinces as its raw material. The horns to be carved must be misshapen and belonging to either albino or black male and female buffalo. The producers would mould the horns into various shapes, such as the 12-Lunar animals, Thai Royal Barge, Hok Lok Siw (Three Chinese gods representing happiness, wealth and longevity. Then the horn would be carved into desired patterns and brushed with chemical solution to make the pattern visible or rubbed with sandpaper to give it a glossy sheen.

The production tools included an electric grinder and engraving machine, imported from Japan and sold in Bangkok's Nakhon Kasem electrical appliances center.

Production mode

The production divided into two types:

- 1) Being hired by an employer or contracted work: the horns are provided to be carved according to ordered patterns, such as an eagle and a dragon, and returned the finished goods to the investor who would pay the producer his/her wages according to how hard or easy the carving was; an average daily wage was at least 100 baht;
- 2) Producing and selling the products by themselves or own account work: the Group made big pieces using the whole horn in the shapes of elephant, horse, rhino, and bird while smaller pieces were carved into the shapes of fish, turtle and cat, etc. The products were priced 200-300 baht and delivered once a week, bringing in about 2,000-2,500 baht of income. Four deliveries of goods earned a producer about 10,000 baht, of which half of it must be deducted as expenses. Thus, a total net income was 5,000 baht a month.

Marketing

The Group's market was very limited because it had only two regular outlets, two shops located in Bangkok's Lan Luang and Chatuchak areas, whereby only the buyers fixed the products' prices alone. The Group produced buffalo horn products to order of the buyers—Benchaphol Phanit shop at Lan Luang (which was about 30 kilometers away from the Group's place) and another shop located at the 19th Block at Chatuchak Weekend Market. But the Group had to pay a motorcycle 400 baht for a round trip to deliver its finished products to a middleman in the New Mahachai Housing Estate (in Samut Sakhon province), 50 kilometers away from the Group's location.

Government Support

In 1997, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration headed by Dr Phichit Rattakul supported the buffalo-horn handicrafts as a community quality product by promoting them through television broadcasts and brochures in both Thai and English languages. Such support was

still carried out by the BMA under Aphirak Kosayothin's leadership. But now it is discontinued.

Work Risks

Associated with dust and long working hours of 7-8 hours at a time

Organization

Lacking formal organization and group structure

Problems and Needs

1. Lack of raw materials: Buffalo horns in Thailand are increasingly scarce. Over the past several years, the Group had to buy buffalo horns from Chiang Mai's Fang district, where it procured the horns from such neighbouring countries as Burma and Sipsongpanna region (in China's southern province of Yunnan). Sometimes, the producers could not work the whole month because of the lack of raw materials, which are likely to be more difficult to come by.
2. Lack of control over pricing: The producers could not set the price of their own products because they had only two buyers. In addition, the raw materials were scarce while the carving process was intricate, but the selling prices were low.
3. The lack of organization led to the lack of bargaining power over the product prices.
4. The buffalo horn products were made with intricate craftsmanship and used for decoration only, so a certain group of collectors were interested in them. Because of the product's limited market channels, the government support was thus needed.
5. Because of the health problem of family members, mostly relating to cold and allergy (probably due to dust), these producers had to rely on their health service gold card (from National Health Security Office-NHSO) to get medical treatment at a hospital or a nearby clinic.

2. Occupational Group of Two-Sergeant Community, Bang Khae district

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Background

The Two-Sergeant Community is located in Soi Bang Khae 4, Sukhaphiban 1 Road, in Bangkok. It houses 158 households of 600 people. Most houses are built on 25-rai rented land own by Ngam Pancha Family. The majority population earns their living by selling merchandise in the community and nearby areas. Making "*Thong Muan* (Crispy Rolls)" is the community's original occupation, which was registered as an occupational group at the Bangkhae district office in 2004. Then in 2009, the Group was turned into a community business called the "Occupational Group of Two-Sergeant Community" and has continued its operation, chaired by Khun Thiyada Yoophum, chairperson of the community.

Management

The Group had seven committee members, who shared their major roles in management and marketing, and can increase the Group's members. It held a meeting once a month.

Production

Thong Muan, a Thai snack produced by the Group, had two flavours: sweet and salty. The sweet flavour was made from rice and wheat flour, egg, butter, coconut milk, sugar and coconut while coriander root, pepper and garlic were also added to the salty one. All the ingredients were mixed and blended in a food mixer, and then the crispy roll batter was poured into a mould—placed on gas fire or operated by electricity—till it was cooked. Next, the cooked batter was either rolled into a shape like a cylinder or a stick or folded up before the rolls were packed in a bag or a tin for sale. The production costs of *Thong Muan* varied. Some producers spent their own money buying raw materials, made and sold the products by themselves. Others paid other workers to make *Thong Muan*, at the rate of 19-30 baht per one kilogram of the rolls. On average, a *Thong Muan* maker would earn about 250-300 baht for a 10-hour-long work each day, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. There were other community-based jobs associated with the making of *Thong Muan* emerging, such as tin packing at three baht a tin, cleaning the tins and selling the rolls. Overall, *Thong Muan* making that earned a monthly income of 8,000 baht played an important role in generating the community's major income, which in turn brought about jobs and money flow within the community.

Marketing

There were many wholesale and retail outlets, as follows:

1. Being marketed at the Bang Khae district office;
2. Launching the products with district offices and other agencies;
3. Selling the products at the maker's house;
4. Paying the students living in the community to sell the products after school to earn extra income for their families;
5. Packing the rolls in bags or tins to sell to wholesalers or provincial buyers; and
6. The rolls are sold at 10, 15 and 20 baht per bag, or 175 baht per tin (2.5 kilograms in weight)

Organization

Because the Group was in its early stage of operation, most of its work had to rely on its chairperson. In the past, the chairperson and the committee members also helped out with the promotion of the Group's product to increase its market opportunities so that the community's income and work would be higher. What the Group earned was the profit gained from revenue the community members made from selling *Thong Muan* for the Group.

Now, the Group had no funds of its own. However, the Group started its important activity in 2009 by promoting community welfare services in the form of savings group, whereby the members were asked to save up one baht a day. The current members amounted to 60 with the total savings of 10,000 baht. The Group's basic welfare benefits included:

1. Five-hundred-baht death benefit for each member;

2. Scholarships for needy students; and
3. Occasional support for the disadvantaged, such as the handicapped and orphans.

Owing to the community's cooperation, the Group now had its own office, which was located on rented land. The Group planned to set up a welfare fund to give loans to its members to support their occupations, but the rules of loan-making was still being worked out. The community also supported sports and musical activities, especially the performance of long-single head drum. This made the Two-Sergeant Community the only community in Bang Khae district that had been granted with self-sufficiency award.

Problems

1. All the Group did was occasionally selling the community's product and keeping the profit for the Group's management of such occasional sale. The Group's members had neither participation nor any sense of ownership of the Group.
2. The community's lack of housing security was a serious problem since it was located on private rented land whereby the Group's members had to pay a monthly rent of 1,000 baht. The land owner wanted to have the whole plot of land back to build an apartment block on it and could successfully reclaimed parts of it. The community chairperson attempted to negotiate to have the Group's office remained on the land to help improve the landscape of the apartment; and the land owner agreed. Nevertheless, it was still uncertain when the land owner would resume his/her evacuation since the location was adjacent to the developed area of Bang Khae market and the transport was very convenient.
3. Most of the houses in the community were old wooden ones, built in a very congested manner. Most makers had to work at home, under highly hot and stuffy conditions.
4. The producers' working conditions and long hours resulted in their repressed urination and backache.

3. Hijab Sewing and Embroidery Group, Sam Yaek Khlong Lo Lae Community

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Community Background

Sam Yaek (T-section) Khlong Lo Lae is located in Bangkok's Saphan Soong district. It is a traditional Muslim community with a mosque serving as the community center, where religious ceremonies are periodically held there to indicate the community's unity. There are 210 houses and about 1,400 people living there. Also there are a number of outsiders living in dormitories and apartments. Some community members, such as Khun Somporn, built her house on rented land and paid an annual rent of 3,500 baht, which has been paid for over 30 years. In 2010, the land owner might not renew the contract as he/she wanted to make other use of the land. Khun Somporn has not decided where to go yet.

Group's Background

The members of Sam Yaek Khlong Lo Lae community had diverse occupations. But one of the main occupations of the women here was sewing and embroidering Muslim women's hijab, or head scarfs, which has been undertaken for over 10 years. In 2006, Saphan Soong district office helped develop a community master plan and gave 10 sewing machines to the community. As a result, a women's group was established—but not officially registered—to manage the women's activities. The Group's members, whose average age was 35, now amounted to 10 persons, as there were 10 sewing machines: five of them for sewing and the remaining five for embroidering sequins and pearly beads. The Group produced and sold their products by themselves as well as being employed to work at home. The head scarfs and embroidered dresses produced by the Group would be sent to sell in Songkhla's Hat Yai district. At the moment, they had to stop the production because their previously sold goods had not been paid. The Group's Chairperson would obtain its orders from the wholesalers based at Bangkok's Pratunam clothing market. There would be occasional, but few, orders for the embroidered wedding dresses. The Group's homeworkers would be paid according to the quality and quantity of work done. The Group earned a monthly rent of 200 baht per sewing machine while the homeworkers would make about 2,000 baht a month from their sewing and embroidering.

Most of the orders for the pearly-bead embroidery on dresses and pants came from a shop called Duangta located in Bo Bay, Bangkok's another big wholesage clothing market. Each monthly order amounted to 200-300 pieces, which would be placed seven times. The 10-member homeworkers would divide the work among themselves, 20-30 pieces each time to be delivered every three days. The wages ranged between 20 and 100 baht. On average, each homeworker would earn about 5,000 baht a month. But the orders were decreasing, hence their diminished income.

Group Management

The Embroidery Group had not clear structure but was registering as an occupational group with the district office, whose relationship with the Group was helpful. Now the Group's fund amounted to around 4,000 baht since it has just started collecting the sewing-machine rent for only four months. For the past three years, the homeworkers were allowed to use the machines free of charge. Two baht would be charged from each piece of the work made by the homeworkers to give to the Group's messenger, who was responsible for taking the orders from and delivering the products to the employers. The money would cover the messenger's food and 56-baht round trip travel expenses (for traveling from Sri Boon Ruang Temple by a small two-bench-seat bus to taking a canal taxi boat to get to Bo Bay). Mostly, the delivery was not done by private car—except when there were as many as 500 pieces and cost 200 baht for the petrol expense, which was very rare. Generally, the homeworkers' 10-hour-long work lasted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Their health problems included backache and dizziness caused by their long hours of sitting. What the Group's members needed was regular work.

4. Organza Embriodery Group, Lam Salee Development Community

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Community Background

Lam Salee Development Community is a traditional community established for more than a century. It is located next to Lam Salee canal in Bangkok's Bang Kapi district with an approximate population of 5,000 persons. It houses about 100 houses, built on the land owned by Wakaf Foundation, in a congested manner. Each house pays an annual rent of 200 baht.

Group's Background

A number of unemployed housewives in the community made Khun Phatcharada—as one of the community leaders and the Group's head—thought it would benefit the community more if these women had jobs to do. She began to take homework for the women since 1989 till today. The Group had 20 members, 15 of them were community members while the remaining five were outsiders. As the Group had not been registered with any government agencies, it had no legal status. Initially, it took the orders for embroidered organza from many companies. But because of several restraints, such as delayed payment and low remuneration, the Group took orders from only one company located in Nakhon Pathom province and punctually paying its debt.

Production

“Organza Embroidery” work was done by sewing machines in various designs, such a butterfly and gable-patterned motif . Khun Phatcharada directly took orders from a company located in Nakhon Pathom. Each order would amount to 10,000 pieces of embroidered organza. The work would be distributed to the Group's members, who had their own sewing machines, and then the embroidered fabric would be sent to the company to be exported to Libya. These embroidered organza pieces would be decorated on disposable clothes, so that the orders continued to come in. A car must be rented to take the orders from and deliver the finished products to the company in Nakhon Pathom, which was over 100 kilometers away from Lam Salee Development Community. A round trip to and from Nakhon Pathom took at least four hours.

Working Hours

On average, a homemaker worked 9-10 hours a day to produce 50 pieces of embroidery.

Remuneration

All designs of embroidery were paid 25 baht each by the company while the Group's leader would give the homeworkers 10 baht for each piece. On average, the Group's members would earn a monthly income of 4,000 baht. The remaining 15 baht would be given to the leaders who invest for the management expense (1,000-baht transport expense each time), and raw material costs—such as cardboard, silk thread, kerosene and others.

Working Condition Problems

1. Lack of working capital to buy raw materials and tools to fulfil more orders for organza embroidery;

2. Being burdened with expenses when the company rejected the products that did not pass its quality test, making many homeworkers discouraged;
3. Low remuneration while the transport, raw material, water and electricity expenses were rising; and
4. Lack of support from Bang Kapi district office, likewise the community did not trust to government organization.

Health Problems

Two of the Group's members complained about backache, shoulder ache, and sore eyes because they had to sit at the sewing machine for a long time. Another health problem was respiratory illness caused by the pungent smell of kerosene, which was used when the pattern was drawn.

Social Welfare

Most of the Group's members were entitled to the government's Universal Health security services (gold card) to be treated at Phetcharawej Hospital in Khlong Tan area.

Group's Future

Now, the Group has stopped receiving orders from the old company because homeworkers got a low wage of 10 baht per piece. The Group needs to find new work, which is now decreasing.

Needs

1. The Group planned to set up a savings group to encourage saving among its members, but needed support for the knowledge and management skills from concerned agencies.
2. It needed government support for occupational promotion so that the Group's members would have regular work to earn sufficient income to support household expenses and savings.

5. Women's Group of Chalong Krung Housing Estate Zone 6

Contact person: Khun Wacharaphorn Upaphant, Tel: 02 988 5411, (Mobile) 084 706 4379

Address: 101/2627 Moo 7, Chalong Krung Housing Estate, Lam Phak Chi subdistrict, Nong Chok district, Bangkok

Community Background

Chalong Krung Housing Estate is a suburban community, established in 1996, with a population of 460 households. In the past, these people lived in several Bangkok's slum communities, such as Phai Singto, King Phet, Makkasan, Uruphong, and Phaya Thai. They were evacuated from their slums and entitled to buy a 40-square-wah (one wah equals to about two meters, 40 square-wah = 1,600 square meters) plot of land worth 180,000 baht located in Chalong Krung Housing Estate. The buyers had to pay a monthly instalment of 1,730 baht for the land while they had to build the houses by themselves. Most of the people

entitled to live in the estate could not do so because it was too far from the source of their employment and the travel was not convenient. So, the entitlements were sold from hand to hand to others, two to three times. Now, most community members came from the Northeastern region. Men earned their living as taxi drivers, construction contractors and construction workers whereas women would work at home, such as sewing and producing certain types of product, because it was inconvenient to travel. The community was not too crowded as there was some space for the residents to plant trees and garden vegetables. The estate was adjacent to Suwannabhum International Airport. When Bangkok was flooded and needed to release the flood water but did not want to flood the airport, so the flood water was released to suburban areas, including the Chalong Krung Housing Estate. The estate has seriously faced flooding since October 2008; the flooding was one meter high and lasted a whole month.

Group's Background

As most of the community members came from the same Northeastern region, they were still informally related to and helpful to each other. Moreover, the Forward Foundation held training sessions on cooking, to which the community members attended and forged their good relationship. It was inconvenient for women community members to work outside since the community was far away from central Bangkok. Therefore, some of them—who had previously worked as factory sewers but had had to resign because of old age or inconvenient travel—tried to look for sewing jobs and asked their neighbors to join them. For instance, they took orders from an employer living in Preecha Housing Estate located at Ramindra Kilo 8. Sometimes the work was brought to them at the community or came by from Pratunam market. But the wages was rather low: three baht for a pair of pyjamas, five baht for a pair of student's shorts, and one baht for a small cloth bag; and they had to pay for the thread themselves. Or each time when the employer brought the work to them at the community, 300 baht would be deducted as transport expense.

Production

These women homeworkers shared their work, which was not regular, on a friendly basis: those having no sewing machines would trim the unwanted thread. If there was work, their if it was a rush job.

Remuneration

On average, each of them would earn 2,000-3,000 baht a month. An employer might lend them a sewing machine by deducting a weekly rent from their wages if the work was available. No deduction was made if there was no work coming in. Once the work was over, the sewing machine would be taken back.

Problems

Their major problem was the lack of regular work, resulting in unreliable income. Moreover, they had no tools, such as sewing machines, and their work paid very low wages.

After participating in the activities organized by the Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion, such as group discussion on the economic impacts on homeworkers, in July 2010 these homeworking sewers formed themselves into a group called “Women’s Group of Chalong Krung Housing Estate Zone 6”. The activities of the 20-member included encouraging a monthly 30-baht savings among members. Although the Group had a seven-member committee, it was still at its early stage and lacking experiences. What the Group needed were regular jobs and low-interest loans for members to buy sewing machines.

6. Nomklao Women’s Occupational Group

Contact person: Mrs Thongluan Noibutra, Tel: 02- 1844570, (Mobile) 082 634 6749

Address: 406/11 Soi Ram Khamhaeng 39 (Thep Leela), Phlab Phla subdistrict, Wang Thonglang district, Bangkok 10310

Community Background

Nomklao Community is a slum community located on the Crown Property land at Soi Ram Khamhaeng 39 in Bangkok’s Wang Thonglang district. This four-rai (1.6 acres) community has 230 houses with a population of 700 people. Most community members, migrated from 57 provinces throughout Thailand, were poor and working as women cleaners, security guards, construction workers, motorbike and taxi drivers, street vendors, dressmakers and shoe sewers.

Previously, the Crown Property Bureau wanted the land back but the community members did not give in. Instead, they got together to negotiate with the bureau and reach a conclusion that the land would be rented to the community members at the cost of 150 baht per 12 square wah per month. In 2006, the Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI) stepped in to help improve the housing conditions by promoting savings activities and introducing a Collective Housing Program. This Collective Housing Program would revamp the community environment by building new two-storey concrete houses on the 12-square-wah land for the community members, who had to pay a monthly instalment of about 2,000 baht. So far, the construction has been partially completed and a number of community members could move to live in the new houses while the remaining others had to live in crowded temporary shelter while waiting for the secure housing project’s next phase of construction. This resulted from the fact that some families refused to move out so their plots of land as part of the next phase construction were not available, thus the construction could not continue.

Group’s Background

The Group started with the CODI’s entrance in 1997 to survey the communities of Wang Thonglang district: Nomklao, Kao Phattana and Ruam Samakkhee Communities. Community women’s needs were also surveyed and found that they wanted to have supplementary jobs. Ranking first among the needed jobs was dressmaking. Nomklao Community got in touch with the Labour Skills Development Institute to hold training courses on dressmaking funded by CODI. Three batches of trainees, 15 persons per batch, already finished the courses. Consequently, the trained women formed their group called the Nomklao Women’s Occupational Group, registered with the Wang Thonglang district office in 1998 and having 72 members. In 2010, the members amounted to only 30 but only 10 of them actually work

with the Group. There was no membership fee but a monthly welfare fund of 50 baht would be required from all members, who could initially contribute. But now only the Group's active members could do so. At the helm of the Group was Mrs Thongluan Noibutra, who was supported by an eight-member executive committee. In practice, however, the Group's Chairperson took care of all activities, which were carried out more or less not in a collective manner.

Production

The Group produced and sold its own products, given remuneration to the members on a piecework basis. The homeworkers who could make the whole dresses would be given higher wages than those given at market rates: the higher wages would serve as welfare benefit for the members who joined the Group's membership. Non-member dressmakers would be paid according to their ability. The Group's members would start working at 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or until 8 p.m. if it was a rush job.

The producers used different types of sewing machine: single-needle sewing machine, 3-thread, 4-thread, and 5-thread overlock sewing machine, stretch sewing machine and mini sewing machine. These tools were funded by the SIF and Miyazawa Projects, Department of Social Welfare and donations from Wang Thonglang district council member. The Group's Chairperson would go to Lan Luang and Sampheng wholesalers to buy these raw materials, such as fabrics, thread, elastic, zippers and needles, at cheap prices. It cost about 150 baht for each journey by bus and taxi to buy the raw materials.

Remuneration

The space in front of the house of the Group's Chairperson was used to display and sell the products. In addition, the products were available in the JJ Mall department store and shops in front of Ramkhamhaeng University.

The products included cloth bags, hoop skirts, sea gypsy pants, patched work pants, and puff-sleeved blouses. The production cost was 65 baht per piece while the wholesale and retail prices were 130 baht a piece.

The products made to order included bolster cases, at the cost of three baht per piece, and 300-400 pieces were made each day. Aprons cost 20 baht per piece, global warming campaign bags 10 baht per piece. The collars (of shirts) were also made to order. But this type of good-paying job was hard to come by, about 10-30 piece per design.

Welfare Benefits

Apart from incorporating partial welfare benefit into the higher wages, the Group also had its savings agroup to grant 1,000-baht death benefit and a wreath.

Problems

The only health problem related to the eyesight of the producers who were getting older. Moreover, the Wang Thongland district office has not given adequate support as it should. Especially when an OTOP (One Tambon One Product program) fair was held, the Group had never been told about it at all, but the district office claiming that the participation had been based on drawing.

7. Hijab Embroidery Group, Lamhin Tai Community, Min Buri district

Contact person: Khun Oraphin Sakwichit, Tel: (Mobile) 089 719 7213

Address: 26/4, Moo 5 Tambon Sean Seab, Min Buri, Bangkok 10510

Community Background

Lamhin Tai Community is situated at Moo 5 of Min Buri's Saen Saeb subdistrict in Bangkok. The community is still known officially as Sukka Thong Community. But for the sake of location and administration, Lamhin Tai Community has requested to be recognized as a separate community. Now it is in the process of examination by the community development division of the district office. There are 71 houses with a population of 500 people: 200 Muslims and 300 Buddhists, all of whom have very good relationship. Both groups of people harmoniously participate in each other's religious ceremonies. As this over a-century-old traditional community located in the suburbs, the relationship of the people living here is that of an agricultural and rural setting, whereby rice and fruit farming is undertaken.

Khun Oraphin Sakwichit is the Chairperson of the community. Because the community is situated next to an irrigation canal, it is enabled to engage in farming. An outstanding feature of the community lies in the fact that each house has a rice farm (mostly done for a long time on rented land, which charges seven buckets [each bucket equals to about 20 litres] of paddy per rai per year). In addition, vegetables are also planted and fish and cattle are raised too, according to each household capacity. There's an attempt to promote organic farming in the community by reducing the use of chemicals. Most community members own the land, on which their houses were built. Most of the houses are two-storey and adequately equipped with electricity and running water. But the journey to and from the community is not convenient, as it is situated along the irrigation canal so it needs to have a bridge linking the community with the road. The existing wooden bridge is not strong enough to allow cars to cross and enter into the community. To contact with the outside world, one has to take a motorbike taxi, which costs 10 baht, and take a small two-bench-seat bus or a van on the main road to get to Min Buri market, costing 15 baht (no regular bus available). Another problem faced by the community is flooding. In October 2010, the flood water was so high that the ground floor of the house was inundated and lasting about one month. This made going to the toilet very difficult.

Group's Background

One of the occupations done by the community members was hijab pearly-bead embroidery to order since parts of the community population were Muslims, who were also living in nearby communities in large numbers. Over the past several years, the Group's members amounted to over 20 persons. But the number has decreased a couple of years ago as the employers preferred computerized embroidery to handmade work because the latter had better quality and could be produced more quickly. Thus, handmade embroidery earned lower wages and the producers quit one by one and looked for other occupations, such as crystal beading. The Group now had 5-10 members, with Khun Oraphin acting as community employer who would sell the products at MinBuri market.

Production

The pearly-bead embroidery was paid on a piecework basis. All the raw materials were provided by the employer whereas the employees would be paid between 10 and 20 baht per piece, depending on how easy or difficult the work was.

Previously, Khun Oraphin was a dressmaker running a dressmaking shop in Bangkok's Saphan Khwai area. Then she moved to open her dressmaking shop in Ubon Rathchathani for five years. She also went to Saudi Arabia to sew Muslim women's hijab for some time. When she was getting older, she decided to return home to carry on her sewing of hijab.

Management

Khun Oraphin used her money to buy fabric from Min Buri market and sewed it into hijab. Then she would hire her women relatives and community members to embroider pearly beads into various designs. All materials and tools would be provided by Khun Oraphin while the employees contribute only their skills.

The Group had no formal structure. The members formed into an informal group to do embroidery work, without promoting any mutual relations among members.

Remuneration

Each day, a homemaker could produce 5-6 pieces of embroidery, earning about 50-60 baht, amounting to an average monthly income of 1,500-2,000 baht.

8. Patched Leather Bag Producers Group, Prawes district

Contact person: Mr Samruay Eksirisanlanchakorn or Mrs Saisawat, Tel: 086 792 0906

Address: 52 Soi Chalermkiat R.9, 29 Yaek 14/3, Dok Mai subdistrict, Prawes district, Bangkok

Group's Background

The Group was set up by Mr Samruay Eksirisanlanchakorn. At first, it was started as five-member home industry in Klong Toey area. All five members could do every step of the sewing. In Klong Toey, there were so many people doing the work that they could form themselves into group and registered it with Klong Toey district office as "Patched Leather Bag Producers Group". Klong Toey district officers advised these people that it would be better if they organized and registered as occupational group so that they could participate in a variety of trade fair. Consequently, the Group's products were recognized by the Ministry of Industry's industrial product standard (*Mor Or Kor*), community product standard (*Mor Phor Chor*), and four-star OTOP standard. The Group moved from Klong Toey to Prawes district 7-8 years ago because then Klong Toey had drug problems that Mr Samruay was worried they would impact on his three children. At Prawes, he built his house on his own land.

Production

The Patched Leather Bag producers Group now had five members, decreasing from 10-15 members, most of whom were at least 50-60 years old. The various types of products designed by the producers included shoulder bag, handbag, brief case, and laptop case.

The production process started with the Group buying cow hides from a factory located at Samut Prakan's industrial estate. Each time, about 1,000 kilograms of hides would be bought, at the price and quality set by the factory. A large hide of good quality would cost 100 baht per kilogram while that of lower quality would cost 30-80 baht. Then the hides would be tanned and cut into patterns of bag and case. The last step called "zag" was to sew all leather pieces together in a zigzag manner.

Marketing

Most of the Group's goods were on sale at occasional markets, whereby their customers were domestic buyers, such as the occasional markets organized by the Social Security Office and Ministry of Commerce. The Group has now attempted to expand its sales into provincial market in southern provinces, such as Chumphon, where the traveler could stay with relatives there.

Remuneration

An average daily income of a producer would be around 200-300 baht. When an order came in, all the Group's member would work together.

Problems

There were almost no work- and production-related problems, except muscular pain and stiffness cause by long-hours of sitting because of the old age of the producers. It appeared that the orders were decreasing, resulting in lower production and participation in occasional market. The sale was not as good as before. It was likely that the Group would discontinue since its members were of old age and their children did not want them to work any longer.

Summary of the Study

The findings of the study of the Bangkok-based eight groups can be summed up as shown in Table 1; Characteristics of Vocational Groups in Bangkok, as follows:

Table 1: Characteristics of Producers Groups in Bangkok

Group Name/Area	Type of Work	Number of Members	Group Status/Organizational Structure	Type of Production/Working Hours	Community Condition			
					Infrastructure	Traveling	Housing	Marketing/Income
1. Buffalo-Horn Carving Group, Moo Ban Sethakit, Bang Khae	Carving buffalo horns	8 families	- Unclear structure; - Not registered but in the process of doing so with the district office	- Producing and selling their own goods; - Working at home; and - Working 7-8 hours a day	Electricity and running water available	Conveniently located on a bus route but the market was far away, requiring 200-baht transport cost for each trip	Built on own land but not in very good condition	- There were only two buyers, hence lacking bargaining power. - An average daily income was 100-150 baht.
2. Occupational Group of Two-Sergeant Community, Bang Khae district	Producing crispy rolls	30	Registering as a community business group but managing the group based on community structure	- Producing and selling their own goods; - Being hired to produce goods; and - Working 10 hours a day	Electricity and running water available	Convenient communication and transport; community located near market	Renting private land whose tenancy was uncertain; the wooden houses were built in a slum-like manner	- Wholesale market; - Hiring students as sellers; - Participating in trade fairs organized by government agencies; - Average daily income was 250-300 baht
3. Hijab Sewing and Embroidery Group, Sam Yaek Khlong Lo Lae Community, Saphan Soong district	Sewing and embroidering Muslim hijab	10	Not registering nor having any structure of the group	- Producing and selling their own goods; - Taking orders for pearly-bead and sequin embroidery from Bo Bay; and - Working 10 hours a day	Electricity and running water available	Fairly convenient communication and transport but located far from workplace, hence costing 60-200 baht for each transport of goods	Some members living on private-rented land charging an annual rent of 3,500 baht; the rental contract was unlikely to continue	Attempting to market the products in the South but the payment was too slow and the Group had no reserve funds - Average daily income was 70-150 baht
4. Organza	Organza	20	Not registering	Working at home 10	Electricity and	- Taking four	Located on	- Decreasing work

Embroidery Group, Lam Salee Development Community, Bang Kapi district	embroidering			hours a day	running water available	hours to travel to the market; - Transport cost each time was about 1,000 baht	private land charging a monthly rent of 200 baht	- Low wages: average income was 130 baht
5. Women's Group of Chalong Krung Housing Estate Zone 6, Nong Chok district	Sewing	20	- Newly established and not registered with any agency; - Structured but the committee's work was not clear; and - Savings activities promoted	Taking sewing orders from various employers to work at home	- Electricity and running water available; - Inconvenient communication and transport; - Flood problems	- Community was far away and inconvenient to travel; and - Each transport of goods cost about 300 baht-	- Moving from Bangkok's slums to build on the 20-25-square-wah leased land of the Housing Authority at a monthly instalment of 1,730 baht; - The condition was neither new nor old.	- Orders coming from many employers but wages were very low: 60-100 baht a day
6. Nomklao Women's Occupational Group, Wang Thonglang district	Sewing	20	- Registering with district office; - Having committee structure but most of the activities depended on the Chairperson	- Producing and selling their own goods; and - Working at home	- Electricity and running water available; and - Convenient communication and transport	- Going to sell goods or taking orders was convenient because locating in the city; - Transport cost was 150 baht per trip	Being a slum located on Crown Property land and participating in government's secure housing project	- Selling products in front of own houses, at trade fairs and in wholesale business; and - Average daily income was 300 baht.
7. Hijab Embroidery	Pearly-bead and sequine	5-20	Not yet registered nor structured	- Working at home	- Electricity and running water	Locating in the suburbs and	Building houses on own land	Being far away from the market, receiving

Group, Lamhin Tai Community, Min Buri district	embroidery				available; - Inconvenient communication and transport; - Flood problems	inconvenient to travel		low wages and irregular orders; and - Average daily income was 50-60 baht.
8. Patched Leather Bag Producers Group, Prawas district	Sewing patched leather bags	5	Not yet registered nor structured; each worker doing on their own and occasionally helping out with the sale of others' goods	- Producing and selling their own goods (Group of old workers)	- Electricity and running water available; and - Convenient communication and transport	Convenient to travel	Building houses on own land	- Selling products at trade fairs and in provincial markets; and Average daily income was 200-300 baht.

1. Organization

1. It was found, based on the study of the eight groups, that there were three registered groups: Occupational Group of Two-Sergeant Community, Nomklao Women's Occupational Group, and Patched Leather Bag Producers Group. These three groups were loosely organized to get access to market and state resources. Most of the groups' committee members were homeworkers too. The Nomklao and Patched Leather Bag Groups collaborated, to some extent, in their production and sale of goods. But the Crispy Rolls Group producers produced and sold their goods on their own, except when there were trade fairs, the Chairperson as representative of the group or community would take the goods to display at the fair. The profit made from selling the goods at the fairs would be kept as a group fund, which was all used up for the group's management expenses. Savings activities were promoted by the Crispy Rolls and Nomklao Groups, but the outcomes were not clear, as the Nomklao savings members were unreliable while the Crispy Rolls Group has just started its savings activities.

2. There were five non-registered groups: Buffalo-Horn Carving, Hijab Sewing and Embroidery, Organza Embroidery Lam Salee, Chalong Krung Zone 6, and Lamhin Tai Groups. Overall, the management of these groups was not adequately organized whereas their structure was not clear. However, the non-registered Chalong Krung Zone 6 Group worked, more or less, as an organized group. This might result from the group's early stage of organization, which was strong enough to make the group's each member to provide their savings at least 30 baht a month.

Taking an overall look of the eight registered and non-registered groups, it was found that all of them were loosely formed, not strong and lacking a Member-based Organization (MBO) capacity because they had no clear objectives and direction. Group members had no active participation in the groups' operation. Though savings activities were promoted in some areas, they had not been done in a sustainable manner. The groups' chairpersons often took a leading role in all activities to the extent that the group meant the chairperson. Sometimes it was impossible to identify which was the group's interest and which was the personal interest of the group's chairperson.

Moreover, the group members were scattered and not organized in large clusters. They also had a combination of occupations. For instance, they worked as petty commodity traders in the morning and produced their goods at home during the day.

2. Production Mode

1. There were three types of production mode: 1) Own-account work: Patched Leather Bag Group, 2) Subcontracted work: Chalong Krung Zone 6, Organza Embroidery, and Lamhin Tai Groups, and 3) Combined modes of the first and second types: Nomklao, Buffalo-Horn Carving, Crispy Rolls, and Hijab Sewing and Embroidery.

2. Most working period was spent sitting for about 7-12 hours. Some groups had to sit working in stuffy and humid conditions, such as the Crispy Rolls and Nomklao Groups while the Buffalo-Horn Carving Group had to work inside the houses to prevent the dust from spreading about because of the congested condition of houses.

3. Almost all homeworking groups had the following common characteristics. They were low-income earners. Their employment was uncertain, depending on the employers who set their wages or gave work to them. Only the Crispy Rolls Group had regular work since it was long established. Lamhin Tai Group earned the lowest income of 50-60 baht a day on average. Two groups that earned a reasonably higher daily income of 300 baht were the Crispy Rolls and Nomklao Groups.

4. Corporate practices, in term of using new technology, especially using computer sewing machine to replace normal sewing machine, has impacted in declining of job for homeworkers.

5. Obviously, the groups situated in the center or inner city areas had better access to market than those in the suburbs. The government somehow assisted with getting market access but not continuously. Take the the Buffalo-Horn Carving Group for an instance. The district office helped promoting its products once but no further support was given.

6. All of the eight occupational groups have not set up any clear welfare benefit system. The savings activities promoted by some groups were not practically effective. Attempting to organize its welfare scheme, the Nomklao Group could not achieve anything except facilitating the government's basic welfare benefits of free medical treatment, known as the gold-card scheme, for its members.

In summary, most home-based workers under this study had no employment security because their work and income were uncertain. Those living in the suburbs earned an average daily income of 50-100 baht (USD 2-3.30) whereas their counterparts in the center or inner city areas could earn an average daily income of about 300 baht (USD 10). The only social security they got was the government's free medical treatment. Access to information and state resources was inadequately available or discontinuously; such as the Hijab Embroidery Group of Khlong Lo Lae was provided with sewing machines by the government while the Crispy Rolls Group was entitled to sell its products at the district office or participate in the trade fairs held by state agencies.

3. Housing, Communication and Transport

The study found that all groups scattered across Bangkok faced serious problems of housing and transport differently, as follows:

1. Suburban Group: Take Lamhin Tai Community for example. Being built on own land, it had no housing problem. But its considerable distance made the transport very inconvenient. In the case of the formerly inner city group relocated to suburban areas like Chalong Krung Zone 6, the housing condition might not be too congested but it was far away from the workplace and inconvenient to travel. Therefore, the

people and communities relocated to their new houses in the suburbs could not get direct access to work and had to become second or third layer of subcontracting system, whose wages would be lower than those received by inner city workers. In addition, the higher expenses on travel and transport made this group of people choose to be homeworkers rather than engaging in selling commodities or other employments.

2. Center or Inner City Group: Though Khlong Lo Lae, Two-Sergeant, and Lam Salee Development were slum communities whereby the working conditions were stuffy, their access to work and market was easy. Thus, the community members could earn reasonably good income. But they lack housing security because they had to live on private rented land and could be evacuated to somewhere far away from their sources of employment any time.

3 Inner City Group Fighting for Housing Rights: Nomklao Group was the case in point. It was forced to move out from its former location and the community members jointly negotiated to have a Collective Housing program operated as they could not get access to their sources of employment. This housing project would at least provide them with better quality of housing and higher security.

4. Infrastructure

In general, homeworkers in Bangkok could get access to electricity and running water. But those who lived in rented houses had to pay higher electricity and water expenses than those who lived in their own houses. Such higher rates or flat rates were charged by the house owners.

Infrastructure-related problems often faced by those living in suburban areas, such as Lamhin Tai and Chalong Krung Zone 6 communities, were insufficient public transport and inconvenient travel. Flooding—resulting from the authorities releasing flood waters from Bangkok to suburban areas—also caused those living there difficulties and made it harder for them to get access to work.

5. Recommendations

The Project needs to urgently strengthen the organization of these homeworkers in an MBO manner so that they can improve their members' economic conditions and quality of life to an extent that they can send their representatives to participate in the BMA's home-based workers' development initiatives. There are recommendations for, specific groups as follows:

- **Buffalo-Horn Carving Group:** It is likely that fewer people will make a living as buffalo horn carvers as buffalo horns are increasingly scarce and their prices continue to rise. The Groups needs to think of replacement materials and additional market channels. When the product use is diversified, then more market channels can be found, resulting in the producers having more power to bargain with wholesalers.

Risky working conditions should be addressed as buffalo horn carving produces a lot of dust, which is harmful to breathing.

- **Crispy Rolls Group:** Apart from the Group's lack of strength, it needs to immediately address its housing and welfare problems before being forced to move out from its current location. It could learn from the experiences of the Collective Housing Program initiated by Nomklao Community. There are also healths and safety problems related to work that the Group should learn and take precautions to prevent dangers.

- **Khlong Lo Lae Group:** The Group's problem is decreasing of orders. From taking orders from Bo Bay seven times a month, now the Group gets orders only four times a month. As a homeworking group associated with national economy, when there is an economic recession, domestic purchasing power will be in decline resulting in the Group's decreasing work. If the Group is supported to have a greater access to work, then its lack of regular work for the members will be solved.

- **Lam Salee Group:** The Group has already stopped its embroidery work (for almost a year) because it was not profitable: the costs of raw materials were higher than the selling prices received. In the past, its products were sold at 25 baht per piece. Now each piece of embroidery gets only a bit more than 10 baht. So the Group is now taking orders for small pieces of embroidery. It should be helped to get access to new sources of employment that will pay fairer wages.

- **Chalong Krung Zone 6 Group:** Of all of the eight groups, this one is most organized and well on the way to a good start. It has an organized way of taking orders and sharing them among active group members. Savings activities are promoted in a way that can bind group members together. The Group members will have a better quality of life if they are helped to find access to sources of employment that pay fairer wages.

- **Nomklao Group:** It is a long established group but its structure is not strong enough. The Group disbanded once and has just got together again recently. So it needs to have its group management and savings system improved to further strengthen its organization.

- **Lamhin Tai Group:** For this group, in addition to the promotion of its organization, the Group also needs help to find new sources of employment or other occupations to take place of hijab embroidery so as to improve the group members' economic conditions.

Patched Leather Bag Producer Group: This group usually produces and sells its products on its own. Sometimes the producers help sell each other's goods, but the sale at trade fairs is decreasing. It is more likely that the Group will discontinue because its members are old people (mostly in their sixties). The skills of these producers should be handed down to younger generation.

KHON KAEN

The survey of home-based workers (HBWs) in Khon Kaen province was based on documents and in-depth interviews. Ninety-one communities in Khon Kaen Municipality were surveyed and found that there were 46 groups of HBWs scattered in 33 communities: 38 groups were own account workers while the remaining eight were homeworkers. The information gained from the survey could characterize the HBWs in Khon Kaen Municipality, as follows:

1. Product Types:

1. Food production and food processing: 17 groups, or 36.96% of the total groups of HBWs;
2. Clothing and textiles: 8 groups, or 17.39%;
3. Handicrafts and local wisdom-based goods: 9 groups, or 19.57%;
4. Household consumption goods: 4 groups, or 8.70%;
5. Produce some parts of industrial products: 2 groups, or 4.35%;
6. Recycling-related products: 2 groups, or 4.35%; and
7. Agriculture: 4 groups, or 8.70%.

2. Groups Size

Mostly, they were small groups, unorganized, with membership ranging from one to 50 members. Fifteen of them, or 32.60%, had fewer than 10 members. There were 20 groups, or 43.48%, having 10-20 members. Only seven groups, or 15.22%, had more than 20 members. And there were another four groups, or 8.70%, whose members came from the same families.

3. Organization

These HBW groups were loosely organized. About 13 groups, or 28.2%, jointly invested in their production, held meetings and share their profits. There were only two groups promoting savings and providing welfares for members. Apart from loosely formed, the groups also lacked of MBO characteristics, particularly, in terms of member participation, circulation of committee members, and the setting of mutual objectives. Some announced that they were groups, but had only one producer. And many groups were urged to set up by the municipal authorities and government agencies by providing funds and raw materials.

4. Sources of Employment and Markets

All groups had their sources of employment and market situated in local areas, where they sold their products in local and nearby communities, local markets, and at trade fair organized by provincial authorities.

5. Income

An average income of the HBWs here was rather low and uncertain. There were only five groups, or 10.87%, whose members could earn more than 300 baht a day. Members of three

groups, or 6.52%, could make 200-300 baht a day. Ten groups, or 21.74%, had their members earning less than 100 baht a day. Members of the remaining 26 groups, or 56.52%, earned less than 100 baht a day and four of these groups, or 8.70%, did not produce regularly so that they had to distribute their profits at the end of the year. Moreover, there were six newly-established groups that have not sold their products, nor have their members earned any income yet.

Table 2; Summary of the 38 Own-Account Groups in Khon Kaen Municipality

Community Name	Occupational Group	Informant	Title	Product	Marketing& Income	Essential Tools	Raw Materials	No. of Member	Joint Activity	Problems	Supporting Agency	Remarks
Noan Chai 1	Reed Mat Weaving	- Mrs Mual Boonsri - Mr Meechai Boonsri - Mrs Anong Chiammuengpak	- Committee Member - Deputy Chair - Chair	Reed mats	- Selling in community; - Taking orders; and - 120 baht/day	Beaters and knives	Reed, thread, dye (Own supply)	15	Pooling money as start-up capital	Lack of market access	Requesting funding from the Municipality	2-3 months in business
Noan Chai 2	Herbal Salted Egg Production	- Mrs Somsri Ratanabutr - Mrs Lamai Chanmi	- Deputy Chair - Chair	Salted eggs	- OTOP markets; - General markets; - 500-700 baht/year	Buckets, pots, ladles, and containers/boxes	Eggs, salt, pandanus leaves, and kaffir lime leave (Own supply)	9	- Meeting; and - Sharing dividends	High prices of eggs	Gas stoves, pots, and umbrellas provided by the Municipality	Annual dividend payment
	Northeastern Spicy Dip	- Mrs Somsri Saepaisal - Mrs Somsri Ratanabutr	- Chair - Deputy Chair	Northeastern spicy dip	- OTOP markets; - General markets; (Income not distributed yet)	Grinders, mortars, pestles, pots, ladles; and packagings	Fermented fish, chilli, garlic, red onion, galangal, and lemon grass (Own supply)	5	- Meeting; - Sharing dividends; and Pooling shares	High costs of production	Requesting funding from the Municipality	Dividend payment at year-end
Don Ya Nang 1	Washing-up Liquid Production	- Mrs Bang-on Kaewpetch - Mrs Patcharamai Ubonwan	- Committee Member - Committee Member	Washing-up liquid	Joining trade fairs (Income not distributed yet)	Packagings, pots, oars, 10-liter buckets	Chemicals and components	20	- Meeting; and - Sharing dividends	Lacking product sellers	Raw materials provided by the Municipality	Less than a year in business
	Garbage Recycling	- Mrs Nuallak Khunnoi - Staff Sergeant Prathuaeng Kaewpetch - Pol. Sub-Lt. Thaweessith Khunnoi	- Chair - Community Chair - Committee Member	- Hats; - Folders; - Saucers; and -Flowers	- Selling within community; - Selling to study trip visitors; - Selling at meetings; - Selling at Friendship Medical Center - 500-1,000 baht/month	Scissors, eyelets, wire, ribbons, and glue	Leftover materials (Own supply and bought from community members)	23	- Meeting; and - Pooling shares	No time to sell the products	- 1,000-baht funding each provided by the Municipality and a member of the district municipal council	

Community Name	Occupational Group	Informant	Title	Product	Marketing& Income	Essential Tools	Raw Materials	No. of Member	Joint Activity	Problems	Supporting Agency	Remarks
Don Ya Nang 2	SandalwoodFlowers Production	- Mrs Chalermphorn Matkham - Mrs Amphorn Thaonil - Mrs Somnuek Phetchnak	- Committee Member - Chair - Committee Member	-Sandalwood flowers; - Funeral wreaths; and - Artificial Gustavia/Heaven Lotus flowers	Makkasamran Temple (Income not distributed yet)	Scissors, thread, needles, and wire	Colored paper and crepe paper (given by the Municipality)	25	- Meeting; and - Sharing dividends	None	Raw materials provided by the Municipality every year	Two years in business
Behind the Government Service Center 1	Crispy Rice and Herbal- Salted Egg Production	- Mrs Boonwat Saunwong - Mrs Phongsai Buaphat	- Committee Member - Chair	- Crispy rice; and - Salted eggs	- OTOP - Selling within community - 200-300 baht/time	Gas stoves, pots, buckets, and steamers	Duck eggs, rice, sugar, and Thai white mud (Own supply)	7	None	Discontinuous production by members	Gas stoves, pots, and buckets provided by the Municipality	
	Washing-up Liquid and Cleanser Production	- Mrs Phongsai Buaphat - Mrs Luan Kateduang	- Chair - Committee Member	- Washing-up liquid; and - Cleanser	-Friendship Medical Center; - Schools; -Festivals - 150 baht/time	Pots, enameled basins, oars, and packagings	Ingredients (Own supply)	10	- Meeting	Inadequate funding	Gas stoves, pots, and oars provided by the Municipality	
Thepharak 3	Pickled Pork Sausage Production	- Mrs Bualai Danchaiyaphum - Mr Wallop ดาญ ดanchaiyaphum	- Chair - Deputy Chair	- Pickled pork sausages; and - Pork rind	- Municipal market - 300 baht/day	Refridgerator, cutter, enameled basins, pots, and trays	Pork and pork rind (Own supply)	15	- Meeting	None	Requesting funding from a Japanese project (at the beginning of the group)	2-3 months in business
	Weaving	- Mrs Buabucha Chomphukham - Mrs Phuthong Thipsuwan - Mrs Orathai Thong-antang	- Chair - Committee Member - Committee Member	- Cotton and Thai-design fabric	Never been sold	Looms and shuttles	Cotton yarns (Own supply)	11	- Taking turns to weave	- Electricity not available at the group's office; and -Aches and pains	Requesting funding from a Japanese project (at the beginning of the group)	
Thepharak 5	Plastic Basketry	- Mrs Khamsao Inkanha	- Deputy Chair	Plastic baskets	-Fresh market; and - 300 baht/day	Scissors, big needles and wire	Plastic straps and string (Own supply)	8	Meeting	None	2008 SML Project	
Nong Waeng Tra Choo 1	Fried Puff with Fish Filling Production	- Mrs Arphorn Phuangmani - Mr Thiradech Phuangmani	- Chair - Deputy Chair	Fried puffs with fish filling	- Government offices; - Municipal meetings; and - Community shops - 100 baht/day	Kneader, enameled basins, pots and trays	Flour, tuna, sugar, and salt (Own supply)	10	Meeting	- Lack of market access; and - Lack of capital	None	

Community Name	Occupational Group	Informant	Title	Product	Marketing& Income	Essential Tools	Raw Materials	No. of Member	Joint Activity	Problems	Supporting Agency	Remarks
Nong Waeng Tra Choo 3	Women's Group of Nong Waeng Tra Choo 3	- Mrs Somsri Chaimueng	- Chair	Sausages, northeastern spicy dip, sweet banana crisps, and sweet fermented glutinous rice	- Khon Kaen University; and - 150 baht/day	Enameled basins, ladles, pots, cones, gas stoves, knives, scissors, and woks	Pork, garlic, rice, fermented fish, bananas (Own supply)	7-8	- Pooling shares; and - Meeting	- Pains in the legs and back	None	Selling 2 days a week
Nong Waeng Tra Choo 4	Weaving	Mrs Buabanchuen Laochai	- Chair	Cotton weaving	- Khaeng Khan Phanit Shop in Chiang Yuen district of Mahasarakham; and - 1,600-2,000 baht/month	Looms, shuttles, and spindles	Cotton and polyester yarn, colored fabric (Own supply)	7	- Meeting	- Lacking funds to buy cotton	- 2008 SML Project's loan: 5,000 baht each - Requesting funding from the Municipality	
Nong Yai 3	Sandalwood Flower Production	Mrs Liab Phukhrongploy	- Chair	Sandalwood flowers and gifts	- Own and nearby communities; and - 2,500 baht/small job and 14,000 baht/big job	Scissors, staplers, glue and wire	Light colored paper, joss sticks, and candles (Own supply)	5	- Meeting	-High-priced candles; - Dispute among members; and - Physical aches and pains	- Requesting funding from the Municipality	The Chair prepaid own money to buy production tools
	Cultivation of Lentinus squarrosulas Mushrooms	Mrs Sombat Singphorn	- Chair	Lentinus squarrosulas mushrooms	- Within own community and Nong Yai market; and - 100 baht/day	Knives and sprayers	Mycelium spawn (Own supply)	10	- Meeting	In rainy season, the mushrooms grew poorly	A provincial councilor funded the purchase of 500 cubes of mycelium spawn	Just 3 months in business
Nakha Prawes	Food Processing	- Mrs Kanyanat Nakhonkaew - Mr Khiew Laokhun - Mrs Suphawan Wannaphithak	- Chair - Deputy Chair - Deputy Chair	- Crispy rice; and - Northeastern spicy dip	- General stores; - At festivals and fairs; and - 50 baht/day	Woks, pots, and packagings	Rice, fermented fish, sugar, and salt (Own supply)	28	- Pooling shares; and - Meeting	- In rainy season, the rice was not dry; and - High production costs	- 20,000-baht funding given by the Municipality	

Community Name	Occupational Group	Informant	Title	Product	Marketing & Income	Essential Tools	Raw Materials	No. of Member	Joint Activity	Problems	Supporting Agency	Remarks
Soi Than Thip	Herbal- Salted Egg Production	- Pol. Sub-Lt. Phaiboon Yoambutr - Mrs Anong Phuangphan	- Community Chair - Chair	Salted eggs	- In own community; and - 150 baht/month	Black buckets and enameled basins	Black rice husk ash, eggs, salt, and Thai white mud (Own supply)	13	- Meeting	None	- 8,000-baht funding given by the Municipality	
Lak Mueng	Cattle Raising	- Mr Utthorn Sae Khaw - Ms Pae Odthon	- Community Chair - Deputy Chair	Raised cattle	- Cattle market; and - 20,000-30,00 baht/year while the overseer got 100 baht a day	Cattle pen	Cows, minerals, grass, and hay bales (Own supply)	12	- Meeting	Unstable cattle prices	- 200,000-baht funding given by the SML Project; and - Training on husbandry held by district livestock office	An annual sale
	Salted Egg Production	- Mr Utthorn Sae Khaw - Ms Pae Odthon	- Community Chair - Deputy Chair	Salted eggs	- In own community and at shops; and - 500 baht/month	Buckets, pots and gas stoves	Duck eggs, salt, clay, and rice husk	15	- Meeting - Sharing dividends; and - Pooling shares	Unstable prices of raw materials	Gas stoves, pots, and plastic buckets provided by the Municipality	Taking turns producing 3 times a month
Siri Mongkhon	Washing-up Liquid Production	- Mrs Nudi Thongthun - Mrs Chirasya Saengsawat	- Chair - Deputy Chair	Washing-up liquid	- At festivals and fairs, in own and nearby communities; and - 100 baht/month	Spinning bucket, measuring cups, oars, and enameled basins	Fragrant substance and N 70 food coloring	5	- Meeting; and - Pooling shares	- Lacking funds to buy raw materials; and - Physical aches and pains	None	
Phothi Ballang Thong	Cultivation of Lentinus squarrosulas Mushrooms	- Mr Sunthorn Phaengput - Mrs Noparat Phaengput	- Chair - Secretary	Lentinus squarrosulas mushrooms	- In own community; and - Sharing income at the end of every month: 300-500 baht/month	Knives, baskets and scales	500 cubes of mycelium spawn	9	- Meeting - Sharing dividends; and - Pooling shares	None	Mycelium spawn and the 'so-called' Slan shading nets given by a provincial administration organization	

Community Name	Occupational Group	Informant	Title	Product	Marketing& Income	Essential Tools	Raw Materials	No. of Member	Joint Activity	Problems	Supporting Agency	Remarks
Hua Saphan Samphan	Semidried Fish Making (Nile tilapia, sepat Siam, and barp)	- Mr Thonglue Phothipha - Mrs Praphian Phothipha	- Community Chair - Chair	Semidried fish	- Bang Lamphu and Nong Yai markets; and - 200 baht/day	Knives, fish-drying grates, enameled basins, and buckets	Fish and salt (Own supply)	10	- Meeting; and - Pooling shares	-Delayed delivery of fish; and - Unable to produce to meet market demands	- 20,000 baht given by the Municipality; and - 6,000 baht granted by Pracha Samoson Medical Center	
Nong Waeng Old City 3	Washing-up Liquid and Cleanser Production	- Mrs Rawiwan Chantu	- Committee Member	Washing-up liquid and cleanser	- Group's office; and - 100-200 baht of dividend/person/year	Enamelled basins, oars, and pots	Ingredients, flavorings and food coloring (Own supply)	20	- Meeting; and - Sharing dividends	- No market access	Raw materials provided by the Municipality	
Nong Waeng Old City 4	Bai Sri Footed Tray Production	- Mrs Buarian Thawikotra - Mrs Ratchata Phanphakdi - Mrs Pranom Singkane	- Chair - Deputy Chair - Committee Member	Bai Sri footed trays	- Own and nearby communities; and - No distribution of income	Needles, enameled basins, footed trays and thread	Flowers and banana leaves (Own supply)	10	- Meeting	- No market access - No supporting agencies	None	Just 1 month in business
Behind the Stadium 2	Cultivation of Lentinus squarrosulas Mushrooms	- Mrs Praphat Phithichan	- Chair	Lentinus squarrosulas mushrooms	- Own community; and - No distribution of income	Knives and baskets	Mycelium spawn (provided by Nong Waeng Medical Center)	10	- Meeting - Taking turns to oversee mushrooms-producing sheds	None	- Mycelium spawn and sheds funded by Nong Waeng Medical Center; and - Khon Kaen University coordinated to buy Sarjor-caju mushroom mycelium spawn	- Dividend payment once every 6 months; and - Just 6 months in business
Noan Than 1	Dokchok Crispy Snack and Herbal Northeastern Spicy Dip Production	- Mrs Walli Thanasen	- Chair	- Dokchok crispy snacks; and - Northeastern spicy dip	- Chaiyaphum; - Ubon; - Khon Kaen University; - Bang Lamphu market; and - 80 baht/day	Gas stoves, works, moulds, and packagings ถังแก๊ส	Baking flour, cooking oil, salt, sugar, sesame seeds, fermented fish, and chilli (Own supply)	24	- Meeting - Sharing dividends	None	25,000-baht funding given by the Municipality	

Community Name	Occupational Group	Informant	Title	Product	Marketing& Income	Essential Tools	Raw Materials	No. of Member	Joint Activity	Problems	Supporting Agency	Remarks
	Noan Than Women's Community Development	- Mrs Amphorn Phongphiachan - Mrs Thongphet Kaewsuphan - Mrs Busara Sermdamrongsak	- Chair - Deputy Chair - Secretary	Pork/beef sausages and pickled pork sausages	- Government agencies and stores; and - 200 baht/day	Cutter, grinder, enameled basins and knives	- Pork; and - Beef (Own supply)	15	- Meeting - Sharing dividends; and - Pooling shares	- Lack of time; - High-priced raw materials; and - Pains in the back and waist	- Tools provided by the Municipality; and - 6,000-baht funding given by Chata Phadung Medical Center	
Noan Than 2	Northeastern Mango Spicy Dip Production	- Mrs Ratri Phornthi-ua - Mrs Bang-on Wongbau	- Chair - Deputy Chair	Northeastern spicy dip	- Shops and taking orders; and - 10 baht/day	Mortar, pestle, chopping board, knives, and packagings	Fermented fish, chilli, red onion, garlic, galangal and mango	7	- Meeting; and - Sharing dividends	Discontinuous production by members	- 5,000-baht funding given by the Municipality	Dividend payment every three months
Noan Than 7	EM Production	- Mr Phoolsap Sirilak - Mrs Suphaphorn Duangphromthong	- Community Committee Member - Committee Member	EM liquid	- Bought by the Municipality - Income paid to the overseer 1,500 baht/month	Packagings	Molasses, scraps, and Pho Do powder (Own supply and from community members)	50	- Meeting; and - Jointly making merit	None	- 50 buckets for storing community scraps given by the Municipality; and - Arranging a study trip to Ban Khambon	- Income left from paying the overseer was kept for buying molasses; and - Members were given a bottle of molasses each time
	Drinking Water Production	- Mr Boonhome Boonsam	- Chair	Drinking water	- Community buyers and Khon Kaen Commercial School; and - 2 baht per bottle was paid to those cleaning bottles and filtering water	Water filter set and bottles	Piped water (Own supply)	14	- Meeting	None	300,000 baht granted from the 2007 SML Project	
	Recyclables Bank	- Mr Songkhram Sihanon	- Chair	Buying recyclable materials	- Bought by Chok Heng Charoen Shop; and - 5 baht/day (Committee member only)	Scales, face masks, and gloves	Recyclable garbage (collected from community members)	7	- Meeting; and - Jointly collecting recyclable garbage	- Unstable prices of garbage; and - Loss	20,000- baht funding given by the SML Project	

Community Name	Occupational Group	Informant	Title	Product	Marketing& Income	Essential Tools	Raw Materials	No. of Member	Joint Activity	Problems	Supporting Agency	Remarks
Wat Klang Community	Sandalwood Flower Production	- Mr Prasong Phromani - Mrs Suthini Phromani	- Community Chair - Chair	Sandalwood flowers	- Delivering to Klan Temple; and - No distribution of income	Scissors and glue	Joss sticks, candles and crepe paper (Own supply)	15	- Meeting	- Pains in the legs and back	None	- No sales made
Sam Liam 1	Sandalwood Flower Production	- Mrs Thanya Kong narong - Mr Somwang Phewkhao	- Marketing Officer - Chair	Sandalwood flowers and funeral wreaths	- Selling in own community; and - 100-200 baht/month	Scissors, wire and wood	Crepe paper, candles, joss sticks, and sandalwood (Own supply)	15	- Meeting; - Sharing dividends; - Pooling shares; and - Savings activity	High prices of raw materials	10% of the budget given by the Municipality to the group of the handicapped	
Sam Liam 2	Production of Brooms Made of Coconut Palm Spines and Dustpans	- Mr Narin Panyadi - Mr Udom Sawai-ngern - Mr Khamsing Si-ngae-khotra	- Deputy Chair - Community Chair - Committee Member	Brooms and dustpans	- Selling in own community; and - No distribution of income	Saws, knives, nails, wire and hammers	Coconut palm spines, tins, paint, and bamboo sticks	10	- Meeting; and - Pooling shares worth 20-100 baht each	- No market access	Requesting funding from the Municipality	No dividend payment because the income had to be kept for the purchase of community office
	Food Processing	- Mrs Buaphan Sawai-ngern	- Chair	Northeastern-styled sausages, pork/beef pickled sausages, northeastern spicy dip, and semidriedmeat	- Khon Kaen University; - Ban Noan Muang market; and - No distribution of income	Grinder, cutter, and knives	Beef, pork, fermented fish, chilli, garlic and red onion	10	- Meeting; and - Pooling shares worth 400-1,000 baht each	- Lack of workers; - High prices of raw materials; and - Lack of financial support		Jointly working with the Municipality to earn an income to buy the group's office and to build the community office
Sam Liam 3	Chinese Banquet Catering	- Mr Somchat Chai-ayuth - Mrs On-uma Sangiamsri	- Community Chair - Chair	Chinese banquet catering	- Taking all orders; and - 1,000 baht/time	Cooking utensils, Chinese banquet appliances (provided for rent by the Municipality)	Food (Own supply)	11	Benefits provided for members to be hospitalized 500 baht a time	High cost of cooking	- Training on cooking and table decoration held by the Municipality; and - 30,000-baht funding given by the SML Project (as a revolving fund)	

Community Name	Occupational Group	Informant	Title	Product	Marketing & Income	Essential Tools	Raw Materials	No. of Member	Joint Activity	Problems	Supporting Agency	Remarks
Sam Liam 4	Cotton Weaving	- Mrs lam Phongchai - Mrs Bualoy Saengchanthong	- Chair - Deputy Chair	Cotton weaving	- Selling in own community; and - No distribution of income	Looms, shuttles, spindles, wheel, and comb	Cotton thread (Own supply)	11	None	- Lack of market access; and - Discontinuous production by members	None	
	Steamed Dumpling Production	- Mrs Bualoy Saengchanthong - Mrs Thawi Sopha	- Chair - Deputy Chair	Steamed Dumpling	- Kaen Nakhon School; - Catering for meeting coffee breaks; and - 500-700 baht/day	Gas-fuelled steamer, kneader, and paper	Flour, yeast, onion, pork, black bean, sugar, salt, coconut milk, and pandanus leaf	20	None	None	120,000-baht funding provided by CODI as a revolving fund	

Table 3 Eight Groups of Homeworkers

Community Name	Occupation	Informant	Product/Received from	Reception of Work	Delivery/Income	Essential Tools	Raw Materials	No. of Member	Joint Activity	Problems	Supporting Agency
Nong Waeng Old City 1	1, Artificial Paper Flower Production	Mrs Nuam Kaewboonrueng	Artificial flowers	Taking orders from an employer at Ban Kham Charoen, 3 kilometers away by motorbike	- Weekly delivery; and - 0.60 baht/piece or 200 baht/day	Scissors and wire (Own supply)	Crepe paper, glue, and wire (provided by the employer)	4	None	Long-distant traveling	None
Kaen Nakhon	2. Sewing	Mrs Aruni Srisawat	Bulk sewing of shirts	Taking orders from Thammakhan Shop, one km away from the house by bike	-Once every 2 weeks; and - 60 baht/shirt or 250 baht/day	Sewing machine, thread and needles (Own supply)	Fabric (provided by the employer)	1	None	None	
Phra Nakhon Borirak	3, Sewing	Ms Panithi Pholasak	Sewing of civil servant uniforms and polyester.	Taking orders from Nong Naen Shop, 2 kms away from the house by bus	- Once every 3 days; and - 80 baht/day	Sewing machine, scissors, thread, chemicals and chalks (Own supply)	Fabric (provided by the employer)	1	None	- Low wages; and -Lack of time	None
Nong Yai 4	4. Sewing	Mrs Noochan Chinapat	Bulk sewing of clothes	Taking orders from Winner Wear Shop, 5 kms away from the house by motorbike	- Two times a week - 500-1,000 baht/time or 150 baht/day	Sewing machine, thread, needles and scissors, (Own supply)	Fabric (provided by the employer)	1	None	- Low wages; and - Pains in the legs and eyes	None
Phothi Ballang Thong	5. Sewing	Mrs Ladda Wongtri	Sewing bathrobes	Taking orders from the employers at Ban Don and Cholaprathan Shop, 3 kms away from the house, no traveling needed	- Once every 2 days: collected by the employer; and - 350 baht/day	Sewing machine, scissors, and needles (Own supply)	Fabric and thread (provided by the employer)	1	None	- Interrupted work; - Low wages; - Fabric dust; and - Backache	None
Community Name	Occupation	Informant	Product/Received from	Reception of Work	Delivery/Income	Essential Tools	Necessary Raw Materials	No. of Member	Joint Activity	Problems	Supporting Agency

Thepharak 1	6. Sewing	Mr Wichai Phaphromphruek	Sewing fashionable (boutique-styled) pants	Taking orders from Lucky Shop, at Bangkok's Pratoo Nam market: sent via coach by the employer	- Once every 3 weeks; - 50 baht/piece or 250 baht/day	Sewing machine, scissors, measuring tape, thread, and needles (Own supply)	Fabric, paper and chemicals (provided by the employer)	2	None	Physical aches and pains	None
Thepharak 3	7. Fish Net Making	Mrs Noopin Maikhani Mr Prachan Muengsoon	Attaching sinkers to fishing nets	Taking orders from a Khon Kaen's fishing-net factory broker, who also sent and collected finished products	- Once a month; - 2 baht/piece or 35 baht/day	Pliers and scissors (Own supply)	Fishing nets and sinkers (provided by the employer)	2	None	Blurred eyesight and anemia	None
Nong Waeng Tra Choo 4	8. Fish Net Making	Mrs Bang-on Intharaphol	Attaching sinkers to fishing nets	Taking orders from Decha Fishing Net factory's broker, who also sent and collected finished products	- Once a month; - 8 baht/piece or 720 baht/month	Pliers and scissors (Own supply)	Fishing nets, sinkers, and string (provided by the employer)	2	None	- Low wages; and - Backache and pains	None

6. Government Support

According to the information obtained from 17 groups, or 36.96% of the total groups, Khon Kaen municipalities did provide financial support, tools and partial raw materials to those groups. Two groups, 4.35%, said that provincial administrative organizations funded them. There were five groups, 10.86%, taking loans from the SML project⁴ to be used as their revolving fund for production and another five groups also admitted that they were supported by other government agencies.

7. Problems

All groups pointed out that their problems included inadequate income, lack of market, high costs of production, lack of revolving funds, irregular work, and insufficient support from concerned agencies. Six groups, 13.04%, said they also had work-related health and safety problems.

8. Selection of Target Groups to be further Developed

Based on the findings of the study, the Project selected eight production-for-sale groups to further developed, taking into account their continuity of production and significant number of members, as follows:

1. Salapao (Chinese Stuffed Bun) Group, Sam Liam Community (20 members);
2. Food Processing (Sausage, Pickled Pork/Beef Sausage) Group, Noan Than 1 Community (15 members);
3. Dok Chok Crispy Snacks Group, Noan Than 7 Community (24 members);
4. Recyclables Bank, Noan Than 7 Community (7 members);
5. Plastic Basket Weaving Group, Thepharak Community (8 members);
6. Cotton Weaving Group, Nong Waeng Tra Choo (7 members);
7. Sweet Crispy Rice and Chaew Bong (Northeastern Spicy Dip) Group, Nakha Prawes Community (28 members); and
8. Semidried Fish Making Group, Hua Saphan Samphan Community (10 members).

⁴ SML is government project, aims to support community development project. Funding support will depend on size of the project, small, medium or large scale.

In the case of **homeworkers**, it was found that in Khon Kaen Municipality, there were only eight groups of homeworkers engaging in three industrial sectors. Each group had so few members that some of them worked within one family. So, the Project decided to work with these groups. The **three industrial sectors** are:

1. Paper Artificial Flowers Production: Old Nong Waeng Community (4 members);
2. Fishing Net Making: Thepharak 3 Community (2 members) and Nong Waeng Tra Choo 4 (2 members); and
3. Sewing: Kaen Nakhon Community (one member), Phra Nakhon Borirak Community (one member), Nong Yai 4 Community (one member), Phothi Ballang Thong Community (one member), and Thepharak 1 Community (2 members).

Below are detailed descriptions of the identified target groups in Khon Kaen Municipality.

Own Account Groups

1. Semidried Fish Making Group

Address: 137/3 Moo 4, Hua Saphan Community

Group's Chairperson: Mrs Praphian Bhothika

Number of Member: 8

Background: Mae Praphian sold fresh fish during 1957-1961 but the profit made did not cover family expenses. In 1962, she began to add value to her fish by turning it into semidried fish to earn more income. Initially, there was only one producer: her family. Later on, Hua Saphan Community members realized that it was profitable and not difficult to make semidried fish. Five families, amounting to 10 people, got together to produce the products. No sooner had the group formed then the supply of fish was insufficient. The profit made from group production was too meager that the five families have decided to produce the products separately ever since.

Production Mode/Process: Middlemen would travel to Ubonrat Dam in Khon Kean and Suphan Buri province to buy fresh fish, such as Nile tilapia, sepat Siam, snakehead and barp, and sold them to the Group. Each day, a family would buy about 70-100 kilogram of fish.

All family members would work together in every step of the production, ranging from cutting fish heads, scaling, cleaning, fermenting and finally drying. This process lasted three hours from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. every day. After 9 a.m., they would sell their semidried fish at morning and afternoon markets.

Wages/Income of Homeworkers: Daily cost of fish buying was 3,000-10,000 baht, which could make a daily profit of 1,000 baht.

Marketing/Sales Outlets: Bang Lamphu and Nong Yai markets

Prices of the semidried fish:

- Sepat Siam: 200 baht per kilo;
- Snakehead: 150 baht per kilo;
- Barp: 100 baht per kilo; and
- Nile tilapia: 100 baht per kilo.

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies

- Khon Kaen Municipality gave 8,000-baht funding to the Group in 2008 to buy fish.
- In 2008, Chata Phadoong-Pracha Samoson Medical Center gave the Group a grant of 6,000 baht, which was used to make fish-drying grates and extend the area used for cutting up and cleaning the fish.

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Pains in the legs and waist and stiff body muscles caused by stooping to cut up and clean the fish for a long time. There often were accidents related to the use of knives.

Other Problems and Needs: Middlemen could not supply sufficient fish to meet the Group's demands.

2. Community Occupation Promotion Group (Making brooms made of coconut palm spines and dustpans

Address: 191/23 Soi Srimarat 18, Sam Liam (Triangle) 2 Community

Group's Chairperson: Mr Udom Sawai-ngern

Number of Member: 42

Background: Sam Liam 2 Community has never organized its occupational activities at all until 2009, when Mr Udom Sawai-ngern became the community Chairperson. The leader and community members decided to set up its Brooms and Dustpans Production Group to earn additional income and promote the awareness of community cleanliness. The Chairperson paid 4,000 baht in advance to establish the Group.

Production Mode/Process: Coconut palm spines were raw materials available in the community free of charge. Other raw materials, such as bamboo stems, buckets and others, would be bought from a regular supplier. About 15 members came regularly to work together at the community center. Each worker had to do every step of the production: trimming away coconut palm leaves, sawing wood, binding, nailing and painting. Their working hours lasted between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (about eight hours a day), which could produce 100 brooms.

Wages/Income of Home-based workers: The income was shared according to the working hours of each member. The Group's first distribution of income was carried out on 15 January 2011. After 4,000 baht had been repaid to the Chairperson, each of the 42 group members was given an average annual income of 100-250 baht.

Marketing/Sales Outlets: Selling at meetings held by the municipality and being bought by middlemen to resell to other community members, and selling directly to community members. The broom/dustpan was sold at 25 baht each.

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies: The municipality bought 500 each of the brooms and dustpans.

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Back pain caused by stooping for a long time and accidents resulted from the use of hammers and saws. Also the trimming of coconut palm leaves and wood sawing produced dust which was harmful to breathing.

Other Problems and Needs: None.

3. Salapao (Chinese Stuffed Bun) and Steamed Dumpling Production Group

Address: 121/119 Sam Liam 4 Community

Group's Chairperson: Mrs Bualoy Saengchanthong

Number of Member: 20

Background: Previously, all the 20 members of the Group had been making salapao and steamed dumplings for sale on their own. In 2007, a financial support of 120,000 baht granted by the Self-Sufficiency Project was given to the community. The money was thus set up as a revolving fund for community members to take out a loan of 8,000-10,000 baht, with an interest rate of 5%. The Group and its membership system were then formed.

Production Mode/Process: All the raw materials were bought from a shop (named Rub Sab, located next to Fairy Plaza Department Store) to make about 400-500 salapao and 500-600 steamed dumplings each day.

Wages/Income of Homeworkers: The daily production cost of 1,500-2,000 baht could earn an average daily income of 700-2,500 baht.

Marketing/Sales Outlets:

- Hawking;
- Selling at the food hall of Kaen Nakhon School;
- Selling at Khon Kaen University;
- Catering for coffee/tea break during the meetings of Khon Kaen Municipality; and
- Taking orders (for at least 50 pieces)

Selling prices: Five baht for one salapao and one baht for a steamed dumpling

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies:

- Provided with a revolving fund of 120,000 baht from the Self-sufficiency Project; and

- Khon Kaen Municipality and Khon Kaen University bought the products to serve at their meetings' coffee/tea break.

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Muscular pain

Other Problems and Needs: Increasingly high prices of raw materials and lack of financial support

4. Women Development Group, Noan Than 1 Community (Food Processing)

Address: 113/3 Moo 2, Noan Than 1 Community

Group's Chairperson: Mrs Amphon Phongphianchan

Number of Member: 10

Background: The Women Development Group was first established as a grouping of community volunteers. It met and discussed ways to generate income for the group members. Finally, it decided to set up an occupational group to produce sour sausages and pickled pork sausages. The group was established on 4 February 2006, with 17 founding members, who invested a share of 200 baht each. The total investment shares amounted to 3,400 baht, of which 10% was deducted as the Group's central fund.

Production Mode/Process: There were only seven members actually coming to work together and engage in every step of production: grinding pork, peeling garlic, kneading, wrapping up with banana leaves, bagging and marketing. The products were made four times a month (once a week). The workers' working hours lasted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (altogether six hours). Each production cost 2,200 baht and the raw materials were bought from a regular supplier located at a municipal fresh market.

Wages/Income of Home-based workers: The income each member earned was based on each worker's working hours. On average, those worked longer hours would receive 250 baht each time while those working shorter hours would earn 150 baht.

Marketing/Sales Outlets:

- Provincial public health office;
- Sofitel Hotel;
- Area 4 police command;
- Civil servant center; and
- A food shop situated at the edge of Kaen Nakhon pond

Wholesale price of the pickled pork sausages and sour sausages (six pieces per pack) was 45 baht and the retail price was 50 baht per pack.

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies:

- The Loving Bond Project of Chata Phadoong Center gave a financial support of 6,000 baht in 2010.
- Khon Kaen Municipality provided 20,000-baht funding in 2006 for the purchase of appliances, such as kneading and cutting machines.

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Leg, waist and back pains because of long hours of sitting and also wrist pain caused by the force used in binding the sausages.

Other Problems and Needs: Increasingly high prices of raw materials and members were busy with too many jobs that they had no time to work together, resulting in inadequate goods to meet the market demands.

5. Occupational Group, Noan Than 1 Community

Address: 45 Moo 2, Chimphee Road, Noan Than 1 Community

Group's Chairperson: Mrs Wallee Thanasen

Number of Member: 26

Background: Back in 2002, the Group produced wine made from Jamaican sorrel and Indian mulberry but the product was unsalable. It then turned to make a local sweet snack called *khanom dokchok* (made from rice and kidney bean flour, moulded into flower patterns and had them deep-fried)). The nephew of the Group's Chairperson, who was a community development office based in Sida district of Nakhon Ratchasima province, had seen how successful the Noan Muang Women's Group of Sida district was in producing *khanom dokchok* for sale. He then suggested the idea to the Group to replicate the activity. At the beginning, the Sida-based Women's Group bought the Noan Thai Women's Group to resell in its areas. Later, it was suggested that Khon Kaen Municipality fund a study trip of the Noan Thai Women's Group to learn about its counterparts' activity in Sida district. After the study trip, 20 members decided to get together and invest their 200-baht shares so that they could learn how to make *khanom dokchok*. At the end, they could produce and market their own product in the same year.

Production Mode/Process: There were seven members actively engaging in the production. Based on their collective efforts, these workers were responsible for every step of the production: kneading dough, moulding and arranging the flower-like patterns, dee-frying, packaging and marketing. The three-hour-long production was carried out 5-6 times a month, starting from 9-12 a.m., making about 140 packs of *khanom dokchok*, which cost about 800 baht. When additional demands for the product came from middlemen, they would increase their production to 300 packs. All raw materials were bought from the Group's regular supplier located at Bang Lamphu market in Khon Kaen.

Wages/Income of Home-based workers: On average, each worker would earn 1,000 baht a month.

Marketing/Sales Outlets:

- General food shops and grocer's;
- Selling to merchants, including those from Chaiyaphum, Ubon Ratchathani and Amnat Charoen provinces;
- Selling at the municipality meetings; and
- Selling at provincial silk festival and OTOP trade fairs.

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies:

- Provision of raw materials and tools as well as 5,000-baht funding to be used as a revolving fund and support for a study trip (to learn about the activities of Sida-based Women's Group);
- Provision of the knowledge about packaging by the provincial industry office;
- Funding from the SML Project; and
- Market availability at festivals and fairs facilitated by the provincial community development office.

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Physical aches and pains

Other Problems and Needs: High costs of raw materials and bags for packaging

6. Plastic Basket Weaving Group

Address: 98/40 Thepharak 5

Group's Chairperson: Mr Chiti Cherdchoo

Number of Member: 10

Background: It started with the fact that some community members could weave plastic baskets, threshing baskets and boxes. Other community members were keen to learn from them. Once everyone was capable of weaving, they decided to set up their group in 2010. But because the group had no specific office, each member had to work on their own at home. Each was given a revolving fund of 4,000-5,000 baht by the SML Project.

Production Mode/Process: The Group's members would buy ready made plastic straps from a secondhand shop, located in front of Thepharak housing estate, at five baht a kilogram. The members would not work as a group but made their products at their own houses, starting at 9 a.m. till 8 p.m. (about 8-10 hours). Some members had no fixed daily working hours, accumulating their products to be sold once a month.

Wages/Income of Homeworkers: On average, 400-1,000 baht a month

Marketing/Sales Outlets:

- Selling at Acharn Chira market, in Khon Kaen province; and
- Selling to merchants coming from Udon Thani and Nong Khai.

Retail prices: Big size, 50 baht; medium size, 30 baht; small size, 20 baht
Wholesale prices: Big size, 30 baht; medium size, 20 baht; small size, 15 baht

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies:

- Provision of loans without interest from the SML Project; and
- Training on weaving organized by Khon Kaen Municipality.

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Physical aches and pains and hand injuries caused by nails and needles piercing and plastic strap cutting

Other Problems and Needs: None

7. Traditional Weaving Group

Address: 400/44 Moo 14, Nong Waeng Tra Choo 4 Community

Group's Chairperson: Mrs Buabanchuen Laochai

Number of Member: 7

Background: The Group's Chairperson was a weaver when she lived in Chiang Yuen district of Maha Sarakham province. After returning to live with her mother in Nong Waeng Tra Choo Community 4, she was aware that the community women had no supplementary occupation. Discussing with them and she found that they would like to set up a weaving group. In 2008, when the SML Project was introduced, their group was practically established by a loan of 5,000-baht for each of the six group members to buy cotton wool, build looms and buy other tools.

Production Mode/Process: The Group sold its product to Suthep Khaengkhan Phanit shop in Maha Sarakham's Chiang Yuen district. The members would bring their looms to the house of their Chairperson, who drove the members in her car to buy the cotton wool from the abovementioned shop, without charging any fees. Each member would buy about 6-10 kilograms of cotton wool each time.

The weaving would be done to order of the shop or the pattern selected by the Chairperson. The group members would engage in weaving only and worked about eight hours a day between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Each member could weave 2-8 meters of cloth per day per person.

The Group sold its products once a month.

Wages/Income of Homeworkers: On average, 1,000 baht a month per person

Marketing/Sales Outlets: Suthep Khaengkhan Phanit shop in Maha Sarakham's Chiang Yuen district

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies: 5,000-baht loan for each member provided by the SML Project

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Blurred vision and back, waist and leg pain

Other Problems and Needs: Lack of money to buy cotton yarn

8. Recyclables Banking Group

Address: 45/6 Community Center, Noan Than 7 Community

Group's Chairperson: Mr Songkhram Sihanon

Number of Member: 60 households

Background: A temporary garbage dump of the municipality was located in the middle of the community. When it rained or the wind blew, the terrible stink of the garbage brought environmental and health problems to the community. In 2006, the health and environment office of the municipality took the community representatives to Ban Kham Bon (in what district, province?) to study how the garbage there was disposed of and the operation of a secondhand shop. After the study trip, the community committee met to discuss ways to recycle the garbage. It decided to start a garbage recycling project, which collected the project participants' garbage and sell it for them. Thirty households joined in.

In 2007, the municipality advised the community to turn to recyclables banking activities, whereby the garbage was bought and sold by the Group. The members increased to 50 households.

Moreover, the Group also promoted a campaign for garbage separation to encourage the community members to separate the garbage into four types: wet, recyclable, toxic/harmful and general garbage.

The Group's membership amounted to 60 (at the time of writing).

Production Mode/Process: Seven members of the Group's executive committee took turn to go out and buy the garbage from the community members every day. Among these committee members, roles and responsibilities would be divided into separating, weighing and paying. Then a buyer (Heng Charoen secondhand shop), coordinated by Khon Kaen Municipality, would buy the garbage from the Group.

Wages/Income of Homeworkers: On average, the Group would get 6,300-6,500 baht from each sale, making a profit of around 1,000 baht. Once a certain amount was deducted from the total profit to serve as a central fund, the rest would be paid to the seven committee members according to the quantity of garbage they could sell.

Marketing/Sales Outlets: Selling to Heng Charoen secondhand shop, located in central Khon Kaen

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies:

- The SML Project providing 20,000 baht as a revolving fund; and
- The municipality coordinating a garbage buyer and providing low-priced (10baht/liter) EM solution.

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Garbage stink and dust, respiratory diseases and physical aches and pains

Other Problems and Needs: The Recyclables Bank was situated on a 2-3-rai plot of idle land, free of charge. But the land has been reclaimed by the temple which owned the land for other use.

9. Food Processing Group (Sweet Crispy Rice and Chaew Bong [Northeastern Spicy Dip])

Address: 131/83 Nakha Prawes Community

Group's Chairperson: Mrs Kanyanat Nakhonkaew

Number of Member: 28

Background: When the community was first established in 2004, Khon Kaen Municipality planned to support the community's generation of employment according to its skills and potential. So, the Sweet Crispy Rice and Chaew Bong Group were set up, with 25 founding members. It was agreed that 200-baht shares would be pooled, whereby each member could have one or two shares. Altogether 6,000-baht shares could be mobilized combined with the municipality's provision of appliances and raw materials worth 20,000 baht. At the time of writing, the Group had 28 members and a revolving fund of 12,000 baht.

Production Mode/Process: When orders came in, seven members of the Group would work together at the house of the Chairperson. They travel in the Chairperson's car to buy raw materials from a regular supplier in central Khon Kaen.

The production started with soaking sticky rice, mixing well the herbal ingredients, such as watermelon juice, pandanus leaf, coconut milk, and butterfly pea, steaming, pressing to shape with a mould, drying for 4-5 hours, frying, sprinkling with melted sugar, bagging and labeling with stickers.

All these steps were divided among the producers. The pressing cooked sticky rice into shape would be done twice a week, six hours a day whereas the frying would be done on weekend, four hours a day.

Wages/Income of Homeworkers: Each of the seven producers would be paid 1,000-2,000 baht every month or every two months, depending on how good the sales were. At the end of the year, the shareholding members would be paid a 25% dividend. The rest of the profit would be kept as the Group's revolving fund.

Marketing/Sales Outlets: Community shops, shops located in front of Khon Kaen Hospital Center, Khon Kaen University co-operatives, and Marketing Organization for Farmers-operated market bought the products from the Chairperson's house or asked the Group to have the products delivered to them.

Wholesale prices: Big bag (at least 20 of them), 16 baht and small bag (at least 50 of them), 8 baht; and

Retail prices: Big bag, 20 baht and small bag, 10 baht.

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies:

- Provided with materials and appliances by the municipality in 2004 and in 2006 and 2008 with sticky rice, oil, sugar and coconut worth 20,000 baht; and
- Loans of 10,000-20,000 baht each granted by the SML Project to be used as a revolving fund (the Group repaid its loans at the rate of 1,000 baht a month).

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Skin rashes caused by the splashes of hot oil while frying the crispy rice and back and waist pain

Other Problems and Needs: High prices of raw materials and need the entitlement to use the Community Development Department's packaging design and logo

Homeworkers' Groups

1. Sewing Group

Address: 391/1 Thepharak 1

Group's Chairperson: Mr Wichai Phaphromphruok

Number of Member: 2 (husband and wife)

Background: Wichai began his work at a small clothing factory, owned by Luck Shop based in Bangkok's Pratoo Nam market, in 1989. Working there for nearly 20 years, he then decided to return home in 2008 when he started a family and found the cost of living in Bangkok too high. He spent nearly a year earning his living by repairing clothes. Because he still got in touch with his former boss, who eventually sent sewing work to him.

Production Mode/Process: The boss would send him, through a coach operated by Chan Tour Company, the cut pieces of cloth and a sample shirt or pair of pants he wanted Wichai to sew.

Wichai and his wife had to sew together the cut pieces and hem the finished works. Their working hours lasted between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., which could make about 10-15 shirts/pair of pants. He delivered his works once every 3-4 weeks and all the transport expense was paid by his employer.

Wages/Income of Homeworkers: The couple earned 35-50 baht for each piece of work. On average, they could earn a monthly income of 15,000 baht.

Marketing/Sales Outlets: Lucky Shop, at Pratoo Nam market

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies: None

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Blurred vision and pains in the back, waist and legs

Other Problems and Needs: Low wages and cramped workplace

2. Sewing Group

Address: 115/2 Moo 6, Nong Yai 4 Community

Group's Chairperson: Mrs Noochan Chinaphas

Number of Member: 1

Background: When she was 17, Noochan was persuaded by a friend who had already worked at Srichan Shop (in Khon Kaen) to work there. But she had to quit the job when she got pregnant. After giving birth to her baby in 1997, another friend who had worked at Winner Wear Shop (also in Khon Kaen) subcontracted sewing work to her so that she could do it at home.

Production Mode/Process: The sewing work included polo shirts, sportswear, and undershirts.

The work—including sewing, hemming and trimming—was taken by either the shop had it delivered to Noochan's house or Noochan went to collect it from the shop. Each reception of work, amounting to 50 pieces, took place every two days. Normally, Noochan would ride her motorbike to deliver her work once a week to the shop, five kilometers away, without being paid for the travel expense. If it was a rush job, the shop would come to collect it.

The working hours divided into two intervals: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 9-12 p.m.

Wages/Income of Homeworkers: 5-12 baht per piece of work and an average monthly income of 3,000-5,000 baht

Marketing/Sales Outlets: Winner Wear Shop

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies: None

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Blurred vision and pains in the eyes, back, waist, legs, and hips as well as fingers being pricked by needles

Other Problems and Needs: Some types of work paid low wages and in need of social security services

3. Uniform Sewing Group

Address: 205-48 Soi Klang Muang 2, Phra Nakhon Borirak Community

Group's Chairperson: Mrs Panithi Pholasak

Number of Member: 1

Background: Panithi worked as sewer at Song Samai (one of Bangkok's well-known tailoring shops) for a long time from 1996 to 2010. When she heard that the shop was about to send her to work in Phichit province and she also suffered from leg and knee pains, she decided to quit the job and return home. Later, a friend who knew someone at Manpower Shop (located in front of Sri Nual Temple) suggested that she take uniforms from the shop and sew them at home, which she has done so ever since.

Production Mode/Process: The uniforms—consisting of those made for the police, nurses, security guards, factory workers and safari jacket—would be brought to Panithi's house in the quantity that she could finish them: 5-10 pieces a time. She would take a bus or walk the two-kilometer distance to collect and deliver her work every three days, no travel expense was provided.

The work included sewing, hemming, ironing and pleating. She worked 4-5 hours a day but if it was a rush job, the working hours would be 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wages/Income of Homeworkers: 35 baht per piece of work and an average monthly income of 2,000-3,000 baht

Marketing/Sales Outlets: Manpower Shop, Khon Kaen

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies: None

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Pains in the knees, back, and waist

Other Problems and Needs: Low wages, irregular work, insufficient time to work and in need of other types of sewing

4. Sewing Group

Address: 194/107 Moo 6, Bhothi Ballang Thong Community

Group's Chairperson: Mrs Ladda Wongtri

Number of Member: 1

Background: Ladda spent many years working as sewer at a clothing manufacturer for export called Dynasty, situated in Bangkok's Din Daeng district since she was 18. Then she spent another 13 years being the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority's bus conductor in the afternoon but still did her sewing work in the morning. Ladda returned home to Khon Kaen in 2003. A neighbour advised that she take dressmaking work from shops and do it at home, which she has done so ever since.

Production Mode/Process: Ladda took her dressmaking work from many shops, but mostly from the shops located at Don Ya Nang and Aew Mong markets. Ladda would collect each work, about 10-50 pieces, from the shops or had the work delivered to her house. The work consisted of shirts, blouses, hotel robes, pants and so on. She could sew about 10 pieces a day and got paid 60 baht a piece.

Her working hours lasted about 8-9 hours a day, but if the job was urgent, she would work from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. of the next day. She had to deliver the work herself without being paid for her travel expense. Normally, she would deliver the work once every 2-3 days, but in case of urgency, she had to deliver the work every day.

Wages/Income of Homeworkers: 60 baht per piece of work and an average monthly income of 3,000-6,000 baht

Marketing/Sales Outlets: Shops at Don Ya Nang and Aew Mong markets

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies: None

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Physical pains in the legs, back, and waist, as well as blurred vision, needle pricking, scissors' cut and electric shock

Other Problems and Needs: Low wages and the shops were a great distance away from the worker's house

5. Sewing Group

Address: 75/114 Moo 17, Phothi Ballang Thong Community

Group's Chairperson: Mrs Arunee Srisawas

Number of Member: 1

Background: In 1976 when Arunee was a teenager, she attended a 30-hour sewing course organized by Khon Kaen's non-formal education office. Upon completing the course, she was recruited to work at a textile factory in Bangkok. During her working in Bangkok, she often changed her jobs because of low wages. She earned her living being a sewer in Bangkok until 1983, when she went back home to look after her parents. Someone suggested she take sewing work from Thammakhan Shop and she has done so till today.

Production Mode/Process: Arunee collected silk material from the shop, and then made the ordered dresses at home. The shop provided only the fabric. She had to supply other materials and tools herself.

Arunee's work included cutting and sewing. The cutting of silk fabric was very difficult and time-consuming, thus only three dresses could be made.

Arunee rode her bike to collect the fabric that could make about 30-60 shirts from the shop, one kilometer away from her house, and delivered the finished job two times a month.

When she started working, she was fairly healthy and could work straight 16 hours from 8 a.m. till 12 p.m. at night. But recently, she was not strong; the working hours were lowered to 3-4 hours a day.

Besides working for the shop at home, she also used the space in front of her house to provide repair services for clothes.

Wages/Income of Homeworkers: 60 baht for a short-sleeved shirt and 80 baht for a long-sleeved one, an average income was 3,000-3,500 baht per one delivery or about 6,000-7,000 baht a month.

Marketing/Sales Outlets: Thammakhan Shop, Khon Kaen

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies: None

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Blurred vision, pains in the eyes, back, waist, legs, shoulders as well as needle pricking, scissors' cut and electric shock

Other Problems and Needs: Inability to finish the job on time, poorer health resulting in lower work and needed time to look after a grandchild

6. Fishing Net Making Group 1

Address: 161/32, Thepharak 4 Community

Group's Chairperson: Mrs Bang-on Intharaphol

Number of Member: 1

Background: Seeing the community members of Thepharak 3 Community making fishing nets at home made Mrs Bang-on wanted to make supplementary income by doing so in addition to selling things in front of her house. In 2010, she began to have the fishing net making work subcontracted to her by a homemaker in that community. Later on, that subcontractor quit the job; since then the factory has sent its work to Mrs Bang-on.

Production Mode/Process: A broker from Khon Kaen-based Decha Fishing Net factory would send the raw materials to Bang-on to make fishing nets, which would be collected by that same broker when they were finished. Bang-on's work consisted of attaching sinkers (lead weight), stringing, and bagging. Each day, she could make 2-3 big-sized fishing nets. Her working hours lasted from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Bang-on delivered her work, amounting to 536 fishing nets, once a month.

Wages/Income of Homeworkers: 8 baht for each fishing net; the factory took about 7-10 days to check the quality of work before the payment would be paid

Marketing/Sales Outlets: Decha Fishing Net factory

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies: None

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Physical aches and pains in the back, waist, and wrists

Other Problems and Needs: Low wages

7. Fishing Net Making Group 2

Address: 500/135, Thepharak 3 Community

Group's Chairperson: Mrs Noopin Maikhami and Mr Prachan Muangsoon

Number of Member: 2

Background: Mrs Noopin saw people in Thepharak 3 Community making fishing nets at home and wanted to do so to generate supplementary income for her family. In 2010, the fishing net making work was subcontracted to her by a subcontractor, who later had to quit because her work did not meet the factory's standard quality. Thus, the factory's broker has given that person's work to Mrs Noopin ever since.

Production Mode/Process: Khon Kaen-based Decha Fishing Net factory subcontracted its work to Noopin, whose work consisted of attaching sinkers (lead weight), stringing, and bagging and her working hours lasted four hours from 8-12 a.m. Noopin could make about 2-3 big-sized fishing nets. She received her work once every 15 days and delivered around 500-600 fishing nets once a month. The reception and delivery of work was carried out by the factory's broker.

Wages/Income of Homeworkers: 8 baht for each fishing net, which amounted to 1,000-2,000 baht per one delivery (every 15 days); the factory took about 7-10 days to check the quality of work before the payment would be paid

Marketing/Sales Outlets: Decha Fishing Net factory

Support from the Municipality and Other Agencies: None

Work-related Health and Safety Problems: Blurred vision, headache and physical aches and pains

Other Problems and Needs: Low wages

CHIANG RAI

The survey of home-based workers in Chiang Rai—based on documents and in-depth interviews—covered 52 communities in Chiang Rai Municipality. It was found that there were HBWs in every community: some were own-account workers; others were

homeworkers and also there were those who were both own-account workers and homeworkers. These three types of workers worked in a variety of ways: organized grouping, producing as a group but being managed solely by the group's chairperson, and calling itself a group but having one worker and elevating to an entrepreneur. As Chiang Rai has a lot of hilltribe inhabitants, who have migrated to live in municipal areas. Therefore, these people have played a participatory role in the production chain with the original communities.

A great number of Northern people's products are local wisdom-based and so far, government has promoted the organization of producers to upgrade their product quality to meet the OTOP product standard. Thus, the producers have been motivated to organize themselves to generate work and family income, and facilitate access to resources. So far, some groups still exist while others are practically inactive but still listed with the municipalities. The Project's survey, therefore, focused on nine product groups located in Chiang Rai, as follows:

1. Mulberry Paper Production Group, Ko Thong Community

Contact persons: Mrs Saengduang Nakhthongchua, chairperson; Mr Thawat Lanamwong, group coordinator, Tel: 081 0203164

Address: Ko Thong Community's Multi-purpose Hall, Rob Wiang subdistrict, Muang district, Chiang Rai

Background: The Group was started by the community's unemployed elderly people, who persuaded unemployed youths and community members to make products made of mulberry paper, such as lampshades, paper napkin boxes, and notebooks. Established in 2006, the Group had 31 members, most of whom were unemployed and of old age. But the youths and disadvantaged persons also joined the Group. Later, the Motherland Fund and provincial administration organization provided the Group with funding to operate its activities. At the moment, active members earned no daily income, but were given dividends at the end of the year. Parts of the dividends would be granted as scholarships to the members' children.

Committee: The Group had a clear working committee and structure.

Work-related Problems: The sales of the products were so slow that it could not generate the Group's revolving fund. Moreover, not many people were keen to carry on this local wisdom-oriented production because the work was not well-paid and most of the workers were elderly people.

2. Buddhist Monk's Robe Sewing Group, Meng Rai Temple (Hong Li Temple), Rob Wiang subdistrict, Muang district, Chiang Rai

Contact person: Mrs Pranom Wongsri, 81/4 Moo 7, Soi 4, Rob Wiang subdistrict, Muang district, Chiang Rai

Address: Wat Hong Li Multi-purpose Hall, Rob Wiang subdistrict, Muang district, Chiang Rai

Background: The grouping resulted from the discussion of community women who wanted to earn additional family income. Attended the discussion were Buddhist monks, community leader and women leader. Two occupations were chosen to generate the needed income: sewing robes used by Buddhist monks and making artificial sandalwood flowers (used in Buddhist crematorial ceremonies). The Group requested financial support from the temple and Chiang Rai Municipality. And the temple provided 20,000-baht funding while the Municipality contributed another 2,000 baht to support the one-day-long training on both occupations for 50 community members. But the sewers' skills still did not meet the required standard, so another training session was held. Though the Group's members had their sewing skills improved, the great patience- and time-consuming, intricacies of work needed to produce quality products discouraged the founding members one after another. Only three members were still sewing Buddhist monks' robes. Likewise, those engaging in the artificial sandalwood flower production eventually quit because there was no market for their products. This group no longer exists.

The idea behind the grouping of the Buddhist monk's robe sewers came from *Phra* (Buddhist monk) Komsan, who introduced the activity to the abovementioned discussion. He pointed out that Dhammayuttika monks wore different colored robes from their counterparts of Mahanikaya sect. The robes used by Mahanikaya monks were generally available in the market, contrary to the scarce availability of the quality robes of Dhammayuttika monks, who had to sew their robes by themselves. Therefore, he suggested that the women's group take up the sewing of Dhammayuttika monks' robes, whereby Hong Li Temple could provide support and advice on the sewing and quality of the robe to the group.

Group Management: As the Group's members gradually resigned and there were only three members left, resulting in no management structure. The remaining members were looked after as family members by Phra Komson Santiko, who was responsible for all aspects of the Group's management, including seeking raw materials. The revolving fund amounted to about 50,000-60,000 baht per round of production.

Marketing: The limited marketing of the robes was carried out by Phra Komson by word of mouth spread to other Dhammayuttika monks and the people attending the merit-making activities at the temple. The highest sales could be made during major religious festivals that people wanted to buy the robes to make merit.

Member's Income: About 100 baht a day of 7-8 hours of working

Welfare Benefits: No collective savings activities were promoted. Neither were there any welfare benefits for the members, except an occasional and timely bonus and some scholarships for members according to each person's needs.

Health Problems: Waist pain and eye strain

Other Problems:

1. High cost of raw materials as the fabric to be used must be of specific color that had to be ordered from Bangkok;
2. Marketing management was needed because of limited market leading to very low sales; and
3. Lack of revolving funds because the sales relied only on religious festivals, resulting in the products remaining in the stock.

3. Sewing Group, Sannong Community

Contact persons: Mrs Anongwan Santhi, Dressmaking Work Coordinator, Tel: 089-9512492; Mr Somchat Nachai, Coordinator for the Handicapped, Tel: 085-0292425

Address: 124 Moo 3, Sannong Community, Muang district, Chiang Rai

Background: In 1998, 20 people decided to form the Group because of the unemployment of some community women and handicapped people. They thought that dressmaking would be a marketable production that would bring in more family income. After the production had begun for some time, problems started to emerge. Most of the Group's members thought only about their own interest and lost confidence in the Group's potential because of the low wages gained from their sewing. Member after member continued to resign; not many of them remained. Three handicapped people, who were already skillful at repairing electrical appliances, were then recruited to join the Group, whose members amounted to 16. In 2008, it applied for official recognition of the Group by the Municipality and Center for the Skills and Labour Development. Group members took orders by themselves.

The Group provided training on dressmaking for its members before engaging them in the production. It also funded the training on dressmaking organized by a concerned agency in Chiang Mai for the Group's handicapped members.

Production Mode:

1. Sewing only: contractors would bring the work to the Group, which has no longer accepted this type of work because of its low wages and being a rush job; and
2. Taking orders directly from the employers and engaging in the whole process of dressmaking: mostly the work came from government and private agencies ordering T-shirts, school uniforms, polo shirts and tracksuits; the Group had to invest in the purchase of all raw materials and members had to participate in all production process.

Member's Income: How the wages were paid depended on each order of work. Mostly, the remuneration was paid on a flat rate basis for such work as cutting and sewing, according to the difficulty and skills required by each piece of work. On average, the wages would be 10-30 baht per piece, thus amounting to a daily income of 100 baht per person. As for the repair services for electrical appliances, 30% of the wages would be deducted and kept as the Groups's income.

Welfare Benefits: No welfare benefits were provided for the members. Neither was there any continued support from government agencies, except the training on dressmaking held for the Group's members at the start of the grouping.

Problems:

1. The workplace, located at the Chairperson's house, has become too congested;
2. As the Group's office was situated on the land with no title deed, it could not ask for the support of the office construction although the handicapped workers were entitled to request for funding from the agencies working with the handicapped;
3. Taking orders from government agencies would require the Group to immediately pay a withholding tax; and
4. In need of revolving funds to support the electrical appliance repair services and invest in buying raw materials to make the ordered production.

Group's Potential:

1. Despite being a group of disadvantaged people, the Group is skillful at dressmaking and capable of obtaining continued work for itself; and
2. Its management can be elevated to the level of an entrepreneur, as its management has been solely operated by the Chairperson.

4. Women Sewing Group, Chiang Rai Municipality

Contact person: Mrs Khankaew Srisai, Tel: 083-7637980

Address: Ratchadet Damrong Road, Muang district, Chiang Rai

Background: The Women Sewing Group was established in 2006 and located at the Cultural Center for Employment. It was set up because unemployed community women wanted to earn extra income for their families. Chiang Rai Municipality supported the Group by organizing a training course for interested women. Upon completing the training course, the Group started taking orders, which partially consisted of subcontracted sewing work and own-account sewing work.

Group Management: In the case of subcontracted sewing work, the wages were paid on a piecework basis, according to the sizes of the work accepted, such as bags, shirts, and aprons. Mostly, 15-40 baht was paid for each piece of work done. The time spent for producing each piece of work depended on how difficult the design was. For instance, 100 bags would take five days to produce while a shirt would take one day.

Regarding the own-account production, the members were paid dividends, not on a piecework basis. The Group provided raw materials for the members, who had to provide their own sewing machines and thread. Apart from organizing a training course for the Group, the Municipality did not provide any tools for the Group's member.

At the time of writing, there were 10 family members, but only five of them accepted sewing work from the Group. The rest turned to selling commodities, becoming workers, and

engaging in fruit farming because they wanted to make more income to support the high cost of living.

Problems:

Own-account work

1. High cost of raw materials resulted in less income;
2. Uncertain access to market resulted in uncertain income;
3. The lack of revolving fund affected the Group's management, thus the members gradually turned to other occupations; and
4. Lack of funds to buy raw materials and tools.

Sub-contracted work

1. There were additional travel expenses when the workers occasionally needed to collect and deliver their works to the employers, located as far away as 10 kilometers from their homes. Such travel could also put them at risk from accidents; and
2. Their work pace was so slow that they had to be fined for missing the deadline.

Health Problems:

1. Health-related risk caused by the use of chemicals and dye, resulting in respiratory disease and allergy; and
2. Backache caused by long sitting at the electrical sewing machines that would also numb the workers' legs.

Support Received: After the training course provided by the Municipality, no continued occupational support was given by any agencies. But the Group's members could have their houses and community improved by the Four-Region Slum Development Project.

5. Tai Lue Weaving Group, Huay Pla Kang

Contact person: Oithip Kernwilai

Address: Cultural Center for Employment, Ban Nam Ratna Municipality, Wiang subdistrict, Muang district, Chiang Rai

Background: The Group was started in 2004, when unemployed community women formed themselves to do Tai Lue traditional weaving. Located at the Cultural Center for Employment, the 25 founding members pooled their resources to collectively produce traditionally-woven cloth for sale. With the production costs deducted, parts of the profit would be kept as the Group's revolving fund for the next round of weaving. The remaining profit was divided among the members.

At the time of writing, the members decreased from 25 to 15, most of whom were elderly people. The younger members gradually quit the Group because some of them got regular jobs whereas others saw the weaving work as poorly-paid employment that they had to take up other jobs.

Group Management: A sarong was sold at 150 baht each and 20 baht would be given to the seller. The rest income would be used by the Group to use for the expenses of the next production.

Each member would get an average wage of 30 baht per yard of fabric woven, depending on the skills of each weaver.

Problems:

1. The product had no market; most buyers were tourists from the country's central region or those on study visits to the Center; and
2. The Group lacked the skills in group management, marketing, and product development.

6. Tea Pillow Group

Contact persons: Mrs Patchari Sena and Mrs Pranom Chaichomphu, Tel: 053 714755

Address: 209 Moo 21, Ko Loy Community, Rob Wiang subdistrict, Muang district, Chiang Rai

Background: The women of Ko Loy Community formed themselves into group in 2008 since they were unemployed, had no regular income and wanted to earn additional income to support their families. They decided to produce tea pillows, replicating the Chiang Mai production process. Work experiences taught them to further adapt and develop their products. The tea pillow grouping was given 80,000 baht by the government-operated SML Project to promote community organization and further generation of income.

Production Process:

1. Taking factory-processed tea leaves to dry in the sun for a couple of times till they are fragrant;
2. Cutting the inner parts of a pillow and sewing them together;
3. Stuffing the pillow with the fragrant tea leaves;
4. Sewing the pillowcase; and
5. Putting the pillowcase over the pillow stuffed with tea leaves.

Group Management: The Group's members took part in all the management of its work, from the production process to the sales of the products. The members took turn to sell their products while all the book-keeping and finances were overseen by the Chairperson. Those sewing the pillows would get 15 baht each and the person stuffing tea leaves would also get 15 baht.

So far, the profits made from the sales of the pillows have not been given to the members. This resulted from a huge loss incurred during the start of the production whereby the Group was so inexperienced that the raw materials were of substandard quality and the products had to be taken back from the buyers. Therefore, the members agreed to continue the

production until they could make enough profits to compensate the previous loss. Then they would think about what they would do to generate their continued and needed revolving funds.

Marketing

The sale of the tea pillows were held in two manners. One was to sell at trade fairs organized during festivals by provincial offices and at the pedestrians' street at weekends. The other was to take orders placed during retirement ceremony, wedding and New Year parties and Songkran festival and coming mostly from the customers in Chiang Rai. As more people got interested in making tea pillows, the orders from other provinces were starting to decrease.

Problems:

1. High cost of raw materials that needed to be bought from Chiang Mai because the Group could not produce quality dried tea themselves;
2. There was overproduction of tea pillows that affected the sales and resulted in the decreasing of selling prices, hence diminishing profits; and
2. Group management was lacking because everything was up to the Chairperson while a lot of tea was grown in Chiang Rai but the Group had to buy it from Chiang Mai because of the lack of skills in producing standard quality tea.

Support Received: Funded by the SML Project to start up the Group's activities, it was also supported by Chiang Rai Municipality to sell its product at the pedestrian-street market free of charge.

Welfare Benefits: No benefits were provided for the members.

Cooperation with the Community: The Group gave 5% of its profits to support community interest. It was good of the Group to share its profits with the community, though its own members have not been able to share them yet.

Health Risks:

1. Being unaware of the risk from production process, the Group did not provide its members with masks while working, so they could be harmed by the smell of the factory-processed tea leaves that they believed were chemical-free; and
2. Health problems resulted from sewing.

Other Problems:

1. Lack of skills in group management: the group's production, book-keeping and finances were up to one person, in whom the community gave confidence; and
2. Sharing the Group's 5% of the profits with the community was a goodwill gesture, but more concern for the Group's members—who had not been given their profits—must be shown to boost their confidence in continuing their activities with the Group.

7. Food and Pork Processing Group, Ratchadet Damrong Community

Contact persons: Mrs Kanchanarat Thaimmee, Chairperson, Tel: 082 3852591; Mrs Benchawan Siriwet-amnuaykit, Coordinator, Tel: 086 9106078

Address: 61/5 Ratchadet Damrong Road, Muang district, Chiang Rai 57000

Background: The Food and Pork Processing Group was the formation of a group of women who wanted to earn more income for their families. Their community was located in an urban area, where the land was too limited to allow them to carry on their farming activities. These women got together and submitted their project proposal to the SML Project to organize a training session on food processing for them in 2008. They were given 80,000 baht to hold the training, buy tools and raw materials, and use parts of the fund as the Group's future revolving fund. After the training, 34 women actually formed their grouping and selected the Group's committee so that they had a clear management structure.

The Group's products included *Sai Ua* (northern Thai spicy sausage), *Khaeb Moo* (fried pork rind), *Namphrik Noom* (green chilli dip), *Namphrik Ta Daeng* (red chilli dip), *Namphrik Pla Yang* (chilli dip with grilled fish), *Naem* (pickled pork sausage), and *Koon Chiang* (sweet pork sausage).

Group Management: Ten-baht shares were pooled by the members, amounting to 2,700-baht capital that was used as the Group's revolving fund for food processing.

At the end of the year, the Group's profits made from the sales of the products would be given as dividends to each member according to the number of share they had.

Each member participating in the production would earn a daily income of 150 baht; those selling the products would get 200 baht a day. At least 100 baht would be reserved as the Group's central fund after each round of the product sale. But if the profits were huge, the deducted fund to be given to the members at the end of the year would, consequently, be greater.

Marketing: The Group sold its products every Saturday at the pedestrian-street market, operated by Chiang Rai Municipality, free of charge. It also took orders from the customers within Chiang Rai and those from other provinces.

When the products went on sale, the members would take turn to do the selling. Sometimes, the products were either on consignment, or the members brought their own production to sell with the Group's products and contribute 50 baht to the Group for each of their sale.

The products were priced as follows:

- *Namphrik Noom*: 150 baht per one kilogram;
- *Sai Ua*: 250 baht per one kilogram; and
- *Koon Chiang*: 200 baht per one kilogram.

Welfare Benefits: No benefits have been given to the members, but the Group planned to provide its members with 2,000-baht loans as a means to earn their livelihood whereby a weekly repayment of 100 baht would be required.

Work-related Problems: The members could not earn regular income since they had no permanent outlets, except at a market where their products could be sold on Saturday only. Mostly, they had to wait for orders before they could start the production, otherwise the products could go bad.

1. Most products were perishable because they contained no artificial preservatives. When too many products were produced and not all sold, a loss could be expected; and
2. The management skills were lacking.

Occupational Health and Safety: The production of certain products used such a machine as a meat grinder that could put the producers at risk while operating the machine.

Support Received:

1. The Ratchadet Damrong Secure Housing was introduced to the community in 2003 by the Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI). The organization would suggest that the community establish a savings group to solve its housing problems. In the case of slum communities, the institute would provide financial support for community development activities, such as road construction and setting sewer lines and wastewater treatment pond, as needed by each community. The community had to write its project proposal and proposed budget. To get CODI's support, the community had to establish its Collective Housing Working Committee, consisting of a chairperson, deputy chair, secretary, treasurer and committee members to oversee the community issues, for instance, savings, land, and other legal aspects. This committee volunteered to work for the community interest, so they would not get paid. It was responsible for presenting community issues that needed to be addressed to the institute. When the proposed project and its budget was approved and implemented, community employment would follow. Most of the employment was daily waged work. One of the Group's members was entitled to get a collective housing unit while most members could generally benefit from the development of the public utility system; and
2. The Municipality gave 80,000 baht to support the formation of the Group and provided it with free access to the pedestrian-street market to put its products on sale.

8. Dressmaking Group, Ban Santal Lueng

Contact Person: Mrs Sa-ngiam Namwong, Chairperson

Address: Multi-purpose Hall, Soi 4, Santal Lueng Community, Rim Kok subdistrict, Muang district, Chiang Rai

Background: Nine people formed themselves into group in 1999 and the National Housing Authority (NHA) provided 10 sewing machines to them. The Group carried out its joint production at the community's multi-purpose center. Its work included production to order as well as own-account work.

In 2000, three members quit the Group, thus only six of them remained and the workplace was moved from the community center to the Chairperson's house. Those members who continued their sewing work had to buy their own sewing machines whereas the 10 sewing machines provided by the NHA have been kept idle at the center.

Management: The Group made their products to order, such as clothes, quilts and curtains. These orders were taken on behalf of the Group but the producers had to make their own investment. This subcontracting work was paid on a piecework basis and 2-3 baht per piece would be deducted as the expenses for thread and coordination, depending on how big or small the work was.

As for own-account work, the Group made curtains and quilts. Initially, it was managed as a group but had management problems. Subsequently, all the management shifted to depend on the Chairperson alone, including the production investment. The members were only paid workers.

Each member would earn 15-40 baht per piece of sewing while the working hours were up to the workers. On average, each member would make a daily income of 100 baht.

Problems:

Own-account work

1. The higher the costs of raw materials was, the lower the income the members would get;
2. Uncertain sales resulted in irregular income; and
3. The lack of revolving fund to buy the raw materials and tools.

Sub-contracted work

1. Though the orders were taken as a group work, the producers had to pay all of their production costs, resulting in insufficient revolving fund;
2. The members could not meet the delivery deadline, thus was fined;
3. If the orders came from government agencies, a withholding tax would be deducted;
4. The producers needed to have taxpayer cards especially if they wanted to take orders from the government agencies;
5. The orders were received occasionally;
6. The employers often forced down their wages: for their first orders, they paid 20 baht per piece; on their second orders, they cited excuses to reduce their wages to 15 baht despite the work was the same; and
7. The producers' lack of skills in sewing prevented them from taking for high-priced work.

Health Problems:

1. The producers were in danger of respiratory disease and allergy because of cotton dust; a member had to quit the Group; and
2. Backache caused by long hours of sewing and numb legs as a result of the producers putting their feet on the electric sewing machines.

Group Potential: This Group can continue its operation since the Chairperson is an experienced and skillful sewer but lacks the skills in marketing and group management. The members themselves are ready to work if there is regular sewing work. Also, the Chairperson has attempted to bid for the orders from government agencies. But there are so many sewing groups in municipal and non-municipal areas that they have to compete with each other for work.

9. Pearly-bead Embroidery

Pearly-bead embroidery and crocheting are widely done by a lot of people throughout Chiang Rai Municipality. But these people are not organized into groups. Two workers were chosen to be interviewed, as follows:

9.1 Mrs Hom, 296 Moo 9, Ban Thung Luang, Mae Yao subdistrict, Muang district, Chiang Rai

Production: The factory subcontracting pearly-bead embroidery to Mrs Hom is situated at Bang Pang Lao near the new airport, about 10 kilometers from the city. Mrs Hom had to collect the materials provided by the factory from a contractor living one kilometer away from her house. She was introduced to this homeworking by a neighbor who had already been engaged in the work. Once she could provide a guarantor required, Mrs Hom accepted work according to her ability within a period of time. There was no fixed schedule of the reception and delivery of work. She would take a set of work a time. Each set would consist of four sizes, 40 sheets per size and each sheet would be comprised of two circle-shaped and multicolored embroidery items (amounting to 160 sheets, or 320 embroidery items). Each set of embroidery took about 5-7 days to finish and would earn the worker 100 baht. The working tools, such as needles and thread, were provided by the workers themselves while the factory would provide rectangular pieces of felt cut to the sizes the factory needed and round or flat tiny beads of different colors.

Income: Mrs Hom earned her living selling local soft drinks at Phra Kaew Temple School and did the embroidery work as a supplementary job that brought her an average monthly income of 1,500-2,000 baht. If she did only the embroidery work, she would get about 2,000-3,000 baht a month.

Problems: Low wages and having to work in the very bright light as the materials were very tiny.

9.2 Mrs Pranom Khummuang, 556/1 Moo 3, Ban Huay Pakang, Rim Kok subdistrict, Muang district, Chiang Rai

Mrs Pranom took up this bead embroidery work for eight years, being subcontracted to by somebody in Ban Huay Sai Khao of Mae Yao subdistrict in Chiang Rai's Muang district.

The work has kept coming in since then. Previously, she worked alone. But currently, she asked four of her relatives to join her. Most embroidery work was to sewn onto shirts, blouses and skirts whereas the crochet job. Subcontracted to her by her community leader, was for the decoration of the edges of handkerchiefs, aprons, and waistbands.

Production: Mrs Pranom's working hours varied. Sometimes, she did her homeworking after finishing her housekeeping, or when she was free. At other times, if the work caused eye strain, she would take a long break. Normally her work was not a rush job, so the time spent to finish each piece of work was not fixed. All depended on how difficult or easy the work was. There were many contributing factors: some pieces could take a week, others could take months. The wage for a piece of embroidery ranged between 40 and 200 baht. As for crocheting, mostly it paid 15 baht per piece. An average daily income was about 50-60 baht.

Health Problems:

1. Pearly-bead embroidery and crocheting caused eye strain so that the workers had to wear glasses; and
2. Backache resulted from long hours of concentration on the embroidery.

Producer's Potential:

Over the past eight years, the work has continued coming in and tends to increase because skilled workers are lacking and their wages are low. Thus, all are entering into the labour market to gain higher income.

Summary of the Study

The findings of the study of the home based workers groups in Chiang Rai Municipality can be summed up as shown in the table below:

Table 4: Characteristics of Producers Groups in Chiang Rai Municipality

Group Name/Area	Type of Work	Number of Members	Group Status/Organizational Structure	Type of Production/Working Hours	Community Condition			
					Infrastructure	Traveling	Housing	Marketing/Income
1. Mulberry Paper Production Group (Ko Thong Community)	Production of hot-air balloons	31	- Clear group structure; and - Registering with the Municipality.	- Own-account working; - Working hours up to personal convenience, 4-6 hours a day on average (Elderly people grouping)	Electricity and running water available	Convenient communication and transport	Using community center as workplace	- Income depending on tourists visiting the Group or on a study trip; - Local communities during major northern festivals; and - Income kept as the Group's central fund to be distributed once a year.
2. Buddhist Monk's Robe Sewing	Sewing robes used by	3	- Registering with the Municipality;	- Own-account working; and - Working 7-8	Electricity and running water available	Convenient communication and transport as	Multi-purpose community center within	- Wholesaling to forest temples and Dhammayuttika

Group, Meng Rai Temple (Hong Li Temple), Rob Wiang subdistrict, Muang district, Chiang Rai	Buddhist monks, such as monk's upper garment, robe used when bathing and lower garment		and - Having organizational structure with no formal management but rather a co-working pattern of the three members	hours a day.		the community was adjacent to the market	the temple premises	monks; - An average daily income was 100 baht.
3. Sewing Group, Sannong Community	1. Sewing T-shirts, polo shirts and tracksuits; and 2. Providing repair services for electrical	16	- Registering with the Community Development Department; and - Having organizational structure and committee but most of	- Own-account working; - Working 10 hours a day; and - Having regular work.	Electricity and running water available	- As a suburban community, the communication and transport was moderately convenient; and - No transport expense incurred as the employers collected the work	- Living in houses built on private land, but the condition was not very good; and - Having no housing rights made it difficult to coordinate with	- Wages paid on a piecework basis, depending on how intricate each piece was; - An average daily income was 80-150 baht per person; and - The work was decreasing.

	appliances .		the work was up to the Chairperson (handicapped people also joined the Group).			themselves.	government agencies.	
4. Women Sewing Group, Chiang Rai Municipality	Sewing	10	Registering with the Municipality and having an organizational structure	- Discontinuous home-based working; and - Uncertain own-account working.	Electricity and running water available	- Members working at own home; - Transport expense incurred; and - Not over 10-kilometer-long distance.	Locating in a slum community built on the Treasury Department's land	- Limited sources of employment and decreasing work; and - Low wages.
5. Tai Lue Weaving Group, Huay Pla Kang	Weaving	2	- Registering with the Municipality; - Former Group structure was kept but no longer operating as a	- Members no longer wove Tai Lue traditional fabric; - Remaining members sold other groups' products on consignment;	- Electricity and running water available; - Convenient communication and transport; - Far away	No traveling needed as the Group located at the Municipality's OTOP center	- Locating in a suburban municipal area; and - Building houses on own land.	- At the Municipality's OTOP center, most customers were tourists and government and private agencies in the community;

			<p>group; only two members engaging in own-account weaving; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parts of the products came from other Chiang Rai-based groups. 	<p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrating Tai Lue weaving at the point of sale only. 	<p>from business areas; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The roof was leaking when it rained. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participating in government-operated trade fairs; and - Uncertain income earning as the sales could be made occasionally, especially during festivals, thus the profits came from each piece of the products on consignment.
6. Tea Pillow Group	Sewing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registering with the Municipality and having a committee structure; and - All production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Own-account working; and - Home-based working. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electricity and running water available; and - Convenient communication and transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Located in an urban area, traveling to sell the products was easy and cost about 150 baht per trip; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building houses on own land whereby the environment was good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taking care of own marketing by selling at home and trade fairs as well as wholesaling; - Selling at the pedestrian-street

			work overseen by the Chairperson while the committee took care of the management.			- Most work—coming from within the community and was not of great quantity—was ordered to be used during various festivals.		market provided free of charge by the Municipality; - Participating in the fairs organized by government agencies; and - An average daily income was 50 baht per person.
7. Food and Pork Processing Group, Ratchadet Damrong Community	Producing local sausages and chilli dip	15 families	- Registering with the Municipality and having a committee structure; and - Most work was up to the Chairperson.	- Own-account working; and - The work was not continuous; both the production and sale depended on the Chairperson.	- Electricity and running water available; and - Convenient communication and transport.	Situating in a suburban area made it inconvenient to travel	Locating in a slum community built on the Treasury Department's land	- Selling at the pedestrian-street market provided free of charge by the Municipality; - Taking orders from within Chiang Rai and other provinces; and - A daily income was 150 baht
8. Dressmaking Group, Ban	Sewing	6	- Registering with the Municipality	- Own-account working; and - Home-based	- Electricity and running water	- Traveling in a suburban area was easy;	- A building was built in the premises	- Taking orders from within Chiang Rai and

Santal Lueng			and having a committee structure; and - Most work was up to the Chairperson.	working.	available; and - Convenient communication and transport	- The employers would send their work to the Group directly; and - Communication and sale within the province was occasionally carried out.	of the Chairperson's house; and - Members built their houses on own land.	other provinces; - Each piece of product earned at least 15 baht, or an average daily income of 100-150 baht.
9. Pearly-bead Embroidery and Crocheting: a lot of people engaging in the work	Clothes, furniture, and shoes	Scattered around the Municipality in groups of 2-5 people	- Not registered nor structured (only community members and groups of hilltribe people)	Home-based working.	- As an urban community, the electricity and running water was available; and - Convenient communication and transport.	Traveling was easy, thus most employers sent their work directly to the workers	- Building houses on own land; and – Slum community built on the Treasury Department's land	- Each piece of work earned 5-200 baht; or an average daily income of 50-60 baht

1. Organization

Based on the study of all the nine groups, the findings were as follows:

- 1.1 The government's promotion of the OTOP community organizations prompted community members to form themselves into groups. Seven groups under this study were registered with and supported by Chiang Rai Municipality and the NHA— additionally funding the Sewing Group of Ban San Tal Lueng—through their provision of occupational training. All these seven groups were loose grouping of HBWs, whose objectives were to get access to market and government resources. Though most of the groups' committees were also producers, certain differences still existed among these groups. The Mulberry Paper Production, Tea Pillow, and Food and Pork Processing Groups jointly produced and sold their products, thus the members realized how useful their grouping was. But the Food and Pork Processing Group was further differed. Its production and sale was a combination. Parts of group members jointly produced and sold their products while other parts would separately produce and brought their products to sell together. When there were trade fairs, the Group's Chairperson or the person assigned would take the Group's and his/her own products to sell on behalf of the Group or the community. Parts of the profits made would be kept as group fund or to pay the seller. The members sold their products on personal basis would have to pay 50 baht each time to the Group. These groups promoted savings, distribution of profits, and provision of loans and access to other agencies' welfare benefits for their members.
- 1.2 There was one group registering with labour agencies: The Sewing Group of Ban Sannong. The Group was loosely structured, with the aim of getting access to market and government resources. All activities were up to the Chairperson. Savings were not promoted. Neither was the benefits provided.
- 1.3 One group was not registered: The Pearly-bead Embroidery and Crocheting Group. It was consisted of groups of homeworkers scattering around the municipal areas, in which original community residents and migrant hilltribe people lived together. These people formed their grouping of 2-5 persons so that they could get continued access to employment. The employers would subcontract their work to a community leader, who would distribute the work to interested community members, whose grouping was not structure. Each of them produced their products on their own.

Taking into account all the nine registered and non-registered groups, it was found that these groups were loosely formed, unsteady, and lacking the capacity of a member-based organization (MBO). Their grouping had no clear objectives and direction; their members had no active participation in the groups' operation. Though the savings groups were set up in some areas, they were not well-established and their activities were not sustainable either. Each group's chairperson was often responsible for everything to the extent that the group meant only the chairperson. Sometimes, it was not possible to distinguish which was the chairperson's interest and which belonged to the group.

In addition, the group members were scattered and not formed into big grouping. They also earned their living by doing a combination of jobs. For instance, they worked as petty

commodity traders in the mornings and evenings and spent their daytime doing home-based work.

2. Production Mode

2.1 There were three types, as follows:

1) Own-account work: Two groups, the Mulberry Paper Production Group and Buddhist Monk's Robe Sewing Group;

2) Sub-contracted work: Three groups, the Pearly-bead Embroidery and Crocheting Group, Sewing Group of Sannong Community, and Sewing Group of Chiang Rai Municipality; and

3) Combined types of own-account and sub-contracted working: Four groups, the Tai Lue Weaving Group of Ban Huay Pla Kang, Tea Pillow Group, Sewing Group of Santal Lueng, and Food and Pork Processing Group.

2.2 Working Hours: Mostly, the workers needed to sit 4-10 hours to produce their products, as their wages were paid on a piecework basis. If the members were not too busy, they would carry on their production as long as possible. In the case of those with many responsibilities, sometimes they had to continue their production at home during the night.

2.3 Income: Common characteristics of almost all the nine HBW groups were low wages, uncertain employment—depending entirely on the employers, lacking bargaining power to negotiate for their wages, and lacking adequate revolving funds in the case of own-account working. The Mulberry Paper Production Group, a grouping of elderly people, and the Pearly-bead Embroidery and Crocheting Group earned the lowest income. The Mulberry Paper Production Group, all members would record their working hours with the group and get paid when their products were sold while the Pearly-bead Embroidery and Crocheting Group could earn an average daily income of 50-60 baht. The Food and Pork Processing Group workers could earn a reasonably good income of 150 baht a day.

2.4 Market Access: Apparently, the communities in the middle and inner areas could get better market access than those suburban communities. The government provided discontinuous support to every group, such as the provision of knowledge about product development and start-up funding for such groups as the Tea Pillow Group. But no support for market access was provided, thus all groups had to do their own marketing. The only support provided by the Municipality was making available the sale space for all groups at the government agencies' trade fairs, pedestrian-street market and municipal community product sales centers. The Mulberry Paper Production Group was an exception, as it could make very better sales of their products than other groups. This was because it was supported by the Municipality and promoted as a model for community production promotion, from which other agencies or organizations would come to study all the time.

The Pearly-bead Embroidery and Crocheting Group, particularly those consisting of hilltribe people migrating to live in the city so that their reception and delivery of work to the employers would be more convenient, was another group that

its hilltribe members could produce more products than the original community residents did.

2.5 Welfare Benefits: Seven groups had no clear and effective welfare system for their members. Even the savings activities promoted by the Food and Pork Processing Group, which provided loans for members, did not produce any concrete outcomes. Therefore, there have been no mutual welfare benefits provided by any groups, only the government's basic welfare, such as free medical treatment or the so-called cold card scheme that these groups helped facilitating for their members. As for the remaining two groups—the Sewing Group of Chiang Rai Municipality and Food and Pork Processing Group, their welfare benefits were supported by the non-governmental organization that funded the provision of public utilities and housing to the groups. At the same time, the groups had to participate in the savings and contribute to the funding as well. A member of the Buddhist Monk's Robe Sewing Group was given a free house by the Municipality because that person was poor but socially responsible for the public good.

In summary, most home-based workers in Chiang Rai had no employment security because their work and income were uncertain. Those living in the suburbs earned an average daily income of 50-60 baht whereas their counterparts in the center or inner city areas could earn an average daily income of about 50-100 baht (USD 10). The only social security they got was the government's free medical treatment. Access to information and state resources was inadequately available; for example only the Sewing Group of Santal Lueng was provided with sewing machines by the government while the Tai Lue Weaving Group of Ban Huay Pla Kang was entitled to sell its products at the municipal community product center, and the Tea Pillow and Food and Pork Processing Groups were entitled to sell their products at the pedestrian-street market or the trade fairs held by state agencies.

3. Housing and Communication & Transport

Housing was a major problem, faced by the HBWs scattered around the city in different manners, as follows:

3.1 Suburban Group: Take Sannong, Nong Pla Kang and Santal Lueng Communities for example. Being located in remote areas and built on own land, most community members had their own houses, except the migrant hilltribe people who still lived in rented houses. But their distant location made the transport inconvenient and difficult to get direct access to the sources of employment. So these community members had to be the second or third subcontractors, whose wages would be lower than those received by inner city workers. In addition, the higher expenses on travel and transport made this group of people choose to be homeworkers rather than engaging in own-account work.

3.2 Middle-of-the City Group: The Mulberry Paper Production and Tea Pillow Groups belonged to this group. Some HBWs had their houses built on own land while others had their housing built on state property land, thus getting rather easy access to the sources of employment and market.

3.3 Inner City Group: For the people living in the communities located in the inner city and had no land of their own, they had to build their houses on the state property land. Some of them have organized to solve the problem such as the Sewing Group of Chiang Rai Municipality and Food and Pork Processing Group joined hands in pushing for the operation of the Collective Housing Project so that they would improve their housing and environmental conditions in a more secure manner.

4. Infrastructure

In general, the HBWs living in the municipal areas could get access to electricity and running water. But those who lived in rented houses, such as the hilltribe people, might have to pay higher fees or flat rates often charged by the house owners, for electricity and running water than those who lived in their own houses.

5. Recommendations

The Project urgently needs to strengthen these groups of HBWs so that they acquire the capacity of a member-based organization that could better their economic status and quality of life to the extent that they can send their representatives to participate in the municipalities in the development of the HBWs. There are further group-specific issues to be taken care of, as follows:

- **Mulberry Paper Production Group** (of Ko Thong Community) is a grouping of elderly people, whose major aim is to lessen their loneliness rather than earning extra income for families. The Group has focused only on generating some supplementary income for the elderly and preserving local wisdom. Its community organization and activities have been promoted as a model for a variety of projects and won a lot of awards from government agencies. It should be provided with the information about medical services for the elderly. Their market access ought to be facilitated because they need a revolving fund to support its continued production, which will in turn boost its morale and continuation as an example for other communities. Its production should be developed and the product use diversified so that it can get a better and permanent market access.
- **Buddhist Monk's Robe Sewing Group** is a very active group though there are only three members left. Of the three members, two of them are widows while the other is burdened with an elderly husband and family responsibility. The temple is then obliged to support their income earning. But the Group has difficulty in buying higher-priced raw materials, which are hard to find whereas its market is too limited. Its production needs a lot of revolving fund, which will contribute to its continued production if such revolving fund will be sustainably secure.
- **Sewing Group of Sannong Community**, apart from the members' inborn health problems, the Group also has difficulty in strengthening its grouping. Furthermore, the Group needs to learn more about occupational health and safety to prevent work-related risks.
- **Sewing Group of Chiang Rai Municipality**, whose members have gradually resigned, has only a couple of them remaining with the Group. Other former members

work separately. For instance, the Sewing Group of Ban Phang Min has occasional and decreasing employment with such low wages that the workers cannot afford to accept. In addition, the members living in slum communities in the inner city area need to do other jobs simultaneously to earn higher daily income. So if the Group is helped to get access to the sources of employment, its members will be employed continuously and get fairer wages.

- **Tai Lue Weaving Group of Ban Huay Pla Kang** has most of its members living suburban areas more than any other groups under this study. The transport is inconvenient and the younger generation is not interested in continuing the production. Thus, the remaining members are responsible only for selling the products at the sales space provided by the Municipality. The management of the Group is up to one person. So, if the Group is well managed and can increase its production skills to produce salable products, it will be able to restore its viable operation.
- **Tea Pillow Group** is witnessing its work constantly decreasing. The costs of its raw materials bought from other provinces have gone higher while more producers make the competition more intense. This Group also needs to diversify its product use so that it can enlarge its market and have higher bargaining power to negotiate the prices of its products with wholesalers. Recently established, the Group still needs help with its group management, savings system, and provision of basic welfare benefits to strengthen its grouping.
- **Sewing Group of Santal Lueng's** occasional employment has continued to decrease and paid unacceptably low wages. As for the own-account work, the Group's Chairperson invests in the production to have the products sold to general buyers and government agencies. The Group's uncertain employment will be solved if the Group's members are helped to get a better market access and fairer wages. Also the Group should be informed of the occupational health and safety issues so that they can be protected from such health risk as cotton dust disease. Its group management and savings activities ought to be promoted to support its members.
- **Pearly-bead Embroidery and Crocheting Group** is a grouping of workers who can secure a lot of work. These HBWs consist of original community residents and migrant hilltribe people, who live in the inner city area and suburbs. This Group's work is subcontracted many times before it is given to its members. Those living in the suburbs get lower wages, which will be deducted 0.50-3 baht at certain points by the work's coordinators. Helping this Group's HBWs to have a better access to work will solve its lack of secure employment and fair wages. The HBWs' eyesight-related health should be protected and the hilltribe people should be organized to live with the original community residents.

Food and Pork Processing Group is the grouping whose member participation and structure is most clearly visible. Its savings activities can help the members to get reasonable access to external resources. But its lack of management skills needs to be addressed by promoting capacity building, providing training on management and product development skills, market access, and savings group development that will lead to the establishment of a welfare system.

Select the Target Groups of the Project’s Next Phase of Operation

Based on the findings of the study, the Project selected five own-account groups, taking into account their continued production and a reasonable number of members, as follows:

- 1. Mulberry Paper Production Group Ko Thong Community
- 2. Food and Pork Processing Group Ratchadet Damrong Community
- 3. Sewing Group Ban Santal Lueng
- 4. Tea Pillow Group Ko Loy Community
- 5. Buddhist Monk’s Robe Sewing Group Rob Wiang subdistrict, Muang district,
Chiang Rai

In the case of homemaker’s groups, it was found that there were two types of them: pearly-bead embroidery and crocheting and sewing. Moreover, their members were so few that some groups were one-family production. The Project, therefore, will work with these two types of workers in Ban Huay Pla Kang, Ban Santal Lueng and Ratchadet Damrong Community.

