

# **The Status of Buffalo Raising and the Socio-Economic Status of Buffalo-Raising Farmers in Southern Thailand: A Case Study at Bhan Khao Village, Ranode, Songkhla Province**

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## **Abstract**

This survey research was done from October 2005 to April 2006 to investigate the status of buffalo raising and the socio-economic status of the farmer who raise buffaloes, focusing on the farmers at Bhan Khoa Village, Ranode district of Songkhla province, southern Thailand. A Standard questionnaire was designed and prepared as a research tool for data collection. Interviewing the farmers was undertaken directly at the farmers' homes in 5 villages. Data were expressed as percentages. There were 2,116 heads of buffalo being raised by the 69 interviewed families (5.80%) in the survey area. Most of the families were medium sized consisting of 4 (28.99%) to 6 (15.94%) members/family. The husbands (71.01%) were the main person to take responsibility for the buffalo raising, and most (59.42%) had experience of greater than 10 years. The principal career of the buffalo holders was rice growers (84.06%) with income averaging 50,000 to 100,000 baht (1,000-2,000€)/year from their main career. Most of the farmers were more than 50 years old (57.97%) and most (84.06%) had obtained a highest educational qualification only at the primary level. The annual income derived from selling the buffalos of most of the farmers (81.16%) ranged from 10,000 to 50,000 baht (500-1,000€)/year. Only 4.35% earned more than 200,000 baht (4,000€)/year from selling buffaloes. The initial capital for investing in the buffalo was derived mostly (63.76%) from self-saved money. The main capital sources from outside organizations derived mostly (56.00%) from the Bank of Agriculture and Co-operatives. Some requests for government supports were an advice service from the officers of the livestock promotion and development department, better support for seeking markets, sire and dam service, and capital support. This research indicates that some subsidies from the government might be needed to help eliminate the poverty of the farmers in this survey area.

**Key word:** socio-economic status, buffalo raisin, southern Thailand