

# POLICY FRAMEWORK AND DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS FOR PROMOTING BEEF CATTLE PRODUCTION IN THAILAND

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**Abstract - the aims of paper were to advocate the development policy in which contributing for the sustainable of the productivities of beef cattle and living quality farmers. The studies were conducted through a number of workshops, with the participation by several of key stakeholders of beef production in the country. The information and the strategies intervention were 1) Strengthening the institutional capacity of various stakeholder that involving in beef cattle production system development, 2) Strengthening the capacity of land use systems and infrastructure throughout supply chain to be effectively services; 3) Strengthening the technical capacity in beef raising system and farmers livelihood improvement; 4) Strengthening the capacity to restoration and rehabilitation local ecosystem support the productivity and 5) Strengthening the risk management capacity in beef cattle raising in which those affect the loses and the collapsing of production system. These policies framework were the strategies to support the resilient in beef cattle production development in the country.**

**Keyword: beef cattle production, resilience development, policy framework.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

The declining trend in number of beef cattle in the country becomes critical to the supply chain and country economic. Therefore, the lack of clear direction of policy and adaptable capacity of farmers created the un-resiliency development system. Therefore, an increasing

of demand of high quality of beef in the country and demand of high quality of beef in neighboring country stimulated the productivity of high quality of beef cattle in the intensive system. As the reported by Skunmun et. al [1] reported that the declining of beef cattle were from mechanization, farmers' debt, lack of family labor, lack of grazing area, lack of breedable bull and attitude of young generation toward beef cattle raising. However, the phenomenon was also an opportunity of rural farmers to improve the productivity and income generation. The paper aims to reflect the development intervention for further advocating as policy framework as guideline to enhance the productivity of beef cattle and contribution to the poverty alleviation of people in the country.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The activities were conducted during the month of August 2012 to March 2013. The large number of stakeholder participated in the workshops. They were from government sector, private sector in beef cattle farming like companies and related suppliers, large-scale and small scale farmer's representative, beef cattle groups and cooperative, and animal science academic sector. The workshops were conducted in Sakon Nakhon, Mahasarakham, Khon Kaen Province. Funding supported by faculty of agriculture Khon Kaen University and the the beef cattle business opportunity expansion project, division of agriculture, Thailand Research Fund.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### *Current status of beef cattle raising in Thailand*

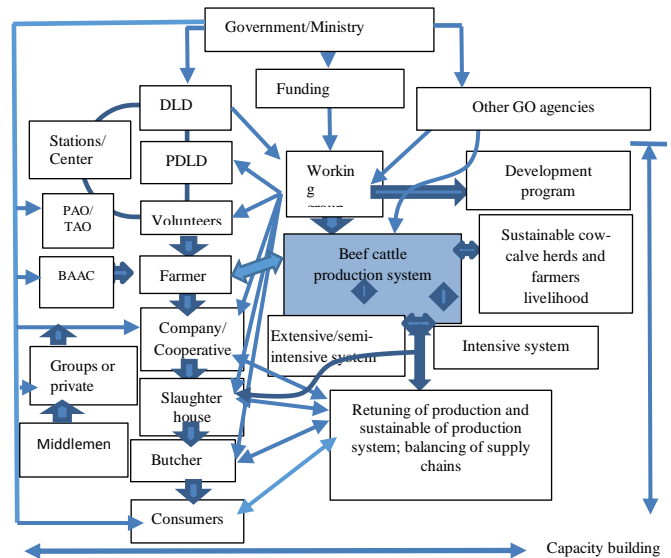
The number of beef cattle in the country had been declining dramatically at rate 8-10% of the total number annually. The current number is 4.4 million heads and raised by 764,668 farmer-households. A large proportion which is 50% of total beef cattle population and more than 50% of total farmers raised cattle were in the northeast [2], with approximately 2 kg consumption per caput per year [3]. The trend of beef supply was 64.1 %, 35.4% and 1.5% of total number of beef cattle supply for lower, mid and high market level [4]. The complexity of beef cattle supplying network influences by middlemen actor on the flow of the animal in the country and international in the ASEAN region.

#### *Conceptual framework for beef cattle production development*

Figure 1 illustrated that the summary of development framework for sustainable beef cattle production in the country. The government organization by the Department of Livestock Development (DLD), Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural cooperative has been underlining to establish a policy to mainstreaming to restore and to promote the expansion of farming and increasing in number of beef cattle. The goal was the sustainable of the productivities of and it contributing to the living quality of farmers improving. The objective was to strengthen the capacity of farmers, private sectors and government institution including Provincial Department of Livestock Development Office (PDLDO), local authorities like Provincial Authority Organization (PAO) and Tambon Authority Organization (TAO) in enhancing the productivity of beef cattle for sustainable development in the country. The sources of financial support could be from Bank of

Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperative (BAAC) and other microfinance institute in the community, etc.

Figure 1. Conceptual framework for sustainable beef cattle production system [5]



#### *Development interventions for sustainable beef cattle production*

The table 1 illustrated the relationship of the achievement of development goal, purposes and tangible outputs from development program implementation. It is illustrated that beef cattle raising is a subsystem among the other farmer's livelihood. Farming is an ecosystem management in which they support each other including humans. Food security on farm is crucial necessary and priority for daily living. Improving of beef cattle raising can be indirectly by promoting the diversifying of household's income generation for their sustainable livelihood. The short term income can be from non-agricultures and agriculture activities either on-farm or off-farm products. Farming ecosystem improvement should basically rely on with low external inputs systems in order to avoiding the high cost of purchasing which would avoid the shortage of cash and high cost of productivity.

Table 1. Logical framework for the development of beef cattle production intervention increasing

Goal: The sustainability of beef cattle productivities increasing and its contributing to the living quality of farmers improving.
Objective 1.-Strengthening the institutional capacity in good governance among stakeholders increasing Output:
1.1 Stakeholder collaboration networking establishment
1.2 Good governance institutional capacity increasing
1.3 Past experiences on farmers' capacity improvement
1.4 Collaboration to middlemen in the supply chains strengthen
1.5 Capacity of government officer in policy establishment improvement
Objective 2.-Strengthening capacity of infrastructure services and land use systems improving Output:
2.1 Transportation and communication network services capacity increasing
2.2 Strengthening the capacity of landless tenure and land-use pattern improving
2.3 Strengthening the utilization of existing slaughter house in the country
2.4 Butcher shop and retailing shop operated and services improving
2.5 Accessing capacity of farmers to government services for livestock development increasing
Objective 3.-Strengthening the technical capacity of beef raising system and farmers' livelihood improvement Output:
3.1 Micro-finance institute (MFI) and services intervention establishment
3.2 Farm feed resources supplying intervention improving
3.3 Reproductive performance of beef cattle and services intervention increasing
3.4 Number of good quality calves and cow-calves herd management intervention increasing
3.5 Steer and heifer growing performance intervention increasing
3.6 Beef cattle fattening interventions program increasing
3.7 Improving the intensification on beef cattle raising system with intensification based extensive, semi-intensive and intensive beef cattle raising system intervention
Objective 4.-Strengthening the restoration or rehabilitation of local ecosystem in supporting ability for beef cattle production capacity increasing. Output:
4.1 Increasing of soil and water conservation practices and improving of farm ecosystem
4.2 Rehabilitation and restoration of wetland ecosystem and natural water body
4.3 Improving of agro-forestry ecosystem and non-timber forest products conservation and utilization
Objective 5.-Strengthening the capacity of risk

management for beef cattle production intervention increasing Output:
5.1 Risk Knowledge Assessment intervention
5.2 Early warning system intervention
5.3 Mitigation and emergencies response strategies intervention
5.4 Recovery plan and subsidy budget allocation in beef cattle raising system strategies

### *Strategies for resilience of beef cattle production intervention*

The risk assessment became the necessary to undertake in order to understanding on risks factors that affect the declining and losses in number of beef cattle. The early warning system intervention is the system to provide the message to remind on hazards or risk factors will going to onset in the near future that might effect on losses or death of animal. Currently, government organization by the Department of Livestock Development established the early warning system in livestock diseases outbreak by allocated the communication from village, subdistrict, district, province, regional and central government office by establish manpower and its reporting function. Mitigation and emergencies response strategies intervention need to be establishment. It is clearly illustrated that productivities of beef cattle still lack of the mitigation measures to support and to prevent the negative factors affecting the declining and losses in number of cattle in the country. Whereas, the recovery in beef cattle raising system strategies aims to support and to subsidize farmers to restart the productivities via directly funding support and indirectly loan from revolving fund or microfinance for beef cattle raising in the case of any damaged or collapsed of the beef cattle herd in the future needed to be planned and allocated some budgeting.

### IV. CONCLUSION

The key elements were to build up the resilient development through the increasing of institutional capacity and strengthen technical capacity in application of Indigenous

Technical Knowledge in husbandry and animal science, socio-economic and local based ecosystem. The promotion focuses to support and to benefit all of beef cattle production systems, with emphasizing on increasing cow-calf-herd farmers management as the foundation to increase the beef cattle population in the long-run. The sustainable beef cattle production requires the diversifying income generation in the farmers' family and rehabilitation of natural resources and ecosystems. The accessible to infrastructure services such as transportation, communication and government services would enhance the accomplishment of development intervention. A better collaboration to beef cattle market actors including middlemen at all level would enhance the equity of market share beneficiary. Improving and establish the management capacity of slaughter house operation would increase the supply of high quality of beef in the country. The collapsed of husbandry system might from manmade or natural factors, or internal and weakness or external treat. The understanding in nature of risk would lead to establish the mitigation measures or preparedness plan to undertake in case of any emergency responded may need in order to prevent the losses of animal. All strategies needed to be addressed for future sustainable productivity of beef cattle increasing.

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