



# Course Outline

## Annual International Training Course

- 1. Course Title:** Empowering Communities for Inclusive Development through SEP for SDGs: Lessons from Community-Based Participatory Research and Community-Driven Development in Thai Isan Villages
- 2. Duration:** 15 Days, 1-15 May 2026
- 3. Background:**

In the wake of the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, commonly known as the Tom Yum Kung crisis, which originated in Thailand, the country was compelled to reassess its economic development model and reconsider its integration into the global economy. Prior to this, Thailand had already established the National Economic Council (NEC), later renamed the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) in 1959, and introduced its First Economic Development Plan in 1961, with technical and financial support from the World Bank. From that point onward, national economic policy primarily focused on industrialisation and global market integration, viewing trade as the engine of economic growth.

However, in the aftermath of the 1997 crisis, anti-capitalist and anti-globalisation sentiments surged nationwide, yet the plight of rural small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) remained largely unaddressed. Thailand's economic collapse was partly rooted in its ambitious bid to become the 'Fifth Economic Tiger of Asia', following the rapid growth trajectories of South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong during the 1980s and early 1990s, without sufficient consideration of the risks posed to rural Thai villages.

As part of the national response, His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) offered an alternative socioeconomic vision during his royal address on 4 December 1997. He urged the government and the people to adopt a more moderate and sustainable path to development—emphasising self-reliance and resilience, especially in rural communities.

In his address, His Majesty stated: “I have always said in meetings like this that becoming a 'tiger' (a powerful or fast-growing country) is not important. What is important is having an economy where we have enough to live on—self-sufficiency... Sufficiency also means moderation and reasonableness...”

This vision laid the foundation for the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), a distinctly Thai framework that promotes moderation, reasonableness, and resilience. These core principles are especially relevant for empowering rural populations, particularly in the Isan region of Northeastern Thailand, where development has long been shaped by local wisdom (ภูมิปัญญาท้องถิ่น) and local culture (วัฒนธรรมชุมชน). SEP aligns closely with the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), providing a holistic and culturally rooted approach to inclusive development.

This project builds on SEP as a guiding framework, integrating it with two complementary methodologies: Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and Community-Driven Development (CDD). These approaches effectively demonstrate how local wisdom and local culture can contribute to promoting sufficiency-oriented lifestyles and advancing Thailand's SDGs. They have shown success in enabling communities, particularly in Nakhon Phanom, Sakon Nakhon, and Ubon Ratchathani, to engage in evidence-based, inclusive, and sustainable development practices. The workshop will draw upon these methods to enhance participants' capacity to adopt similar approaches within their own national contexts.

Despite structural challenges such as hierarchical social norms and limited access to policy-making processes, many Thai communities have actively improved livelihoods, protected local resources, and advocated for more equitable governance. This project recognises that sustainable development must be community-led rather than externally imposed. By combining the participatory strengths of CBPR and CDD with the ethical foundation of SEP and the global vision of the SDGs, the initiative seeks to promote inclusive development led by those most directly affected.

A central feature of the workshop will be the introduction of the Baworn (บ้าน–วัด–โรงเรียน) model, a uniquely Thai approach to community development that integrates households (บ้าน, Ban), temples (วัด, Wat), and schools (โรงเรียน, Rongrean). Deeply embedded in Thai culture, this model is especially relevant in the Isan region, where these institutions serve as centres of moral guidance, knowledge sharing, and collective cooperation. The Baworn model complements CBPR and CDD by reinforcing trusted local structures that support collective decision-making, intergenerational learning, and social resilience.

It is important to note that Baworn should be understood not as a religious model, but rather as a recognition of the contribution of local institutions to sustainable, community-driven development. In the Thai context, temples (วัด, Wat) specifically refers to Buddhist temples. However, when applying this model in other countries, participants are encouraged to reinterpret it according to their own culturally relevant local institutions.

Field visits will allow participants to observe this model in action in selected provinces. Local stakeholders, including rural villagers, ethnic minority communities, community leaders, monks, local administrative organisations (LAs), schools, and civil society organisations (CSOs), will share insights into how collaborative frameworks like Baworn have enhanced civic engagement and sustainable practices.

Crucially, the workshop will also highlight the role of local wisdom scholars (ปราชญ์ชาวบ้าน) and community intellectual leaders (ผู้นำทางความคิดและแนวทางชุมชน), whose knowledge and lived experiences are central to both preserving traditional practices and addressing contemporary challenges.

By synthesising the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), the Baworn model, and participatory methodologies in research and development, this workshop provides TIGA participants with both practical tools and philosophical insights for community empowerment. It aims to deepen participants' understanding of how Thai villages have transformed development challenges into opportunities through locally driven, culturally grounded, and globally aligned strategies—ultimately contributing to the realisation of SEP for SDG.

### **Organization/Institution**

The Faculty of Political Science at Ubon Ratchathani University is located within Ubon Ratchathani Province, in the Northeastern (Isan) region of Thailand. This province shares borders with both Cambodia and Laos, placing it at a strategic point for regional cooperation and development along the East–West Economic Corridor (EWEC).

The Faculty has actively contributed to addressing critical regional challenges—including governance, human rights violations, education, human trafficking, environmental degradation, and public health—through academic research, community outreach, and policy engagement. Over the years, it has received support from, and collaborated with, both local and international institutions and donors such as the Thai Research Fund (TRF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union (EU), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Embassy of India. These partnerships have not only provided essential financial and technical support but also allowed the Faculty to benefit from global best practices in research and development programming.

Importantly, the Faculty recognises that it is not for academic institutions or researchers alone to determine what is most suitable for local communities. Rather, it places strong emphasis on amplifying community voices and ensuring that local perspectives inform both research and

intervention design. To this end, the Faculty has consistently engaged with local communities across Isan and the border regions, especially through community empowerment and participatory development initiatives.

This project builds upon such long-standing engagements. It is supported by a highly experienced team of academic staff and researchers with expertise in Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and Community-Driven Development (CDD) methodologies. Their practical experience in implementing inclusive, context-sensitive development strategies ensures that this project will not only contribute to academic and policy understanding, but also promote sustainable and resilient development outcomes for the communities involved.

#### **4. Objectives:**

This workshop aims to promote inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development by equipping participants with both practical skills and philosophical insights, grounded in Thailand's *Sufficiency Economy Philosophy* (SEP) and aligned with the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs). Since its introduction by His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, SEP has provided a viable alternative to conventional development models, especially by enhancing rural resilience and promoting self-reliance among marginalised communities.

Crucially, SEP is not intended to be imposed from above. Instead, this workshop highlights the importance of integrating *Community-Based Participatory Research* (CBPR) and *Community-Driven Development* (CDD) methodologies into SEP implementation. These participatory approaches more accurately reflect the needs and aspirations of rural communities, while also contributing to local empowerment, evidence-based policymaking, and the long-term sustainability of grassroots development initiatives, particularly across Isan or Northeastern Thailand.

A core component of the workshop is the introduction of the *Baworn* (บ้าน-วัด-โรงเรียน) model—an indigenous Thai approach to community development that links households (*ban*), temples (*wat*), and schools (*rongrean*) as foundational pillars of social cohesion. This model facilitates collaborative problem-solving by drawing on moral, educational, and social capital within the community.

The workshop is grounded in field-based learning at key sites including the *Puparn Royal Development Study Centre* and the *Third Royal Factory* in Tao Ngoi District, Sakon Nakhon. These Royal Projects exemplify the practical application of SEP through integrated, place-based strategies. Participants will also visit selected villages and surrounding communities in the

provinces of Nakhon Phanom, Sakon Nakhon, and Ubon Ratchathani, gaining direct exposure to best practices in sustainable agriculture, community enterprise, and knowledge-sharing rooted in local wisdom and local culture.

### **Specific Objectives of the Workshop**

- To deepen participants' understanding of Thailand's *Sufficiency Economy Philosophy* (SEP) as a locally rooted yet globally relevant development framework focused on resilience, moderation, and sustainability;
- To provide hands-on learning of CBPR and CDD methodologies, with a focus on their practical application in rural communities in Northeastern Thailand;
- To introduce the culturally embedded Baworn model, which links households, temples, and schools as collaborative pillars of inclusive, community-driven development—emphasising its focus on locally relevant institutions that support community empowerment and sustainability, and highlighting its adaptability for application in diverse global contexts regardless of differences in political systems, cultural heritage, or religious beliefs.;
- To highlight the contributions of *local wisdom scholars* (ปราชญ์ชาวบ้าน) and grassroots intellectuals in preserving traditional knowledge, strengthening community agency, and promoting local innovation;
- To enable both Thai and international participants to explore how Thai approaches to participatory, place-based development can be contextualised and adapted to their own societies, in alignment with the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) through the lens of *Sufficiency Economy Philosophy* (SEP).

## **5. Course Contents:**

### **Day 1: Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

This module introduces the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), focusing on its development from a royal initiative into a central pillar of Thailand's national development framework. It examines how SEP has been embedded in rural development policies to strengthen the capacities of local communities and promote inclusive, sustainable growth.

The session also explores the alignment between SEP and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through lectures and discussions, participants will engage with SEP's core principles—moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity—and examine how these principles are applied in Thailand's policy-making and implementation.

In addition, the module considers the relevance of SEP beyond Thailand, particularly within the context of the Greater Mekong Subregion, laying the groundwork for practical insights and applications to be explored in later modules

In remembrance of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother of Thailand, who passed away on 24 October 2025, the workshop will highlight case studies on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy in Ubon Ratchathani Province and Sakon Nakhon Province, with particular reference to Her Majesty's role and contributions in promoting sustainable rural development.

In Ubon Ratchathani, the workshop will introduce the Sufficiency Economy Project implemented by the Royal Thai Army, examining the correlation between Buddhist principles

and the philosophy of sufficiency economy, as Buddhist teachings form one of its main ideological foundations. The Royal Initiative for Developing Security in the Dong Na Tam Forest Area, Ubon Ratchathani Province, operates under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother, and aims to promote sustainable livelihoods and environmental stewardship among local communities.

This section also explores the conceptual foundations and theoretical frameworks underpinning the Royal Thai Army's involvement in improving the sustainable quality of life for villagers through this initiative. In particular, the work is directed by General Pichate Wisaijorn, who has played a pivotal role in two key areas: the promotion of natural agricultural practices, and the conservation of community environments. Fieldwork was conducted at Ban Chad Village, Nam Taeng Sub-district, Si Mueang Mai District, Ubon Ratchathani Province, including the surrounding areas of Na Tam Forest.

## **Day 2: Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)**

This module introduces Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) as both a methodology and a mindset, emphasising the importance of equal collaboration between academic researchers and local communities in addressing grassroots challenges.

In many cases, rural communities feel excluded from development research projects that directly affect their livelihoods. This module highlights the significance of CBPR as a mechanism for reflecting and amplifying the voices of local communities, which is essential for promoting grassroots participation and supporting community-driven development initiatives.

Through expert lectures and interactive workshops, participants will explore the inclusive nature of CBPR, its role in empowering communities, and the ethical considerations involved in participatory research. Students will also engage in hands-on activities to design mock research questions and develop community engagement strategies, drawing on real-life development scenarios from Northeastern Thailand.

### **Day 3: Community-Driven Development (CDD)**

This module explores Community-Driven Development (CDD) as a mechanism for empowering communities to shape their own futures and ensure the long-term sustainability of development initiatives.

Experiences from many villages in Isan (Northeastern Thailand) have shown that when communities play a leading role, development projects are more responsive to local needs and more likely to be sustained over time. CDD enables communities not only to articulate their priorities but also to take ownership of the implementation and management processes.

Lectures will present both conceptual frameworks and practical tools, focusing on how CDD promotes local autonomy, accountability, and sustainability. Through real-world examples from rural communities, participants will examine how local actors identify development goals, mobilise resources, and collaborate with both state and non-state stakeholders.

The module will also compare and contrast CDD with Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR), highlighting the differences as well as the potential synergies between these two community-centred approaches.

### **Day 4: Understanding Local Contexts and Preparing for Fieldwork**

As participants will be expected to design their own development projects by the end of the training, it is essential to prepare them for immersive field experiences. This workshop introduces the social, cultural, economic, and governance structures of the target communities in Isan (Northeastern Thailand), equipping participants with the contextual understanding necessary for meaningful and ethical engagement.

The session also addresses the purpose and ethics of fieldwork, with a focus on intercultural communication, practical logistics, and the promotion of business ethics, cultural understanding,



and human rights sensitivity. Participants will reflect on the values and responsibilities required for working with rural communities, especially those with limited access to policymaking and resources.

Additionally, the session examines the role of the Royal Development Projects within the broader context of Thailand's emergence as a regional donor. Participants will explore how these projects, rooted in the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), have influenced community-based development both within Thailand and in neighbouring countries such as Lao PDR.

## **Background of Fieldwork Locations**

### **1. Ubon Ratchathani**

Ubon Ratchathani is one of the largest provinces in Thailand and shares borders with both Lao PDR and Cambodia, making it strategically significant in cross-border cooperation and development. Known for its rich cultural heritage and diverse ethnic communities, Ubon has played a leading role in promoting community-based development, often guided by SEP and supported by both civil society and academic institutions such as Ubon Ratchathani University. The province is also home to vibrant grassroots movements and progressive local governance practices, making it an ideal location for studying participatory development.

### **2. Sakon Nakhon**

Sakon Nakhon is located in the upper Northeastern region and is widely recognised for its Royal Development Projects, particularly the Puparn Royal Development Study Centre and the Third Royal Factory in Tao Ngoi District. These sites serve as national models for the integration of agriculture, environmental conservation, and rural innovation under the SEP framework. The province is also known for its deep-rooted Buddhist traditions and strong networks of local wisdom scholars (ปราชญ์ชาวบ้าน), whose contributions to sustainable development and knowledge sharing are invaluable.

### **3. Nakhon Phanom**

Nakhon Phanom, situated along the Mekong River, plays a key role in transboundary development, especially along the East–West Economic Corridor (EWEC). The province is noted for its multi-ethnic composition, including Lao, Phu Thai, and Vietnamese communities, and serves as a model for cross-cultural cooperation and borderland development. It is also home to successful community enterprises and organic farming initiatives that demonstrate the practical application of SEP and participatory governance in marginalised rural settings.

### **Day 5: Travel and Cultural Reflection**

On this travel day, participants will journey to Sakon Nakhon, marking the beginning of their cultural engagement and field-based learning experience. The day includes a series of guided cultural activities and structured reflection sessions, designed to help participants begin connecting the theoretical insights gained in earlier modules with the lived realities and socio-cultural dynamics of the region.

Facilitators will lead interactive exercises that encourage critical observation, ethical awareness, and cultural sensitivity. Emphasis is placed on understanding local norms, belief systems, and ways of life as essential foundations for respectful and effective community engagement during fieldwork.

### **Day 6: Field Visit – Phu Phan Royal Development Study Centre**

This module brings participants to the Phu Phan Royal Development Study Centre in Sakon Nakhon Province, offering the opportunity to observe integrated rural development models in practice under the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP). Participants will explore how royal projects combine agriculture, forestry, community enterprises, and local innovation to promote sustainable livelihoods and community resilience.

A contextual lecture will accompany the visit, highlighting comparative development approaches between Thailand and Lao PDR, with a focus on how Thailand's experience has influenced regional rural development policies and practices.

### **Phu Phan Royal Development Study Centre**

Established in 1984 in Ban Na Nok Kao, Sakon Nakhon Province, the Phu Phan Royal Development Study Centre was created to support surrounding communities by promoting family-based industrial occupations. Initially targeting 22 villages, the Centre collaborates with the Industrial Support Centre Region 5 and the Department of Industrial Promotion to encourage villagers to use their time productively, engaging in small-scale industrial activities that address household needs and generate supplementary income.

The Centre conducts community surveys, identifies target villages, and provides training, production support, and market access. Its objectives include advancing agricultural technology, conserving forests, promoting economic crops, and supporting agriculture, livestock, and fisheries. It also aims to become Asia's leading natural museum of a sufficiency lifestyle, serving as a hub for community learning and sustainable tourism.

The Centre's mission includes: Researching context-appropriate development methods; Transferring practical knowledge to communities; Promoting integrated, cross-sectoral collaboration; Supporting grassroots sustainability in alignment with His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's development philosophy.

### **The Third Royal Factory, Tao Ngoi District**

Established in 1982, the Third Royal Factory in Tao Ngoi, Sakon Nakhon, was launched following His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's visit in 1980 to Na Ngoi Pon Pla Loh village, where he observed severe poverty and deprivation. In response, His Majesty instructed H.R.H. Chakaphanpensiri Chakapan and Professor Amorn Bhumirat to initiate a development project to improve living conditions and promote sustainable livelihoods.

Located in a former Communist insurgency zone, the project extended to three other villages—Huay Huad, Guan Bun, and Kok Klang. The factory, modelled after two earlier Royal Factories, initially produced concentrated tomato juice, making it Thailand's first processed tomato product plant. This led to the emergence of a "Tomato Belt" along the Kong River, covering more than 23,000 rai.

Following this success, the factory expanded to include baby corn processing for domestic and export markets. Additional developments included the establishment of a Children's Nutrition

Centre, health services, groundwater wells, and agricultural support schemes, significantly enhancing livelihoods in the region.

By 2010, due to ageing equipment, H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn instructed the Crown Property Bureau to upgrade the factory. It resumed operations in 2012, with modernised production technology, continuing its role in strengthening rural development and food security in the region.

### **Day 7: Field Visit – Sakon Nakhon**

Participants will visit two villages in Sakon Nakhon to observe how communities apply traditional knowledge and promote sustainable livelihoods, demonstrating principles of Community-Driven Development (CDD) and sustainable agriculture.

In the morning, the group will visit the Khok Kong Potato Growers Group in Khok Kong Subdistrict, a collective of 97 farmers cultivating 574 rai. Founded in 2002, this group is unique in Sakon Nakhon for its potato production and contract farming model with Pepsi-Cola (Thai) Trading Co., Ltd., which guarantees the purchase of 100 per cent of their harvest. Potatoes are planted after the rice harvest (October–November) and harvested from January to March, yielding an average of 3,090 kg per rai. In 2024 the total group income exceeded 10 million THB, and plans are underway to expand to 600 rai in 2025. With access to high-quality seed potatoes, fertilisers, pesticides, and technical advice, the group exemplifies market-led agricultural development aligned with community-driven principles.

In the afternoon, participants will visit Ban Bua, Kut Bak Subdistrict, and engage with the Inpaeng Network (เครือข่ายอินแปง)—a key component of the wider Indigo Network. Established in 1990, Inpaeng is driven by the principle “wisdom before money”, focusing on organic farming, traditional indigo dyeing, and the restoration of native biodiversity. The network has reintroduced indigenous species and established a seed-saving bank, helping to regenerate forest ecosystems across the Phu Phan region and surrounding provinces such as Nakhon Phanom, Mukdahan, Kalasin, and Udon Thani. Inpaeng also promotes women’s empowerment through the production and marketing of cultural crafts, integrating ecological knowledge with sustainable livelihoods.

These two visits provide complementary models of grassroots development—one centered on contract agriculture and market integration, the other on agro-ecology and cultural revitalisation—highlighting how local wisdom, community organisation, and sustainable practices can build resilience in northeastern Thailand.

### **Day 8: Travel to Nakhon Phanom**

The course continues with a visit to Renu Nakhon District, where participants explore two ethnic community enterprises: the Lao U liquor and the marigold dye project. These initiatives illustrate how cultural heritage and local wisdom intersect with rural innovation and economic empowerment.

Facilitators will lead discussions on value-added production, cultural identity, and community branding within ethnic minority contexts.

Lao U: The Local Liquor of Renu Nakhon and the Cultural Heritage of the Phu Thai People

Lao U (เหล้าอุ), also known as Renu Nakhon Jar Liquor (เหล้าไหเรณูนคร), is a traditional rice-based spirit deeply rooted in the cultural heritage of the Phu Thai ethnic group in Renu Nakhon District, Nakhon Phanom Province.

Originating from indigenous knowledge systems, Lao U is recognised as part of Thailand’s local wisdom under national education and development policies, and has been actively promoted since the introduction of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP).

Brewed from glutinous rice, local herbs, and a native fermentation starter called luk pang (ลูกแป้งพื้นเมือง), Lao U has a distinctive rich flavour. Beyond being a beverage, it holds significant cultural importance in spiritual rituals, ancestral worship, Heet Khong (traditional cultural practices), ram wong (folk dance gatherings), and as a gesture of hospitality.

The production process reflects the traditional knowledge of the Phu Thai people, from ingredient selection to fermentation techniques, passed down through generations. This practice embodies strong cultural identity and fosters community pride.

In recent years, Lao U has been developed as a community product aligned with Thailand’s grassroots economic promotion policies. While maintaining its cultural authenticity, it has received legal certification and national recognition as a 5-star OTOP (One Tambon One

Product) item. Lao U thus stands as a symbol of cultural capital, indigenous wisdom, and the enduring heritage of the Phu Thai people of Renu Nakhon.

### **Day 9: Community Learning Exchange**

Participants will engage in cultural exchange and collaborative learning at Wat Phra That Phanom and the marigold dye enterprise, both active sites of local-university partnerships.

As a major pilgrimage site attracting many Buddhists who come to pay respect and pray at Phra That Phanom, the marigold dye enterprise plays a dual role: it helps reduce floral waste from the temple while generating additional income for local communities.

Through site visits and group discussions, participants will reflect on the dynamic relationship between cultural heritage, economic development, and academic engagement.

The day concludes with travel back to Ubon Ratchathani.

### **Day 10: SEP and the SDGs in Practice**

Building on the field visits to Renu Nakhon and That Phanom, this module offers a reflective and in-depth exploration of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) through practical case studies.

Participants will analyse how communities in these areas have adapted SEP principles to address both cultural and economic development challenges. The Lao U liquor enterprise and marigold dye project in Renu Nakhon showcase the integration of traditional knowledge with value-added production and community branding, promoting cultural pride alongside economic empowerment.

At That Phanom, the relationship between religious pilgrimage and local economic activities—such as managing floral waste sustainably through the marigold dye enterprise—illustrates how cultural heritage supports resilient and inclusive development.

The module also revisits the Sakon Nakhon Royal Project as an example of policy adaptation at the regional level, linking national frameworks with local realities.

Through lectures and group discussions, participants critically engage with the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on resilience, community participation, and effective policy-community linkages.

This reflective session encourages participants to synthesise their field experiences and explore how SEP and the SDGs can be operationalised in diverse rural contexts to foster sustainable, inclusive development.

### **Day 11: CDD Community Site Visits in Ubon Ratchathani**

Participants will visit selected villages that are implementing Community-Driven Development (CDD) initiatives to gain firsthand insights into how local communities employ participatory planning and self-management to enhance their livelihoods.

Facilitators will guide participants through various community-led projects, demonstrating how trust, leadership, and collective action form the foundation for sustainable change. The site visits include:

#### **Ban Daeng Reed Mat Weaving Group, Ban Daeng Subdistrict, Ubon Ratchathani**

This community enterprise has been active since 1990, initiated by local women in Ban Daeng who began weaving mats from native reeds (known as kork) to generate income. Now managed by the Women's Development Group of Ban Daeng, the enterprise covers all villages within the subdistrict. The mats are distinctive for their red fabric trim and reflect the integration of local resources and traditional weaving knowledge. Recognised as a five-star OTOP product, this enterprise provides both supplementary and primary income for many households in the community.

#### **Ban Bua Thoeng Community Learning Centre, Tha Chang Subdistrict, Sawang Wirawong District, Ubon Ratchathani**

This centre is a model site for learning about the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), integrated agriculture, and agro-ecotourism. As one of the five community-based SEP learning centres supported by the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC), it offers structured agro-tourism experiences, including visits to integrated farming plots and participatory

learning activities. The centre also features Don Pu Ta, a protected community forest conserved by local residents. With homestay services available for overnight visitors, the Ban Bua Thoeng initiative showcases community-based sustainability practices aligned with SEP principles.

### **Day 12: CBPR Community Site Visits in Ubon Ratchathani**

In remembrance of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother of Thailand, who passed away on 24 October 2025, the workshop will highlight case studies on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy in Ubon Ratchathani Province and Sakon Nakhon Province, with particular reference to Her Majesty's role and contributions in promoting sustainable rural development. In Ubon Ratchathani, participants will be introduced to the Sufficiency Economy Project implemented by the Royal Thai Army, which examines the correlation between Buddhist principles and the philosophy of sufficiency economy, as Buddhist teachings form one of its main ideological foundations. The Royal Initiative for Developing Security in the Dong Na Tam Forest Area operates under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, aiming to promote sustainable livelihoods and environmental stewardship among local communities. This initiative is directed by General Pichate Wisaijorn, who has played a pivotal role in promoting natural agricultural practices and conserving community environments. Fieldwork will be conducted at Ban Chad Village, Nam Taeng Sub-district, Si Mueang Mai District, including the surrounding areas of Na Tam Forest, providing participants with firsthand experience of how the royal initiatives enhance sustainable rural development and improve the quality of life for villagers.

Participants will also visit the Samrong Subdistrict Water User Group in Ban Non Sala, Pho Sai District, which was established by Village Headman Mr. Samai Laoma. This group plays a key role in the sustainable management of local water resources in the Northeastern Mekong Basin. Its activities include forest conservation, firebreak creation, check dam construction, and seasonal fish release during the spawning period. The group strengthens the local economy by supporting income-generating activities such as fish farming and processing, including fermented fish, sun-dried fish, and smoked fish. It promotes fair trade through collective fish selling and offers skills development programmes for informal workers and low-income



villagers. This visit will highlight community-based water resource management, local conservation and forest protection initiatives, fishery-related economic activities, value-added processing, and the development of alternative livelihoods.

The workshop will further include a visit to the Cultural Tourism Management Group in Khemarat District, which focuses on integrating cultural heritage into sustainable development. Working collaboratively across government, private, and community sectors, the group fosters creative economic activities through the promotion of local products, including OTOP, heritage preservation, and cultural learning. Key activities include cultural learning through traditional morning almsgiving, historical and cultural walking tours in the old town district, local craft and food production such as natural fabric dyeing, fermented pork in leaves, and dried bananas, as well as community-led cultural events and the weekend walking street market. This visit will provide insights into creative economic activities, heritage preservation, community-based tourism, and hands-on cultural learning, demonstrating how cultural heritage can be leveraged for sustainable local development.

### **Day 13: Reflection and Project Development**

Drawing on experiences from the field study in Sakon Nakhon, Nakhon Phanom, and Ubon Ratchathani, participants critically reflect on how Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR), Community-Driven Development (CDD), and the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) intersect in practice. A facilitated workshop guides small groups in developing project proposals that integrate insights gained from working with local communities. These projects aim to address real-world challenges through inclusive, participatory, and context-sensitive approaches, grounded in the socio-political dynamics observed during the field study.

### **Day 14: Project Presentations and Closing Ceremony**

In this final academic session, participants will present their group projects and receive constructive feedback from facilitators and commentators.

The day culminates in a formal closing dinner and certificate ceremony at Chanhom Restaurant, celebrating academic achievement and cross-cultural collaboration.

### **Day 15: Cultural Visit**

To conclude the programme, participants will embark on a cultural and natural exploration of Pha Taem and Sam Phan Bok.

This excursion reinforces the course's emphasis on place-based learning, encouraging participants to appreciate the interconnectedness of environment, heritage, and sustainable development within the Mekong region.

Observations and experiences from the visits will inform subsequent analysis and contribute to the development of participants' group projects.

## **6. Participants' Criteria:**

Applicants must fulfill the following requirements:

- **Nomination:** Must be officially nominated by their respective governments or relevant institutions.
- **Education:** Possess at least a bachelor's degree in a relevant field such as political science, development studies, public administration, international relations, sociology, economics, or related disciplines.
- **Language Proficiency:** Demonstrated proficiency in English, including speaking, reading, and writing skills, sufficient to actively engage in discussions and activities throughout the programme.
- **Community Engagement:** Have a proven background in community work, including involvement in grassroots initiatives, local development projects, civil society activities, or public sector programmes focused on social inclusion, participatory development, or community empowerment.

## **7. Attendance and Evaluation**

Participants are expected to attend all modules and field activities, with a minimum attendance requirement of 80% to successfully complete the training. Active engagement during workshops, discussions, and site visits is essential and will be monitored throughout the programme. Evaluation criteria include real-time class attendance,

interactive participation, the quality of presentations and reports, and overall performance in assessments. Participants who meet these requirements will be awarded a certificate of completion. Constructive feedback will be provided to support ongoing learning and development.

- 8. Venue:** The primary venue for the workshop will be Ubon Ratchathani, with activities conducted at local community sites, development centres, and academic institutions within the province. Field visits will also take place in Sakon Nakhon and Nakhon Phanom to provide participants with broader regional exposure.

## **9. Expected Results:**

Participants will develop a comprehensive understanding of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR), and Community-Driven Development (CDD) methodologies within rural Thai contexts. They will acquire practical skills to design inclusive and culturally sensitive development projects aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme encourages cross-cultural exchange and enhances participants' capacity to adapt and apply these approaches effectively in their own communities, supporting sustainable and resilient development.

## **10. Organization/ Institution:**

**Implementing Agency:** Faculty of Political Science, Ubon Ratchathani University  
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## **11. Expenditure/Funding:**

Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)  
Government Complex, Building B (South Zone), 8th Floor,  
Chaengwattana Rd. Laksi District, Bangkok 10210 THAILAND  
Website: <https://tica-thaigov.mfa.go.th/en/index>  
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## Schedule for the Training Programme:

### Empowering Communities for Inclusive Development through SEP for SDGs: Lessons from Community-Based Participatory Research and Community-Driven Development in Thai Isan Villages

Date / Period	Time (Thailand time)	Content	Speaker(s)	Note
<b>Day 1</b>	09:00–12:00	Lecture and Seminar: Evolution of SEP and its interpretation in Thai society	Dr. Titipol Phakdeewanich	
	13:00–16:00	Lecture and Seminar: Applying SEP and the SDGs in Thailand and Greater Mekong Subregion	Dr. Titipol Phakdeewanich	
<b>Day 2</b>	09:00–12:00	Lecture and Seminar: Introduction to CBPR	Dr. Kingkarn Sumnuanyen	
	13:00–16:00	Workshop: Practical Applications of CBPR	Dr. Pissamai Srinat	
<b>Day 3</b>	08:00–12:00	Lecture and Seminar: Introduction to CDD	Dr. Kanjana Kumsap	
	13:00–16:00	Lecture and Seminar: Principles and Practices of CDD	Dr. Kanjana Kumsap	
<b>Day 4</b>	09:00–15:00	Workshop and Lecture & Seminar: Community Context and Fieldwork Preparation (history, culture, economy, governance, ethics, logistics)	Dr. Titipol Phakdeewanich, Dr. Kingkarn Sumnuanyen, Dr. Pissamai Srinat, Dr. Siriporn Jantanasakulwong, Dr. Thanache Visajorn	
<b>Day 5</b>	–	Facilitated Session: Cultural Exposure and Reflection Activities in Sakon Nakhon	Dr. Thanache Visajorn	

<b>Day 6</b>	09:00–12:00	Lecture and Seminar: Development Approaches in Thailand and Lao PDR	Mr. Sorarat Pavarinyanont	Director, Puparn Royal Development Study Centre
	13:00–16:00	Site Visit: Integrated Royal Projects at Puparn Centre	Veterinarian, Senior Professional Level.	
<b>Day 7</b>	09:00–12:00	Local Facilitation: Visit to Khok Kong Potato Growers Group	Representative of Potato Farmers Group	Khok Kong Sub-district, Sakon Nakhon
	13:00–16:00	Local Facilitation: Visit to Indigo Network, Ban Bua	Mr. Lek Kudwongkaew, Chairman of Inpaeng Network	Kut Bak Subdistrict, Sakon Nakhon
<b>Day 8</b>	13:00–16:00	Lecture and Site Visit: Marigold Dye Project and Ethnic Community Enterprise	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kachakorn Dechakamphu	Nakhon Phanom Province
<b>Day 9</b>	09:00–12:00	Site Visit: Lao-U Liquor Enterprise and Wat Phra That Phanom	Representative of Community Liquor Enterprise	Nakhon Phanom
	Afternoon	Travel back to Ubon Ratchathani	–	
<b>Day 10</b>	09:00–12:00	Lecture and Seminar and Workshop: Case Study of Sakon Nakhon Royal Project	Dr. Titipol Phakdeewanich, Dr. Kingkarn Sumnuanyen, Dr. Pissamai Srinat, Dr. Siriporn Jantanasakulwong	
	13:00–16:00	Lecture and Seminar: Case Study of Community Engagement in Nakhon Phanom	Same as above	
<b>Day 11</b>	09:00–12:00	Local Facilitation: Visit to Women's Agricultural Weaving Group, Ban Daeng	Ms. Sida Phithaksa, Chairperson of Women's Committee	Ubon Ratchathani

	13:00–16:00	Local Facilitation: Visit to Ban Bua Thoeng Homestay and Agricultural Tourism	Mr. Prasit Boonkaew, Mayor of Tha Chang Sub-district	Ubon Ratchathani
<b>Day 12</b>	09:00–12:00	Local Facilitation: Visit to Samrong Water User Organisation	Mr. Samai Laoma, Chairman of Water User Organisation	Ubon Ratchathani
	13:00–16:00	Local Facilitation: Visit to Khemarat Cultural Management Group	Representative of Khemarat Cultural Group	Ubon Ratchathani
<b>Day 13</b>	09:00–12:00	Workshop: Reflection on CBPR and CDD	Dr. Titipol Phakdeewanich, Dr. Kingkarn Sumnuanyen, Dr. Pissamai Srinate, Dr. Siriporn Jantanasakulwong	
	13:00–16:00	Workshop: Project Writing	Dr. Titipol Phakdeewanich, Dr. Kingkarn Sumnuanyen, Dr. Pissamai Srinate, Dr. Siriporn Jantanasakulwong	
<b>Day 14</b>	09:00–12:00	Participant Project Presentations and Feedback	Assoc. Prof. Kanchana Thongtua, Dr. Kanjana Kumsap, Dr. Wasin Komut, Dr. Titipol Phakdeewanich	
	13:00–16:00	Continuation of Project Presentations and Feedback	Dr. Titipol Phakdeewanich, Dr. Kingkarn Sumnuanyen, Dr. Pissamai Srinate, Dr. Siriporn Jantanasakulwong	
	Evening	Closing Dinner and Certificate Ceremony	–	Location : Chanho m Restaura nt
<b>Day 15</b>	–	Cultural Visit: Trip to Pha Taem and Sam Phan Bok	–	
<b>Day 16</b>	–	Travel / Departure	–	

