

Abstract

This research aims to 1) study the development of land tenure and land use in Special Economic Zones [SEZ] 2) to understand the impacts and future outcome of the Special Economic Zone, and 3) to develop a model of participatory border land governance which recognizes fairness in land management. The study was conducted in the Mukdahan Special Economic Zone, a case of Don Tan District, Mukdahan province. Documentary study, in-depth interview and focus group discussion are applied in this research.

It was found that that Don Tan district has many ethnic groups such as Phu Tai, Ka Leueng groups. Most of the people work in agriculture and fisheries along the Mekong River. Most landowners hold land title deeds. The average land area per person is 3.4 rai. Mukdahan Special Economic-Development Zone has stimulated more expensive land. However, since Don Tan was not the main strategic location, the impact on land conversion is less. For Don Tan, it could be the bottom-up model of SEZ to sustainable development. This study suggest that to building participatory border land governance, the local governments should be involved in policymaking. The SEZ should regard to sustainable land management. Securing land ownership for the local people is need. The government should promote land use by taking local capital into account. It also requires promotes the opening of the checkpoint for Border Trade and strengthening border trade which is consistent with the production and development of the land.

Keywords: Good governance, land, Participation, Spcial Economic Zone, Mukdahan