National Security and Neo-Colonialism
The Case of Farmland Management in Thailand

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Abstract

The research of "National Security and Neo-Colonialism The Case of Farmland Management in Thailand" study aimed to: 1) seek knowledge about the process of foreign investors wishing to invest in farmlands of the country and related factors, and trends from 1987 until the present, Including to the impact upon and adaptation required by Thai farmers; 2) seek knowledge about the management of agricultural lands (farmland) in the People's Republic of China for comparison, and finding an appropriate pattern for Thai farmers in area management; and 3) devise methods of appropriate area management with the appropriately.

This research focuses on 3 areas: Pra Nakhon Sri Ayudhya, Suphan Buri and Nakhon Pathom. In these areas the majority of the population are farmers who have been affected by the development of the country since the year 1961. The government has announced plans to develop the economic and social development strategy that fully supports the expansion of the capitalist economic system. The capitalist economic system has infiltrated into the area quickly, bringing economic, political and socio-cultural change causing farmers to lose possessions because of leasing and/or purchasing by foreign investors.

The research methodology used is quantitative and qualitative, consisting of collecting basic information about the overview of the defined fields in social, economic and social-cultural dimensions, collecting the related statistical data, making observations, conducting in-depth interviews, and studying traditions and culture by sorting the primary data into five categories. These are: 1) investors leasing/purchasing the agricultural land of Thai farmers 2) government officers 3) businessmen associated with rice farming 4) the local communities, and 5) farmers. This research study depends on comparing the management of agricultural land (farmland) of the People's Republic of China with that of Thailand, and finding a pattern of farmland management appropriate to the social context of Thailand.
Rationale and Background

The development of Thailand in the past five decades has focused on economic capitalism that creates wealth and income for the country. The capitalist model of economic growth is important and focuses on the operation of all sectors. With balanced and sustainable development and an abundance of natural resources and environmental factors that lend support to national development, all dimensions of need to be protected from long-term neglect. The result of a loss of social equilibrium could result in the country's natural resources and environment being degraded to crisis point. Risks include a loss of biodiversity and damage to habitats, agricultural areas and occupations of the communities in affected areas. Effects on the agricultural production base can threaten the security of food and energy, and the general quality of life. (Office of National Economic and Social Development, 2010: 1).

From 1977 to the present, the economic situation of Thailand has been affected by development following the National Economic and Social Development Plan (1957), which Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat based on the guidelines of the World Bank. Thailand focused on developing the country by modernizing like a western country (Westernization), trying to change from an agricultural lifestyle to an industrial one. As an indicator of life value, the government tried to spread the advance of the development of infrastructure, particularly with regard to transportation, with such slogans as "the water flows, the fire is bright, the way is good, there is work does".

Modern agricultural development, countryside development and city development are given as reasons for building dams which focus mainly on the production of electricity. Between 1977 and 1987, Thailand’s economic continued to focus on development following a western pattern. For example, in early 1977, the government of Mr. Tanin Kraivixien passed the investment Act 1977 which was conducive to foreign investment and responded to the growth of the bourgeoisie. Additionally, the Thai economy was still associated with the global economy (capitalism), in both its positive and negative aspects, with the goal of achieving a high growth rate in order to create wealth, which is in part allocated to the elite and allowed, following growth of output, to splash onto the lower social classes. This was seen as a means of maintaining peace and order of society (Bello et al, 1999: 81).

The economic growth factor of the World Bank’s International Development plan from 1960 to 1970 was to accelerate the transition to industrialization and increase production for import substitution. The multinational corporations were left outside the
development process. International companies depended on the development process and got benefits from collaboration with the internal market and a group of local capitalists. However, the problem for the market was small size, and there were several crises in 1983 and 1984 affecting oil, agricultural commodities prices and debt between countries. This allowed the government to adjust its strategy by reducing costs to attract foreign investors and permitting the migration of foreign manufacturing industry into the country. This was clearly observed in 1990, but Thailand was the only production base to export to Japan and so was integrated into the regional economy (Bello et al, 1999 : 82-85).

Since the government of General Prem Tinsulanonda, and the early growth of the capitalist system coincided with the Thai society’s need to become part of the global movement called "globalization" (globalization), or making unique cross-border areas, specific aspects of business have focused on the model "of capitalism", in which the business system is the same throughout the world, and changing rapidly under the influence of technology and communications.

On the one hand, globalization offer more wide open trade and develops wealth, but, on the other, the Thai economy has moved apart from the world's largest multi-national businesses, which are based on international finance (Chai-Anan Samudavanija, 1995, and Seksan Prasertkul, 2005).

Unbalanced growth is taking place in the agricultural sector compared with the growth of industry which gains from the losses of the agricultural sector. That result is degradation of the environment, depression of agriculture, a worsening of income distribution, and economic weakness because of exposure to external developments resulting from global capitalism (Bello, Cunningham and Paul, 1999 : 32-38).

Western style capitalism and development on the base of the structure of this regime has impacted on cultural concerns. The infrastructure focus on production and industry affects the local people disadvantageously, so that they must sell land or do it by default. Thailand was affected by the "development" into a modern society that took place during the years of capitalism (Sri Sak Vallipodom, 1999 : 162-191).

Decades after 1977, farmers are still affected by the development which took place when Thailand’s economy began to grow along with foreign investment and the development of the export industry (Pasuk Pongpajj and Chris Baker, 2003).

The country’s development needed to place emphasis on the growth of industry by the extraction of resources to support growth. As a result, the local people are weak and
backward. Farmers do not receive a fair distribution of income (Sanae Jammarik, 1985: 61-70), burdening the lives of farmers with more debt, resulting in the loss of more territory (Luther, 1978).

Since 1987, the state's loss of land has been stimulated by the booming business of dealing with the land. Capital flows and leads to the purchase of land in rural areas across all sectors to support the expansion of industries and services (Utai Dulyakasem, 1989: 14). In addition to the land lost by the owner legally (de jure), farmers are also losing land de facto (de facto) so that the farmer owns the land under the law, but does not truly control its use in production. For example, in the case of farmers and land mortgage, the mortgagee shall have his land rented at a cheap price, or on conditions that will require the mortgagee to sell the crops, etc. (Hirsch, 1990: 94-97 and Wittayakorn Chiengkul, 1983: 10).

Loss of land is a phenomenon that occurs when a society's production provision is infiltrated by capitalist means of production. The farmer uses it as the main economic relation beyond the economic power of the workers. The authority is dominated by ideological consciousness and there is no turnover, and no private property. The phenomenon of the loss of land does not occur. However, production generated by capitalism is available for sale. Factors related to production will depend on private ownership, in the hands of capitalists. Funds are used increasingly in manufacturing employment. Exploitation of workers can be seen in various forms as traditional farmers are driven off the land or fall into a labor contract.

Thai rice farmers are having a difficult time because as land decreases there is price volatility. Faced with climate variability, the high cost of doing business will result in a loss, as because of the excess of liabilities, farmers will be forced to sell land to pay their debts. Income will be very low, not enough to earn a living. Poor farmers will be forced to sell land to Thai investors who bid higher than the market price of agricultural labor to capitalists and their representatives. The remaining farmers who own land in Thailand are only 15 percent (National Defence College, 2009: 47-48).

The country’s development is a result of the above and impacts on many sectors of the national economy in many dimensions, affecting specially people who were farmers, a large group in this country. Such conditions affect the development of the industry as a whole. The country has been opened to foreign investors in the age of globalization, under the pretext of their being a need to make a modern state. The disadvantages of proletariat oppression in the industry include a lack of genuine devotion to the growth of the agriculture
industry, the impact on culture, and the cost of the infrastructure of the capitalist mode of production and industry. Local people are at a disadvantage in the sale of land, faced with the power of a consortium. Currently, it seems that the problem is intensifying. Because of integrated industrial development, encroachment into the possession of farmland increases, affecting even the rate of population increase. Consumer behavior has changed, with concerns arising about food, particularly in countries with a large population. Landless people enter into lease agreements, or try to purchase a little agricultural land in the country in order to have food security. The result is that the country becomes “foreign” because of the lease/purchase of agricultural land, especially rice farming land.

The experts of National Defense reported that the purchase or lease to Thai farmers has been proceeding for years. There are many laws that protect foreigners who wish to acquire land, with advice being given by many law firms and hundreds of consulting companies. The ratio of foreigners holding 49 percent and Thai citizens holding 51 per cent has been affected by employees of law firms being responsible for the holdings in more than 600 companies.

In the case of individuals, there is use of the form of marriage with a Thai. The poor people have no knowledge of the law, and sign powers of attorney for lawyers to act on behalf of foreigners. A contract with a company or individual, set at a low price, can run for a period of 30 years and then be renewable for another 30 years. Such behavior is not illegal, especially with regard to farming in Thailand. (The WPA Brains., 2009 : 48).

The Association of Thai farmers were led to purchase land from farmers, mainly in the central region such as Suphan Buri, Nakhon Pathom, Ayutthaya Nat Sing Buri, all important Thai rice growing areas in “the Rice Bowl of Thailand”.

In the district of Lopburi, there has been the illegal transfer of registered Indians. In Bang Lane, Nakhon Pathom Province, there have been illegal transfers of agricultural land of 500 acres at 4,000 baht per rai for up to 10 years, compared with the normal price of 2,000 baht per rai.

In the Sam Chuk district of Suphan Buri, Taiwanese have illegally stopped rice farming.

In Nakhonnayok. There are brokers, capitalists and politicians, who have made foreign investment in contracts for rice growing areas of up to 1600 hectares (Bangkok Post, 2552: 1,10).
A similar situation has been found in the provinces of Uthai Thani, and in Kamphaeng Phet’s Wang Noi district. The aim has been to coordinate foreign venture capitalists in Thailand who wish to buy rice growing land in the central region. Up to about 300,000 or 400,000 acres are in Suphan Buri and Chai Nat, and in the northern areas, such as Chiang Rai, and the north-east, about 100,000 acres at first. The capitalists have used the method of rent and compensation to owners of agricultural land, using a figure of about $ 5,000 per acre per year or more "(Bangkok Post, 2009 : 1,10).

The purchase or lease agricultural land occurs in modern societies in virtually every corner of the world. This activity is driven by food security concerns resulting from increasing demand and insufficient capacity to supply human consumption, especially as consumption habits are changing. However, Thailand is an agricultural country with its own important factors as country with a foundation of agricultural production. Thailand has great potential in agriculture, especially, rice cultivation and cereal crops. The terrain is suitable, in particular, the Chao Phraya river basin, where the government invested in irrigation systems. It is of interest to groups of Thai and foreign investors who rush to buy the land, often avoiding the law. Collusion with Thai partners, both in the form of individuals and entities, and "spouses," hamper the effort to farm the land. It is modern colonialism. There is a change in the pattern of colonization of the territory, affecting its sovereignty as well. It is invasive. Loss of sovereignty in the occupied agricultural areas, “Agro-Colonization”, is a new form of colonialism, “Neo-Colonialism”.

About this issue, Leahy (2009,1-2) said Thailand was "going through the holding of the land" or "competition in the possession of land" across the country, by foreign companies and governments. The basic fact is that the country is rich in natural resources, with fertile land, water and sunlight, leading to the creation of food. Fuel comes from poor countries and is delivered Thailand. It is a model of the dynamics of a new form of colonialism (Leahy, 2009: 1-2).

A warning from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. (FAO), indicated that a food crisis could pose a risk to the new colonial system as now importing countries included China, Saudi Arabia, India and the United Arab Emirates. The Murray House reports finds that these countries are trying to find land abroad for growing food crops in order to create food security for their own countries, in regions such as Africa and Asia. The risk is that the agreements result in a new colonialism, with the import of materials that do not add value to local manufacturers, as well as the problem of agricultural workers
working under conditions that are unacceptable because of the activities of financial investors and large food companies. Foreigners are looking for opportunities to invest in intensive agriculture in the country (Financial Times, 2008: 1-2).

However, for Thailand, the survey also researches into the methods of completing the purchase / lease agricultural of land to foreigners. There is a brief analysis by the journalists and academics, who focus on the negative concerns of farmers in Thailand. This is just a very short section if you consider the importance of the situation in the context of the whole country.

The security and economic situations of the world are likely to increase the lease/purchase of agricultural land, especially, in the areas where production is found to be higher, if there is no thorough investigation of the system. There is no management plan to deal with the matter properly, in both the short and long run. Thailand is believed to have been colonized, and may become a colonial agricultural country with financial power completely invested in land / paddy field. For this reason, it should be seen as necessary to study in order to guide towards a management plan. Applied correctly, with errors or omissions avoided, and focusing on this single issue, a plan might reduce damage or serious impact on national security in the near future.

This research aims to seek knowledge about the factors, including trends in foreign investment in Thai rice farms, and the impact on Thai farmers and their adaptation to the situation. Understanding such processes will help the development process, and assist in the preservation of security of life. National security aspects require the management to be successful, and to understand the facts of the phenomena and use them appropriately.

**The objective of the research**

The study has defined the objectives of this research is composed of three different ways

1. Quest for knowledge about the process of foreign investors to invest in the area. Since 1987, Thai farmers to the present decade and the factors involved in the process as well as likely to occur in the future and the impact and adaptation of farmers, farmers in Thailand

2. Quest for knowledge about the management of agricultural land in the People's Republic of China. To compare a model to manage agricultural land (paddy) of Thai farmers properly

3. Approaches to the management of Thai farmlands resources in consistent manner
Proposition research

In this study, the researcher has a problem with such studies in four respects

1) How does the process for foreign investors to invest in Thailand? What are the factors involved? As well as likely to occur in the future will be in either direction?

2) When there are two of the farmers to invest in Thailand that affect the careers of a few farmers, farmers in Thailand. How does the adaptation of a farmer?

3) The People's Republic of China's has reform agricultural areas and open farmland to foreign investors in the area. Therefore there able to manage as systematic manner and how does China’ farmlands management? For comparing and finding the suitable pattern agricultural farmland management of Thai farmers

4) The period of incoming foreign investment in Thailand, Thailand will have a appropriate ways to management?

This research about a new form of colonialism in the management of the farmers which is not directly relevant. In this work, consider the context of the study is important because the research field is interesting and the dynamics of the impact of the entry of foreign investors in the political, economic, and social and may be expanded to other areas or other countries about investing in property or in the farmers by foreign investors

The scope of research

Areas of study

This research study has been limited research in the areas of education research at three locations: farmland in the province of Pranakhonsri Ayudhya, Suphan Buri and Nakhon Pathom province where the majorities of the populations are farmers and have been affected by the development of the country by the year 1961. The government has announced 1st plans to develop the economic and social development strategy that supports the expansion of the capitalist economic system fully. The capitalist economic system infiltrate into the area quickly including the economic, political and socio-cultural more change that effect to loss of possession of the farmers because of leasing and/or purchasing of foreign investors and more achieve higher. This resulted in loss of possession of the peasants to come. In these areas it appears from the report of the National Defence College and the Association of Thai farmers as a foreign land lease / purchase and with the expectation that the trend is upward. The study will buy and sell or lease agricultural land (paddy) by foreign companies since the 1987-2011
war, and more likely to occur. Impacts and adaptation, including peasant farmers. The study will compare the area management in the People's Republic of China

The body of data

This research methodology use both quantitative and qualitative research to cover the objectives as follows:

Quantitative (Quantitative Research): the study was conducted to gather statistical information with quantitative data to investigate the area and do statistic database of lease/purchase of farmers in Thailand by foreigners since 1987 to the present

Quality (Qualitative Research): this research analyzes the economic, political and social culture of the Thai farmers in the areas with a depiction (Descriptive Analysis) by using to study the core infrastructure. And link to the political system and culture. And then the study focused on the concrete and followed by a study of the dynamics of the region's economy, social and cultural environment of the area. Considered to be affected by external factors which are more dominating globalization and includes economic regime, multinational capitalism, political and social culture

The research is focusing on seeks the truth of the social phenomenon of farmers in three provinces by field observations, in-depth interviews and join the tradition and culture (Field work: Observation, In-depth Interview, and Cultural Participation). Point to search on the phenomenon, entering into lease/purchase of foreign, impacts and the adaptation of Thai farmers in the areas by study and survey the knowledge from news, articles and books. The related research (if any), give an important to the various forms of media and photo processing, electronic media and websites for use to analysis and explanation, combined with interviews highly qualified people and/or Thai authorities who involved with the management of Thai farmers to find suitable ways by policy to management in Thailand

Prior to the field, researcher studied documents from various sources, both form of publications such as textbooks, journals, research reports, the media, electronic media, especially research related to the lease / purchase agricultural land by foreigners in worldwide. Include related concepts to a new form of colonialism, national security and foreign investors, management of agricultural land in some countries as a case study

Next, we use three types of interviews, structured interviews. Semi-structured interview and interview was not structured in advance and application of three such
interviews, as appropriate to the circumstances which architectural dynamics, such as structured interviews. Firstly phase of the field, in order to seek general information to include age, family, marital status, occupation, nationality, etc. And when they are very familiar between local people and researcher or the atmosphere of familiarity and confidence up, researchers will use two types of interviews that follow. Because two types of interviews is informal interview rather than the first. So in order to obtain information necessary for in-depth research needs to determine whether or when it became clear that the data obtained from the interviews are not covered adequately and evenly

In addition, overview information about all field: the social, economic and socio-cultural dimensions

**The key informants**

In this study. Researchers divided the type of key informants in the field willing to delve into five main categories of topics.

1. The group of investors to invest lease / purchase of agricultural land to farmers in Thailand.
   - The Thai
   - A foreigner

2. Public officials.
   - Directly related to the issuance of the policy
   - A worker in the area

   - Association of Thai farmers
   - The Association of Rice
   - Provincial Chamber of Commerce
   - Provincial Council

4. The local community
   - Wise people
   - Community leaders
   - Local authorities

5. A group of farmers
   - Who were farmers at present
   - Who are going to rent To investors
- The sale or lease of such an investment

The researchers also used participation and involvement in research. In particularly, daily activities and interactions in the context of community rituals such as the home, school, market, company, public places, etc

However, this study may have threats on the primary data because of the rush to buy or lease farmland, especially, the areas of the country. The foreigners have not been disclosed publicly, widely regarded as new to society. It is contrary to law. Thus, access to information or to interview key informants from both groups and five categories is extremely difficult and challenging. The researcher must have art and ways to obtain more subtle information.

The concept of theory and research methodology

Research of “National Security and Neo-Colonialism The Case of Farmland Management in Thailand” uses an interdisciplinary analysis described interpret phenomena into lease/purchase of a foreigners tend to impact and adaptation of farmers in Thailand as a base figure support the theory. The researchers used theoretical Marxism/Neo Marxism, the theory of Black Swan and the World System as the base figure to describe the phenomenon changes the nature of the holdings of the phenomenon into the holdings of foreign appearance devising a new form of colonialism for social and cultural anthropology that is the science of analyzing the Legal Anthropology in monitoring policies along with the Capital Green and Critical Moral Anthropology in order to seek a solution-oriented policies properly in management of Thai agricultural lands.

The main goal of this study has six points about the process. 1) Incoming foreign investment in Thailand 2) to explore factors associated with the process. 3) In order to predict future trends. 4) To processing about effects of processes to Thai farmers. 5) To track the direction of Thai farmers, and 6) to propose appropriate management in agriculture. The research process is follows.

1. To survey and collect information

1.1 The study surveyed the status of knowledge from books, articles, research papers and electronic media of all types which associated with the purchase/lease in areas in Thailand by foreign investors, policies/laws related to the management of and the issues with the lease / purchase of land.

1.2 The theoretical ideas used in the study. Including research and education related to investing in agricultural land by foreigners both English and foreign languages.
2. The analysis and synthesis

2.1 Analysis research papers, books, articles about the lease/purchase of foreigners and to explore the concept and status of knowledge of the researcher and others who have studied the issue

2.2 Analysis of economic, political and social life of farmers in the study area

2.3 Analysis of lease/purchase that of Thailand's foreign

2.4 Policy analysis and management of agricultural land (paddy) in Thailand and the People's Republic of China. And a suitable model for the management of agricultural land (paddy) that the appropriate

2.5 Overview of research synthesis for proposing policy solution

The output expected from the research

1) Research is new knowledge, gives insight and understanding into the process of foreign investment in Thailand and the factors involved in the process that predict the likely occurrence of such phenomena which impact and the adaptation of Thai farmers

2) Research is a comparative research to understand the development of agricultural areas and management of agricultural land (paddy), a new plan to adapt to globalization, to lean against and the expansion of opportunities of the People's Republic of China.

3) Research is a policy research and give form of management that is appropriate to the context of the Thai nation and risk management plans based on forecasts of emerging trends.

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