

Abstract

The prime goal of Phase III (2017-2021) Strategic Plan of Highland Research and Development Institute (HRDI) is quality of livelihood, environment and self-reliance of highland communities through appropriate application of the Royal Project knowledge, indigenous knowledge and sufficiency economy. The Study of Stage of Community Development in Highlands aims to develop a set of indicators guided by the sufficiency economy to assess the stage of community development in highlands. Initially, the indicators were modified from the 26 indicators developed by the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) derived from the lesson learn in 40 villages in 2008. Then the indicators were further designed in 3 stages comprising of initial stage covering food security of individual and household (30 scores), advance stage that expands to wellbeing of collective groups and environment (40 scores) and networking stage that incorporates collaboration of different groups within community and with other entities beyond (30 scores). The total score reflects degree of community development A=90, B1=80, B2=70, C1=60 and C2=50. First round of indicators testing was conducted in 3 pilot highland communities.

Keywords: sufficiency economy, social immunity, highland

