

CHAPTER 8

CONCLUSION, DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTION

The research on process to develop the learning network for increasing the potential of golden dried longan small and micro community enterprise groups in Lamphun province by having objectives to study the way and method to develop network of golden dried longan community enterprises with the participation from the group members , to study factors contribute to process of developing learning network of golden dried longan community enterprise groups in Lamphun province, and to study outputs and impacts of developmental process of learning network of golden dried longan community enterprises in Lamphun province with the participation from the group members.

In this research, the researcher applied participatory action research (PAR) which is a qualitative research to stipulate development of learning process of the research team both in the levels of small group and community enterprise networks. The researcher attempted to study participatory process on developing learning process of community enterprise groups by emphasizing on participation from every party concerned regardless of commissions and members of golden dried longan community enterprise groups, the core research team, community leaders, local administrative organizations, government sections and associated organizations which shall take part in every process. The scope of research was done from concepts, theories and related research. Then the core research team took a field of study by using integrated tools such as interview, in-depth interview, observation, focus group discussion, the forum, training, educational trip, exhibition of workshop and product. The learning development of community enterprise network and research process was followed-up until acquiring complete data according to its objectives. The data gained both primary and secondary sources was evaluated by descriptive analysis in order to answer the objectives of the research, and to make reference with concepts, theories and related researches. The results of the research can be concluded and discussed as follows:

8.1 The Summary of Research Findings

In subject to this research, the research findings can be summarized as follow:

1) The Situation and Progress of Learning Network of Golden Dried Longan Small and Micro Community Enterprise Groups in Lamphun Province

The community enterprise is a unification of at least 7 persons who apply for registration under Community Enterprise Promotion Act, B.E. 2005. Lamphun province has community enterprises which applied for registration before wrapping up the registration application due 31 December 2008 totaling 924 enterprises. Within the said amount, there are 88 community enterprises which do processing golden dried longan separating in every district (Lamphun Department of Agricultural Extension, 2007). They have in possession of longan dryer. From the brainstorm regarding “Golden Dried longan...Alternative and survival” on 28 July 2007 of Lamphun department of agricultural extension, it found that none of few community enterprises whose production and marketing reflected problems. From the potential evaluation of golden dried longan community enterprises. It found that there were groups which reflected good, medium and need-to-improve operations. It also found that newly established group or need-to-improve groups were loosely assembled occasionally to solve internal problems, exchange knowledge and do activities together. They also have unclear task assignment. The adjusting group or medium group were assembled to do activities together and had clear management structure but they were in stage of revision of rules, regulations, and communication between leaders of each group. And the strong group or good-levelled group has clear management structure, clear task assignment, consecutive activities, rules, regulations and benefit sharing.

Even though the government would lunched a measurement to support golden dried longan community enterprise groups for just only 2 years, quite a number of community enterprises, which had its members transferred from agricultural housewife group and occupational promotion group in Lamphun province, had the experience in this field for almost 10 years - they had specific skills and proficiency in

systematically improving golden dried longan and also various production method. Some groups were able to upgrade to an advanced level; their products were qualified Food and Drug Standard, Good Manufacturing Practice, Thai Community Product Standard, developed packaging, as well as providing market and distributing channel creating income with the group. They can be self-dependent by relying on local raw materials, resources and wisdom. This group, being considered as Best Practice which has own alternatives and survival, should be set as a model from which other groups can obtain knowledge. While there were more than 100 groups of golden dried longan community enterprises which were established to wait for benefits or funds from the government. They lacked of knowledge, proficiency and production skills. They were also in need of experience in group management. Considering from the trend, if these need-to-improve groups are not developed, they may affect other similar groups and produce failure-like-domino. In the meantime, there are many groups which are ready to improve their production and group management to be self-dependent in the future. Therefore, develop learning network between the Best Practice group and struggling groups is a way to create potential and strength. Participation and group process would lead to the expected outcomes according to the objectives. Besides, determining mutual objectives will in a way promote potential of golden dried longan processing to its almost benefit.

2) Development Process of the Learning Network of Golden Dried Longan Small and Micro Community Enterprise Groups

Accoding to chapter 5, the developmental process of the learning network of the golden dried longan small and community enterprise groups cab be concluded as the Figure 58

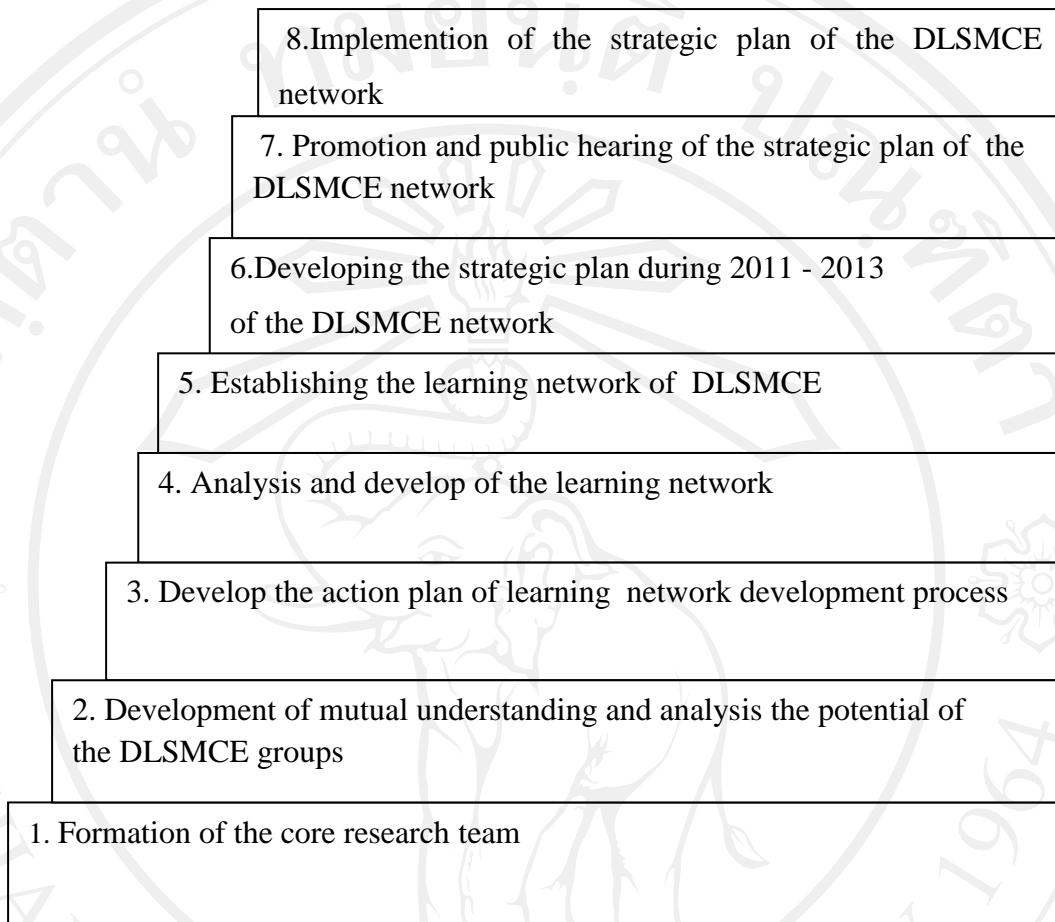


Figure 58 Development process of the learning network of DLSMCE

3) **The Output, Outcome and Impact of Developmental Process of the Learning Network of Golden Dried Longan Small and Micro Community Enterprise Groups**

According to chapter 6, The output, outcome and impact of developmental process of learning network of golden dried longan small and micro community enterprise groups can be concluded as Figure 59, as follow:

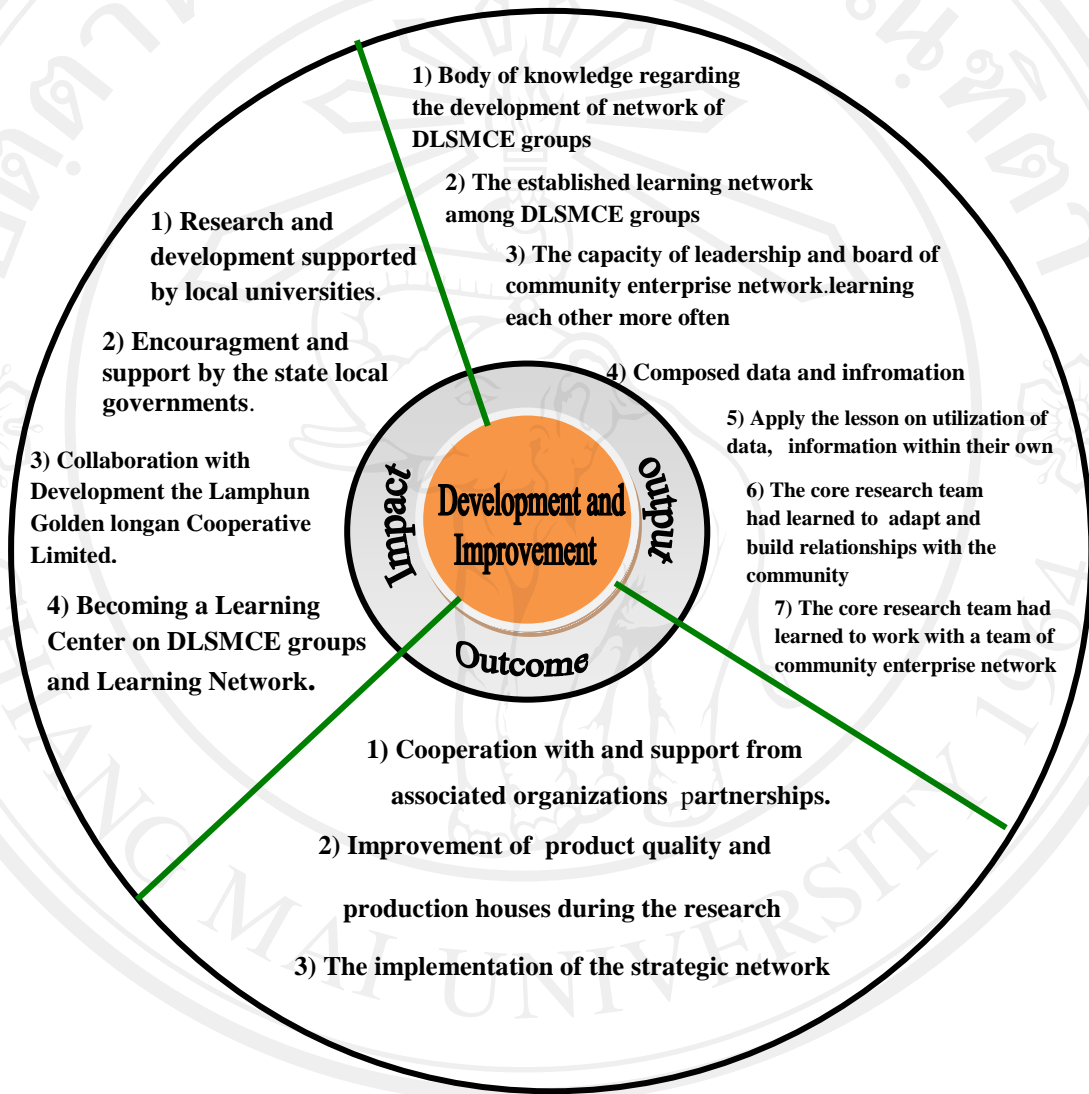


Figure 59 The Output, Outcome and Impact of developmental process of learning network of DLSMCE groups

4) Factors Contribute to the Development Process of the Learning Network of Golden Dried Longan Small and Micro Community Enterprise Groups in Lamphun Province

It is important to note that there are many factors contribute to the developmental process of the learning network of golden dried longan small and micro community enterprise groups which can be concluded as Figure 60

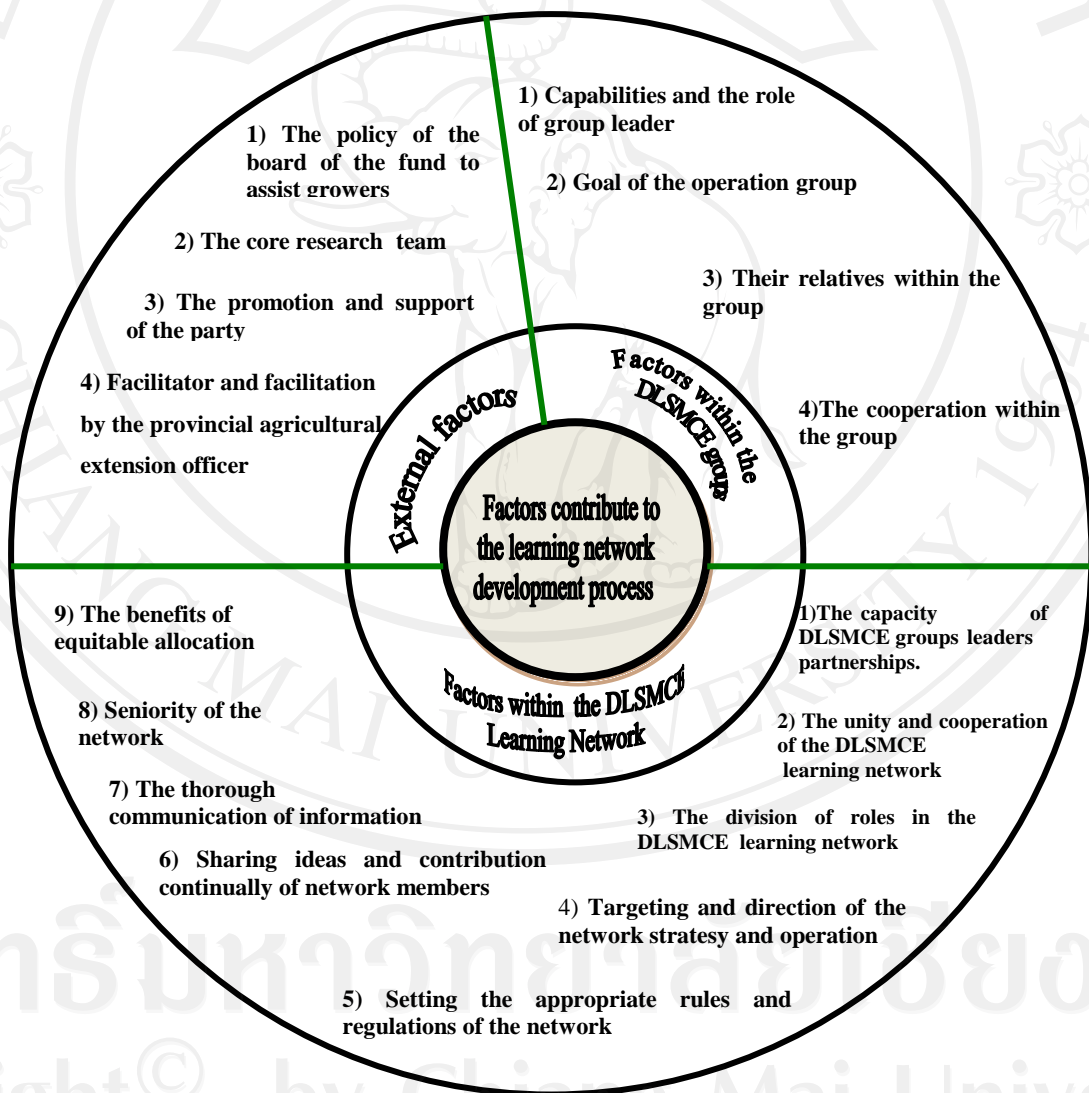


Figure 60 Factors contribute to the development process of the learning network of DSLMCE groups

8.2 Discussion of Research Findings

From the research on developmental process to increase potential of golden dried longan small and micro community enterprise groups in Lamphun province, it can be discussed under the following scope of research:

8.2.1 Development Process of the Learning Network

In summary of this research, golden dried logan community enterprises in Lamphun are scattered in every district, mostly in Muang Lamphun district, having groups which reflected need-to-improve medium and good operations, assembled as golden dried longan small and micro community enterprise groups in Lamphun province to exchange knowledge. In an aspect of Vasri (1995) , classify the learning network by social unit has been divided by 4 levels: individual level, group level, community level and institute level. According to Kagpinit (2001), community resource is the important component leading to knowledge exchange and learning between cooperated organizations or members of the network. Each community-based organization may have different resources which can be brought for an exchange or management with other organizations.

In corresponding with Invang (2003), he stated that the heart of learning network is a life-time learning that should start from participations of individual, organization and community in realizing the problems and creating atmosphere facilitating to learning and experience enhancement, and sharing information until learning is promoted. In this research network development refers to exchanging the process of knowledge among the members of the small and micro community enterprise groups of dried longan group. This learning process causes the learning organizations for increasing the potential of small and micro community enterprise groups of dried longan in Lamphun province. It is a lifelong learning which can start from the citizen participation, organizations and community who aware of the problems and create a learning climate which is beneficially conducive for experience learning and communication of information.

From the potential evaluation of golden dried longan community enterprises. It found that there were groups which reflected good, medium and need-to-improve

operations. It also found that newly established group or need-to-improve groups were loosely assembled occasionally to solve internal problems, exchange knowledge and do activities together. They also have unclear task assignment. The adjusting group or medium group were assembled to do activities together and had clear management structure but they were in stage of revision of rules, regulations, and communication between leaders of each group. And the strong group or good-levelled group has clear management structure, clear task assignment, consecutive activities, rules, regulations and benefit sharing. In addition, in view of Jitgongitsin (2004), he interestingly added that learning network is a systematization and development of learning resource which refer to organizations, entrepreneurs, information center and local wisdom to the extent that they are connected and create a knowledge hub between one another or interesting person who shall obtain knowledge and skills regarding occupation, social, economic, technology, religion, culture and art that are already existed and developed in such communities, districts or provinces. Therefore, in conclusion, learning network means dissemination, connection or exchange of knowledge between individual or group of people continuously and widely by having different system and learning approach according to the need of the networked individual. Consequently, Krumjit (1993), raised an tangible idea about learning network that it is like scattng pictures connected by lines and creating a center. These lines mean connection and relation which contain interaction, exchange of information, tools, foods or service (transaction) between individual and group of individual within the network; it can be divided into zones which determine boundaries of each network.

8.2.2 Facilitator and Facilitation process

The facilitator and knowledgeable people might be the same person or whoever performs the mentioned similar duties. Implicitly, actual leaning process could integrate with the way people live because the facilitators or knowledgeable people were accepted and given respect by people in the community; they pass on knowledge within the community via process conforming to the need of people. In conclusion, learning process must cling to the network as a primary foundation and the host must be consisted of different personnel. The knowledge then is passed onto the learners or receivers in accordance with the nature of their relationship. And the

receiver shall pass knowledge onto others, creating wide learning network. The core research team consists of agricultural extension worker in the community and leader of the network. According to Community Enterprise and Small and Micro Community Enterprise Development Act, 2005, it referred to the Department of Agricultural Extension as the center of operation for supporting the community enterprise. The duty is to certify the status of community enterprise and network and be the Secretariat Office of Community Enterprise Promotion Board which will be followed up then by Agricultural Extension Office or District Agricultural Office who have 3 parts of duty: 1) To be the agency for Enterprise Registration / cancellation / stop the business 2) To be the Secretariat Office of Community Enterprise 3) To support the development of community enterprise and network. According to the intention of Act of Parliament, the concept of development in community enterprise comes from the basis of the development in agriculture community. Nowadays, the completion of strengthened community, it will lead finally the community to be the bigger entrepreneur of the business unit such as Community Development Department, Department of Industrial Promotion. Besides, Department of Agricultural Extension must manage about the development and integration of the operation in community starting from production capacity until the operation of community enterprise for the self-reliance in community.

The Department of Agricultural Extension (2005) indicated about the policy and direction to support / promote the community enterprise as hereinafter: 1) The promotion / support of community enterprise will be in the integration of the agencies and all participants. It coordinates and supports the strength of community and self-reliance. The Department of Agricultural Extension will be the centre for managing about coordination of the participants. 2) To apply the registration of community enterprise and network, it depends on the willingness and readiness of community. The Department of Agricultural Extension must give the information about the privilege, procedure about the application of registration to be community enterprise. 3) The officers of public and private sectors should have these 3 duties to link with community enterprise: - Facilitator: the person who assists and links the people in community to work efficiently together. This duty is just to facilitate the process (not concern to give direction, ideas to any group) - Catalyst: the person who gives the

suggestions, makes the community's confidence, analyzes the information collected by community, tells the weak point or some fault, proposes the solution and follows the result about the report which community presented to outside agencies. - Networker: the person who links the good relationship between the members. 4) The support of community enterprise will be focused on learning process, potential of community development, budget administration such as money, resources, wisdom, tradition and self-reliance. 5) To develop the information system of community enterprise and network in order to be linked between community enterprise and supporting agencies. In this research, the method used is the processes involved in the research, the core research team from government agencies and representatives from local community enterprises and enterprise networks that had been working together on every step. The core research team is a facilitator in the learning process to serve as a mentor encouraged submitted by the knowledge on how to do each activity, both formal and casual. As well as the coordination of all departments involved to the development of the learning process of the community enterprise network.

8.2.3 The Output, Outcome and Impacts of the Learning Network Development Process

In this research, the developmental process to increase potential of golden dried longan small and micro community enterprise groups have 8 steps: 1) Formation of the core research team 2) Development of mutual understanding and analysis the potential of the DLSMCE groups 3) Develop the action plan of learning network development process 4) Analysis and developing of learning network development process 5) Establishing the learning network of DLSMCE groups 6) Developing the strategic plan of DLSMCE network during 2011 to 2013 7) Promotion and public hearing the strategic plan of DLSMCE network and 8) Implementation of the strategic plan of DLSMCE network. Accordings to Phongphit (2005) commented that the network should be processed as follows: 1) Draft clearly the purposes of network to know the reason why should we establish the network, what will we do after establishing the network. 2) Indicate the common goals and objective. 3) Define the action plan. 4) Set the regulations and basic rules 5) Define the making decision

process 6) Prepare the communication plan between members 7) Choose the management structure of organization and 8) Secure the resources.

From the research and development results, have found that the effect of the changing of the network and community enterprise group is a leader, committee and members to have algorithm change, to have confidence in themselves, to have skills in occupations, to accept a new technology, to have knowledge in group management, to build and develop team, funds management, the strategic plan and community enterprise development plan. As a result, the product has the standard of Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the house has the standard of GMP, the research of longan stove “Sayan 2011” and can be a source of learning including a result of changes to the team about skills and experiences in participatory research, to have skills and build relationships with the community, to learn to work with the community and have skills as a facilitator in research. These 15 DLSMCE groups were considered a good practice groups which have choice and the survival on the processing of golden dried longan flesh. They could be a good model for knowledge transfer to other groups. At the same time, there were more than 100 groups of golden dried longan flesh which could get benefits. These fair and poor performance groups also lack the knowledge, expertise, skills and lack of experience in group management. They wanted to develop and improve production and management to help themselves in the future. In this research have found that the outcomes and the impacts contribute to the leaders and the members of the network of DLSMCE as follows: cooperation with and support from associated organizations and partnerships, improvement of product quality and production houses during the research, research and development supported by local universities, encouragement and support by the state local governments, collaboration with development the lamphun golden longan cooperative limited, becoming a learning center on DLSMCE groups and Learning Network.

8.2.4 Factors Contribute to the Development Process of the Learning

Network

For factors contribute to the developmental process of learning network, it can be concluded as follows: group internal factors such as competency, roles and duties

of group leader, objectives, cooperation and relativeness of members in the group; network internal factors such as potential of leader, objectives and direction determination, unity and cooperation of networked members, thorough information communication, seniority of commissioner and profit allocation; last factor is network external factor such as government policy, support from research team, support and promotion from associated organization

Invang (2007) specified that creating learning network must have various factors contributing to success as follows:

- 1) Basic information of the network such as experience in network working, training, developing of individual, and attempt to find the way to work together. These could be an important driving forces
- 2) Environment of the network is consisted of group of people and house which have to cooperate in creating the network
- 3) Knowledge management such as determination of participatory principle and creation of participation of people in the network which should be adapted to the way the members of network work.

Nakorntub (1996) proposed that one of the factors that contribute the learning network development process is kinship system, which is a condition of the relationship of individual from the narrowest from oneself to the widest band which can count. The similarity of this research most of the members of DLSMCE groups are relationship between relatives who are relation to each other in the relationship between people in network. According to Polsri (2007) summarized the research results about learning network in religious ceremony to strengthen the network that there are 5 fundamental factors and 2 driven factors that affect the creation of learning network in the annual religious ceremony of the temple. 5 fundamental factors including 1) A faith in the temple. People in the network are willing to sacrifice physical strength and resources to develop the temple. 2) A faith in people. There are people who devote a lot of charity to the abbot and the former abbot who is dead as a benefaction to the community. 3) A faith in the merits of charity dedicated to those who passed away. It is a tradition. 4) Local knowledge. To help each other to make local dessert that is unique to the network. 5) Learning together. Cooking in the

temple will have a knowledge transfer within the network and creating a network between the members of network. And 2 driven factors: 1) Social capital of networks. A network with a high social capital, and assist the network in a traditional religious ceremony is to physically help to cook and distribute food for sale to 6 temples in order to help, clustering up tightly and inherited it. 2) To continue to faith in abbot who passed away. Building a monument or statue and trends in philanthropy by helping to buy food that is made up in the event, make people in the network gather as a tradition every year.

8.3. Recommendations from the Research Findings

8.3.1 Suggestions for the Agriculture Extension and Rural Development Officers

- 1). The agriculture extension and rural development officers in provincial and district agriculture extension office should be applied the process of learning network of this research to support the others community enterprise group in community.
- 2). The agriculture extension and rural development officers in provincial and district agriculture extension office should be adaptation to facilitator and stimulates the members of group learning coach.
- 3). The agriculture extension and rural development officers in provincial and district agriculture extension office should be practice and learning by doing such as the core research team of this research.

8.3.2 Suggestions for the Organization and Relevant Agencies

- 1) The organization and relevant agencies should be to coordinate with the local development community to support and drive the research and to be a coordination between community and academia, external researchers.
- 2) The development of community enterprises and community enterprise network should develop a network in a holistic manner, which link to the integration of the personnel area, activity and a balance budget for the highest achievement of the group.

3) There is an understanding of the enterprise concept to group and community agency to drive the implementation and development of community enterprises in all communities.

4) The organization and relevant agencies to promote activities following the community plan seriously by adapt or apply the institute plan in accordance with the community plan.

5) Financial institution should be careful in giving credit to the community in various forms, if necessary, should be prepared for the community. The community should participate in the screening of the credit management system more carefully.

6) The organization and relevant agencies should encourage local organizations to play a major role in the integration and coordination of development in the area.

7) The organization and relevant agencies should develop the community potential continually by providing the learning process to be consistent and realistic.

8.3.3 Suggestions for the DLSMCE Network

1) The leader and members of DLSMCE network should be the key to the development of the community and should be used as a community agenda, which is used to design, plan and determine the development more clearly. According to updated the strategic plan to meet the needs of community.

2) There are the application and expansion of a prototype community enterprise to develop others group in the community.

3). The DLSMCE network to lead the community enterprise development as a model for economic development, self-reliant and sustainable community development.

8.3.4 Suggestions for the SMCE Group

1). The SMCE group should develop thier strength and adaptable to survive in the long-term process. The operation is variety and a well-balance mix of form.

2). The SMCE group should strict with the goals under the self-reliance by produce a various products based on customer needs and focus on marketing.

3). The SMCE group create the group moral by keeping product quality at the standard all times with the benefit of a fair allocation.

4). The SMCE group establish the involvement of all sectors of members, communities and community agencies will develop a strong group.

8.3.5 Suggestions for Further Research

1) There should be action-oriented research in the area continuously to know the changes and to conclude to the lesson for the development planning in both operating areas and others.

2) There should study the form and factors in the research operation and the integration development of community including public and private agencies, institutions and community enterprises. This ensures that the model development of the integration is possible or not.

3) There should be expanded to promote the development of agricultural research to other work to develop a reliable system through the research process and to develop skills in participatory action research to official of agricultural extension under the cooperation of educational institutions.

8.3.6 Recommendations on Research Management

From the research results, the core research team have comments and suggestions to be useful in the learning network development process of golden dried longan process community enterprise as follow:

1). Member selection of network and community enterprise group to join the research process should be volunteers and voluntary groups to join. The participatory action research has a period of continuous and long-lasting activity and will be continued booth in terms of activity, information, and must match the needs of your target group.

2). Period of time and time for the research activity must be consistent and appropriate to the time of members of community enterprise group and community enterprise network. Because the research activities needed to brainstorm and share their learning. It takes quite a lot of time in each activity. If members are doing their own activity such as golden longan drying in July to September, there will be no member to join.

3). The research team must have a plan and a session plan to do each activity of the research is clear, a division of roles and responsibilities and must comply with the assignment and to be able to work instead, to be eager to work with the community and to sum up an evaluation in activity at all times (AAR: After Action Review) to provide updated information to do better next time.

4). Golden dried longan small and micro community enterprise groups in Lamphun province which have a strategic plan for the operation of the network. There should be operational as planned, conferences and meetings consistently to develop the strategic plan of the network and the network activity has continued, despite the completion of the research process.

5). The core research team should report the results to the parties concerned, Local Administration as well as educational institutions and publish the research result in order to further research to benefit the local community, agencies and country.