

Thesis Title	Waste Disposal Behaviors and Preferences for Waste Management Services of Highland Households: the Case of Mae Salong Nai Sub-district, Chiang Rai Province
Author	Aranee Wikee
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Advisor	Dr. Panate Manomaivibool

ABSTRACT

Municipal solid waste is a challenging task especially for local governments in highlands. Mae Sa-long Nai Sub-district Administrative Organization (SAO) has included the procurement of garbage trucks and small-scale waste incinerators in its 3-year Development Plan (2011-2013). Objective of the current research is to explore an appropriate MSW management in the study area to support the future development of the community. The study is based on a survey with 400 samples drawn from households in two villages in Mae Sa-long Nai Sub-district. The survey was conducted between September and October 2012. The questionnaire consisted of 5 parts: socio-demographic information, waste disposal behaviors, willingness to pay and future waste management options, knowledge and sources of information about waste incineration, and attitudes toward waste problems.

The results show that most households in Mae Sa-long Nai Sub-district had handled waste by themselves in several ways: 90.8% fed food waste to domestic animals and 86.4% separated recyclables for selling. Income influenced separation of recyclables while farmers were more likely to make a good use of food waste. On average, the volume of solid waste that a household needed to dispose of was

23.2 liter per day. Households that practiced source separation of food waste or recyclables tended to generate less waste. 54.7% of the surveyed households said they burned their waste. Waste burning was more common among Tai Yai households but less common among Chinese households.

Overall, households were willing to pay for the clean-up of the existing open-dump sites. The most popular future waste management option was a combination of source separation of waste and incineration, although the results show that households were more informed about the advantages of incineration from the SAO than its disadvantages in particular the potential health impacts.

In conclusion, households preferred to continue their practices at source in exchange for a discount in future waste management fees. Local governments should incorporate source separation in their waste management plan and have a right incentive structure. Another key suggestion is to provide complete information on the proposed plan or projects to the stakeholders.

Keywords: Solid Waste Management/Recycling/Waste Incinerator/Willingness to Pay