

Abstract

This research is qualitative research by collecting data from interviews with people living in areas where sugarcane is grown and where sugar factories are located, as well as establishing sugarcane farmers' associations in various regions of Thailand, except in the southern region. The objectives are: 1. To study the impact of the industry on human rights protection: sugar and the supply chain. 2. To study ways to solve the problem of the agricultural industry's impact on human rights protection: sugar and the supply chain, and 3. To develop policy recommendations, effective mechanisms or measures, including good practices for protecting human rights: sugar and supply chains.

The results of the study on the sugarcane planting process for sugar production found that in sugarcane planting in different areas there are similar problems in every area, including finding capital for investment in sugarcane planting. Most are loans from the private sector, the sugar factory, or the Bank for Agriculture and Cooperatives. Because government agencies have no budget support, farmers must bear the burden of maintenance, harvest and transportation into the factory. They must bear the burden of high costs due to labour shortages. Therefore, they must rely on foreign workers to help with agriculture in the sugarcane fields. Problems that affect nature and the environment include problems with sugar cane burning. That causes fire smog and ash to fly along houses and PM 2.5 dust and the loss of carbon credits in the atmosphere throughout the sugarcane harvesting season, between November and April. The problem for sugarcane farmers with burning sugarcane is that cutting fresh sugarcane requires high costs and difficulty. Workers prefer to avoid cutting fresh sugarcane, and the cutting machine still cannot cut sugarcane in every area. In addition, it was found that a large number of sugar cane cutters were required in each area. Sugarcane harvesters are costly and must be imported from abroad, and purchasing is complicated. However, using fresh sugarcane cutters still cannot end the sugarcane-burning problem. This is because after harvesting the sugarcane,

farmers still need to burn sugarcane leaf scraps in the fields to facilitate the maintenance of the sugarcane plants so that the sugarcane will continue to have perfect shoots.

The problem of sugarcane burning can be solved in a sustainable manner. By requiring each sugar refinery to develop a mechanism for sorting sugar cane brought in by farmers. By separating sugarcane plants and contaminants so that farmers can bring the whole sugarcane plant to the factory. In addition, to achieve complete development of the entire sugar supply chain, the government should implement a policy that transfers the Office of the Cane and Sugar Board from the Ministry of Industry to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The government should amend the laws regarding sugarcane and sugar to be appropriate for the current situation. Legislation has been proposed to recognise the right to clean air as a separate right. (self-standing right) afterwards.