

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a floral-patterned short-sleeved shirt and dark pants, is walking away from the camera on a paved road. She is holding a large purple umbrella over her head and carrying a white bag with the word 'NET' visible on it. The road is flanked by lush green trees and utility poles with power lines. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene depicts a rural setting in Thailand.

# MORE THAN RURAL

TEXTURES OF  
THAILAND'S AGRARIAN  
TRANSFORMATION

Jonathan Rigg

# Contents

*List of Illustrations ix*

*List of Tables xi*

*Preface xiii*

*Acronyms xix*

- CHAPTER 1 More than Rural 1
- 1.1 The Puzzle of Rural Thailand 5
  - 1.2 Rural Contentions and Controversies: Framing the Book 7
  - 1.3 The Perils of Prediction and Prognostication 11
  - 1.4 From Rural Thailand to the Thai Rural 14
- CHAPTER 2: Inheritances 15
- 2.1 Constructing the Past, Making the Present 17
  - 2.2 A Difference of Degree or a Difference of Kind? 23
  - 2.3 Deciphering Early Thai Village Studies 25
  - 2.4 History and the Thai Development Project 32
  - 2.5 Conclusion: Imagined Past to Constructed Present 36
- CHAPTER 3: Spaces 38
- 3.1 Finding Space for the Rural 39
  - 3.2 Planetary Urbanization Comes to Thailand? 45
  - 3.3 Rural Ayutthaya, Urban Ayutthaya 48
  - 3.4 Distant Rural Spaces and Their Urban Resonances 55
  - 3.5 Delineating Spaces of Change in Thailand 62
- CHAPTER 4: Flourishing 65
- 4.1 From Basic Needs to Sufficiency 67
  - 4.2 Languages and Policies of Improvement: An Archaeology of Thai Development 71

4.3	The Sufficiency Economy Debate	76
4.4	Flourishing Then, Flourishing Now	83
4.5	Conclusions: From Market Economy to Market Society	88
CHAPTER 5: Society 90		
5.1	From Village and Community to Household and Family: The Changing Structures of Social Life	92
5.2	Remaking the Thai Rural Household: Form and Function	99
5.3	Working and Caring in the Contemporary Thai Countryside	109
5.4	The Biopolitics of Family and Care in the Thai Countryside	115
CHAPTER 6: Land 118		
6.1	Defining, Counting, and Normalizing the Thai Smallholder	120
6.2	Land Access, Ownership, Tenure, and Security	126
6.3	The Persistence of the Smallholder/The Marginalization of the Smallholding	132
6.4	Security and Precarity in the Thai Rural	139
CHAPTER 7: Labor 141		
7.1	Labor Complexities in the Past and Now	143
7.2	Agricultural Complications	147
7.3	Nonagricultural Complications	158
7.4	Off-Farm Complications	163
7.5	Conclusions	166
CHAPTER 8: Livelihoods 168		
8.1	Livelihoods under Conditions of Deagrarianization	169
8.2	Formal and Informal Sectors and Economies: From Vulnerability to Precarity	186
8.3	Connecting the Pieces of the Livelihood Puzzle	191
8.4	Livelihoods: New and Old	193

CHAPTER 9: Class 196		
9.1	Class Differentiation	198
9.2	Rural Class Transformations: New Rural Classes and the New Rural Poor	204
9.3	From Peasants to . . . What?	213
9.4	Political Peasants: A New Class War?	217
9.5	Conclusion: Class in the Thai Countryside	219
CHAPTER 10: Futures 221		
10.1	(Rural) Connections	222
10.2	What Is the Rural Problem?	223
10.3	Sustaining Rural and Not-So-Rural Livelihoods	226
10.4	Two Rural Futures	230
<i>Glossary</i> 235		
<i>Notes</i> 239		
<i>References</i> 253		
<i>Index</i> 289		