3. RESULTS

Rawe Swamp (Figure 1) covers 1,750 rai and three communities. It is a natural water resource and home to the native giant freshwater prawn, which is used to produce a number of famous local specialties. The water from the swamp is piped to the homes of the three local communities (Supannee Pumpuang, personal communication, 2014).

Figure 1. Rawe Swamp, Nong Bua Rawe, Nong Bua Rawe District

The residents in the local area are primarily farmers. During the dry season, the farms do not yield any crops and there has been considerable internal migration to seek work. This has had a negative impact on families in the region and local leaders have secured government sponsorship to train farmers in other occupations. These include weaving, mushroom harvesting and making herbal rice noodles. Locals have thus had to study in different fields to maintain their standard of living (Kanokwan Jannamsai, personal communication, 2015).

As a result of poor farming techniques and limited agricultural knowledge, the farmers have used a lot of infertile local forest area. In order to grow crops on this land, they have been forced to use large quantities of organic and chemical fertilisers, which are expensive. Consequently, the local government has initiated training in financial management, including the opening of household current accounts. There has also been training in the creation of multi-purpose herbal products made from locally sourced kaffir lime, butterfly pea, turmeric and