

Thesis Title Farmer's Training Needs Assessment for Short-Course
Agricultural Training at Prae Agricultural College,
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Abstract

The objectives of this research are to determine some socio-economic backgrounds of the farmers, to study the relationship between the socio-economic and other factors of farmers in relation to training needs regarding agricultural occupation and to study the problems of agricultural occupation faced by farmers.

Farmers studied consist of 130 farmers in Denchai and Rongkwang districts, Prae Province. Statistical techniques used for data analysis are percentage, arithmetic mean and Chi-square.

From research findings, it is found that most farmers are male, the average age is 37 years old with primary education grade 4 to 6. The average family member is 6 persons. Average land holding is 8.3 rai with the average annual family income of 27,125 Baht. Most of them have gained farming experiences both from crop production and animal husbandry. Sources of information of most farmers are neighbours, television and radio.

As regards training needs of agricultural occupation, it is found that most farmers need plant propagation, mushroom culture, vegetable gardening, poultry production, swine raising, animal diseases and sanitation, electricity installment, and small farm machinery operation and maintenance. Appropriate training period is one week, during March to May on Saturday and Sunday morning. Most of them need training free of charge. A combination of lecture and practices as well as study tours is needed. Certificate after training programme is also preferable.

From hypothesis testing, it is found that : land holding, training and farming experiences are related to training needs. This can be explained that those who owns smaller farm size, has experienced in farming and training tends to require more training.

Problems related to agricultural occupation are water resources, operating capital, plant protection, fertilizer use, land preparation, animal breeds, diseases and feeds.

Recommendation given include better training techniques based on problems and needs of farmers. Simple words should be applied in giving lecture. Extension teaching media should be distributed and evaluation should be performed during training if it is to be effective.