

Jiratchaya Chaising 2012: The Determinants of Poverty at Regional Level of Thailand.
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This study aims at analyzing characteristics of poverty incidence in each region of Thailand using three main poverty measures, that is, headcount index, poverty gap and poverty severity. It also aims at examining factors determining poverty incidence at regional level in Thailand using econometric approach, emphasizing on factors that has been ignored in previous studies, that is, agricultural total factor productivity and food price index. The data used in the analysis are secondary data, pooled cross-section and time-series, including four regions (North, Central, Northeast, and South) during 1986-2009.

The results show that poverty incidence has been quite different among regions of Thailand. Northeastern Thailand has the highest poverty incidence, followed by Northern, Southern and Central Plain, respectively. Regarding the factors determining poverty incidence at regional level, the results show that increases in irrigated areas, educational level of a household head and agricultural total factor productivity reduce the headcount index, poverty gap index, and poverty severity index in each region. In contrast, increases in dependency rate raise the headcount index, poverty gap index, poverty severity index at regional level. Moreover, an increase of Gini coefficient raises the poverty severity index at regional level.

The results suggest that an expansion in irrigated areas or providing a small source of irrigation, providing education opportunity and training to enhance skills of poor household as well as encouraging policies that enhance agricultural total factor productivity and reduce inequality in each region should help alleviating poverty incidence at regional level of Thailand.

Student's signature

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