

Pornphrutayaphan Phomhom 2007: Factors Related to Community Rice Mill Operation of Bannatung Small and Micro Community Enterprise Saving Group for Production, Phak Mai Sub-district, Huai Thab Than District, Si Sa Ket Province. Master of Science (Agricultural Extension), Major Field: Agricultural Extension, Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Supaporn Thaipakdee, Ph.D. 143 pages.

The objectives of the study were to determine 1) factors related to member background, leader characteristics, member characteristics, and group management, 2) group member opinion toward the rice mill operation, 3) relationship between leader characteristics, member characteristics, group management and rice mill operation and 4) constraints and recommendations for rice mill development. Populations were 42 members of Bannatung Small and Micro Community Enterprise Saving Group for Production, Phak Mai Sub-district, Huai Thab Than District, Si Sa Ket Province. Instrument was an interview schedule. Descriptive statistics were percentage, arithmetic mean, chi-square and Pearson product moment correlation.

Research findings were the following: 1) Most rice mill members were males with average 51 years old and finished primary school. Their major occupation was farmers on the average of 19.2 rai cultivations land per household and most of them possessed their own land. The average rice production was 5.1 ton per year. Their minor occupation was cattle raising. The average occupation of rice mill members was 3 and their total income was 58,000 Baths per year. The average of membership period was 4.9 year. The most reason of being group member was welfare satisfaction whereas the factors related to community rice mill operation were the following: first characteristics of the leader, leader honesty and ability to convince members to accept group goals, second characteristics of member, member understood group objectives, and third group management, group structure design and group function, and budget management. 2) Member opinions toward the rice mill operation were organic rice making the farmers realize of their health and support better environment. 3) Hypotheses testing indicated that leader honesty, ability to convince member to accept group goals, member honesty, member characteristics, member understood group objective, evaluation of group operation, group structure design and group function, budget management, appropriate persons to positions, information utilization and benefit of group management were significantly related to rice mill operation at .05 level. 4) Problems found were the lack of member participation in decision making and problem solving, insufficient manpower and equipments. Suggestions were building up member understood toward the goals, allowing members to participate in decision making and problem solving, setting concise structure system, building up members understood of work and taking care of group benefit, allocating budget for equipments.

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Thesis Advisor's signature