

Attapol Kaweekitbundit 2011: Factors Relating to Income from Producing Orchid of Farmers in Nakhon Pathom, Samut Sakhon and Bangkok Province. Master of Science (Agricultural Extension), Major Field: Agricultural Extension, Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Savitree Rangsihaht, Ph.D. 199 pages.

The objectives of this research were to: 1) study basic demographics, socio-economic, orchid production and orchid production management factors of farmers, 2) study income generating from producing orchid of farmers, 3) examine relationships between basic demographics, socio-economic, orchid production and management factors of farmers and their income from producing orchid, 4) indicate the application of orchid production technology, and 5) identify problems and seek for suggestions from orchid farmers. Population was 1,487 orchid farmers in Nakhon Pathom, Samut Sakhon and Bangkok province. Samples were 315 orchid farmers selected by multi-stage sampling. An instrument to collect data was an interview schedule. Statistics to analyze data included percentage and arithmetic mean. Chi-square test was utilized to test hypotheses.

Findings revealed that most farmers were males. On an average, they were 49.83 years old, completed a primary school, gained 15.06 years of experiences in growing orchid, participated in training program relating to orchid production 1.42 times/year, were members of orchid growers' group mostly, received information from 3.58 sources, had 3.2 labors/farm, had 14.79 rai/farm, and spent 8,277.17 Baht/rai/month for cost production. Most farmers used their own finance and grew orchid for export. On an average, they produced 4,578.1 bud/rai/month, pH value of water for orchid was 7.16, and most of their farm was located in the highland. They grew *Dendrobium* spp. 11.63 rai/farm, grew *Mokara* 3.03 rai/farm. Flower rust spot and disease were mostly found on an average of 12.15 plant disease/case. Farmers used sprinkle to water orchid mostly. They planted orchid by using bulb and coir for growing materials. They applied fertilizers 3.92 times/month on an average. Most of them used chemical fertilizers and chemical substances to manage pest with 3.90 time/month. Orchid was harvested in the form of cut flowers, transported in the plastic box and sold by grading its quality. 2) Income from orchid production was 17,346.03 Baht/rai/month. Most farmers produced shortest grade orchid with residual less than 10 percent. Special grade orchid cost 4.71 Baht/bud, long grade cost 3.71 Baht/bud, short grade cost 1.71 Baht/bud and shortest grade cost 1.37 Baht/bud. 3) Hypotheses testing illustrated that the frequency of fertilizers and plant hormone application and the frequency of disease and pest management in orchid had statistically related with income from orchid production at .05 level of significance. 4) Farmers practiced in accordance with the orchid production technology (95.15%) and followed the orchid management technology (90.08%). 5) Problems included lack of farm labors, lack of production factors, low selling price and low quality of water. Suggestions were to urgently cooperate among orchid farmers and agencies concerned to solve these problems.

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Thesis Advisor's signature