

Nattapon Vuttijun 2011: Factors Affecting Farmers' Participation on Irrigation Management of Bankai Weir, Rayong Irrigation Project. Master of Science (Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resources Management), Major Field: Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resources Management, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Juangjun Duangpatra, Ph.D. 100 pages.

This research aimed to study and find out farmer's irrigated water use situations, factor affecting the participation, and factors relating to farmer's participation in water management as well as encountered problems and obstacles of Bankai Weir, Rayong Irrigation Project. The methodologies included informative review of primary and secondary data collection, farmer's group meeting and questionnaires. The relevant data were digested and analyzed statistically in order to determine the frequency distribution, maximum, minimum, mean, and the standard deviation values and correlation coefficients.

Results showed that farmers who used the irrigated water in the right main canal (RMC) had average age of 55.9 years old, 84% of them graduated from primary school and their main occupation were rice - farming, which was about 91.3 %. The two most important factors affecting farmer participation in irrigation management were the routine participating activities among the farmer group members, as well as the periodic support and consultation by the government officers. It was also found that factors affecting farmer's participation in irrigated water management were farmer's age and land tenure. The high aged farmers were more participated than the younger farmers. Those who were the owner of their farm- land were more participated than the landless who rent farmlands. Moreover those who had received news and informations were more participated than farmers who did not get any news or informations. Lastly , sex, education level, income, duration of stay and type of agriculture or crop planting were not related to the participation of water management.

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Thesis Advisor's signature