

Wanchai Wongsra 2007: Factors Affecting Rice Farmers' Adoption of Organic Fertilizer Usage in Chai Nat Province. Master of Science (Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management), Major Field: Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Professor (Emeritus) Piya Duangpatra, Ph.D. 146 pages.

A research by ways of interviewing rice farmers and enquiring some other informants was carried out in Chainat province during cropyear 2005. The vital aim of the study was to investigate on the pertinent factors which either enhanced or hindered rice farmer's adoption of three kinds of organic fertilizers(OF) namely farmyard manure(FM) liquid organic fertilizer (LOF) and granulated compost.

The research results obtained revealed that the most enticing factor which entailed OF-adopted farmers to use the OF was either the farmers' conveniences to procure or to producing it with ease by themselves. Additionally, other favourable causes that also help enhanced farmers' acception were the needs to reduce the cost of inputs particularly the costly use of the chemical fertilizers(CF), the persuasion or the recommendations that have been made by the neighbouring farmers and the supporting and disseminating roles of the public and private sectors as well. On the contrary, the pivotal reasons which hindered farmers' OF adoption comprised 1) farmers have already been well acquainted with the use of the CF 2) farmers do not conceived well enough or not at all about the agronomic effectiveness of the OF for augmenting rice yield 3) insufficient or lacking of knowledges about the OF particularly the properties and/or advantages of the OF materials for rice cultivation and 4) do not know how to use the OF properly

Based on the corporate concensus views of other participators or stakeholders from the governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as the soil doctor farmer-volunteers, the combining usage of the OF and the CF is normally more effective for rice than the sole use of each material. Besides, the fertilizing practices as such are also more economically worthwhile and has by and large, some additional merits for conserving the riceland's environments.

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