

Chavasorn Nokdej 2009: Factors Influencing the Agricultural Development in Thailand.  
Master of Economics, Major Field: Economics, Department of Economics. Thesis Advisor:  
Miss Kanokwan Chanchaoenchai, Ph.D. 162 pages.

The objective of this study is to examine the guidelines for development of agriculture in Thailand and to investigate the factors contributing to the growth of the agricultural sector after the green revolution. This study is divided into 2 parts; the first part looks at the development of the agricultural sector in Thailand and utilizes 'A Study Guide for the Appropriate Development of the Agricultural sector in Thailand (Copyright)' as its main reference source, and the second part focuses on education. This study employs a quantitative analysis by applying the economic dimensional functions of Cobb-Douglas Production Theory during the period 2530 – 2549 (1987 – 2006) to measure the growth of Thai agricultural and manufacturing sectors in relation to its image. This analysis takes into consideration the following: the capital stock of the agricultural sector; workers in the agricultural sector; and agricultural area. Furthermore, primary factors affecting production include increased export value of the agricultural sector; the value of the loan provided by the agricultural development budget; the total debt per farmer household; and the amount of rainfall in Thailand.

The findings and framework provided in the first part of the study pertaining to the agricultural sector following the green revolution are essential for understanding of the factors influencing the agricultural development in Thailand. Furthermore, the study suggests ways to enhance development of the agricultural sector in Thailand are to promote research development; stimulate advances in agricultural technology; improve the capacity building of the workforce; encourage participation and inclusion of farmers in improving and maintaining natural resources; foster restoration of natural resources for the conservation and increased sustainability of the environment; and encourage the efficient use of factors of production. Through enhancing the skills of farmers and promoting the production of agricultural products under the guidelines of sustainable development, the development of infrastructure services to increase stable and continuous productivity is achievable. The study also found that statistically two reserve values of exports in the agricultural sector, value of agricultural loan and debt per farmer household, have had a significantly positive relationship with the direction of growth in the agricultural sector of Thailand. In contrast, statistically it has been found that the labor sector, agricultural area and agricultural development budget have had a significantly negative relationship with the direction of growth in the agricultural sector. This indicates that laborers in the agricultural sector may lack necessary skills to increase production, and that there is a need to improve the quality of the workforce to meet the changes in technology. In agricultural production it is important to start with fewer workers, as technology is capable of disguising the origin of the replacement workers. The study also showed that the removal of rainfall relationships in the negative growth of the Thai agricultural sector was not significant. Furthermore, statistically, agricultural area, development, and budget, which require a period of long-term return on capital in the capital stock of the agricultural sector, have a positive, yet insignificant relationship with the growth of the Thai agriculture sector. This study and its findings reflect the entry of technology to replace the basic factors of production in the agricultural sector of Thailand.

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Thesis Advisor's signature



