

This thesis is aimed to analyze two accounting aspects of the various-sized Agricultural Cooperatives in Chiang Mai,namely,the accounting process and the use of financial statement. The first part of the study examines whether the subjects follow the official system in the accounting process or not. The next part tries to find out whether five groups users really make use of the financial information issued by the Agricultural Cooperatives or not. The five groups includes board of directors, managers, officials of Cooperative Promotion Department, officials of Cooperatives Auditing Department, and creditors. This second part focuses on the users'needs of financial information in terms of quantity and frequency. Then,it reports types of additional financial information that the users require.

The findings reflects that all the subjects apply the official accounting system to their own system but only some of them do not have chart of accounting and coding. Although the majority of the subject conforms with the instructed account procedures,they are having a loose internal control. Besides,only 54.5% of the accountants of the subjects is able to prepare some types of financial statement while the rest cannot do anything at all. The formal group can work on balance sheet and income statement, except statement of financial position and footnote of financial statement. The accountants of both groups cannot prepare financial statement because they do not know how to do so.

Concerning the use of financial statement by the Agricultural Cooperatives, it is found that the majority of the users do utilize the financial information in accordance with their own purposes. They also feel that the quantity of the information is adequate for their use. Nevertheless,some of the users want the Agricultural Cooperatives to issue interim financial statement.

The following recommendations are proposed as a result of the study. The related state agencies should inform the Agricultural Cooperatives of the significance and the benefits of financial statement; and should motivate them to use the financial information for management control. They should recruit a right staff for a right job,properly delegate or assign responsibility to have better internal control,develop the accounting manual,hire an internal financial auditor and elect an internal organization auditor,train and develop the accountants in order to be able to prepare financial statement,and should have training courses for their board of directors and managers so that these group can use financial information in their management decision making more efficiently.