Chalermsart Wichienprerd 2007: Poverty Incidence and Income Distribution of Agricultural Households in Crop Year 2004 / 2005 . Master of Science (Agricultural Economics), Major Field: Agricultural Economics, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Thesis Advisor: Mr. Apichart Daloonpate, Ph. D. 114 pages.

The objectives of this research were to study economic situations, poverty, and income distribution of agricultural households, and to analyze factors affecting poverty problems. Socio-economic survey data of agricultural households in crop year 2004/05 were used. Poverty was analyzed using FGT index and dependency ratio. Income distribution was analyzed using Shorrock index and pseudo-factor Gini coefficient. Moreover, the logit model was employed for the analysis of poverty problems.

The results showed that agricultural households found to have poverty problems had the following characteristic: 1) head of the family was male, educated at grade 4 of elementary school, and 41-50 years old 2) land holding more than one type 3) farm size about 10-19 rais 4) living outside irrigation area 5) living in north-eastern Thailand 5) dependency ratio between 0.51-0.75 and 6) never participating in agricultural- knowledge training. In addition, participating opportunities in agricultural knowledge training and cash farm income mainly affected the income distribution among agricultural households.

This research also found that participating opportunities in agricultural knowledge training, region, farm size, agricultural activities, educational level of family head, irrigation area, land holding, dependency ratio, age of family head , gender of the family head , income from additional in-farm activities, and non-agricultural income were factors affecting the households' poverty problems.

This research suggested that the government present should support further agricultural knowledge, increase irrigation areas, support more financial sources and marketing in order to decrease poverty and income distribution problems.

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