

3970063729 : MAJOR ECONOMICS

KEY WORD: AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC/PRODUCTION PATTERN /CANTALOUPE/TOBACCO/ASPARAGUS
KOBCHAI SENGCHAROEN : THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC AGRICULTURE IN
PROPOSE OF THE MAJOR SOURCE OF FARMER'S INCOME.

THESIS ADVISOR: ASSOC.PROF.PHAISAL LEKUTHAI, 91 PP.ISBN 974-639-572-6

Owing to Thailand's economic crisis since 1997, it has created more than 2.8 million unemployed workers both in industrial and service sectors at the end of 1998. Some of these unemployed workers must return home in rural areas in order to seek for some other opportunities

These study aims at assessments of the potential profit, the competitiveness, the ability to absorb unemployed workers, an appropriate production pattern in different combinations of individual product. The individual productive cost, its rate of returns, and market opportunities of these economic crops are considered. The result of the study reveals that the crops that make highest rate of profit are respectively cantaloupe, asparagus and tobacco. In the marketing aspect, it reveals that contract-farming condition exists in these economic crops. Also, it reveals that the optimum production patterns involving more than one crop are the combination between cantaloupe and asparagus, followed by cantaloupe - tobacco, and cantaloupe - asparagus - tobacco, respectively. However, the farmers themselves must be devoted to their farming, have enough cultivating area and enough water supply.

In order that the unemployed from urban area can live on agriculture, they should be actively supported both by the government and private sectors. The recommended supports include, production factors, credit and, reliable agriculture markets. The agricultural sector will play more roles during Thailand's economic crisis.

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