




THESIS TITLE : A STUDY ON THE ATTRIBUTES OF IMPLEMENTATION
OF FARMERS' GROUPS IN CHANGWAT UDON THANI

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ABSTRACT

The research project objectives were to : (1) investigate some socio - economic background of the farmers' groups in Changwat Udon Thani (2) look into the implementation acted upon by the groups. (3) assess the attitudes of group members toward the implementation of the groups, (4) single out the problems experienced and the recommendations proposed and (5) compare the implementation of the farmers' groups classified as good and moderate levels.

A total of 192 members from the farmers' groups classified as good and moderate levels were systematically randomized and selected for the study. The research data were gathered by specially devised interview guidelines and subsequently processed using SPSS/PC + computer package. The results obtained were expressed as percentages, means, standard deviation and t - test.

The results of the study could be summarized as follows :

Socio - economic background : members' sex was mostly male and average age was 58.6 years of age. Average education of members was elementary education (Pratom 4). Average membership was 12.1 years. Household members were 5 persons and 4 persons were available as farm labor. Average farmland was 24.6 rai under ownership. Main farming activity was paddy cultivation. Average household income was 43,622.55 Bahts. Sources of farming knowledge were neighbors. Source of loan was Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives.

Implementation acted by the farmers' group : it was found that 6 activities were operated on the irregular basis and these included : (1) Action planning for the group i.e. the planning's for marketing, office improvement, development of group leaders, loan pay back, group business and purchase of chemical fertilizers. (2) Personal management i.e. cremation aid, member coordination. (3) Administration of budget, materials and supplies i.e. supplies of needed agricultural tools, promptness of the materials and supplies, determination of loan limits. (4) Coordination with external agencies i.e. exchanges of experience among the farmers. Groups, capability to maintain productivity at time of crisis. (5) Activity output i.e. capability to maintain members' income at time of crisis, management of borrowed materials and supplies, development of stores. (6) Evaluation of the group activities i.e. management of loan pay back and report of progress.

Problems seriously faced by farmers' groups : the results indicated that the farmers' groups were faced seriously with the problems related to 5 aspects of the implementation and these included : (1) Action planning of the groups i.e. inadequate participation by members in business and activity planning, marketing of the products and the complications arisen from the group regulations. (2) Personnel management i.e. strength and harmony within the group, participation of members, lack of understanding regarding rules and regulations of the group. Corruption, lack of spirit and devotion, lack of accounting knowledge. (3) administration of budget, materials and supplies i.e. mismanagement of the group budget. (4) Coordination with external agencies i.e. development of joint venture with NGOs, inadequate attention from agricultural extension workers, problems related to insufficient knowledge of agricultural extension workers. (5) Evaluation of the activity output i.e. evaluation of the group implementation and report of progress. to the group members. Significant differences were

detected between the farmers' groups classified as good and moderate levels when the operation and the problems experienced by the two groups were compared in 6 different aspects including (1) Action planning, (2) Personnel management, (3) Administration of budget, materials and supplies, (4) Coordination with external agencies, (5) Activity output and (6) Evaluation of the group activity.

In addition, the attitudes of the members towards improvement of the implementation were different significantly between the two farmers' groups in 8 different aspects which included the 6 aspects listed out above and 2 other aspects which were related to the qualification and capability of (1) the group committee members and (2) agricultural extension workers.

Based on the results of the study it is recommended that the farmers' groups should be operated under closer advice and supervision of agricultural workers especially in the areas related to product marketing, business and activity planning, extension aids, children's education, organization of annual meeting, development of joint venture with NGOs, evaluation of the group activity, report of progress to the group members, monitoring success of the stores and management of the items borrowed by the group members.