

The objectives of this study were to compare the women cooperatives groups' operation between the success and non-success groups in Nan province, as well as to study the problems and obstacles of the group's operation. The samples comprised of 90 women, 56 committees of the success group and 63 women, 47 committees of the non-success group. Statistical techniques used were percentage, arithmetic means, standard deviation and t-test.

From research findings, it was found that the success group comprised of average age 40.82 years, most of them married, fourth grade educational background, earned less than 3,000 Baht monthly aside from subsidiary jobs, had joined the women cooperative group for more than 5 years and used more credit services. As for the non-success group, it comprised of average age 42.51 years, most of them married, fourth grade educational background, earned less than 3,000 Baht monthly aside from subsidiary jobs, had joined the women cooperative group only for 1 year and used less credit services.

It was found that the success group had more revolving fund, reserve fund, supporting budget from the government, group members, group saving, dividend allocation and credit loan than the non-success group.

Both groups needed the agencies concerned to offer knowledge on marketing of the products. The problems found by success group was unstable price of products and marketing outlets while those of non-success group was lack of product processing places.

It was suggested that these two groups should create their own identities based on cooperative principle and should preserve local knowledge, culture and natural resources in order to achieve sustainable development.