

Thesis title: FACTORS RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF OIL PALM PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY
BY FARMERS IN CHUMPHON PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research were to study: (1) some socio-economic backgrounds of palm producers in Chumphon province; (2) factors related to an adoption of oil palm production technology; (3) problems and obstacles encountered when applying the technology.

The sample group used in the study consisted of 357 oil palm producers in Chumphon province. Data was collected through the use of questionnaires and analysed using SPSS for Windows Program. The statistical procedures employed in data analysis were: percentage, arithmetic mean, standard deviation and multiple regression analysis.

The results revealed that the majority of farmers were male with an average age of 50.13 years, had compulsory education, had no social position, were members of one farmer institution, and received agricultural information from guide books. Most of them had an average of 2.33 workers per household. The average oil palm producing area was 21.03 rai and the average yield was 49.65 tons, with an average income of 211,742.30 baht. Most of the farmers had 11.64 years experience in producing oil palm. They used oil palm variety that came from Malasia. The planting space was 9x10 metres. Most of the plantation areas were upland and water resources came from farm ponds. They used organic mater for soil improvement and utilized chemical fertilizer for inereasing production.

From studying the problems and obstacles encountered when applying oil palm production technology, it was found that the major problem was the marketting.

Finally, it was found that the factors that statistically significant related to the adoption of oil palm production technology of the farmers were: age; number of group memberships; oil palm producing income; and the level of applying the technology.

Keywords : Factors relating to the adoption of technology, oil palm production technology,
Chumphon province.