

Sucheera Kunwattanasuwan 2009: Economic Evaluation for Land Use Improvement in the Royal Agricultural Land Reform Area, Amphoe Nong Sua, Changwat Pathum Thani. Master of Science (Resource Management), Major Field: Resource Management, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Adviser: Assistant Professor Thanwa Jitsanguan, Ph.D. 149 pages.

The main objectives of this study were to analyze appropriate farming patterns and determine the efficient direction of land use for restructuring agricultural systems to suit the capability of prevailing land resources and farm environments. Data employed in this study were obtained from the interview of 104 farmers resided on the Royal Agricultural Land Reform Area, Amphoe Nong-Sua, Changwat Pathumthani during the crop year 2005/06. The study covered 6 farmers groups with their main crops grown including paddy, long bean, sweet corn, banana, cultivated banana and fishery. Cost-return analysis and partial-budgeting technique were applied as economic tools.

Analysis of such farming systems revealed that financial feasibility taking into account only cash factors for restructuring cropping pattern to gain higher net farm income was reasonable in some specific cases. Accordingly, rice farmers would be financially proved to be better off if converting their farms into fishery production. In the similar manner, farmers growing long bean, sweet corn and banana were also recommended to change to other crops especially fishery and rice. Partial budgeting analysis was thus proved of positive net incremental income to the farmers who would restructure their farming patterns. On the economic aspect taking into account cash and non-cash factors, farmers growing rice, long bean and sweet corn were recommended to restructure their farms. Farmers should therefore consider their resource base, farm environment, occupational skill and market conditions of main economic crops before making final decision. Then, the study finally suggested that farmers on the Royal Agricultural Land Reform Area should carefully plan their farms with holistic knowledge and good morality. Application of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in mind, including the core ideas of reasonableness, moderation and self-immunity which were 3 main pillars under the royal guidelines would be beneficial to farmers. In particular, the New Theory Farming System was one of the most potential alternative farming patterns highly recommended for the small-scale farmers in the studied area. Moreover, the ultimate goal was that the sustainability of agricultural production on the Royal Land Area could be achieved.

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