

Pisith Ruangpholwiwat 2007: The Cultivation of Organic Rice Variety-Khao Dawk Mali 105 and Its Impacts on Farmers' Socio-Economics Status and the Environment Case Study: Surin Province. Master of Science (Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management), Major Field: Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Professor (Emeritus) Piya Duangpatra, Ph.D. 178 pages.

A survey – based research to study on the cultivation methods of organic rice (OR) and chemical rice (CR) using rice variety Khao Dawk Mali 105 and its effects on farmers' socio-economics status, farm / communal environments, the cultivating problems and pertinent roles and views of other stakeholders including the involtees from the public and private sectors and the soil-doctor farmer volunteer was carried out in the year 2006 by ways of interviewing the rice growers and enquiring the said stakeholders in 3 districts of Surin province.

Both OR and CR farmers grew transplanted rice by employing similar practices except that the OR growers used lesser chemicals or nil. Generally, most farmers who grew rice continuously obtained relatively higher rice yield and revenue and also had better physical health status and the conditions of their riceland's environments than those of the CR farmers.

The crucial roles of all other stakeholders for OR farming were consisting of their promoting activities, provision or supporting of inputs, the coordination of among the concerns as well as the selection of qualified farmers to join the OR program. Moreover, based on their views, the merits of growing the OR comprised soil quality improvement, increment of the rice yield in the long-run, reduction of the cost of inputs, thus, resulting in higher income and also some other vital enticing factors which enhanced farmers' adoption such as the active disseminating roles of the government, persuasion of the neighboring farmers and the favourable effects on farmers' health conditions and riceland's eco-system.

The main confronting obstacles for growing the OR were low increment of rice yield as per short-term basis, limited market size and unstable rice price, farmers' lacking of pricing's bargaining power and appropriate farming knowledges and inconsistent support by the government. The remedial measures to mitigate all these constraints were to organize relevant activities to strengthening farmers' OR farming knowledges, securing more stable rice price, expanding the OR market, accrediting and/or certifying the product's universal standard and also setting up the campaigning program to promote and support the OR farming earnestly and continuously.

Pisith Ruangpholwiwat Piya Duangpatra 22 / May / 2007
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