

Navapon Butnate 2008: Agricultural New Theory and Its Impact on Socio-Economic Status of Project's Participated Farmers in Suphan Buri 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. 139 pages.

A field survey -based research was conducted to investigate the impact of the farmers' adoption of the Agricultural New Theory System (ANTS) on their societal and economic status and communal environments in Suphanburi province by having comparatively, the sole rice growers as the checked monocropping system. The overall ANTS adopters were divided into 2 groups i.e the successful and unsuccessful farmers. The main element of the research includes the analysis of the farmers' knowledge and comprehension on the ANTS concepts, principles and the extent and/or intensity to which the ANTS have had been practiced by the adopters. Moreover, the obstacles of the ANTS exploitation were also observed in the studied areas in Duem Bang Nang-Buad, Nong Ya-Sai and U-Thong districts of Suphan Buri Province.

Most farmers of all the 3 groups were rather aged, relatively low educated, having 4-5 household labors and about 15-25 rais of their owned farmlands per household. The major rice cultivation practice was seeded wet-seasoned rice, using high yielding rice varieties, fertilizers, plant protection chemicals and harvested the produce by harvesting machine.

Basically, most of the ANTS's successful farmers had better conceptual thinking, technical knowledge and the comprehension on the ANTS's principles and practices than the unsuccessful ones. This was because they practiced in according to the ANTS's recommendations more than the unsuccessful farmers. Comparatively, the ANTS's successful farmers obtained higher net income than the ANTS's unsuccessful and the sole rice farmers respectively. Apparently, the main constraints confronting the unsuccessful farmers comprise 1) unsuitable landform of their farmlands 2) lacking of cropping knowledges other than rice growing and 3) lacking of fund for land reform for ANTS practices.

The major functions of the stakeholders from the governmental sectors were consisted of pertinent officials for supporting the ANTS's adopters including planning, promoting, persuading farmers to adopt the ANTS and also know-how disseminating activities. Generally, the private sectors' roles to the ANTS program were not directly exerted any significant impact on the ANTS's practitioners.

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Thesis Advisor's signature