

The study was to compare costs, and returns on investment in cultivating Native leucaena, Ivorycoast-Type leucaena and Hawaiian-Type leucaena and also identify the problems and obstacles in a commercial cultivation. 146 farmers investing their own capital for the leucaena cultivation of 5 to 30 rais were randomly selected. The costs, revenues and returns for each leucaena type were calculated as average per rai and per kilogram during the harvesttime of 5 years.

The results showed that for Native leucaena, Ivorycoast-Type leucaena, and Hawaiian-Type leucaena ; average costs per kilogram were 0.8040 bahts , 0.3817 bahts , and 0.4642 bahts , respectively ; average sell prices per kilogram were 1.76 bahts , 1.71 bahts , and 1.77 bahts , respectively ; 5-year yields per rai were 15,465.67 kilograms, 33,551.06 kilograms , and 26,201.46 kilograms , respectively ; 5-year returns per rai were 15,012.62 bahts , 44,689.96 bahts , and 34,442.45 bahts , respectively ; and returns on sales were 55.14% , 77.73% and 74.28% respectively.

The hypothesis testing showed significant differences among the costs of cultivating 3 leucaena types. However, the costs and returns of cultivating Ivorycoast-Type and Hawaiian-Type leucaena were not significantly different. Native leucaena cultivating cost was the highest and its return the lowest. Ivorycoast-Type leucaena yielded the highest returns. The prices of all 3 leucaena types were not significantly different. Moreover, the plant sizes had no effects on their costs and returns.

The study had certain problems and limitations related to the costs data gathering. It was also found that the leucaena farmers encountered the problems of the disease and insects that would affect leucaena quality and price.