

Abstract

The current study titled, "The Development and Achievement Factors of Indoor Mushroom Cultivation according to Sufficient Economy: A Case Study of The Sufficient Agricultural Learning Center of Marb Pong Sub-district, Panthong District, Chonburi Province", aims to study the development and achievement factors of indoor mushroom cultivation according to sufficient economy. The study employed the qualitative research method. A sample group was selected by the purposive sampling method from the 5 model households from the indoor mushroom cultivation group in Marb Pong Sub-district, Panthong District, Chonburi Province. A questionnaire and methods of observation were engaged to interview the 5 model households, the Agricultural Extension Academic (Kaset Tambon), and regional leaders.

The result shows that the development of the indoor mushroom cultivation group was categorized into 4 periods; each period displays the development and other factors in the achievements of this present group. Period 1 (1996-1998): During this period agriculturists initially studied and experimented to cultivate mushrooms as an extra works aside from the major one and crops they were already farming. Due to a failure of major works and the economic downturn the core factors influencing agriculturists to plant mushrooms were the needs of their family and a desire to increase the quality of life. Period 2 (1999-2001) agricultural extension academics and regional leaders participated in providing knowledge and funding in support of agriculturists to form a vocational training center and demonstration base through the sufficient agricultural learning center of Marb Pong Sub-district. These aforementioned activities were the main factors leading to group achievement during this period; this was to gain acquaintance of, and support from the agricultural extension academics and regional leaders.

Period 3 (2002-2004): this period had a high demand for mushroom products because the center was the demonstration base for the sufficient agricultural learning center of Marb Pong Sub-district. This center became well known and it was named the "the Promotion Center of Indoor Mushroom Cultivation for Commercial Use". This center empowered strength in marketing, increased negotiation power, reduced middle merchant's roles and increased the

income per annum to its members. Period 4 (2005-2007): the center was strengthened and the members' lives became more stable. The center was widely expanded so that some households only planted indoor mushrooms as a major occupation. As the distinction of indoor mushroom cultivation grew it led to the sufficient agricultural learning center of Marb Pong Sub-district to be honored as the outstanding agricultural leaning center of Chonburi Province, the center also received the second best award among group 9 competition.

The indoor mushroom center of the sufficient agricultural learning center of Marb Pong Sub-district tried to adjust the way of life, careers and living style of its members on the sufficient economy by relying on a group work strategy as the key to development of its center. The results indicate that the group work strategy neither worked in all aspects of the activities nor strengthened the center. The group work should operate not only in single households. All 5 model households clearly reflected the key learning process, and also displayed the way of living on the sufficient economy concept. In addition, those households expressed their understanding towards the sufficient economy concept and implemented reasonable ways of living; it was also found that consciousness, prudence, cautiousness and wisdom are all forms of actual knowledge. These factors went together with the moral principle of kindness, and patronization which were in accordance with the sufficient economic living and enabled the members to be self dependent in the current economic and social situation.