

Kanok-on Yangpom 2014: An Analysis of Factors Determining Risk Management Decisions of Rice Farmers. Master of Science (Agricultural Economics and Resource), Major Field: Agricultural Economics and Resource, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Isriya Bunyasiri, Ph.D. 105 pages.

The main purpose of this research is to describe risks that rice farmers face, the impact of flood in 2011 and ex-ante risk management to the 2011 flood, to study risk management decisions of rice farmers after the flood in 2011 and to investigate factors affecting risk management decisions. The interview data of 426 rice farmers in 2 regions: Central and Northeastern are used in the analysis.

The results show that rice farmers in central region faces flood risk whereas those in northeastern region faced drought risk. The flood in 2011 caused income of rice farmers in the central region and northeastern region to reduce by the average of 5,527 Baht per Rai and 4,875 Baht per Rai respectively. Overall 23 percent of rice farmers decided to manage risk to prepare flood, particularly by constructing flood prevention infrastructure. After the flood in 2011, higher proportion of farmers (59% of respondents) decided to manage risk with more strategies. High proportion of farmers constructed the food prevention infrastructure. Rice farmers in flood prone areas changed their rice pattern whereas those outside flood prone areas would seek more non-agricultural jobs and increase savings.

The empirical results from the logit model have shown that factors that significantly influence the decision for farmers in flood prone areas to manage risks are farmers' ability in coping with risks, irrigated area, the expectation of massive flood in the next ten years, rice planted area and the share of income from rice farming. Irrigated area and the shar of income from rice farming are the only facters significantly influence the decisions for farmer outside flood prone areas.

---

Student's signature

---

Thesis Advisor's signature