

Abstract

The study on “Knowledge and Interest of Rice Farmers in Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) System” aims at studying the process of rice production as well as knowledge and interest of farmers in the GAP system. The sampling group consists of 60 farmers in Moo 6, Tanbon Jedi Luang, Amphur Mae Suay, Changwad Chiengrai. Data are collected by interviewing household chiefs or household farming members using questionnaire as instrument.

The study finds that the majority of farmers in Moo 6, Tambon Jedi Luang, Amphur Mae Suay, Changwad Chiengrai are more males than females aged between 31–40 years and 41–50 years and finish elementary education. Most households have 2 males farming laborers, own less than 5 rais of land, and have income less than 20,000 baht per year. The process of rice farming includes important phases such as two-steps soil cultivation namely initial ploughing and converted ploughing, rooting out weeds by human labor, the use of weeds-killing chemical substances, the protection and the overcoming of plant enemies, and the use of both liquid and powder insecticides.

Collectively, farmers are moderately knowledgeable about rice production under the GAP System introduced by the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives. Most of them know about quality management system and the name of the Agency operating the GAP System, but they are less knowledgeable about the use of chemical substances. The farmers follow strictly the GAP System on self-protection before spraying mechanical substances and read the label before using them, but less strictly on recording the examination and protection of plant diseases and harmful insects in each phase of growth that needs crisis control.

Comparison between farmers’ personal factors and the degree of their interest in GAP System finds that male farmers are interested in recording data on surveys and protection against plant enemies and on management for good quality of products, while female farmers are interested in the cleanliness of storehouse after the harvest, the protection against adulterated / dangerous materials and intermediate hosts

after the harvest. Farm laborers under 40 years of age are interested in recording data on the use of agricultural dangerous materials, surveys and protection of plant enemies, and management for good quality of products. Farm laborers with education higher than bachelor's degree are interested in rice farming and follow the GAP System.