

Thanakam Suwannarat 2013: Needs on Occupational Development of Farmers in Mueang Rayong District, Rayong Province. Master of Science (Agricultural Extension),  
Major Field: Agricultural Extension, Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication.  
Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Panamas Treewannakul, Ph.D. 159 pages.

This research was conducted to study some basic personal factors, socio-economic factors, exposure of agricultural information, needs on occupational development of farmers and the relationship between some basic personal, socio-economic, exposure of agricultural information and needs on occupational development of farmers. Data were collected from 358 farmers in Mueang Rayong District, Rayong Province by using interview schedule. Data were analyzed through percentages and means. The hypotheses were tested by using Chi-square and Correlation Coefficient at 0.05 level of significance.

Survey results revealed that a 61.2 percent of farmers was female, average age of farmers was 56.3 years, and the highest education level was elementary (69.0 percent). An average household members was 4 persons, with average household farm labors was 2 persons. An average agricultural experience was 29.4 years. An average farm land size was 19.5 rai. A 70.8 percent of farmers used underground water for plantation. Majority of farmers got the exposure of agricultural information in 1-3 times per week from neighbor, government officers, television program. One out of three (21.4 percent) was Village Funds members.

It was found that 76.3 percent of mangosteen growers, 63.7 percent of rambutan growers and 57.8 percent of durian growers needed on occupational development in high level in term of agricultural production, soil quality improving, biological pest control, agricultural marketing, and researching with the public and private sector. Moreover, mangosteen growers also needed wisdom for developing their occupation.

Factors correlated the needs on occupational development of farmers was age, household members, household farm labors, agricultural experience, farm income and expenditure, being a member of farmer groups, agricultural water sources, land possession, information exposure from television program and publication, training by government and private sector, and excursion program by private sector.

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Thesis Advisor's signature