

## Abstract

The research on “ Empowering the Shrimp Farming Cooperatives Networks for Contract Farming in Thailand and Abroad market” aimed to study 1) the important characteristics of Shrimp Feeding Cooperatives both structure, management, roles and supporting members through Coop goals 2) factors effecting the strength of Shrimp Feeding Coop Network towards contract farming both internal and external markets. 3) the feasibility study of taking Shrimp Feeding Contract Farming to register in asset markets of future agricultural markets of Thailand. 4) the feasibility study on contract farming in Agricultural Future Trading of Thailand. The mixed research methodology were quantitative and qualitative research with a tool of questionnaire and in-depth interview with the samplings of targeted Coops’ farmers were totally 192 cases. The findings were as following.

In 2005 – 2007, 6 Shrimp Feeding Coops were established and developed to be the Network of Shrimp Feeding Coops. Its objectives were to make contract farming with refrigeration industries. The government gave support and loans from governmental financial institution which were SME Bank, Saving Bank and BAAC (Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives) in the pattern of triple - coordination. SME approved loans for Coops to invest, BAAC approved loans for Coops’ members for production and Saving Bank approved loans for members in improving costs of production. SME had done with Tha-Jin Plain Shrimp Feeding Coop for a pilot project and still was the only one.

1. In 2003-2007, the Coops and Network of Shrimp Feeding Coops had made the contract farming with Frozen Products Company Limited, Packfood Public Company Limited and Rubycon Group Company. The results were that in 2006 Tha-Jin , Tha-Thong and Chanthaburi Plain Shrimp Feeding Coop made profits of selling shrimp more than market prices about 22 % because of the fix shrimp prices in the contract farming. However in 2007, only Tha-Thong Plain Shrimp Feeding Coop could produced

shrimp due to the contract but the shrimp market was higher thus they gave up the contract before it due.

In aspects of Coop structure, roles and members' support. It found that Coop presidents controlled the management of the Coop committee and staff which against the ideology of Coop democracy. This caused the sampling entrusted Coop management in supporting members and making contract farming which really effected on Coop strengthening. Thus, less Coop members joined the Coop contract farming which they never learned which effected the quantity of shrimp products insufficient as written in their contract. The Coop administrators never reviewed any problems occurred, on the contrary, they expensed lots of Coop budget in costly management with less efficiency. So, there were none of Coops made contract farming at the moment (October, 2008) and lost.

Moreover, the network of Coops did not pay attention to members' needs which were the heart or center of the Coops, the administrators needed members only for taking advantages. Coops members lacked of participation in setting Coop goals or others. Coop committees rather focused on their own benefits than of members; no resources mobilization for members, etc.

The Feasibility of Contract Farming in Internal Markets. It was available with refrigeration industries more than in department stores, restaurants and sea food shop because they ordered less amount of shrimp in each day or week and high cost of delivery, complicated purchasing procedures, and payment in 14-21 days which was too long. In refrigeration industries were more relaxing because they purchased the whole shrimp in the ponds as contracted, classified sizes of shrimp if not standard they will sell at private markets. The industries will pay money within 5-14 days.

The Feasibility of Registration Contract Farming in Future Markets of Thailand. Refrigeration industries disagreed with future markets because it seems not real purchase and having risks in supplying shrimp. Shrimp farmers agreed with future markets because they learned the future price of shrimp that motivate them for shrimp feeding. But the executive of future market worried about the daily stable shrimp price which not

existing. They suggested the related governmental agencies should launch out daily standard shrimp price in order to risk guarantee for every part in the shrimp business.

Recommendations are that shrimp feeding has been agriculture for Thai people for a long time but now social changes derived farmers to develop shrimp feeding for sale, export to gain much money . Shrimp business needed a lot of investment that troubled normal farmers. They must learn how to adjust themselves to present and future situations. Being Coop members should be the right way to develop themselves. In fact, a lot of Coop problems occurred without an appropriate and proper way of solution . Efforts of collecting into the Coops Network or the Coop Club are the idols that cannot reach the real goals of Coop; mutual aids, participation, democracy, self-help and self-reliance. On the contrary, running Coops with intellectual committees should be beneficial but good governance and building public consciousness are the key elements of strengthening Coops which the government sectors must intervene in the sense of facilitating Coops management more than controlling.