

Anchaleekorn Uthakij 2015: Problems of Fruit Farmers in Mueang District, Rayong Province.
Master of Science (Agricultural Extension), Major Field: Agricultural Extension, Department of
Agricultural Extension and Communication. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor
Panamas Treewannakul, Ph.D. 149 pages.

This research was conducted to study 1) basic personal data 2) economic data 3) exposure to agricultural information, 4) problems of fruit farmers, 5) the relationship between the basic personal and economic with problems of fruit farmers, 6) suggestions of farmers. Data were collected from 358 farmers in Mueang Rayong District, Rayong Province by using interview schedule. Data were analyzed and presented by percentages and arithmetic means. The hypotheses were tested by using Chi-square at 0.05 level of significance.

The survey result showed that farmers were female (60.3 percent). The average age of farmers was 55.9 years old and the educational level was primary education (69.0 percent). The average household members was 4 persons. They held the land owner which an average farm land size was 12.4 rai with using underground water for plantation. The average of agricultural experience was 28.9 years and the average household farm labors was 2 persons. The average farm income was 171,012.7 Baht / year. Most of them no need to borrow money in order to do agriculture. Farmers, had exposure to agricultural information from neighbor, television, government officers, agricultural training program from government sector.

Problems of farmers descending order as follows: 1) economic issues, including capital cost and labor, 2) biological issues such as fertilizers, plant disease and pest, plant species, harvest yield and production, 3) social issues such as related agricultural organization, farmers and farmer group, and 4) physical problems such as climate, soil and water conditions. Those problems, farmers needed help and support continuously from government. Farmers suggested that the government should encourage to maintain good soil and distribute irrigation system by pipeline management for all farmers to decrease problem of water scarcity in dry season. Including, government should transfer the technology such as bio-fertilizer, pest management, and reducing production cost.

Hypothesis testing revealed that education level of farmers related with problems of fruit farmers in term of economic and social aspect at 0.05 level of significance.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature