

Bhurithat Nakprasert 2014: Thai Agricultural Labor Productivity and Health Determinants.  
Master of Economics, Major Field: Economics, Department of Economics. Thesis Advisor:  
Associate Professor Chucheep Piputsitee, Ph.D. 115 pages.

The purposes of this study were: 1) to investigate the health of Thai agricultural workers based on the calculated health index; and 2) to analyze health factors that affect the productivity of Thai agricultural workers. The study consisted of two parts: an annual calculation of the health of Thai agricultural workers during the period of 2008-2010 by applying the Human Development Index of the United Nations Development Programme; and an analysis of the factors that influence labor productivity, which was conducted by using various independent variables together with the calculated health index for agricultural labor in Thailand.

The results show that 1) the health indices of provinces in northern Thailand are poorer than others. The trends relating to the health of agricultural workers in Thailand have improved. The most extensive improvement has occurred in Chiang Mai, whilst the least amount of positive change was found in Chaiyaphum. The findings also revealed: 2) that the size of the area of irrigated land, the proportion of educated workers, the share of workers aged between 25-49, and the health index of agricultural workers are all consistent with Thai agricultural labor productivity and that the gender of workers does not have a significant impact on their labor productivity and; 3) that enhancements in the healthcare which is offered to agricultural workers can boost their productivity: increases in the number of doctors in some provinces; upgrading the capital health budget in order to enhance the well-being of pregnant women by taking care of them during pregnancy; and better access to basic services, and medical workers. Additionally, agriculture workers should possess basic knowledge of how to decrease the amount of cigarettes which they smoke, and improve the level of nutrition in their diets.

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