

ABSTRACT

Abstract of thesis submitted to the Graduate School of Maejo University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Agricultural Extension

NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE WESTERN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION REGION OF THAILAND

By

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The purposes of this research were to study 1) personal and socio-economic status of agricultural extension officers in the Western Agricultural Extension Region; 2) needs of information system for managing agricultural extension work in the Western Agricultural Extension Region; and 3) problems and obstacles in the use of management information system of the Western Agricultural Extension Region. The data were collected from 234 quota-selected samples of Provincial Agricultural Extension Officers, District Agricultural Extension Officers, heads of various sections in Provincial and District Agricultural Extension Offices, and agricultural officers within the extension region and analyzed by the SPSS/PC⁺ program. The findings were as follows:

The respondents had an average age of 43 years; most of them were male and residents of the western region, had a bachelor's degree, an average of 22 years working experience and an average salary of 14,836 baht.

The Agricultural extension officers in the Western Agricultural Extension Region indicated a high level of needs for all 4 categories of the information system. The average needs scores, from high to low, of the 4 categories were as follows: need of information for coordination (3.96), need of information for monitoring and evaluation (3.92), need of information for personnel management (3.92), and need of information for planning (3.78).

The respondents indicated that problems and obstacles concerning the management information system administration resulted from the lack of appropriate information supports in all 4 categories. It was recommended that appropriate adjustment should be done to fulfill the indicated needs.