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REVADEE LIKITVONG : THE HILLTRIBE FARMER'S PERCEPTION OF
VETIVER GRASS IN DOI TUNG DEVELOPMENT PROJECT : A CASE STUDY AT
TAMBON MAEFALUANG AMPHUR MAEFALUANG CHIANGRAI PROVINCE.

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Presently quite a large number of natural resources had been consumed by man. Also, the recent development of the nation had destroyed the quality of the environment, causing a lack of natural raw materials and advance planning to solve the environmental problem. The management of overly-needed agricultural materials and the capability of recycling overly-needed agricultural materials should be another alternative that supports sustainable agriculture. Particularly, the hilltribe farmers using land for agricultural purposes should understand the ultimate use of resources. The research objectives aimed to study these farmer's perception of the role of Vetiver grass concerning environmental benefits, prevention of soil erosion, conservation of soil and water, and economics. The research method was conducted on the basis of making an interview of 326 hilltribe farmers of Doi Tung Development Project and using group random technique.

It was found that, based on the results of the research, the hilltribe farmers had a moderate knowledge and a moderate positive perception about Vetiver grass. The perception of the benefits of Vetiver grass in prevention of soil erosion varied by age, race ,education, number of family members, the length of settlement, and the amount of land for growing Vetiver grass. The conservation of soil and water and the perception varied by age, family incomes, the amount of land for growing Vetiver grass, the length of growing Vetiver grass, and the length of settlement at significant level of 0.05. The factors affecting the perception of benefits of Vetiver grass by the hilltribe farmers in terms of product economics, which had significant level of 0.05, were race, family members, length of settlement, and the amount of land for growing Vetiver grass. This research suggests that : there should be a promotion of training and a campaign for the use of Vetiver grass for prevention of soil erosion and conservation of soil and water.