

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

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PARTICIPATION OF VILLAGE LEADERS IN SOUTH-WESTERN FRONTIER OF THAILAND

By

ACTING SUB LT. VORAVONG KARNJANAVONG

NOVEMBER 2000

Chairman: Dr. Weerasak Prokati

Department / Faculty: Department of Agricultural extension,
Faculty of Agricultural Business

The objectives of the study were to investigate 1) participation in agricultural extension of village leaders in the southwestern frontier of Thailand; 2) factors relating to their participation in agricultural extension; and 3) their problems and recommendations concerning agricultural extension. The respondents were 176 randomly sampled village leaders in the southwestern frontier of Thailand. The data were collected by pre-tested questionnaires, and analyzed by using a stepwise multiple regression analysis. The findings were as follows:

1. The majority of the respondents were married, male, and had an average age of 42 years. Most of them had completed 6th grade and had an average of 17 years living in the villages and 5 years being leaders. Most of them owned an average of 41 rai of land. Their incomes mainly earned from farming and trading were at an average of 105,554.43 baht per year. Most of them were the members of the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) and were trained by agricultural extension officers at an average of three times per year. An average training from other governmental agencies was also three times a year: from a

chemical company, once a year; and from the Development Military Unit, 0.28 time a year; Agricultural knowledge obtained from agricultural extension officers was at a moderate level. Their attitudes toward agricultural extension and their expectation of community benefits were at a very high level.

2. The study on participation in agricultural extension of the village leaders in the southwestern frontier of Thailand showed that the village leaders had overall participation in agricultural extension at a moderate level. The average participation scores from high to low were: 1) participation in coordination for rapport and works among members and between members and agricultural extension officers; 2) participation in data collection and presentation of problems to the agricultural extension agencies and officers; 3) participation in support provision for agricultural extension services, 4) participation in provision of coordination and creativity for agricultural development; 5) participation in encouraging community members to take part in activities useful for agricultural development; 6) participation in monitoring and supporting community members' work; 7) participation in agricultural knowledge dissemination and transfer; 8) participation in group management; 9) participation in information and production factors services; and 10) participation in the preparation of plant demonstration or plant propagation plots.

3. Factors related to agricultural extension participation of the village leaders were age, education attainment, time living in the villages, period of time for being leaders, income, land holding, agricultural information access, attitudes, agricultural knowledge and ability, and expectation of community benefits. Only expectation of community benefits and agricultural extension attitudes were found to be related to their agricultural extension participation, which could explain 29.50 percent of relation variation ($R^2 = 0.259$, $P < 0.05$).

4. The most frequent problem was agricultural extension activities incompatible with the villagers' needs, followed by lack of the villagers' participation in agricultural extension planning, and lack of continuous supervision and follow-up. They recommended development of continuous agricultural extension activities and provision of water resources for agriculture.