

## 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 Economics

### FACTORS AFFECTING YIELD GAP OF MIDDLE CROP VIRGINIA TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN PHRAE PROVINCE

BY

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The objectives of this research were to find out 1) general conditions of using factors of middle crop Virginia tobacco production by farmers in Phrae province; 2) factors affecting technical efficiency of Virginia tobacco production; and 3) factors affecting yield gap of farmers growing Virginia tobacco. The data was collected by interviewing 88 farmers growing Virginia tobacco in the year 1998/99 in Phrae, selected by purposive sampling and analyzed by using the SPSS to find out production function by Corrected Ordinary Least Squares (COLS).

The findings revealed that the factors affecting the production function of the middle crop Virginia tobacco in Phrae were growing areas and number of seedlings; the coefficients calculated by using OLS were 0.288 and 0.471.

The yield gap percentages of middle crop Virginia tobacco in Phrae were between 57.29 and 92.98 and the average was 73.31.

The factors affecting the yield gap of middle crop Virginia production in Phrae were the credits which the farmers obtained and their tobacco-growing experiences. The farmers who obtained credit of 10001 - 15000 baht per rai had the

lowest average percentage of yield gap (69.299) while those who obtained the credit of 500 baht per rai at the most had the highest average percentage of yield gap (75.441). In terms of tobacco-growing experience, the farmers with 10 – 15 years experience had the lowest percentage of yield gap of 69.22.