

**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

**CONSEQUENCES OF PARTICIPATION IN HIS MAJESTY THE KING'S  
NEW THEORY OF AGRICULTURE PROJECT BY FARMERS  
IN CHIANGMAI PROVINCE, THAILAND**

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The objectives of this research were 1) to find out basic information about personal economic, and social status and soil management of farmers participating in His Majesty the King's New Theory of Agriculture Project; 2) to compare their economic and social consequences of participation in the project; and 3) to identify their problems in and obstacles to their participation in the project. The data was collected by means of pretested interview schedules from 210 samples of farmers participating in the project in Chiangmai, selected by multi-stage random sampling, and analyzed by the SPSS/PC<sup>+</sup>.

The findings revealed that the respondents (82.86%) were 48 years old on average, married, and had completed a primary school. Their annual on-farm and off-farm incomes averaged 92,011 baht. They had an average of 5 family members and one-half the respondents had 3-4 people contributing to family labor. Almost all of the respondents (86.66%) were without home-returning labor. The percentage of the respondents having land right was 80; almost two-thirds (65.71%) had water insufficient for farming and 85.71 percent had sufficient rice for consumption. Two-thirds (66.37%) were members of farmer groups, agricultural cooperatives,

and the client group of the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives. They contacted agricultural extension officers at an average of 5 times per year. Almost two-thirds of the respondents contacted irrigation officers and fisheries officers 1-2 times per year, half of them contacted livestock officers and land development officers 1-2 times per year and almost all of them (95.24%) never contacted agricultural land reform officers. Their average training in His Majesty the King's New Theory of Agriculture project was 3 times per years.

In terms of soil management, the respondents were found to have average land of 14 rais, and almost all of them (92.38%) used 13 rais on average for the project. Of this 13 rais, 5 rais was for rice growing, 2 rais for water storage, 5 rais for growing fruit and field crops, and 1 rai for residence and vegetable growing.

The analysis results of the consequences of participation in his His Majesty the King's New Theory of Agriculture Project showed that the respondents had higher productivity, returns, assets, social participation, contact with officers, training, and recognition, but less free time. The data analysis by the Siegel's Sign Test showed a significant difference in their free time, at a confidence level of 95 percent, but a non-significant difference in their debt.

The respondents' personal problems concerning participation in His Majesty the King's New Theory of Agriculture Project were lack of capital (90.00%) and small amount of farming land (44.28%). The problem caused by agricultural extension officers was uncontinuous agricultural extension by the officers (84.76%). Other problems included low prices of agricultural products but high cost of production (81.43%), high prices of fertilizer and pesticide (65.71%), and shortage of water for farming in the dry season.