

**Thesis Title** A Comparative Socio-Economic Study of Dairy and Non-Dairy Farmers living in the Dairy Farmer Promotion and Development Project Area, Lam Phaya Klang Commune, Muak-Lek District, Saraburi Province

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#### ABSTRACT

This thesis was a comparative socio-economic study of dairy and non-dairy farmers living in the Dairy Farmer Promotion and Development Project area, Lam Phaya Klang Commune, Muak-Lek District, Saraburi Province. The objectives were to study and to compare the socio-economic conditions of the dairy and non-dairy farmer groups in the Dairy Farmer Promotion and Development Project area of Lam Phaya Klang Commune, Muak-Lek District, Saraburi Province.

Questionnaires were used to collect data from 107 dairy farmer household heads and 107 non-dairy farmer household heads, totalling 214, of Sub-noi-nua, Lam-phaya-klang, Klong-muang-nua, Kao-nom-nang, Sub-to-young, and Sub-mai Villages, totalling 6, in Lam Phaya Klang Commune, Muak-Lek District, Saraburi Province. The data were analysed by SPSS program.

The results were that most household heads were male, resided long time in Muak-Lek District, aged between 41-50 years, received 4 years of education, had main occupation in dairy farm and cash-crop farming, with family size of 5-6 members, had 1-2 children, occupied their own piece of land, had no saving, were in debt, had no intention to out-migrate, had university education aspiration for their children, were group members, participated in community activities, had non-nutritious meals, received preventive health service, and kept their house clean from frash.

From the comparative study, the dairy farmers were socio-economically better-off than the non-dairy farmers. Since the dairy farmers had higher income from farm produce and animal husbandry, they had good credit in loan. Thus, they were higher in debt, with high expense and low saving. They had higher education aspiration for their children, number of group members, participation in community activities, and nutritious condition than the non-dairy farmers. There were no significant differences in out-migration and health condition between the two groups under study. In brief, the socio-economic condition of the dairy farmers was different from the non-dairy farmers.

The findings indicated that being dairy farmers, they had higher and constant income all the year round, social group formation, and caused the continuity in the economic system such as hiring labour in dairy farming and in milk processing industry.