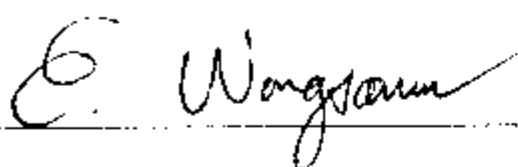
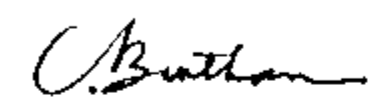


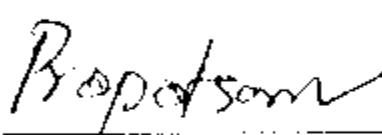
THESIS TITLE : NEEDS IN HOME ECONOMIC EXTENSION OF FARMER  
HOUSEWIFE GROUPS' MEMBERS IN CHANGWAT ROI-ET  
AUTHOR : MR. CHAISAK SUANSIDA  
THESIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE :

  
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### Abstract

The objectives of the research were : (1) to study certain aspects of general economic and social conditions of the farmers' wife group members; (2) to study the participation of the group members; (3) to study the expectation of the group members of home economic promotion officers and their needs for training; and (4) to compare the levels of needs perceived by the group members of different social and economic backgrounds. The research sample consisted of 106 group members, chosen randomly with the multi-stage sampling method. The data were collected by interviews and statistically analyzed for percentages, arithmetic means, standard deviations, t-test, and F-test.

The results of the research showed that the group members had an average age of 45.8 years; 50% of these members had 3-4 children; 56.6% finished the elementary school; 53.8% were in a family with 4-5 family members; 34.0% occupied less than 10 rais of agricultural land, with 88.7% being land owners; 95.3% grew rice as a major career with 28.3% growing field crops as a minor career; the members had an average

income of 14,374.00 baht per family from growing field crops; and 72.6 % of the members took a loan from the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Co-operative. The top ten home economic activities that the members took part in were: income generating activities, activities promoting community unity, dry food preservation, mutual assistance, receiving equipment supports, product marketing, providing household appliances, participating in group work and group activities, participating in cleaning houses and areas around the houses, and methods of growing crops. In addition, the top ten home economic areas in which the members had the highest need for were: the creation of co-operation in community, creating community unity, mutual assistance, acquiring equipment supports, methods of growing crops, methods of hygienic and quality cooking, procuring household appliances, cleaning houses and the areas around the houses, dressmaking, group activity supports, participating in group work and activities, and co-ordinating between community leaders and the government officers.

As for desirable characteristics of home economic officers as perceived by the group members, it was found that the officers should be younger than 40 years old, married and settled down in the Northeast. They should know how to increase agricultural products, provide material supports, and able to co-ordinate and give suggestions on technical know-how. Besides, they should visit the members at least two days a month between April and August.

The comparison of the needs of the group members revealed that: (1) the group members who were older than 50 years old had higher needs than the other groups on preparing self-operation plans, participating in activities benefitting the local community, and silk or cotton weaving; (2) the members with education lower than Grade 6 had higher needs than those with Grade 6 education for dry and salted crop preservation, decorating and repairing houses, and silk and cotton weaving; (3) members occupying less than 10 rais of land had higher needs than the other groups on product marketing, share holding in organizing group funds, animal disease prevention, dry and salted crop preservation, and preserving plant and animal products by freezing. Regarding

the members who owned 11-20 rais of land, they had lower needs than the other groups for attending meetings at scheduled times, cooking nutritious and high quality food and also consuming nutritious food; whereas the members who owned more than 20 rais of land had higher needs than the other groups for planning and managing groups, identifying sources for loans, and understanding the objectives of group management.

From this study, it is suggested that the promotion of home economics to the farmers' wife group members in Roi-et Province should be focused mainly on increasing the information pertaining to the activities that can create incomes for the members' families by means of material supports, education and training on growing crops, and on how to raise and take care of animals. As for food preservation, information on hygienic and quality cooking should be emphasized. Food preservation methods such as pickling, freezing, salting, sundrying and dressmaking should be given importance as well. As for the social aspects, emphasis should be made on promoting co-operation, mutual assistance in the family, pooling shares to organize group funds, organizing group activities, participating in community development, and co-ordinating between the community leaders and the government officers. On the aspect of the environment, the members should be educated on procuring household appliances, cleaning houses and the areas around the houses. An emphasis on disseminating information about preparing operation plans, participating in activities for the public, and weaving should be made to members older than 50 years old. Finally, the members with less than 10 rais of land should be trained on establishing group funds, product marketing, and food preservation.