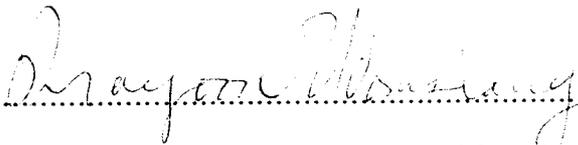


**THESIS TITLE : PROBLEMS AND NEEDS IN SWINE PRODUCTION
OF THE SMALL SCALE - RAISERS IN CHANGWAT
KHON KAEN**

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this research were to study : 1) basic socio-economic status of the small scale - swine raisers in Changwat Khon Kaen, 2) conditions of swine production, 3) the problems and needs in swine production, and 4) to compare the problems and needs in swine production of the small scale - raisers based on their basic socio-economic characteristics. The studied population was systematically selected from small scale - swine raisers (150 persons) in Changwat Khon Kaen. The data were collected using the specially developed interview schedule. The data were then analysed statistically and the results expressed as frequency,

percentages, arithmetic mean, minimum, maximum, Standard deviation. The differences among groups were compared by using t - test and F - test. The results of the study could be summarized as follows.

Socio-economic and basic background. Sex and average age : mostly males (74.7 %) 46.2 years of age. Average education : elementary education (78.7%). Average family size and on-farm labour : 5.5 persons and 4 persons. Occupation and average farmland : Farmers paddy rice growing (84.0%) and 10.2 rai / family. Average annual income : 59,290.7 Bahts / family. Average debt : 23,166.7 Bahts / family.

Average swine - raising experience : 3 - 5 years. Available labour for swine raising : 1 person / family. Average annual income from swine raising (last year) : 16,921.3 Bahts / family. Source of the swines raised : most of the swine-raisers bought from the neighbours. (42.6 %). Average number of swines : 4.9 animals / family. Types and average number of swines raised : fattening swines (88.1 %) and 3.6 animals / family. Average weight of hybrid swines being raised : 56.8 kg / animal. Average weight of breeding swine : 108 kg / animal.

It was found that 75.3 % of the swine - raisers fed their swines with the feed which was mixed according the recommended formula. The amounts of feed given to the breeding and fattening pigs were 4.2 kg and 3.5 kg / animal respectively. Most of the swine raisers (90.6 %) built the pens inside their household areas but outside the houses. Temporary shelters (average cost = 1,600 Bahts / pens) were specifically built for swine raising in most cases (89.3 %) and on average these pens have been used for 2.9 years. The majority of swine raisers (94.0 %) had their swines vaccinated against pig cholera and all of them (100 %) shared the problems caused by intestinal worms, broken hoofs and intestinal upsets in swine raising.

The results also indicated that the small-scale swine raisers were faced with serious difficulties including swine breed, feeds and swine feeding, marketing, price bargaining, shape and quality of swines, lack of market places for live swines, low price, lack of weighing scales as well as technical knowledge. The aspects which swine raisers needed most for swine raising included improved breed, feeds and swine feeding, swine marketing, technical knowledge and technical assistance.

Significant differences were detected when comparative assessments were made on the problems faced by the swine raisers based on 1) Sex (3 aspects) 2) Age (5 aspects) 3) Income (12 aspects) 4) Years of experience (4 aspects) and 5) Numbers of swines being raised (17 aspects).

According to the results, significant differences were also detected when the needs of the swine raisers were compared based on their socio-economic backgrounds. i.e. 1) Sex (3 aspects) 2) Age (5 aspects) 3) Income derived from swine raising (9 aspects) 4) Years of experience (4 aspects) and 5) Numbers of swines being raised (6 aspects).

The recommendations resulted from the study included : 1) Production : Actions should be taken to develop the centers (or places) where the swine raisers could seek for young hybrid swines and swine feeds at reasonable prices. 2) Marketing : guarantee prices for live swines and marketing centers should be set up. 3) Agricultural extension and promotion : Training should be organized by related government agencies to educate the swine raisers with the technical knowledge and know - how. Swine raisers should be assisted so that they are fully aware of all the movements specifically related to swine production. Finally, actions should be taken so that the swine raisers gain the access to low interest loans.