

Thesis Title Knowledges and Needs of the Farmers in Nakhon pathom
Province Towards the Forward Contract Farming Market of the
Asparagus Planting
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ABSTRACT

This study examines to the levels of knowledges and needs of Nakhon Pathom asparagus growers who are under the contract farming market system. It is an attempt to understand the circumstances of the baseline information of the intensive asparagus growers for export Project.. The study is designed to measure levels of knowledges on planting and marketing of asparagus as well as their various needs.

It examines correlation of knowledges and needs with a set of variables namely, sex, education level, occupation experience, number of household labour, area cultivated, Household income, income from asparagus, contract with project officers, training provided, and the asparagus growers group meeting attendance.

A sample size consists of 219 asparagus growers in Nakhon Pathom. Questionnaires were used to collect data regarding to growers knowledges and needs. Data were tarried and computed to the percentage, means (\bar{X}) standard deviation (S.D.), t-test and F-test by the application of the SPSS/PC⁺.

It is found that the asparagus growers's average age are 39 years old. Mostly completed 4 years of Primary school, occupations held prior to becoming contract farmer included growing vegetables-fruit, rice, and sugarcane. An average household labour is 3 persons. Average area for asparagus planted is 2.63 rais of an all average holding is 11.57 rais. Farmers's household income is 111,082. Baht,

and 62,411.06 Baht comes from asparagus planting. Most of them have been under the contract system for average 3.3 years. 74.40% of the growers had contract with agricultural extension workers and 60.70% have received some technical training from extension workers, export company, supervisor executives group as well as from friends and relatives.

Regards to the knowledges on asparagus planting and marketing system the majority of the farmers attained a very high level. Farmers also need knowledges on marketing system.

Farmers's knowledges on asparagus planting show statistically significant correlations to sex, level of education, occupational experience, area cultivated, degree of contract with extension workers, training received and group meeting. Farmers need the knowledges on asparagus planting are also correlated significantly with the set of variables stated above

Farmers with different occupational experiences show significantly different on the need for acquiring of knowledges on asparagus market. The degree of farmers's need on the acquiring asparagus knowledges are significantly correlation with their levels of household income and group meeting. The need for production and marketing supports shows a statistically significant correlation to the number of household labour and different training programs recieved. The need of farmers on the transfer knowledges has a statistically correlation to their occupational experience, degree of contact with extension workers, and training recieved.

The reccommendation for training need, 90% of the sampled prefer a half-day program and the training should be between one to four o'clock in the afternoon. Finally, and the training site should be located where they live.