

Thesis Title **Socio-Economic Factors Affecting the Acceptance of Neem-Extracts
Use as an Insect Control Tool for Farmers in Ratchaburi Province**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to study the socio-economic factors affecting the acceptance of neem extracts use as an insect control tool by interviewing 191 farmers in Ratchaburi province during September 6, 1993 to October 8, 1993. The data were processed and analyzed by means of SPSS/PC⁺. Chi-square, t-test one way analysis of variance and stepwise multiple regression were adopt as statistics used.

The results showed that after promotion of neem extracts use in 1987, 65.4 percent of farmers accepted while 34.6 percent of them rejected. The single factors significantly affecting the acceptance appeared nine variables which were age, size of agricultural land holding, membership of agricultural group, knowledge and attitude of neem extracts use, frequency of discussion to contact agricultural personals, experiance of neem extracts training, kinds of vegetation and size of cultivated area.

In 1993, 32.8 percents of farmers who have ever accepted neem extracts use stopped using because of the scarcity of neem seed for extraction. The single factors affecting the acceptance at present showed six significant variables which were age, size of agricultural

land holding, knowledge and attitude of neem extracts use, frequency of discussion to contact agricultural personals, experience of neem extracts training and kinds of vegetation.

With regard to comparative study between acceptance after promotion only and acceptance until present, membership of agricultural group, size of agricultural land holding and size of cultivated area were significant variables affecting the acceptance after promotion only. The difference of the larger acceptance of the prior group was those who imitate this pest control method from group force and those who were large-scale agriculturists having wider idea to test technology transfer. Later, those three variables had not influenced on the acceptance of neem extracts use because of the scarcity of neem seed. This made large-scale farmers change back to use chemical insecticide being more convenient instead of neem extracts.

Besides, it was found that knowledge was statistically significant associated with attitude and practice in neem extracts use.

Furthermore, the result of multiple regression showed that four factors affected the acceptance which were kinds of vegetation, knowledge, attitude and experience of neem extracts training. The model could explain the relation of the acceptance of neem extracts use at 39.31 percents.

Finally, the result of this study reflected that solving the scarcity of raw materials should be done by promoting neem plantation in their agricultural area and extended research for convenient use of neem extracts such as neem powder or concentrated solution. Concerning some found weak points about knowledge on neem extracts use, training curriculum and method should be revised and extended in the weak areas in order to make trainees more understandable. Also, the kind of suitable vegetation for the use of neem extracts such as vegetatables was the factor for considering target group in effective neem extracts use promotion.