

ABSTRACT

Abstract of thesis submitted to the Graduate School of Maejo University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Agricultural Extension

IMPACTS OF HIGHLAND CHRYSANTHEMUM GROWING
TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION BY HMONG HILL TRIBE AT
INTHANON ROYAL PROJECT RESEARCH STATION,
CHIANGMAI

By

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The purposes of this research were to investigate 1) personal and socio-economic

characteristics of farmers joining chrysanthemum growing project; 2) socio-economic and environmental impacts of highland chrysanthemum growing; and 3) problems in highland chrysanthemum growing. The data were collected by means of interview schedules from randomly selected samples of 113 Hmong farmers from the total population of 157, joining Highland Chrysanthemum Growing Project at Ban Khunklang, a village near Inthanon Royal Project Research Station, Chiangmai. The data were analyzed by using the SPSS/PC⁺.

The findings revealed that most of the respondents were married, male, and 39 years old on average. Half of them did not have formal education and were illiterate. The respondents had an average land area of 9 rais, 8 rais of which was used for planting. Their average total annual income was 60,743 baht, 40,909 baht of which was from chrysanthemum growing and 20,148 baht

from other sources. Their average period of agricultural career was 14 years and they had an average of 7 household members, 3 of whom contributed to household labor.

For economic impacts, the respondents were found to have more property, more incomes and expenses. They did not have more bicycles, refrigerators, fans and land. The analysis by using the Siegel's Sign Test showed significant differences in all economic aspects. Their incomes from chrysanthemum growing and trading increased but those from off-farm jobs, handicraft, salary and land rent remained unchanged. Their clothing, medical and social expenses increased while those on food remained unchanged.

For social impacts, chrysanthemum growing was found to result in the respondents' more participation in group activities, contact with officers, and training.

Environmental impacts were found to be low.

Overall, economic, social and environmental impacts of chrysanthemum growing on highland were significantly different.

The respondents stated problems and obstacles at a high level: high cost of production, lack of desirable varieties of crop, lack of land rights, and expensive land rents. The problems at a moderate level of products were low prices, market of products, irrigation systems, insufficient agricultural land, lack of financial sources, limited knowledge and experience in agriculture, lack of supervision by officers, limited labor, hygiene, unseasonal rainfall, infertile soil, lack of knowledge of soil improvement, inconvenient transport and communications, insufficient vehicles, and lack of government assistance.