

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

VEGETABLE GROWERS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS NET-HOUSE VEGETABLE
GROWING EXTENSION PROJECT IN SARAPHI DISTRICT,
CHIANGMAI PROVINCE

By

CHAMNAN SAISUD

APRIL 2000

Chairman: Assistant Professor Dr. Boonsom Waraegsiri

Department / Faculty: Department of Agricultural Extension,
Faculty of Agricultural Business

This study was conducted to find out 1) socio-economic characters of the vegetable growers who did not participate in net-house vegetable production technology extension; 2) factors affecting their attitudes towards such extension; and 3) their problems and recommendations concerning net-house vegetable growing. The data was collected from 136 vegetable growers randomly sampled from those in Saraphi district, Chiangmai province, and analyzed by the SPSS/PC⁺.

The findings revealed that three-fourths of the respondents were male with an average age of 37 years. Most of them had completed compulsory primary education and 56.62 percent were members of farmers' organizations e.g. agricultural cooperatives and the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives. The vegetable growers received farming information through radio and television and from pamphlets and agricultural publications. About three-fourths

of the respondents participated in training courses once or twice a year. Their average income from selling vegetables was 305,000 Bath a year. They had vegetable growing experience of 1–5 years and 88.24 percent had their own land while 11.76 percent rented land from others. Most of them had a farm of 1–5 rais. More than one-half of them had household labor of 3–4 persons and 63.97 percent used their own capital in growing vegetables. Some obtained loans from financial institutes such as agricultural cooperatives, farmers' organization, Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives, commercial banks or even from local merchants and relatives.

As for the levels of attitudes towards net-house vegetable growing extension i.e. attitude towards information dissemination, attitude towards agricultural extension officers' visits and attitude towards knowledge provision, and the findings revealed three-fourths of the respondents (27.85%) had a doubtful level of attitudes towards farming information access; one-third, agricultural extension officers' visits; and 43.26 percent, knowledge and training provision.

For attitudinal levels towards appropriate technology it was found that a half of the respondents (51.10%) had a doubtful level of attitude towards investment; 43.38 percent, management and practices; 42.94 percent, incomes from growing net-house vegetables; and less than a half (42.21%), appropriate technology.

The study of correlation between independent variables i.e. personal, social and economic characteristics as well as other features related to farming and dependent variables i.e. attitudes towards net-house vegetable growing extension by governmental agencies and those towards appropriateness of technology showed that sex, age, education attainment, group membership, access to farming information, income, farm size, family labour and financial sources were not significantly correlated with all aspects of net-house vegetable growing i.e. information dissemination, agricultural extension officers' visits and knowledge and training provision. Training experience was found to be significantly correlated with attitudes towards information dissemination, agricultural extension officers' visits, but

not with the respondents' attitudes towards knowledge and training provision. Vegetable growing experience was significantly correlated with attitudes towards information dissemination, knowledge and training provision, but not with agricultural extension officers' visits. Land holding was significantly correlated with attitudes towards information dissemination and knowledge and training provision, but not with agricultural extension officers' visits.

Sex, age, education attainment, group membership, access to farming information, training, land holding and financial sources had no significant correlation with all aspects of appropriateness of technology i.e. investment, management and practices, income and appropriateness of technology. Only income was found to be significantly correlated with attitudes towards investment. Farm size was found to be significantly correlated with management and investment and practices; the rest were not significantly correlated.

The vegetable growers not participating in the net-house vegetable growing extension had production problems i.e. high prices of nylon nets, non-durability of nylon nets, labor shortage, diseases and insect pest infestation, and high prices of fertilizer and seed. Concerning marketing, the vegetable growers recommended more markets and price guarantee.