ABSTRACT

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE FARMERS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS MIXED FARMING AT SANSAI DISTRICT, CHIANGMAI PROVINCE

by

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The objectives of this study were to find out 1) personal, economic and sociological characteristics of the farmers who set up mixed farms within Sansai district, Chiangmai province; 2) their attitudes towards mixed farming and comparative differences in attitudes; 3) factors influencing their attitudes; and 4) their problems, obstacles and recommendations concerning mixed farming. The study was done within Sansai district, Chiangmai province. The data was gathered from 73 samples of farmers who joined the structure and production re-modeling project of the Department of Agricultural Extension. Interview schedules were used as a study tool. The data was analyzed with the use of the SPSS by the application of the multiple regression analysis and the analysis of variance. Likert's scale was used for attitude measurement.

The results revealed that the majority of the respondents were 28 - 38 years of age and had completed grade 4 of primary education. Most of them did not attend any training in the year 1997. They had average household labor of 2 persons and an income of 112,201-140,800 baht in 1997. They obtained loans for investment, had their own land and used 2-8 rai of land for farming.

The attitude measurement indicated 46 respondents (63.01 percent) had best attitudes towards mixed farming; 15 respondents (20.55 percent), good attitudes; and 12 respondents (16.44 percent), neutral. None of them had negative attitudes.

The Anova analysis showed that the respondents with best, good and neutral attitudes towards mixed farming were different in age, educational level, training experience, agricultural land area and household labor at a significance level of 0.05 but they were not different in investment capital, income and agricultural land holding.

The multiple regression analysis showed that age, training experience and agricultural area affected the farmers' attitudes towards mixed farming at the significance level of 0.05. The coefficient for age was (-0.497) indicating that if the farmer is 1 year older his attitudes will recede at 0.497 percent; the coefficient for agricultural area was (-0.898) indicating that a 1 rai decrease in agricultural area is likely to lower the attitudes at 0.898 percent and the coefficient for training experience was 2.352 indicating that one more time of training attendance tends to increase the attitudes at 2.352 percent.

The respondents' problems and obstacles concerning mixed farming were 1) high cost of production factors, e.g. fertilizer, pesticide, etc., 2) instability of product prices, 3) natural disasters, such as flood, and 4) diseases caused by insect pests. The respondents recommended that government sectors 1) guarantee prices of products; 2) provide marketing specialists to give advice on crop and animal raising to meet the market demand; 3) disseminate knowledge of production; and 4) lower prices of production factors.