

## **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

### **FACTORS AFFECTING APPLICATION OF CHEMICALS FOR POMELO PEST CONTROL BY FARMERS IN NAKHON CHAISRI DISTRICT NAKHON PATHOM PROVINCE**

By

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The objectives of this research were to examine 1) selected factors relating to farmers' application of chemicals for pomelo pest control; 2) their level of chemical application; 3) factors relating to their level of chemical application; and 4) their problems in chemical application. The data were collected by means of pretested interview schedule from 163 farmers selected by systematic random sampling and analyzed by using the SPSS/PC<sup>+</sup>.

The results revealed that the respondents had an average age of 40 years and 69.94 percent had completed primary education. Their total annual incomes were 306,125 baht on average, 212,981 baht of which was from pomelo growing. They had an average of 12 years of farming experience and 10 years of pomelo growing with an average area of 9 rai. The average farming and pomelo growing labor was 3 persons. The respondents had average contact of 3 times a year with agricultural officers. Their monthly agricultural information access averaged 9 times through radio, 12 times through television, one time from governmental publications and 2 times from agricultural journals. They were given advice by dealers of chemicals at an average of 5 times a year, and

attended a training course in chemical application at an average of 2 times a year. Their chemical application for pomelo pest control was at a moderate level.

It was found that educational level and incomes from pomelo growing were significantly correlated with their self-preparation for chemical application. Pomelo-growing area and pomelo-growing labor were significantly correlated with their self-preparation before and during chemical application. Information access through radio was correlated with their practices after chemical application. The respondents' age, total incomes and pomelo growing experience were found not to be correlated with their chemical application for pomelo pest control.

The respondents were found to have a moderate level of problems in the selection of chemicals and a low level of problems in access of information about chemicals as well as in pomelo orchard environments.