

## **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

### **RUBBER AUCTION MARKET OPERATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE RUBBER REPLANTING AID FUND IN NAKHONSITHAMMARAT PROVINCE**

by

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The purposes of this research were to find out 1) personal, economic and social characteristics of rubber growers in Nakhonsithammarat province; 2) their opinions on the rubber auction market operation ; 3) effects of differences in the rubber growers' personal, economic and social characteristics on their opinions on the rubber auction market operation ; and 4) their recommendations to improve the operation of the rubber auction market. The data was collected during January-February 1998 by means of questionnaires pretested for content accuracy and objectivity from 193 rubber growers in Nakhonsithammarat, selected by multi-stage sampling, and analyzed by using the SPSS.

The results showed that the respondents were 40 years old on average. Most of them finished a high school and had an average annual income of 100,926 baht. Each family had 3 people on average to help in the rubber plantation. The average number of family members was 5. Most of them owned the land, 20 rai of which was used for growing rubber on average, obtained investment loans from the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives and had an average of 22 years experience in rubber growing. Their average attendance in a training course in rubber plantation management was 2 times a year in 1997 and they were mostly members of the rubber quality improvement group.

In the respondents' opinions, the two aspects of the rubber auction market operation i.e. its objectives and implementation were compatible with their needs, particularly fairness in selling raw rubber sheets by the growers, setting priority according to the growers' time of arrival at the market, weighing raw rubber sheets at the weighing point, grading rubber sheets using the criteria of the Rubber Research Institute, and auctioning off rubber to the highest bidder and making payment on the purchasing day.

The results also indicated that differences in the respondents' age, educational attainment, income, rubber plantation size, family size, household labor, rubber growing experience and training experience did not bring about differences in their opinions on the rubber auction market operation.