

Abstract

The study on “Economic Stability of Agricultural Cooperatives Members in Samutsakorn Province” aims to study basic characteristics of agricultural cooperatives members, receipt of help and from agricultural cooperatives and requirement of the members in Samutsakorn to receive support in any respect from the cooperatives. The research was carried out by collecting data from 316 samples analyzed by program package using frequency distribution, percentage, average, standard deviation tested relationship by chi square and analyzing differences between variable by t-test and f-test. The findings could be concluded as follows:

The majority of the samples were male aged between 41-45 years of primary school educational level having an area of 6-10 Rais of orchards inheriting experiences from their ancestors. The majority of capital source was from loan granted by the cooperatives. The averages annual income per household was lower than standard when compared with loan amount and debt had increased because of higher expense for agriculture and higher household expense. As for the cause of inability to pay debt that was low price of produce, the samples got insufficient fund from the cooperatives therefore they had to borrow money from external source and had several sources of debt. As for help on production factor, they got advice to increase efficiency in production and help for distributing channel and market providing. In terms of requirement of members of cooperatives in request for support from the agricultural cooperatives, their most required knowledge was marketing. As for production factor, they needed low-interest loan for profession and for land, they wanted land improvement. And finally, for welfare, they needed income stability and health insurance system of the members along with grouping to do additional job to increase income.

Suggestion of the research was, in policy level, there should be promotion and advice in adoption of integrated agriculture. The government should launch clear policy to resolve debt problem of the members and to provide factors together with setting up cultivation area to solve low price of produce. In Management level, the cooperatives should find resolution to problem the middlemen took advantage of the members and should provide additional profession training to them and their family members. As for knowledge, the cooperatives should coordinate with relating agencies to transfer knowledge on academic cost reduction and searching for marketing channel with the use of modern technology. As for factor, the cooperatives should provide their members fund or interest-free or low-interest loan. As for welfare, the cooperatives should have income security insurance, professional insurance and health insurance including toxin detection in blood cell of the members along with promoting Small and Micro Community Enterprise to be able to request for support from government agency.