

Abstract

There are 2 objectives of the study on Development and Factors affecting The Decision Making to Chemical-free Agriculture :A Case Study Sompornrat Village, Nongsano Subdistrict, Boontarik District, Ubonratchathani Province (1) To understand the conceptual development of farmers about chemical-free agriculture as the framework of sufficient economy (2) To find out the factors affecting the decision making to chemical-free agriculture

Research method are both qualitative,by using structured interview, and quantitative analyzing by non-paramatic statistic from SPSS . The data were gathered from 21 key informants which can be divided to 3 groups those are farmers who grow chemical rice, chemical-free rice and chemical-free as partial area of all land

The result found that most of all farmers in this village had been grown the chemical crop since 1971 because of government agency promotion. Afterward, in fact, they got a lot of opportunities to learn about other forms of agriculture but none of them was applied in each farms. Finally, in 1998, chemical-free agriculture was tested and started by informal leader. Then some of villagers dicided to cancel using chemical inputs continuously until in 2005, there were 10% of all villagers be chemical-free farmers.

A local military agency had main role to transfer chemical-free technique and other necessary knowledges which related to sufficient agriculture, nevertheless, self-reliance was not stop in only this step. Farmers in this village, who had the same thought ,set up fund chemical-free group for helping each other to producing input. A couple years later, there were many groups like Sompornrat set up in other areas of Ubonratchathani province. So, this development is the good condition to solve rice-marketing problem. The network of chemical-free agriculture of Ubonratchathani (surely Sompornrat is one of this member) registered to be chemical-free agricultural cooperative. The development that occur step by step from personal self-reliance

(stage 1) to community group(stage 2) and to cooperative(stage 3) is surprisingly corresponding with new theory agriculture and sufficient economy

The development of new theory agriculture of the studied area in stage 3 is conceptual-based network (is not area-based network normally because there is not necessary for waiting all villagers to change their thinking as initial condition to be grouped in the form of upper network like provincial cooperative

Many factors which affected to decision making of farmers are related each other that can be divided to 3 kinds according to the influence to determination of farmers

1. Main factor : Diligence of farmers, Proportion between land size and other produced factor, Holistic view, The way of thinking and life as sufficient economy and Characteristic of innovation

2. assist factor : Knowledge and attitude to chemical-free agriculture, Readiness of land, Land ownership, Thinking network in village, government agencies, Establish of cooperative

3. Not affected factor : Age, Revenue and Education