

Aranee Phancoem 2009: Farmer Women's Rubber Plantation Participation : Case Study of Para Rubber Groups' Cooperative in Chiang Krua Subdistrict, Mueang District, Kalasin Province.

Master of Science (Agricultural Extension), Major Field: Agricultural Extension, Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication.

Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Somsri Phattaratoma, M.S. 150 pages.

The objectives of this research were to study the socio – economic background of the female members of Para Rubber Groups' Cooperative in Chiang Krua Subdistrict, Mueang District, Kalasin Province, their rubber planting knowledge, their rubber planting activities and their participation in Para Rubber Groups' Cooperative activities, including their problems and suggestions. The data were collected by using interview schedule from 139 persons and statistically analyzed for percentage, arithmetic mean and chi – square.

The results revealed that their average age was 46.06 years, 54.68 % obtaining primary education, 97.84% being one group member. Their average family member was 4.23 persons and their average family labour was 2.01 persons. It was also found that their average time of homework activities was 31.05 hours/week, while their average experience of growing rubber was 12.09 years and their average rubber planting knowledge was 93.12 scores. All of them used RRIM 600 breed and their average rubber planting area was 9.74 rai.

For their rubber planting, it was found that the activities that all of farm women members performed were: to make decision in order to plant rubber, young rubber replanting, weed controlling, intercropping, producing good quality rubber sheet. And the activity which only 6.47% of them performed was hiring labour to work in the rubber plantation.

For the farm women's participation in the Para Rubber Groups' Cooperative activities, it was found that all of them participated in assembling for group establishment, selection of working place, group chairman election, group committee election, rubber planting training, latex tapping, producing good quality rubber sheet, rubber sheet auction and holding the Para Rubber Groups' Cooperative shares. But only 38.13% of them participated in marketing planning for members' usefulness.

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Thesis Advisor's signature