

Nattawut Noankun 2009: Adoption of Leucaena Utilization among Ruminant Farmers in Saraburi Province. Master of Science (Agricultural Extension), Major Field: Agricultural Extension, Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Supattra Srisuwan, Ed.D. 129 pages.

The objectives of this research were: 1) to define the demography and agricultural background with agricultural information exposure of ruminant farmers in saraburi; 2) to determine the level of adoption on leucaena utilization; 3) to compare the level of acceptance of ruminant farmers in relation to their demography, the background and selective exposure of ruminant farmers; 4) to find out any problems and suggestion of farmers on leucaena utilization. The purposive sampling were 142 ruminant farmers whose attended the training course on leucaena for efficiency improvement of ruminant production in Saraburi doing June-July 2008. The interview schedules were conducted. Statistical analysis used for interpretation were; percentage, arithmetic means, standard deviation, t-test, F-test (One way ANOVA), and Least Significant Difference (LSD)

The result revealed that; 1) The average age of ruminant farmers was 43.25 years and obtained of primary or low education. The major career were ruminant farmers and minor career was gardeners and rice paddy farmers. The average farm size was 29.83 Rais with raised-beds farming. The ruminant farmers had average experience of 8.68 years and be a member of animal raising group. The only 3 labor used for take care of ruminant especially dairy or goats with the average 46.11 heads. The average annual income was 389,202.1 baht/year. The media exposure of agricultural information were mostly from professional officials, training and printed matters. 2) The adoption stages on leucaena utilization were at evaluation stage. 3) Different animal raising experience on farm were activity had shown significant in adoption at 0.05 level but the animal raising labors and kinds of activity participation found highly significant in adoption at 0.01 level. 4) Problems found; in adoption shortages of leucaena during dry season, high sale price of leucaena and labor on leucaena arrangement were the constraints among farmers. However, some suggestion on leucaena processing as silage and on ingredient in the dairy ration were drawn from the ruminant farmers.

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Thesis Advisor's signature

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