

Saharat Sukparnich 2007: Comparative Analysis of Cost and Returns on Producing Processing Potatoes by Contract and Non Contract Systems in Amphoe Phrao, Changwat Chiang Mai. Master of Science (Agricultural Economics), Major Field: Agricultural Economics, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economic. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Chumnian Boonma, Ph.D. 104 pages.

The objectives of this study were to study producing and marketing process of the farmers who grew processing potatoes and to analyze cost and returns including the break-even quantity and price on producing processing potatoes comparatively between contracted and non-contracted farmers. The study used primary data which were obtained from interviewing 66 farmers in Amphoe Phrao, Chiang Mai, 2006/07 crop years.

The results of this study indicated that contracted farmers grew processing potatoes before those who were non-contracted around one month to speculate the higher farmgate price. The cost and return analysis revealed that contracted farmers got average cost at 12,835.31 baht/rai, average net return at 7,155.40 baht/rai, average net profit at 6,304.78 baht/rai, break-even price at 5.29 baht/kg and break-even quantity 1,628.85 kg/rai. On the other hand, the non-contracted farmer got average cost at 10,659.61 baht/rai, average net return 8,512.51 baht/rai, average net profit at 7,609.33 baht/rai, break-even price at 4.69 baht/kg and break-even quantity at 1,325.82 kg/rai.

The comparative analysis of cost and return also found that the average total cost of contracted farmers was significantly higher than the average total cost of non-contracted farmers which were significantly correlated at 0.05. Consequently, the study then found that non-contracted farmers got significantly higher average net returns, average net profit, and net incash profit farm than those of contracted farmers which were significantly correlated at 0.05.

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