

Voranun Suwanpidokkul 2011: Capacity Enhancing Program of Thai Food SMEs. Master of Science (Agro-Industry Technology Management), Major Field: Agro-Industry Technology Management, Department of Agro-Industry Technology. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Chutima Waisarayutt, Ph.D. 70 pages.

This research aimed to create a training program for continuous enhancing the Thai food SMEs. Survey on the current market food SMEs in Thailand was conducted in order to conclude for business characteristic based on its raw materials. To classify Thai food SMEs, the questionnaire was develop in order to collect the information of food safety awareness and understanding, business profile and incentive factors and needs for food safety management system development of the companies. K-means clustering was applied to classify food SMEs, based on the level of awareness. Then, the information of business owner profile in each awareness level group was identified as well as all relevant needs for food safety and quality management improvement. All information from the survey and analysis was then extracted for capacity enhancing program of food SMEs in Thailand.

In order to enhance Thai food SMEs capacity, “strengthening food SMEs through semi-tailor made capacity enhancing program” was planned. It proposed the flexible skill sets which suitable with appropriate entrepreneurs based on their profile. Since we found, capacity enhancing programs should be imposed differently depending on the quality and safety awareness level of each SME. From cluster analysis, Thai food SMEs were divided into two groups based on the corresponding awareness level. Different awareness levels had different in profile of education, business operation model, enterprises’ size and business income, apart from different in incentive factors to food quality and safety system adoption. However awareness level of food SMEs had no correlation with type of raw materials

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