

Pongthong Pongvinyoo 2011: Members Control of Agricultural Cooperatives in Suphan Buri Province. Master of Arts (Cooperative Economics), Major Field: Cooperative Economics, Department of Cooperative. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Suwanna Thuvachote, M.Sc. 93 pages.

The main objective of this study was to determine the participation level of members in the control of agricultural cooperatives in Suphan Buri province. The data was collected with an in-depth interview with the cooperative's managers, deputy managers and cooperative's officers from the total of 28 agricultural cooperatives in Suphan Buri province. Descriptive statistics were employed to analyze the data.

The study revealed that the cooperatives which provide the general assembly by individual member quorum to have low levels of member's participation. The result of this study indicated that only 47.78% of all individual members participated by attending in general assembly, as the level of comment on the meeting there was not much. In addition, this study also found that land reform agricultural cooperatives have average at only 29.85% of all members join in last year general assembly. Those are different from the cooperatives which provide the general assembly by delegate quorum, have an average at 81.83% of all delegates to attend in last year general assembly and the level of comment on the meeting is better. Also this study found 53.57% of all cooperatives were missing some of board directors in meetings of board several times. The board directors of most of the cooperatives (64.19% of all cooperatives) didn't propose new projects for their members, and most of the cooperatives supervisors (70.40% of all cooperatives) served on the audit only, which did not covered the main functions of cooperatives supervisors.

For cooperatives, which have more than 500 members and render the general assembly by individual member quorum, should change to the delegate system for the participation of more members in the general assembly. Also land reform agricultural cooperatives should learn from other cooperatives which have better proportion participation of members.

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Thesis Advisor's signature