

Myint Myint Aye 2009: Farmers' Attitudes towards Monsoon Groundnut Production in Pakokku District, Dry Zone Area, Myanmar. Master of Science (Tropical Agriculture), Major Field: Tropical Agriculture, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Praderm Chumjai, Ph.D. 101 pages.

The objectives of this research were mainly to study four main issues as follows; demographic, socio-economic and technological factors of farmers involved in the area extension of monsoon groundnut, the degree of farmers' attitudes towards monsoon groundnut production, the relationship between independent variables and farmers' attitudes, and the problems and suggestions of the farmers. An interview schedule was employed to collect data from 133 farmers, selected by simple random sampling methods. Data were analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics to test hypotheses at the 0.05 significance level.

The results revealed that the majority of farmers had grade 4 or less educational level and were over 40 years old with 20.07 years of average experience. The average total income was 913,722.74 kyats per year and 29,932.33 kyats per acre of groundnut income with 3.02 acres of average farm size. All respondents were land owners. The majority of farmers had more than one family labourer with off-farm employment in addition to farming and they obtained credit. Most farmers were at the medium level of participation in extension activities as well as technological assistances from extension workers and they obtained the information from media, other farmers and agro-chemical companies. The majority of farmers with a high level of knowledge used the inter-cropping system in groundnut cultivation. The overall degree of farmers' attitudes towards monsoon groundnut production was at medium level.

Concerning hypothesis testing, age was negatively related and level of education, credit and production system were positively related to the farmers' attitudes, especially total income of farm family, farm size, groundnut income, off-farm employment and participation in extension activities were significantly related to the farmers' attitudes towards monsoon groundnut production. The important main problems faced by farmers were: "lack of timely cultivation with the onset of monsoon rain", "lack of investment", "shortage of drought tolerant variety", "lack of timely inter-cultivation weeding", and "shortage of organic manure.

Based on the findings, some recommendations are proposed as follows; to find out the suitable sowing time for monsoon groundnut, to increase the amount of credit for groundnut farmers, to improve the distribution of drought tolerant varieties and good quality seeds, to train the farmers in suitable systematic herbicide application and to emphasize the demonstrations regarding organic fertilizers, group discussions, field days and field trips.

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Thesis Advisor's signature