

Rujeepatchara Boonjing 2008: Strengthening Capacity of Agricultural Extensionists' in Working with Farmers and Networking. Doctor of Philosophy (Tropical Agriculture), Major Field: Tropical Agriculture, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Patana Sukprasert, Ph.D. 176 pages.

The objective of this study was to develop a model to strengthen a capacity of agricultural extensionists' in working with farmers and networking and to produce a manual/guide on systematic development in agricultural extension. The study comprised 2 phase: the first phase: studied from 555 target persons, using the questionnaire, interview schedule and the second phase studied from 31 agricultural extensionists' and 100 networking using training evaluation form and revised the data of the researcher from both two phases by focus groups technique.

The result from the first phase found out that the model of characteristics of agricultural extensionists' consist of 5 dimensions: 1) knowledge 2) leadership 3) emotional 4) skill and 5) smartness, These characteristics could be synthesized to KLESS Competency Model which were related to each other in every dimension. In the second phase, it was found out that the agricultural extensionists' who attended the in service training performed well according to the KLESS Competency Model but still had weaknesses in knowledge and skill dimensions.

The ICCMP ,which included 1) In-service training 2) Competency analysis 3) Course design 4) Motivation 5) Promotion, was identified as a mechanism to enhance the readiness of agricultural extensionists' to work with farmers and their network based on KLESS Competency Model in terms of internal and external characteristics of self-development and working with other persons. The study recommended that the organization staff the importance on personnel competency prior to job assignment so that the work could be implemented in line with the needs of stakeholders.

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Thesis Advisor's signature

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