

Jiraporn Ruangklay 2006: An Analysis of Production Efficiency of Maize Farmers in Amphoe Pak Chong Changwat Nakhon Ratchasima Crop Year 2004/2005. Master of Science (Agricultural Economics), Major Field: Agricultural Economics, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Sanit Kao-ian, M.S. 164 pages.

The objectives of this study were to the study general situation, production plan, cost and return of maize farmers and to analyse production efficiency of the maize farmer. The data used in this study were obtained from the interviews of 100 maize farmers in Amphoe Pak Chong Nakhon Ratchasima province crop for year in 2004/05 divided into the first crop of 73 farmers and the second crop of 96 farmers.

The result of the study in three groups revealed that the total average cost of the farmers that grow maize at the first crop have higher costs than other groups. When considering income, we found that the farmers who grow the maize at the second crop have higher returns. When we compare both periods, we found that the first crop has higher return than the second crop. For the analyses of the production function of two periods, we found that the factor of production such as labour, value of seed, value of chemical fertilizer, value of pesticide and spacing can explain the production changing at significant levels. The study of production technical efficiency revealed that production in the first crop has higher production than the second crop. The analyses of production economic efficiency revealed that labour, seed, fertilizer and pesticide of both periods were lower than the optimal level. As a results, the farmers should increase the level of each factor. The analyses of average production efficiency of the first and second crop were 0.8022 and 0.9363. The study of the factors affecting the production inefficiency examined that the education, experience on the production maize and age of the farmers. The statistics are significant and relate to 3 factors.

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Thesis Advisor's signature