

Vongsathorn Kritayakulchat 2011: A Comparative Analysis of Income Distribution and Factors Affecting Income of Don Chedi Agricultural Cooperative Limited Member and Farmer Group in Amphoe Don Chedi, Suphan Buri Province. Master of Arts (Cooperative Economics), Major Field: Cooperative Economics, Department of Cooperative. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Vijitsri Sanguanwonges, Dr.rer.soc.oec. 86 pages.

This research aims to study the general economic and social conditions as to analyze the income distribution in respect to production factors and sources of income which effect such income distribution. The income distribution of household members of the Don Chedi Cooperative Limited was analyzed and subsequently compared with a group of farmers in Amphoe Don Chedi, Suphan Buri province. The results show the general economic and social development conditions of member of agricultural cooperatives and farmers to have an average net income of 108,460 and 200,880 baht with a dependency ratio analysis of 0.3 and 0.24, respectively. Comparison of the greatest impact which affect to distribution of income demonstrated that the variable costs and land size were the most influential factors of production and both non-agricultural and agricultural-income as sources of income, respectively. Comparative analysis of distribution of income with the application of the Gini coefficient found that members of cooperatives to have a greater distribution of income than farmers.

The results of the present study revealed 1) the variable costs of fertilizer and pesticides to be the major components which need to be managed in appropriately in respect to the land size. 2) sources of non-agricultural incomes are the most influent factors which affect the distribution of incomes and thus need to be promoted as non-agricultural occupations to increase household revenue for all generations.3) cooperatives should be effectively supported by the government as a development tool and to address the imbalances of income distribution in the country.

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