

THESIS TITLE SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EFFECTIVE FARMER GROUP
 : OPINION OF KASET AMPHOE IN NORTHEAST THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

The purposes of the thesis were to investigate 1) certain socio-economic characteristics of the Kaset Amphoe (district agricultural extension) in Northeast Thailand, 2) roles of the Kaset Amphoe in implementing the farmer groups, and 3) Kaset Amphoe's opinions about characteristics of effective farmer groups. The sample comprised 146 Kaset Amphoe in Northeast Thailand, selected through quota sampling for each province and simple random sampling techniques. The instrument used for collecting data was the questionnaires, and the collected data were subsequently analyzed by the use of the SPSS Program in the forms of percentage, arithmetic means, and standard deviation. the findings were as follow:

1. The Kaset Amphoe's status. It was found that almost all of the Kaset Amphoes were males, with the average age of 48.1

years, completed a bachelor's degree, served in position for 15.5 years on average, earned the average monthly salary of 15,220 Baht, and each being in charge of 4.9 farmer groups on average.

2. The roles of the Kaset Amphoe involving in implementing the farmer groups. It was found that almost of Kaset Amphoe participated in planning for promoting the establishment of farmer groups along with assistant Kaset Amphoe and Kaset Tumbon (sub-district agricultural extension), supported the implementation of farmer groups, and regularly participated in planning for implementing the farmer groups along with the committees every year.

3. The Kaset Amphoe's opinions about characteristics of effective farmer groups. The opinions could be categorized as below:

The opinions about the committees of effective farmer groups consisted of 1) the committee members were honest; 2) they understood their own roles and functions; and 3) they well understood the regulations for the farmer group.

The opinions about the members of effective farmer groups consisted of 1) the members were faithful to themselves and their own groups; 2) they strictly followed the regulations for the farmer group.

The opinions about effective farmer groups' financial implementation consisted of 1) for annual allotments of net profits, the group should strictly follow the regulations; 2) before any money paying, a committee meeting should be held in order to plan for expenditures; and 3) the group should annually evaluate the members' loans.

The opinions about effective farmer groups' material and accessory implementation consisted of 1) the group should provide production inputs for member in time of cultivating season; 2) the committee should cooperate with chiefs of agricultural units in order to plan for providing production inputs for members; and 3) the group should annually survey the members' needs for production inputs.

The opinions about effective farmer groups' management consisted of 1) the committee should coordinate with the chiefs of agricultural units and members in order to create effective group work; 2) the group should annually set plans or projects to be implemented in advance; and 3) the committee should have role in promoting the members to collectively purchase production inputs and collectively sell their products with effectiveness.

The recommendations given from this study were : agricultural extension workers should explain or train the committee members to understand the details of regulations for the farmer groups according to the Revolutionary Party's Declarations Number 140-141 before any implementation of the group. Agricultural extension workers should encourage the member to express their ideas fully concerning implementation of the farmer group while a meeting is being held. Agricultural extension workers should provide farmer groups with training concerning the groups' financial implementation. The group committee should provide agricultural inputs for the members in time of cultivating season. Also, for setting up regulation and laws for the farmer groups, all the members should be notified and they should have opportunities for considering before these rules would be in effective for the group.