

Pansa Unprayoon 2006: Farmer's Opinions on Suitable Soil Management for Pineapple Planting in Amphoe Muang, Changwat Prachuap Khiri Khan. Master of Science (Agriculture), Major Field: Agricultural Extension, Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication.

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The objectives of this research were to study the background of the pineapple planting farmers, their performance, knowledge and opinions on suitable soil management for pineapple planting, their problems and suggestions were also included. The data were collected, using interviewing scheme from 137 pineapple planting farmers and were statistically analysed for percentage, arithmetic mean, t-test and Chi-square.

The results revealed that 65.7% of studied farmers were male with the average age of 43.8 years and 74.5% finished primary school. All of them were pineapple planting farmers with 77.4% having some other agricultural practices together with growing pineapple. On average, they have been growing pineapple for 11.4 years with planting areas of 34.2 rai per family being operated, and 160,000 baht was their average annual income. Average family members were 4.2 heads on average while 2.2 men were their average agriculture labour per family. It was found that 48.9% of them used to attend soil management training, 50.4% of them used to join the related conference, 70.8% was members of pineapple planting farmer group, and 93.4% used to contact with agricultural extension officers. In the context of their knowledge level on soil management, the average score of 78.0 was collected from the test provided.

According to the hypotheses, they were tested and the results showed that opinions and knowledge of the farmers on suitable soil management for pineapple planting were different with respect to their sex, age, education, experience in pineapple planting, income, planting areas, number of labours and members per family, and contact with agricultural extension officers.

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Thesis Advisor's signature

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