

Aphiwat Kumsing 2010: Opinions of Farmers on Implementation of Highland Agricultural Extension Center, Lamphun Province. Master of Science (Agricultural Extension), Major Field: Agricultural Extension, Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Savitree Rangsihaht, Ph.D. 116 pages.

Objectives of this research were: 1) to study basic characteristics and some socio-economic characteristics of farmers, 2) to study opinions of farmers on the implementation of Highland Agricultural Extension Center in Lamphun province, 3) to compare the differences between basic characteristics, some socio-economic characteristics of farmers and their opinions on the implementation of Highland Agricultural Extension Center in Lamphun province, and 4) to study problems and suggestions of farmers on the implementation of Highland Agricultural Extension Center in Lamphun province. Population was 360 farmers in the responsible areas of Highland Agricultural Extension Center in Lamphun province at Li and Thung Ngu Chang district. Data were analysed by using frequency, percentage and average. Hypotheses were tested by using t-test.

Research findings were: most farmers were males (50.6%). The average ages were 40.98 years old, finished primary education (51.6%). They were equal percentage of native and hill tribe farmers (50%). The annual average farm incomes were 35,221.92 Bath/years, land holding without certificate (68.6%), having male household labors (95.2%), contacting with extension workers of Highland Agricultural Extension Center in Lamphun province (71.0%), contacting with extension workers 1 to 15 times (65.0 %), and receiving 1-3 sources of agricultural occupation information.

For opinions of farmers on the implementation of Highland Agricultural Extension Center in Lamphun province, it was found that farmers highly agreed with extension workers using languages to easily communicate with them (mean = 4.06), and promoting mushroom cultivation for cash crops (mean = 4.30). They also agreed with having demonstration plots at the Highland Agricultural Extension Center (mean = 4.07). Problems of farmers were: having inadequate extension workers (8.3%), low price of the agricultural products (6.9%), no market for agricultural products (6.4%), language using to communicate difficult to understand (6.1%) and extension workers not frequently visited farmers (5.0%). Suggestions were: extension workers frequently disseminated agricultural knowledge to farmers (8.0%), extension workers frequently visited farmers (7.8%), increased number of extension workers (7.5%) and increased the market of agricultural products (6.4%).

Hypothesis findings were: differences in ages, incomes from vegetable, incomes from forest products, incomes from employment, numbers of female household labors, amount of contacting with extension workers and perception of agricultural occupation were significantly differed in opinions of farmers on the implementation of Highland Agricultural Extension Center in Lamphun province. However, differences in educational level, tribe, incomes from fruits, winter flowers, animals, handicraft, field crops, farm land, numbers of male household labors were not significantly different in their opinions on the implementation of Highland Agricultural Extension Center in Lamphun province.

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Thesis Advisor's signature