UTILIZATION OF RUBBER TECHNOLOGY AMONG FARMERS OF RAYONG, THAILAND

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A THESIS

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ABSTRACT

KONGSIN, CHAMNONG. Institute of Graduate Studies, Central Luzon State University, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines, August, 1985. Utilization of Rubber Technology Among Farmers of Rayong, Thailand.

Major Adviser: Thelma S. Bernardo

This study was conducted with 158 rubber smallholders as samples in four districts of Rayong, Thailand. The study primarily aimed to investigate the utilization of the rubber technology developed by the Rubber Research Center. In particular, it sought to find the factors related to the utilization of the said technology.

The respondents were found to have a mean age of 33 years and that they were predominantly females. They had low levels of educational attainment (an average of four years in school), small household sizes (6 and below) and relatively short farming experiences.

Their mean annual family gross income was 55,214.11 bahts ($2,045), 66 percent of which came from rubber farming, with mean plantation size of 15.27 Rais (2.44 ha).

Four of the seven recommended practices were high utilized namely; uniform height of opening, use of fertilizer, good rubber sheet making and control of rubber disease. The low utilized practices were: use of standard tapping system, group marketing and use of latex stimulant.

Most frequently mentioned problems include the following: price fluctuation, disease, financial, scarcity of skilled tappers, marketing, costly in-puts such as high cost of fertilizer.

Some demographic and economic characteristics were associated with the high utilization or low-utilization of the recommended practices. For the high utilization practices particularly uniform height of opening, use of fertilizer, good rubber sheet making and control of rubber disease, were used by farmers who had large plantation size and high annual income. Use of latex stimulant was low-utilized by young farmers and those with high educational attainment. Group marketing was utilized by farmers with short farming experience. Use of standard tapping system was utilized by rubber smallholders with large plantation and large income.

For effective implementation of future training, younger smallholders should be encouraged to participate. The benefit of adopting the recommended practices should be experienced fully by those who are older and those with low educational attainment since they are more likely to resist the technology. Some misconceptions of rubber smallholders should be corrected through proper information dissemination campaign.

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