

Abstract

This thesis is an attempt to examine the relationship between socioeconomic factors and the decision-making role of rural women in agricultural and household activities in Northern Thailand.

The research studies the socioeconomic profile of rural women in Chiangmai province : age, education, income, number of children, farm size, years married, participation in social group and social activities. The research also studies the pattern of the decision-making in agricultural and household activities of rural women to examine the relationship between their decision making, in agriculture activities, and socioeconomic factors. The relationship between decision making in household activities and decision-making in agriculture is also examined.

A random sample of 150 subjects was drawn from the rural women living in agricultural families in Chiangmai province, during 1984.

This study showed that men in this northern province are the most powerful force in both family and agricultural decision-making. A much smaller role in decision-making was observed for women, especially in agricultural activities. In those household activities that women are theoretically expected to have a large degree of decision-making power, we found that their role was relatively small. The men were found to have responsibility and decision-making roles even in these activities. In general we found that most household activities are decided between wife and husband in joint decision-making.

The results from a statistical examination of associations showed that most of socioeconomic factors were not significantly related to the decision-making in agricultural activities. Only

the positive association between the education level of husband of the rural women and decision-making in agricultural activities was found to be significantly related (Gamma (G) = .45).

In an examination of the association between decision-making on agricultural and household activities, it was found that they were significantly related with a negative association (Gamma (G) = -0.60).

This research showed the pattern of socioeconomic and the decision-making features in agricultural and household activities in one northern province. It was particularly of interest because most factors studied were shown not to be associated.