NEW FARMER DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURAL LAND REFORM AREA IN THAILAND

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Thailand is located in suitable climate and geography that enable to perform various agricultural activities. However, low price of production and low quality of products are still remained. This issue is farmers are lacking of knowledge on farm management for instances production planning and marketing. Consequently, farmers earned less income, got in debts, some of them decided to look for other sources of income by leaving their farmland and move to the city in order to find new jobs. Leaving farmland is affected to living apart from family which may lead to collapse of family in rural areas.
Elderly farmers are increasing

Inadequate in agricultural Labor

Decreasing numbers of farmers

Lacking of skills and knowledge

low number of students enrolled in related agriculture subjects
Consideration for entering agricultural career

Primary factor

Attitude

knowledge

Primary factor
The concepts of new farmers development a following

1. Develop the new farmers can be defined as a farmer is a person who has farming occupation, use information to analyze planning

2. Encourage teenage to apply in agricultural course in College of Agricultural and Technology. Education institutes should provide theories and practical training in order to create their knowledge and skills in agricultural profession., they will be able to earn income not less than 15,000 THB per month which compare to the salary of those graduates.

3. Utilize of existing College of Agricultural and Technology to be foundation of recruit new generations into agricultural sector.

4. Create collaboration between government agencies namely Thailand Research Fund (TRF), Office of Vocational Education Commission (VEC), Agricultural Land Reform Office (ALRO) and Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC). One of these four agencies can be hosted and building up network to ensure long-term mechanism.
There are 4 characteristics of the new farmers are following

- Adjusting producing procedures from resources-based to knowledge-based which gain competitiveness.
- Having managerial skills through production chain which is covering farm planning to marketing.
- Using and analyzing relevant information in order to make decision wise in instable market situation.
- Strengthening their own farm and extend to community in according to the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.
New Farmer Development Model which consists of several development and preparation sessions; human resources, knowledge skills and resources distributions in order to achieve positive attitude of new generation on agricultural career. To be a community who adjust producing procedure resources – based to knowledge – based
The project of new farmer development is conducted in three courses

- New farmer development course is opened up for all Thai citizens who are interested in agricultural occupation and want to become a farmer. This curriculum takes 6 months for training which conducted in both theory and practical sessions. After trained, land will be allocated to those participants who have no farmland and willing to be a farmer which land size is not larger than 5 rai per person.

- Professional farmer development course is established for students who are studying in the high vocational certificate of college of Agriculture and Technology. This takes approximately 2 years as the course of higher vocational certificate requires 2 years. Farmland will be allocated to them after graduate and size of farmland is not larger than 5 rai per person.

- Sustainable farmer development course is set up for farmers who are located in the land reform areas. This course is aimed to increase knowledge and management skills in farming.
Learning Center for New Farmer Development

- Chaingmai (60 rai)
- Phetchaboon (20 rai)
- Nakhorn sawan (94 rai)
- Kharnchanaburi (68 rai)
- Chumporn (86 rai)
- Surardthani (11 rai)
- Phuket (21 rai)
- Chaingrai (20 rai)
- Nongkhai (81 rai)
- Nakhornrachasima (20 rai)
- Nakhornpanom (82 rai)
- Pranakhornsri Ayuthaya (80 rai)
- Chacherngsoa (30 rai)
- Rayong (30 rai)

1 rai = 0.16 hectare
New Farmer Development Project

1. New farmer development course

New Farmers have to apply skills and knowledge gained to use the allocated land, and become a leadership to support and develop sustainable agriculture in that land area.

1) To be able to change the way of production from resources based to knowledge based in order to take advantage in competitiveness

2) To be able to manage their own farm throughout the production chain; from the farm to the market

3) To be able to use existing information to create alternatives to cope with fluctuating market

4) To be able to strengthen their own farming, and enlarge into a group or community following the philosophy of sufficiency economy
1) Thai nationality
2) Willing to be a farmer and bring development to agriculture sector
3) Age 20 years or above, but not more than 45 years
4) Full-time farmers
5) Graduated Grade 6 (Senior High school) or equivalent
6) Healthy to carry out agricultural activities
7) Intent to be a farmer
During the 2\textsuperscript{nd} month of training, representatives from ALRO, VEC and TRF and other integration agencies will visit the participants who are training in the College of Agriculture and Technology for a support and information about the land allocation and a 6 months trial period, and supervise the project operation.
New farmers will be evaluated after they entered the allocation land. The evaluation is set by Provincial ALRO; new farmer who is able to carry out the 6 months of trial period with the career plan has possibility to complete the trial. The completed one will be proposed for a land certificate of land ownership by ALRO according to Agricultural Land Reform Act.
2 Professional development courses

- Learning and teaching method used for the Professional development courses will follow the existing courses of each vocational college, depending on their professional such as fishery, crop planting, animal science, etc. The colleges have to adjust way of teaching to provide students with positive attitude towards agriculture. Besides, students will obtain confidence and potential to enter their career.

- Students who are qualified can get ALRO land allocation following the process of New Farmer Development project. However
After graduation, graduates follow ALRO land allocation process to temporarily have their own land for agricultural activities, and they will become ownership of the land when they can pass the agricultural professional trial. The trial period will be for six months the same as Agricultural Leadership development course.

In addition, the VEC has to inform Technology Transfer and Development Bureau of ALRO to report the Provincial ALRO for sending graduates into the land.
Farmers living in rural areas are persons engaged in agriculture, they grow crops using knowledge from their experience. To enhance their skills that they can use to improve the crop production or use land efficiently, it is possibilities to combine their own intellect with some knowledge.

The sources of knowledge are from local philosopher, and agricultural specialist who have knowledge of modern agricultural techniques. In addition, integration of analytical thinking and records such as household accounting and farm accounting into the daily life is a way to collect data. The data can be used to make a plan or create an alternative plan to carry it properly following the Philosophy of sufficiency economy.
Objectives

- To develop land usage skills according to plant types, and enhance planting process such as rice, cassava, sugar cane, rubber, oil palm, fruit, flower, vegetable and husbandry.
- To increase planning skills and household management following the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy by using the household accounting, farm accounting and preliminary planning of their household accounts.
- To increases skills in networking and coordinating with the government to access budget, and be able to coordinate with other agencies to reinforce or develop career activities.
- Agricultural local knowledge
Assessment process will be taken place during training and after the training period by ALRO and integration agency.

Certificates will be given to farmers who are able to complete the course.
New Farmer development course:

an integrated development prototype among College of Agriculture and Technology, Agencies under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. In addition, it is increasing number of farmer and farming community in the Land Reform Area. There are new farmers trained by the project more than 4,284 cases and more than 1,242 cases are able to deserve the land, who becomes agricultural leadership. Still, there is around 150 cases are currently under evaluation.
Agricultural Professional development courses:

- an ideal teaching method in agriculture vocational Institute; Project-based Learning (PBL), and education system outside school. PBL will be focus on thinking, analyzing and creating alternative for judgment. Consequently, agricultural students can improved their career professional, and confidently enter the career without worrying for earning income. As a new agricultural professional, they will certainly earn a salary the same as or even higher than undergraduates in other career fields. There are agricultural students who participate in the project around 1894 cases.
Sustainable Farmers development course:

- a prototype of enhancing farmer ability to manage their own careers in the allocated land, Agriculture Land Reform area. A number of participants are more than 32,679 cases.

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