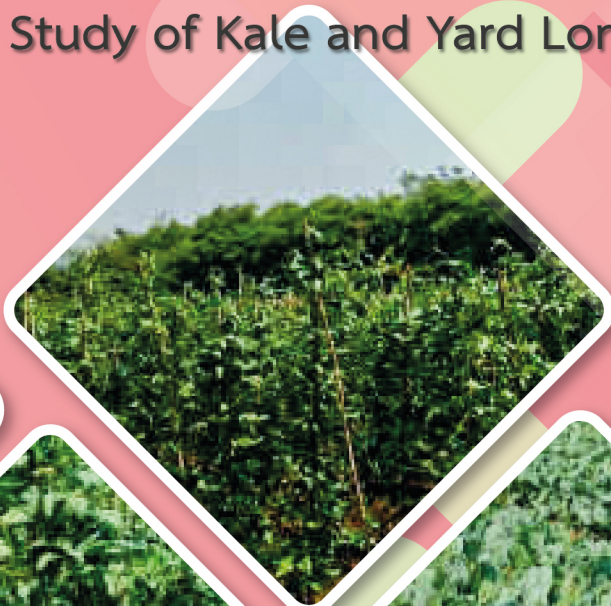




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The Adjustment of Vegetable Farmers to Good Agricultural
Practices: A Case Study of Kale and Yard Long Bean



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Abstract

This study aimed to study factors affecting vegetable farmers' adjustment to the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and to compare costs and returns between GAP and chemical vegetable farms. A sample consisted of two groups: GAP and chemical vegetable farmers. The samples of those two groups were selected from vegetable farmers in Changwat Chiang Mai, Khon Kane, and Nakhon Pathom in crop year 2018.

Results of this study showed that factors causing vegetable farmers to participate in GAP were prices, training and field study as well as experiences. Such factors were statistically significant at 0.01 level. Meanwhile, head of household education and planting areas were factors that influenced on decision making to participate in GAP system and were statistically significant at 0.05 level.

A comparison of costs and returns in the case of Kale indicated that the GAP farms, in one crop cycle, had total costs of 14,811.27 Baht per rai, average yields of 1,377.41 kilogram per rai, farm prices of 20 Baht per kilogram, returns of 27,548.18 Baht per rai and net returns of 12,736.89 Baht per rai; while the chemical farms had total costs of 15,860.61 Baht per rai, average yields of 2,299.90 kilograms per rai, farm prices of 10.53 Baht per kilogram, returns of 24,209.52 Baht per rai and net returns of 8,348.91 Baht per rai. The finding indicated that Kale production in the GAP system had lower production costs and higher returns than those in the chemical farms. This was due to GAP farms used less chemical for pest controls than the chemical farms and the GAP products gained a higher price.

Likewise, in the case of yard long bean, GAP farms had total costs of 18,649.07 Baht per rai in one crop cycle with average yields of 1,993.58 kilogram per rai, farm prices of 20.60 Baht per kilogram, returns of 41,067.77 Baht per rai and net returns of 22,418.70 Baht per rai; while the chemical farms had total costs of 19,880.91 Baht per rai in one crop cycle with average yields of 2,815.28 kilograms per rai, farm prices of 13.87 Baht per kilogram, returns of 39,046.66 Baht per rai and net returns of 19,165.75 Baht per rai. The finding indicated that yard long bean production in the GAP system had lower production costs and higher returns than those in the chemical farms. Again, yard long bean in the GAP farms received a higher price.

Bases on the major findings, it was recommended that government and related agencies should: 1) educate vegetable farmers particularly new generation farmers regarding GAP system and induce them to engage more in GAP farming, 2) encourage farmers to produce their own bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides by themselves to lower costs of production, and 3) support farmers to collaborate and form a group of production and marketing for bargaining power and a certain market.