ASSESSMENT OF VULNERABILITY TO FOOD SECURITY OF FARMERS IN SISAKET PROVINCE, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to assess vulnerability to food security of farmers, including analyze causes and factors affecting food production system of farmers in Sisaket province. Both qualitative and quantitative were used for Door-to-Door interview household farmers and key informants. Totally, there were about 608 informants. The study areas are selected under the criteria of: 1) irrigated and non-irrigated farming areas, and 2) municipal and rural areas. Our study found that the level of vulnerability to food security at 3.10; it means that Sisaket province has the medium level. The ascending from lowest stability to highest stability are HHFAV, HHFS, HHFA and HHFU, respectively. A Comparison between municipal and rural area was found to be very little different but a clear distinction between irrigated and non-irrigated areas within irrigated areas have higher food security. Analyzing differences of household food security showed that the first factor was agricultural land tenure providing that the group of households having more land ownership had high level of household food sustainability. The second factor was topography finding that the group of households setting down nears the sources of natural water and factors of production had high level of sustainability of food stability and food utilization. For factors of group gathering in the communities, it was found that the group of households with group gathering in their community had more food accessibility. The practical guidelines for more sustainability consist of irrigated system development, production cost reduction, and conservation of natural resources in their communities.

KEYWORDS: Vulnerability, Food Security, Farmers, Sisaket Province, Thailand

INTRODUCTION

Livelihood adaptation is the key to resilience. Livelihood adaptation means either specialization or diversification of income sources. Livelihood diversification is also an important strategy for coping with risk (Ellis 2000; Ellis and Freeman 2005). Livelihoods