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| Research Title | Farmers' Problems and Preparations of Readiness to Enter the ASEAN Community Based on the Ideas of Model Farmers of the Local Philosophers Networks in the Northeast |
| Researcher | Mr.Thawadchai Pengpinit Mr.Pronthavee Ponvaingpon Mr. Warodom Sangkaew Miss.Phimchanok Watthong |
| Research Consultants | Asst. Prof. Dr.Thirasak Lamom |
| Organization | Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Suan Dusit Rajabhat University |
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This research employed a qualitative methodology. Its objective was to investigate problems and ways in the preparations of readiness of the farmers to enter the ASEAN Community based on the ideas of model farmers of the 12 local philosophers networks in the Northeast. In the areas of provinces-Khon Kaen, Nakhon Ratchasima, Surin, Buri Ram, and Amnat Charoen. The target group comprised local philosophers, model farmers and other people concerned. The study was carried out by examining the documents and collecting the fieldwork data through observation, interview, focus group discussion and workshop. The duration for study was 12 months.

The results of research are as follows:

The problems in entering the ASEAN Community of the farmers had nine issues thus: low communication skill, outdated agriculture knowledge, lack of knowledge about investment and marketing, few local people in the labor force, lack of learning the cultural difference, unsafe life and property, low application of technology, having a chronic disease, and weak gathering together.

The ways in the preparations of readiness of the farmers to enter the ASEAN Community had 12 issues thus: development of communication skill, learning about the ASEAN Community, producing toxin-free food, exchange of custom and culture, development of strength in gathering together, putting emphasis on Sufficiency Economy, creating an extra occupation, development of the environment to be comfortable, having a health-support activity, development of tourism sources, application of technology and development of plants.