

ECONOMIC INPUT OF LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT IN FARMER BASED THAILAND

Thanee Pak-Uthai and Uaichai Chaiyutto

Planning Division, Department of Livestock Development, Thailand

Livestock in Thailand plays a critical role in economy by contributing to securing rural livelihoods, raising national income, reducing poverty, improving human nutrition, earning or saving as well as trading. Livestock are capital assets since replacement can be bred and kept within the herd. However we need to add more fund to new investment. Livestock production provides employment through the livestock system which we can classify the land use into three categories: 1) 'grassland-based' pastoralism and ranching 2) 'mixed-farming', either rainfall or irrigation and 3) 'landless livestock production'. Livestock development could be motivated through extension with technology transfer which has four main parts. They are developing livestock breeds which are suitable to Thailand's environment to improve production, developing livestock feeds which are produced from local material and/or agriculture by-products, e.g. maize tree, cassava and cassava leaves, mulberry leaves and pine apple peels, encouraging farmers to use agriculture machinery and implementing GAP farm management to create consumer's confidence through food safety, traceability and friendly environment. The output is to increase productivity and decrease production cost while the outcomes are to encourage farmers to extend competitive capacity and have occupation sustainability which leads to increase income whereas to offer safety food to both domestic and foreign consumers.