

**FACTORS AFFECTING FARM HOUSEHOLD  
CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURES: A CASE STUDY  
IN SRIRACHA DISTRICT**

**By**

**Piyavan Skulcharoen**

**A Dissertation Submitted in Partial  
Fulfillment of The Requirements for The Degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy (Population and Development)  
School of Applied Statistics  
National Institute of Development and Administration  
ISBN 974-231-419-5  
2002**

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Date *Oct. 29, 2002*

## ABSTRACT

<b>Title of Dissertation</b>	:	Factors Affecing Farm Household Consumption Expenditures: A Case Study in Sriracha District
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<b>Degree</b>	:	Doctor of Philosophy (Population and Development)
<b>Year</b>	:	2001

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Farm households are the majority of households of the whole country. Farm household expenditures are the indicators of living standard and household welfare. So studying farm household expenditures is the studying of the living standard and household welfare of the Thai population. The main objectives are to study the farm household consumption expenditures, its patterns, and the factors affecting farm household consumption expenditure. The scope to study is on the daily consumption.

The research methods are employed: documentary research and survey research. Documentary research is to study the demographic profile on farm household size and structure with the data base from socioeconomic survey by the National Statistical Office during 1990 - 2000. The survey research is to study factors affecting farm household consumption expenditures. The unit of analysis is the farm household. The study area is Sriracha district, Cholburi Province. The Multi – stages sampling method was used to select 240 samples spread all over four sub- districts, Kaokansong, Bangpra, Nongkam and Surasak sub- district. Descriptives Statistics, Percentage Distribution Techniques and Multiple Regression Techniques are used for the analysis of data.

The results indicate that most of farm household heads are poorly educated, having a mean age of 52. The average household size is 4.6. Most of the household pattern are nuclear household, female household members are educated at a low level and work at home. The average sex ratio is 104.5, dependency ratio of 46.4. The average household income is balanced with the average household consumption expenditures. The patterns of the household consumption expenditure in order of

importance are food and non-alcoholic beverages, educational services, transportation and communication etc. The average of basic necessities is 56.4%. The household will spend half of an additional income on agricultural investment. In comparing between the characteristics of farm households in Sriracha and the national farm household, there are some similarities such as the household size is about 4-5 persons, most of the households are nuclear, and the joint households, which are a sub-household, are of the highest proportion. But the average debts of the farm households in Sriracha are four times higher than those of the national farm households.

The result of the study indicated that factors effecting farm household expenditure significantly in order of importance, are household income, household size, female higher education ratio, age of youngest child, daily hours spent by the household members in the production of home grown crops and animal feed, agricultural land size, work status of household 'spouses, educational attainment of household head, and work ratio of household members. Mostly those factors affect farm household expenditure as expected. The unexpected are the age of youngest child, work ratio of household members, and work status of household's spouses. The predictors could explain farm household consumption expenditure at fifty six percent ( $R^2 = .56$  and  $R^2_{\text{adjusted}} = .53$ ).

Government, policy makers, planners should pay attention to the farm household and factors affecting farm household expenditures in all aspects. Courses and curriculum such as farm household management, agricultural investment, and time allocation of resources should be implemented both in formal and informal education. Also learning by doing, life long education through the communication media under mutual interests of the community support and to follow the successful steps, with the knowledge of sufficiency, could be enormous help for farmers.

It is exactly the right time for every sector's cooperation to concentrate on farm households. Farm households also should be proud of themselves that they are the major part supporting the whole economy in this economic crisis and in the future as long as human being need food. Above all, these pieces of land have been accumulated wealth of the nation for decades.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First of all, I'm very grateful and appreciative to the School of Applied Statistics, the National Institute of Development and Administration, for giving me the chance to study and the support funds for this study.

I would like to express my appreciation to my major advisor, Assistant Professor Dr. Deunpen Theerawanviwat, who was very kind, and who assisted, encouraged, and enlightened me in writing this dissertation. I am especially indebted to her innumerable contributions in helping me complete this study.

I would also like to thank my co-advisor, Associate Professor Dr. Chai Podhisita, to whom I owed a special thanks for his invaluable concept assistances, and constructive comments, his valuable suggestions, recommendations, and support throughout the conduct and writing of the dissertation, and who provided me with inspirations for follow up.

My thanks also to Assistant Professor Dr. Suchitra Chamnivickorn, with whom I was extremely impressed, by her helps in documentation, constructive comments, and especially for her help in fostering my spirit to continue finishing the dissertation.

My deepest gratitude also goes to Associate Professor Dr. Suwanlee Piampiti for her kindness, full understanding and support from my first day as a student at NIDA, and throughout the study, and her excellent comments to improve this work.

I also wish to thank Assistant Professor Man Sararat, Dr. Nibhon Debavalya, and Assistant Professor Dr. Anchalee Jengcharoen for their kindness and advice from the very beginning regarding the interesting topics.

The deep appreciation that I received, the help and support from those who contributed to the success of this work, especially, my dearest friends Mrs. Lukana Yuvaprakorn, Mrs Piyamas Boonsop, my boss Mr. Pornthep Patananurak, colleagues at Kasetsart University (Sriracha Campus), Miss Voranun Chaonawin and Mr. Chaiwat Harutaipun for their assistance in the field work and typing, Mr. Jerry Croce and Mr. Jittipon Padungsatjakul for their meticulous effort in correcting my English, making the thesis presentation more readable and easily followed.

Lastly if there is some goodwill from my study, I would like to give it to my beloved parents and sisters who have always supported me in the work I have done. Finally, whatever errors and shortcomings found in this study are entirely mine.

Piyavan Skulcharoen  
October 2001