

CHAPTER 5

RECOMMENDATIONS

From this study, it can be concluded that the training program using application of participatory learning to provide knowledge and to change attitudes for development of correct pesticide handling and practices could promote better knowledge, better attitudes and more correct pesticide practices in the farmers. However, the investigator would like to recommend according to the study outcomes as follows:

1. Participatory learning was considered to be one of effective approaches that could be adopted in solving public health problems of various areas, in terms of providing health education for people in a community.
2. Application of participatory learning process on different target groups requires adjustment of learning contents and methodologies to suit a particular group such as children, adults, and elderly people. Small group activities should also be adjusted in a similar manner.
3. Persons running participatory learning activities should practice various skills necessary for each step of the activities until becoming skillful. In addition, they should truly understand the learning program so that the activities are smoothly operated and the objectives of every activity are achieved.

4. The study found that most participants only used a thin cloth to cover their nose and mouth, as most effective safety barriers were not commonly available in the community and it was inconvenient to obtain one. Public health sectors should, therefore, provide supports with effectively protective equipment.

5. There should be support for establishment of pest controlling herb-funding groups in the community. Herb products might be commercially distributed in a form of funding groups.

6. The participants should be followed up on a continual basis to encourage further cultivation and reproduction of herbal plants for use as raw materials for preparation of natural pesticides. In addition, there should be a drive for formation of a local group to propose for financial support from the Sub-district Management Organisation. The community then could acquire distillation equipment to enable production of the herbal products by its members.

7. After completion of the project operation, there should be evaluation programs on regular basis in conjunction with the routine work of public health staff

Recommendations

1. There should be a campaign for farmers to grow herbal plants for domestic use and to develop herb products for commercial purposes that are easy to use, largely available and with long shelf life.

2. There should be a campaign for consumers to consider a value of vegetables and agricultural products grown without a use of chemicals. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives should consider a policy for its subsections to promote

production of the herbal products as well as to find potential markets for continual distribution of the products.

3. The program should be further reproduced by using the participants as the trainers to provide correct pesticide knowledge, attitudes, and practices to other farmers in communities.

4. The non-governmental organisations whose existing projects involved promotion of natural pest control techniques should provide continual supports.

5. The Ministry of Public Health should develop a simple and effective technique for determination of chemical levels contaminated in the body of farmers. The technique should also be applicable with various chemical groups (Today tests are available for organophosphate and carbamate group only).

6. There are several organisations responsible for supervision of farmers' pesticide uses and different organisations have different roles and different potential in their operation. Therefore, there should be cooperation of every level including federal, regional and local sections for collaborative operation and researches and to minimise problems of overlapping operation in the future.

7. Additional to the solely conventional pesticide use, there should be promotion of alternative methods that are safer for pest control purposes.