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Development of the Fresh Betel Nut Splitter with a Semi-Automatic Operation for the Betel Nut Processing

Manop Yamfang^{1,*} Chakkawan Boonwan¹ Nopporn Preamjai¹ Thanaphol Sukchana² and Manaporn Kuptasa³

¹Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi, Thanyaburi District, Pathum Thani Province, Thailand 12110

²Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Pathumthani University, Muang District, Pathum Thani Province, Thailand 12000

³Department of Industrial Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Pathumthani University, Muang District, Pathum Thani Province, Thailand 12000

*Corresponding author's E-mail: manop_yf@hotmail.com

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to develop the betel nut splitter to cut the fresh betel nut into two halves along the length of the fruit without the size selection process. The farmers were involved in the process of designing and constructing the machine, and in the process of problem analysis, problem solving, and mechanical improvement. Therefore, the betel nut splitter was directly developed to meet the needs of the farmers. This machine was composed of the betel nut conveyor unit, the betel nut cutting unit, and the power unit including 1-hp motor. Based on the mechanical principle, the operation of this machine was executed by putting many fresh betel nuts into the container on top of the machine without the size selection process. All fresh betel nuts were mechanically moved into the cutting unit, so the fresh betel nut would be cut into two halves along the length of the fruit. The research discovered that the maximum efficiency of this machine is 95% at speed 14 cycles per minute that could cut the fresh betel nut 670 kg per hour. Furthermore, the machine could cut the amount of fresh betel nuts 9.57 times more than manual workers, with the payback period of 9 days. In addition, the betel nut splitter could increase the safety for the operators. Nowadays, 15 betel nut splitter machines have been extended to the farmers, most of them in Southern Thailand. The betel nut splitter could give farmers a better income and living conditions.

Keywords: Betel nut, Fresh betel nut splitter, Participation of farmers, Payback period



Factors Determining the Decision for Subscribing the Ban Don Sra Jan Manila Tamarind Fanpage, Nakhon Ratchasima Province

Supachanun Wanapu^{*}, Teerasak Sungsi and Naris Mingmora

Business Administration Program in Business Computer, Faculty of Management Science, Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University, Muang District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand 30000

**Corresponding author's E-mail: supachanun.w@nrru.ac.th*

Abstract

The objectives of this study are 1) to design and develop the “Ban Don Sra Jan Manila Tamarind, Non Thai” Facebook fanpage and 2) to investigate factors determining the decision for subscribing the Ban Don Sra Jan Manila Tamarind Fanpage, Thanon Pho sub-district, Non Thai district, Nakhon Ratchasima province. The data were collected from 385 general Internet users interested in Manila tamarind, and were analyzed by computer software for percentage, mean, standard deviation, and chi-square values. The results showed that the majority of the Internet users accessed the Internet through mobile devices/smart phones, followed by computer/mobile notebooks. The main purpose for accessing the Internet was for data searching. The Facebook access frequency was 6 times per day, with the access duration between 16 and 30 minutes each time. The time with the highest frequency of accessing Facebook was during 8:01-10:00 p.m. The most frequent use of Facebook was to click Like and to share comments. The first reason for choosing or subscribing Facebook fanpages was to follow news from the page. Most Internet users thought that a good Facebook fanpage should provide regular updates of the page information. The factors which determined the decision for subscribing the “Ban Don Sra Jan Manila Tamarind, Non Thai” fanpage had the average score at the ‘High’ level in all factors. The most influencing factors were technology, branding, customer service, and information, respectively. The correlational analysis revealed that personal data which were significantly related to the factors influencing the decision for subscribing the “Ban Don Sra Jan Manila Tamarind, Non Thai” Facebook fanpage, at the 0.05 significance level, included the age group and current resident region. The Internet and Facebook using behaviors which were significantly related to the factors influencing the decision for subscribing the “Ban Don Sra Jan Manila Tamarind, Non Thai” Facebook fanpage, at the 0.05 significance level, were the frequency of using Facebook per day and the peak time of using Facebook.

Keywords: Nakhon Ratchasima province, Ban Don Sra Jan Manila Tamarind, Fanpage, Facebook



Local Food for Good Health in Talad Community, Nakhon Ratchasima Province

Wannasa Seanlum* and Nutta Monton

Research and Development Institute, Rajabhat Nakhon Ratchasima University, Muang District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand 30000

**Corresponding author's E-mail: mongkonkeaw@gmail.com*

Abstract

The purposes of this action research were to study the local wisdom, to organize the learning activities, and to disseminate knowledge related to local food for good health. This study involved participatory learning process. The target group was the population of 8 villages in the Talad sub-district. The sample groups participated the activities involving (1) the search for knowledgeable persons in local food (20 persons), (2) the selection of local food recipes (40 persons), and (3) the dissemination of local food knowledge (40 persons). Research methods included observation, interviews, focus group discussion, meeting, and questionnaire on local food. The data were qualitatively analyzed using the content analysis techniques. The results of this research revealed that local food of Talad Community could be classified into (1) savory food type, including curry, soup, salad, Lap, Pla, stir fried, fried, steamed, and sauce, and (2) dessert type, including stirred, syruped, boiled, fried, steamed, and toasted. The food that represented a long-lasting identity and local wisdom of Korat is “Khaow-Pae”. The participatory learning process resulted in the selection 21 recipes of local food for good health. The ingredients from local herbal vegetables with medicinal properties included ginger, galangal, lemongrass, chili, garlic, onions and local green, red, orange, yellow vegetables. They blood fat, blood pressure, and blood sugar, and had antioxidants and basic nutritional value. The sources of raw ingredients are from natural environment, villagers’ gardens, and markets, associated with seasons. Most cooking involved simmered spices. For the dissemination of knowledge of healthy food, the questionnaire respondents had a moderate level of knowledge about healthy food.

Keywords: Nakhon Ratchasima province, Korat, Local food, Healthy food



Culinary Tourism in Tai Khiam Market, Chumphon Province

Benjamas Na Thongkaew* , Tharathip kirdsuwan, Jiratchaya Preechachon and Amnat Ruksapol

Tourism Development Program, Faculty of Maejo-Chumphon University, Maejo University, Lamae District, Chumphon Province, Thailand 86170

**Corresponding author's E-mail: christagmy59@gmail.com*

Abstract

The objectives of this study are to survey the kinds of food, the entrepreneurial selection of the food package, the management with community participation, and the tourists' satisfaction toward food in the Tai Khiam market. The main research instruments for collecting data include 300 questionnaires for tourists and 30 questionnaires for entrepreneurs. The data is analyzed by examining the content and by using the SPSS program to study the quantitative mean, standard deviation and percentage. The results of the study revealed that there were 3 kinds of food in the Tai Khiam market, including seafood, local food and desserts that were ready to eat. Lamae district is located on the Gulf of Thailand and is rich in seafood. Famous food in market were herbal juice in bamboo tubes and a variety of fruits from the farms. The sellers used bamboo tubes, banana leaves and coconut shells to contain the food because they were local materials. The selection of food for sell was based on the uniqueness, rarity, local availability, and local production skills, to increase value of the food in the modern market. The tourists visited the Tai Khiam market satisfied in the highest level – with food in natural containers (mean = 4.47), with creative and natural packaging (mean = 4.36), with the fact that the market did not sell alcohol beverage (mean = 4.34). The factors of success in the development of the Tai Khiam market are the existence of participatory management and effective committee which took care of the market, the effective rules for all entrepreneurs in the markets, the uses of the local raw materials for food products, the great variety of food, the participatory quality of the market administration (47 villages), and the support from the Ministry of Commerce as Talad Tong Chom.

Keywords: Chumphon province, Tai Khiam market, Talad Tong Chom, Culinary tourism



The Elderly's Bone Mass, Muscle Mass, and Clinical Dementia Rating in Kiriwong Community, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province

Nitita Piya-amornphan^{1,*} Pennapa Chonpathompikunlert^{2,3}, Warangkana Radchumrong² and Chalee Sriprachan⁴

¹Department of Physical Therapy, School of Allied Health Sciences, Walailak University, Tha Sala District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, Thailand 80160

²Department of Physiology, Faculty of Science, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai District, Songkhla, Thailand 90112

³Alternative Medical College, Chandrakasem Rajabhat University, Chatuchak, Bangkok, Thailand 10900

⁴Ban Kiriwong Health Promoting Hospital, Lan Saka District, Nakhon Si Thammarat

*Corresponding author's E-mail: nitita.do@wu.ac.th

Abstract

Falling and dementia are classified as geriatric syndromes that frequently result in disability and mortality of the elderly. Early detection of these syndromes or the risks of these syndromes are the best intervention for the elderly. This study therefore aims to study the body composition affecting the risk of falling, including, bone mass and muscle mass, and to study the clinical dementia rating and spatial working memory among 77 elderly people who stay in Kiriwong community, Lan Saka district, Nakhon Si Thammarat province. The correlation between these parameters was also determined. Cross-sectional study was performed to collect the data set of bone mass, muscle mass, clinical dementia rating, and spatial working memory. The results showed that the bone mass of female and male participants were approximately 1.99 ± 0.33 kg and 2.56 ± 0.2 kg, respectively. The muscle mass of female and male participants were approximately 33.95 ± 3.48 kg and 46.13 ± 3.97 kg, respectively. Moreover, the bone mass was less correlated with the body mass index ($r = 0.23$, $p = 0.02$). 16.07% of participants suffered mild dementia, while 7.14% suffered moderate dementia. Interestingly, the spatial working memory was highly correlated with the muscle mass ($r = 0.83$, $p = 0.042$). In summary, the elderly in this study have the risk for falling due to the decrease in the bone mass and to the symptoms of dementia.

Keywords: Phayao Nakhon Si Thammarat province, Bone and muscle mass, Risk for falling, Dementia, Clinical dementia rating



The Model of the Academic Coordination Team to Build Livable Communities Project, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province

Kamlai Somrak and Urai Jaraeprapal*

School of Nursing, Walailak University, Thasala District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, Thailand 80160

**Corresponding author's E-mail: jurai@wu.ac.th*

Abstract

This qualitative research aimed to study the model of implementation among the academic coordination team (ACT) to build livable communities in Nakhon Si Thammarat province. Informants were purposively selected, comprising 14 persons from the academic coordination team and 14 persons from communities members who were responsible for community projects. Data were collected through observation, interview, group discussion, and documentary review, and were analyzed using the content analysis method. The major findings revealed that the implementation model among ACT supporting the community to complete the project was consisted of 3 phases. Phase 1 was the project development phase conducted in the collaboration between the ACT, the community-project undertakers and the community to create livable communities. Phase 2 was the project implementation phase focusing on building community capacity to achieve project indicators. Phase 3 is the evaluation phase assessing the success of the project based on indicators. The ACT performance resulted in the following outcomes: 1) The ACT had increasing of the supporting skills for communities, network and performance; 2) The community-project undertakers can lead the project to be successful, increasing network for continuous community development. 3) The communities' leader had capacity to manage activities and projects systematically. 4) Enabling factors for the successful model implementation among the ACT included the strength of the team, the team determination in community development, and the integration of community development activities into the everyday work. 5) The challenges for community development in the future involved the understanding of the community context, the effective coordination, the creation of the community learning process toward the community self-management.

Keywords: Nakhon Si Thammarat province, Operational model, Academic coordinated team, Livable communities