

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sarindhorn for her scholarship which supported this study program. I was a lucky candidate of that scholarship, and it provided me a priceless opportunity to pursue my higher education in Thailand.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my thesis advisor and co-advisor, Assoc. Professor Dr.Songsak Mimgratok and Assoc. Professor Dr.Thaworn Chimliang of the Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Rambhai Barni Rajabhat University, Thailand and to Professor Dr.Yagura Kenjiro of the Faculty of Economics, Hannan University, Osaka, Japan, who provided me countless technical and emotional supports whenever I ran into trouble when, conducting my research or writing my thesis. Without their assistance and supports, this work could not have been completed.

I definitely need to thank all the professors at the Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Rambhai Barni Rajabhat University, Thailand, especially those who gave me precious lectures on research methodology, research instruments, statistics, etc. These lectures have equipped me with a considerable amount of knowledge and understanding of the agricultural research process. Without them, I would not have been able to undertake my research.

I am grateful to the farmers, and authorities of all levels who actively collaborated in this study and taught me about the multiple roles of cassava within their farms. This study was a grant proposal from the Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Rambhai Barni Rajabhat University, Thailand, and the University of Battambang, Cambodia, to support students and coordinators with field surveys. Special thanks are also extended to Mr. Luc Payant, a Canadian retired nurse, volunteer at the orphanage "Peaceful Children Home" in Cambodia, for his kind help in the English editing of this manuscript.

Finally, and most importantly to me, I have to offer my most profound gratitude to my parents, my brothers, sisters, friends and colleagues for providing me endless financial and emotional support, encouragement and cares throughout my years of study. My achievement would not have been possible without them. Thank you.