TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 Background problem 1
1.2 Literature review 3
1.2.1 Concept of integrated farming systems 4
1.2.2 The practice of integrated farming systems 5
1.2.3 The potential of integrated farming systems 6
1.2.4 Knowledge gaps on integrated farming systems in northeast Thailand 12
1.3 Objectives 13

2 STUDY AREA 14

2.1 Site selection 14
2.2 Topography 16
2.3 Soil resources 16
2.4 Climate and rainfall 17
2.5 Water resources 19
2.6 Forest resources 21
2.7 Socioeconomic resources 22
2.8 Agricultural land management 23

3 MATERIALS AND METHODS 25

3.1 Conceptual framework 25
3.2 Sampling procedure 27
3.3 Selection of variables 28
3.4 Data collection and analysis 31
3.5 Statistical analysis 44

4 RESULTS 45

4.1 Farm characteristics 45
4.2 The integrated farming system compared to the commercial farming system 50
4.2.1 Land-use activities 50
4.2.2 Resource flows in the farm systems 52
4.2.3 Diversity by growth habits 53
4.2.4 Species richness for different purposes 54
4.2.5 Shared of home produced food 56
4.2.6 Growth performance of tree communities 57
4.2.7 Irrigation months 62
4.2.8 Soil organic matter 64
4.2.9 Productivity 67

5 DISCUSSION 75

5.1 Overview of significant findings of the study 75
5.2 Consideration of the findings in the light of existing research 76

5.3 Multiple functions of IFS in the study area 79
5.3.1 Food security functions 80
5.3.2 Environmental functions 82
5.3.3 Economic functions 83
5.3.4 Social functions 84
5.3.5 Constraints to the integrated farming system 85
5.4 Policy implications and recommendations 87
5.5 Limitations of the study 88
5.6 Recommendation for further research 89

6 CONCLUSIONS 90

7 REFERENCES 92

8 APPENDICES 103

9 GLOSSARY OF TERMS 119

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 121