

学 位 論 文 要 旨	
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題 目	Economic Study of the Contract Farming and Effects of Farm Size on Rice Production in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam (ベトナムメコンデルタにおける米生産への契約農業と農家規模の効果に関する経済研究)
<p>Vietnam was a net importer of rice prior to 1989 but it has recently become one of the world's largest rice exporters. The Mekong delta contributed significantly this great achievement, it occupies approximately 55% of the total area under rice cultivation nationally, and more than 56% and 90% of the nation's total rice production and export volume, respectively. However, a vast majority of the Mekong delta rice farmers (65%) own relatively small rice land (less than 1 ha). Small in scale and lacking vertical coordination lead to more than 90% of rice growers selling their output to assemblers at farm gate soon after harvest. This issue creates unstable income for farmers and erratic quality from rice provided by innumerable individual farmers. As one of the major efforts of the government of Vietnam to solve this problem, contract farming has been promoted for use in agriculture and particularly in the rice sector since 2002. However, several fundamental questions are raised such as (1) can farmers with small farm derive their livelihood from rice cultivation? (2) Can contract farming generate high profitability for rice farmers in the Mekong delta? (3) What factors can affect to farmers' adoption of rice contract farming?</p> <p>Hence, this thesis attempts (1) to examine the performance of rice farming profitability by farm size, (2) to investigate the current situation of rice contract farming, and constraints of its enforcement, (3) to explore motivational factors affecting rice farmers' adoption of contract farming and its profitability. The household surveys for data collection were conducted in the Mekong delta through September 2015 to September 2017. Three major findings are as follows:</p> <p>The first finding shows that rice production among the three groups of different production scales including small size (rice farm up to one ha), medium size (rice farm above 1 to 3 ha), and large size (rice farm above 3 ha) is profitable. However, rice farmers with small farm size are unlikely to maintain and operate rice farms for their livelihood on a long-term basis even if their rice farming is profitable, while the medium and large-scale farms seem to obtain larger rice income and are capable of maintaining their paddy farming activity.</p> <p>The second result indicates that the strong enforcement of rice contract farming is likely to fail in the Delta. Three major constraints of contract enforcement such as a disagreement on paddy price, a distrust on measurement of paddy quality, as well as an imbalance of low collecting capacity of contract companies at farm gate and a vast number of paddy at harvest time were found. The use of a written contract and a direct contract between companies and farmers has a positive effect on contract enforcement, and advance investment in contract farmers could enhance its enforcement.</p> <p>The last finding suggests that there are three motivations for contracting (farmers want to access to better market outlet, they want to gain supported benefits, and they expect improved production). Contract farming has positive impact on profitability of rice farming in the Delta in terms of return and selling price.</p>	