（学位第３号様式）

学 位 論 文 要 旨	
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題　目	Evaluation of the role and impact of contract farming on rice farming in Guyana (ガイアナの稲作における契約農業の役割と影響の評価)

Rice is the main staple of Guyana and contributes 3.3% of Guyana's gross domestic product (GDP), 20.5% of agriculture GDP, and provides a living for approximately 15,933 farmers. However, despite the rice industry's importance and governmental efforts, many issues limit rice farmers' productivity and profitability. Among these issues is contract farming.

Contract farming is the oral or written agreement between farmers and other firms that specify one or more production and marketing conditions for an agricultural product. The literature indicates that contract farming is a risk-sharing mechanism, a source of secured markets, production inputs, machinery and equipment, credit, and technical knowledge. Therefore, the general conclusion on contract farming is that it improves farm income, incentivizes specialization, and that farmers will only participate if there is an expected financial gain.

However, the existing literature does not address the relationship between contract farming's role and impact and the pricing standards it uses. The pricing standard refers to the payment conditions farmers accept to deliver their products. Many pricing standards are used in contract farming; however, no study has been conducted to determine how they affect contract farming's role and impact. Since prices are connected to farmer income and are a determinant of producer incentive to produce a specific commodity, the pricing standard used may significantly affect contract farming's role and impact.

Therefore, this thesis attempts to evaluate the role and impact of contract farming under varying pricing standards, specifically focusing on the high and low-price standards.

The systematic sampling method was used to collect socio-economic, cost, and contract farming participation data from 303 farmers from Mahaica-Berbice and Essequibo Islands-West Demerara in Guyana. Data were analysed using comparative, profitability, regression analysis, and frequency distribution.

The following new points were revealed; Contract farming, when the dominant pricing standard is the high-price standard, is more profitable than independent farming. However, its profitability is limited because it is only due to higher yields, resulting from using more inputs made possible by access to fertilizer on credit.

While contract farming, when the dominant pricing standard is the low-price standard, is less profitable than independent farming because contract farming participation results in lower yields due to lower input use and selling prices, however, farmers continue to participate in contract farming because it is a production risk-sharing mechanism and a source of fertilizer and credit.

Finally, contract farming with the low-price standard results in low gross margins, influencing farmer behavior by incentivizing them to diversify their production to include more high-value farm products, such as cultivating other high-value crops and rearing livestock to supplement their low income.