

学 位 論 文 要 旨	
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題 目	A study on the formation and development process of vegetable production areas in small-scale remote islands (小規模離島における野菜産地の形成と展開過程に関する研究)
<p>The purpose of this paper is to analyze the formation and development process of vegetable production areas on small scale remote islands in Okinawa Prefecture, and to clarify the conditions for the formation of vegetable production areas on small isolated islands and the problems of maintaining production areas. In addition to analyzing statistical data, an empirical analysis was carried out using interview surveys to study three production areas. The first is a pumpkin production area on the island of Kitadaito. It is located in a remote area with extremely difficult transportation conditions. The second is a fresh vegetable production area on Irabu Island. Freshness is an important requirement for marketing. The third is the case of the carrot production area on Tsuken Island. This area has succeeded in establishing a vegetable production area, but is in the process of downsizing and regression.</p> <p>The specific research results of this paper are as follows.</p> <p>First, statistical analysis shows that while Japan's remote island agriculture is centered on the production of beef cattle and industrial crops, the profitability of sugarcane, which has long supported the agricultural sector in Okinawa Prefecture, is declining, and the introduction of highly profitable crops is important for the maintenance and development of remote island agriculture, which is difficult to scale up.</p> <p>Next, looking at the trend of vegetable production in remote island municipalities in Okinawa Prefecture, although some have succeeded in establishing production areas, many remote island municipalities have yet to establish production areas, and even once established, it is difficult to maintain and sustain these production areas.</p> <p>Then, based on case analyses of a pumpkin production area on Kitadaito Island and an green soybean production area on Irabu Island, the following four conditions for the establishment of a vegetable production area on a small scale remote island were clarified. (1) the establishment of production and transportation methods and the selection of sales channels that enable a stable supply even when production volume is low, (2) the response to the lack of social capital such as labor and facilities to support the collection and transportation process, (3) efforts to maintain freshness and reduce transportation costs, and (4) the existence of organizations that support everything from production to sales and the establishment of a production area system through these organizations.</p> <p>And finally, from a case study analysis of the carrot production area on Tsuken Island, the following four issues were identified as challenges to maintaining and sustaining vegetable production areas on small, remote islands. (1) coping with the weakening of the agricultural labor force due to the decline and aging of the bearers, (2) coping with the emergence of more lucrative industries and commodities, such as dual-use fisheries and combined business sectors, (3) maintaining and updating aging irrigation facilities and other production infrastructure, and (4) developing and maintaining leadership, including succession of leaders who have led the establishment of production areas.</p>	