

別紙 4

報告番号	※	第	号
------	---	---	---

主 論 文 の 要 旨

論文題目 Swidden-based Smallholder Livelihoods under Marketization in Northern Laos
 (ラオス北部における市場化の下での焼畑を基盤とした小農生業)

氏 名 PHOUYYAVONG Khamphou

論 文 内 容 の 要 旨

In Laos, swidden farming seems to have diminished compared to the past. However, it still plays an important role as a livelihood in the northern part of the country, regardless of the strong pressures by the government. This study aims to explore the role of swidden farming of upland smallholder's livelihood under the land constraint and marketization in northern Laos. The study area is Pong Pao village, Phonxay district, Luang Prabang province, where residents have engaged in livelihood that integrates traditional swidden farming with livestock herding. In order to clarify the role of swidden farming in the smallholder's livelihood and to explore the swidden combined livelihood diversification of upland farmers, surveys on crop-livestock systems and labor allocation under the livelihood diversification were conducted.

A mixed research methodology including quantitative and qualitative methods is applied as a study method. A series of field surveys were conducted in February and May 2016 and August 2017. Information on the socio-economic development of the village, the composition of the family, migration history, sources of income, land use, and farming systems through an interview with 92 sample households were obtained in 2016. Then, an in-depth survey with 53 households to obtain economic activities, landholding and monthly time spent on each livelihood activity of 133 individuals was conducted in 2017. In addition to this, 231 cattle have measured the girth.

Under the pressures of land constraint and the changing in the market economy, cattle raisers in the village have diversified their cattle raising systems. The free-range

system combined with swidden farming has diversified into three different systems namely grazing in fenced fallow vegetation in the wet season plus free-ranging in swidden fallow in dry season (system B), rotation grazing in pastures in the wet season plus free ranging in swidden fallow in dry season (system C), and rotation grazing in pastures in both dry and wet seasons (system D). These grazing systems are likely to intensify both labor and land use due to the limitation of open area for free grazing as fallow fields have decreased. The study found that none of the systems improved cattle body weight better than others. However, the system that integrated rotation grazing in pastures in the wet season plus free ranging in swidden fallow in dry season successfully increased the holding capacity of the land. This suggested that under the limitation of the grazing area the newly modified system could help cattle holders successfully cope with land constraint and balance crop-livestock systems in upland environment.

The labor allocation analysis found that land holding, skills, and financial capital that originated from the livelihood history of both ethnic groups are key drivers of livelihood diversification. The labor allocation to livelihood diversification has a greater during the peak cropping season from May to August particularly individuals who engage in multiple livelihood categories into their livelihood portfolio. However, labor allocated for swidden farming compare to other activities is moderate and acceptable to villagers.

Although swidden farming is believed to decline, the study indicates that swidden farming persistence and plays an important role where farmers combined with several other economic activities. This is because swidden farming supplies not only families' daily food such as staple-diet rice, but provides their main source of income. Therefore, this study can neither deny nor support the predictions from development studies that swidden farming will be replaced with other intensive farming or non-farm jobs. From the results of this study, it is certain that swidden farming is an important livelihood activity that can be flexibly combined with other activities for livelihood diversifications.

Given the importance of swidden farming in smallholders' livelihoods, appropriate development approaches for upland regions should be created that work with swidden farming instead of against it, whereby swidden farming is combined with other livelihood activities. However, such combinations must provide economic, social, cultural and environmental suitability for upland regions.