

学位論文要旨  
Dissertation Abstract

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学位論文題目 : Study on Rural Livelihood Diversification and Community Forestry Management in the Central Dry Zone, Myanmar

Title of Dissertation: (ミャンマー中央乾燥地農村における生計の多様化とコミュニティフォレストリー管理に関する研究)

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Community Forest (CF) program in Myanmar has been implemented since 1995 to rehabilitate degraded forests and reduce rural poverty. The Central Dry Zone (CDZ) is the largest CF area, covering over 40% of the total CF area and benefiting 73,929 households. In recent decades, rural livelihood diversification has rapidly increased to adapt to climate change and unstable markets of agricultural products. The main objective of the dissertation seeks to explore how rural livelihood diversification is related to CF Management in the CDZ, with the goal of supporting successful CF management and improvement of rural livelihood.

For the field survey, purposive and stratified random sampling was applied as a case study in the village. The mixed qualitative and quantitative method was deployed through structural questionnaires with (189) households, 7 Key Informant Interviews, and 5 Focus Group Discussion. The statistical analysis deployed are descriptive statistics, binary logistic regression, and multiple linear regression. Qualitative analysis was applied to verify the quantitative data.

In Chapter 2, this study conducted a keyword analysis of existing literature on CF in Myanmar that was published between 1995 and May 2023. The analysis identified three periods based on publication rates and thematic areas, representing different research trends. Both domestic and international factors were shown to influence CF research trends in Myanmar. From 2000 to 2010, research focused on domestic issues like deforestation and poverty. From 2011-2019, research shifted to global concerns such as climate change and biodiversity conservation. From the third period, the CF research considered rural transition due to non-farm work increased among rural households. Since the second period, the weakness in local people participation and stagnant user groups have been observed. Hence, this dissertation explores the relationship between rural livelihood diversification and local people participation and institutional capacity of Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs).

In Chapter 3, The dissertation aims to examine how CF affects the rural livelihood diversification patterns and its contribution to the livelihood strategy of rural people during the rural transition. Local people diversify their livelihoods based on their assets

and tenure rights. CFUGs have different diversification patterns than non-CF households. CF has the potential to improve the livelihood of CFUGs through the commercialization of Non-timber forest products. The village has strong physical assets, but there is limited cash income directly from the forest. Capacity-building, networking, social cohesion, and a secure credit program are needed to improve the livelihoods of local people through Community Forest Enterprise in a sustainable way.

In Chapter 4, this dissertation examines the relationship between rural livelihood and people participation in the CF, focusing on the socioeconomic characteristics of households that become CF members and participate in collective activities. When considering participation in the CF program, it is crucial to consider seven socio-economic factors, such as gender, education, household nonfarm income, customary forest ownership, agricultural land-holding size, family labor availability, and the livestock-holding unit. Being a customary forest owner does not appear to have a strong interest and collaboration in the CFUGs' collective activities. Forest Department (FD) should establish a shared pool of CF areas to provide equal opportunities to non-customary forest owners and landless vulnerable households. Offering alternative income is needed to encourage people participation in CF management, apart from direct income from the forest.

In Chapter 5, this research explores how changes in livelihood impact the institutional capacity of CFUGs to manage forests. The study found that changes in rural livelihood alone cannot account for the institutional capacity of CFUGs. Additionally, CFUGs can create and enforce their own regulations without depending heavily on external actors in the study village. The FD does not intervene if the community follows the laws and Community Forest Management Plans(CFMPs). However, the unclear user identification among CFUGs hinders participation in the implementation stage due to the high demand for agricultural land. The village administration system is important in implementing CF activities, especially in inactive CFUGs.

In conclusion, livelihood diversification among CFUGs, especially increasing non-farm income of rural people, has negatively impacted local people's interest and participation in CF management. The rural livelihood change alone is not responsible for the institutional capacity of CFUG. However, it is based on the adaption capacity of each user group to the changing socioeconomic condition.