

Factors Related to Agricultural Land Use of Smallholder Farmers in Ouheng Village, Cambodia

Author Thoung Sodany
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University Khon Kaen University
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Abstract

As concerns over struggle for agricultural land use in Northeastern Cambodia are increasing, smallholder farmers are then becoming highly affected by household's characteristics, local biological components, training and extension visits. In consequence, these issues prompted a mixed qualitative and quantitative-based research to be conducted, aimed to, (1) study characteristics of agricultural land use for smallholder farmers; and (2) identify the factors related to agricultural land use for smallholder farmers in Ouheng village of Cambodia. This research was carried out by purposive sampling of 30 respondents with less than three (3) hectares of land, as well as interviewing three (3) key informants. Two focus-group discussions were conducted with 10 persons in each group. This study was based on the household survey in 2015 using applied descriptive statistics and Chi-square test run by SPSS version 16, while Chi-square test was used to find the relationship by comparing two groups: the group that changes crop patterns and the other without changes in cropping. The finding indicates that a number of related factors of land use by small-scale farmers are local biological components, socio-economic, access to credit, and technological conditions.

The results also reveal that land use by small-scale farmers in Ouheng village averages 1.5 hectares per household, which is mainly dominated by paddy fields and followed by cassava. The cassava cultivated area has increased significantly by 21.92% in 2015 because of favorable prices and easier market access. New crop varieties including vegetables and rice should be provided or put for sales, thus making strong tolerance to drought and resistance to disease. Improved agricultural skills, along with better crop management technique training should be enhanced at communal level, so that rural livelihoods may be strengthened.