



学位論文要旨

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印

題目 Rubber Smallholders' Economic Condition under the Rubber Price Fall and Possible Solution in South Sumatra
(ゴム価格暴落下の南スマトラ州のゴム農家の経済状況と改善の可能性)

Rubber and oil palm are the main crops for agro-industry in Indonesia. Both crop production has increased largely, and many farmers have depended on these crops. The expansion in demands of these products in international market has encouraged both crop production. Both crop production has influenced by international market condition. Expansion in both crops production has brought by expansion in these products demand in the market. As many countries have expanded both crops production, the international competition in the market has become severe and their international price has dropped. The rubber price had raised from 2000 to 2011. The price in 2011 was 4.82 US\$/kg. But it has turned to drop, and its price was 1.57 US\$/kg in 2017 (World Bank, Commodity Markets, 2018). The palm oil price showed similar change. It had raised till 2011 and has dropped after that. The price in 2018 was 46 % lower than that in 2011. The rubber farmers' economy has become worse by the price drop. As most of rubber farmers are poor smallholders, the influence of price drop is thought to be serious. As rubber is perennial crop, it isn't easy to convert to the other crops. The general subjects of this study are to analyze rubber smallholder farmer economic condition within rubber price drop and examine possible solution in order to increase farmers' income. The objectives are divided into two main issues. First, to analyze the economic situation of rubber smallholders under the price drop comparing with oil palm smallholders and consider the solution for the situation by the empirical study. The rubber smallholders' severe situation that more than half of them cannot get income more than their minimum living expenditure must be solved immediately. As rubber is rather old crop in the area, most of the rubber smallholders have continued traditional marketing method and farming practice, which aren't suitable for profitable farming management. However, most of them were assumed to have earned enough before the price fall. An increase in the price of rubber and productivity is crucial issues to improve the economic conditions of rubber smallholders. As the production per hectare was less than half the standard production of recommended farming practice indicated by the government, it is clear that production can be improved. Second, to analyze rubber-farming practices among smallholder farmers and identify the determinant of rubber quality and quantity.

(備考) 日本語 (2000 字以内) または英語 (500 ワード以内) にまとめて記載してください。

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As explain in the first objective, improvement on farming practices can lead improvement on farmers' income, thus most farmers did not practice many of the recommended cultivation methods. The extension services seemed to have certain effect on improving the farming practices through improving fertilizer application and guide them to adopt suitable method for their actual situation. Regarding the quality of the rubber, several socio-economic factors were significant. These factors to influence the post-harvest treatment, such as storage. To improve the quality, the proper facilities and a certain amount of funds are considered to be important.

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