

Status of Cassava Production and Distribution Channels in Cambodia : Prospects for Sustainable Cassava Production

Kasumi ITO^a, Aya NAKATANI^a, Tamon BABA^b, Hisako NOMURA^c, Tha THAN^d, Srean Pao^d
(^aNagoya Univ., ^bRitsumeikan Univ., ^cKyushu Univ., ^dUniv. of Battambang)

Introduction

Cassava production amount has been increasing rapidly in Cambodia and it became the second highest after rice. However, the challenges for sustainable production according to status of production and distribution have not yet identified.

Objective

To identify future challenges and prospects of cassava production in Cambodia through analysis of current status of production and distribution channels.

Methods

Semi-structured interviews to 24 cassava producers (production and methods) and 4 owners of collection and processing yard of cassava (buy & sell) were conducted in 2017-2018 (Table 1).

Results

1. Production status

All the surveyed farmers including large scale producers were cultivating other agricultural products. Smaller scale farmers tended to produce larger number of agricultural products including rice. Cassava was not a main agricultural products for most farmers.

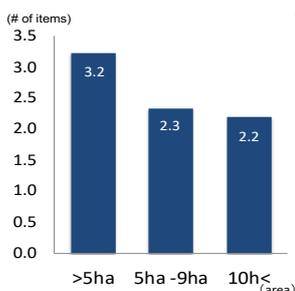


Fig.2 Area & other products

Table 2. Cassava area & own-land

Area	Cassava* (ha)	Own land* (ha)	#of HHs
< 5ha	2.55	5.76	14
5ha < 10 ha	5.50	11.22	5
> 10ha	21.50	17.33	5

* average

Study area

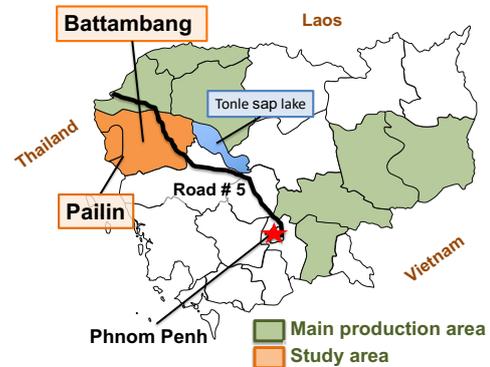


Table 1. Socio-economic status of interviewees

Summary of producers*	Battambang (n=18)	Pailin (n=6)
Age (year)	35.0	50.8
Length of stay (year)	23.1	11.3
Agri experience (year)	18.4	9.8
Cassava experience (time)	2.3	4.0
Cassava area (ha)	5.3	12.5
Other Agri products (ha)	10.6	18.5

2. Identified distribution channel

Three types of cassava flows were observed as shown in Table 1. Harvested by producer and transported to collection & processing yard to sell by middlemen was the most popular flow. However, average selling price according to the flow was not different (Table 3). All the yard owners and middlemen were also producing cassava (Fig. 3). Large producer were taking roles of middlemen, processors, and traders.

Table 3. Flows from producers to collection points

	Producer only		Middlemen only		Both		Total	
	price	HHs	price	HHs	price	HHs	price	HHs
Fresh roots								
BTB	177.48	5	135.44	3	192.25	5	182.97	13
PL	0.00	0	176.67	3	184.25	4	181.00	7
Dried roots								
BTB	440.00	1	-	0	492.36	14	488.87	15
PL	440.00	1	-	0	492.36	14	488.87	15
PL	0.00	0	-	0	-	0	-	0

Price: riel per kg

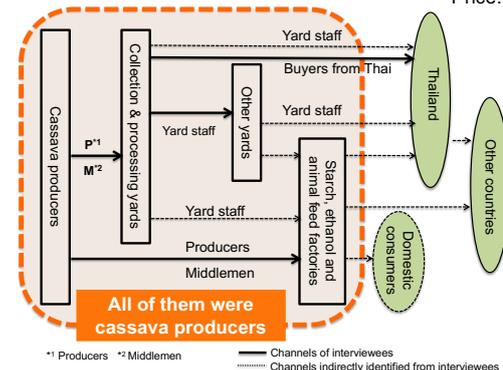


Fig.3 Identified distribution channel by interviews

Discussions

Three different distribution types, from producers to collecting points, were identified, and their selection criteria appeared to be the distance between the producers and the collection points. The identified distribution channel, including collection points, comprised only cassava cultivators, and no production specialization was observed. This reveals that building an efficient and viable distribution mechanism and strategy by utilizing the existing system as its base will be one of the most important challenges for making cassava a major industrial crop and increasing revenue from its cultivation.