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SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES

A Simulation Analysis of the Impact of Supply Fluctuations of Large-Scale Production Centers on the Domestic Onion Markets: Applying the Imperfectly Competitive Spatial Equilibrium Model Incorporating Conjectural Variations

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Summary

This paper approaches the interregional equilibrium prices and flows of onions in terms of competitiveness of the markets. The spatial price equilibrium model is extended to apply to the markets of various degrees of competition, including perfectly competitive and monopolistic ones as the two extremes. The model is formulated as a linear complementarity problem and solved by Lemke's method. The estimators of conjectural variation are incorporated into the model to get the optimum solutions that prove to be exactly equal to the actual values, which adds credibility to the model simulations of supply fluctuations of Hokkaido, by far the largest-scale production center of onions in Japan. The empirical results suggest that, as the onion harvest increases in Hokkaido, the market price level gets lower, decreasing imports, and part of the harvest runs to waste, the amount of which becomes smaller as the other production centers adjust their supplies faster, and that the decrease of the harvest in Hokkaido leads to the higher market price level and the increase of imports, which can be moderated by supply adjustment of the others.

A Change and Functions of Farmland Liquidization System in a Medium-Sized Paddy Farming District : In Case of Fukagawa City

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In Hokkaido, farmland liquidization has characteristic mechanism and process compared with it in any other prefecture. It is that smaller-sized farmer who lives in the same hamlet with seller can buy farmland for sale prior to other members, and a specified post of hamlet coordinate this process under participation with the cooperative. The author calls this mechanism and process "Hokkaido type of farmland liquidization system". But this system has not been fully established.

The purpose of this paper is to prove this system and inquire a change of it with time series data. Part of used data are farm survey data and the others are official documents obtained from the administrative committee for farmland. Farm survey was carried out in four hamlets or small communities which consist of 8 to 18 farms. Main finding of surveys is to confirm the function of this system through four hamlets in 1960's and 1970's. But, at the same time, we knew that the function varies from hamlet to hamlet and the function fairly disappeared in 1980's. The reason of disappearance is that small-sized farmer became not to want more farmland because of absence of young family engaging in farming. The analysis of official documents of 1983 and 1992 almost prove same findings as farm survey.

This system also involves another characteristic. It is that farmer who hold farmland in the neighborhood of the farmland for sale can buy the one prior to other members. The analysis of official documents prove that the characteristic works more clearly in 1992 than 1983 but in case of land lease. This indicates that the system became not to work effectively by degrees and has been to reorganize.