

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : Factors Favoring or Disfavoring Thailand's Agricultural Goods : A Case Study of AFTA

Student's Name : Miss Orapin Songprasit

Degree Sought : Master of Arts

Major : Political Science

Academic Year : 1998

Advisory Committee :

- 1. Asst. Prof. Phimol Phupipidh Chairperson**
- 2. Assoc. Prof. Dr.Jirachoke Virasai**
- 3. Prof.Sirot Bharksuwan**

The study of this thesis is about some factors favoring or disfavoring Thailand's agricultural goods, a case study of AFTA. By studying the organization of ASEAN countries, economically, namely the organization of AFTA (ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA), the affects on the tariffs of Thailand, and the important of the agricultural products of Thailand in other ASEAN countries. The study also aims at the guide line and the opportunity of the export expansion of Thailand agricultural products.

Data is compiled from the interview of relevant experts, inter alia, with the analysis from academic papers, leaflet and magazines.

The finding is that AFTA organizing influences Thailand on many advantage aspects and usefulness. Due to the fact that Thailand has several advantages for the agricultural products. Thailand also is the leading country for agricultural exporting because:

1. Thailand has the producers who are expert and skillful for producing agricultural products.

2. Beside the high quality and high efficiency, the agricultural products of Thailand also have lower cost than other ASEAN countries.

3. The geographical position of Thailand is suitable for being the transportation center in Southeast Asia.

From those mentioned reasons, Thailand has much advantages than other ASEAN member countries. The advantages of jointing AFTA push Thailand to be ready for developing and bettering the working system and other measurement to develop the quality of products. Then one can believe that Thailand, in the future, will become the leader in producing and exporting agricultural products, in turn increasing term of trade, agriculturals' income and foreign currencies.

Thailand has many advantage factors for the more efficient producing agricultural products than other members in ASEAN. However, the study finds out that Thailand still faces some problems and barriers because some agricultural products (e.g. palm oil, coffee, and soy bean) are produced with higher cost than other countries and lack of production skill as well. This leads to the need of importing substitute goods which is to make the country loses her foreign currencies.

The study find out that some agricultural products of Thailand such as palm oil, coffee and soy bean are the products that need higher producing cost than other countries and lack of producing skill as well. The concerned authorities have some plans for solving the problem and bettering the quality of those mentioned products, but the solving of those problems still have not been done seriously, and the lack of

following evaluation to check whether the problem solving has been done according to the plan or not. If not, the cause must be pointed out for the conclusion of future problem solving.

Thailand, therefor, must work hard to solve the problem of some agricultural products, like palm oil, coffee and soy bean, in order to better the quality of those agricultural products so that Thailand will become the leader of the producing and exporting agricultural products in Southeast Asia.