ABSTRACT

Thesis Title	:	Potential of Rice Export from Thailand to Principal Countries
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Advisory Committee	:	

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This research study is focused on the potential of rice export from Thailand to principal countries. The objectives of this thesis are to study the comparative advantages and factors in fluenzing demand for Thai rice export. Market structure of rice export was also analyzed.

Multiple regression analysis was used to study the factors affecting demand for Thai rice export, using annual data during 1977 - 1996. Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore were chosen as the principal markets while China and Vietnam were considered to be the main competitors of Thai rice export.

The study found that Revealed Comparative Advantage Index (RCA) was greater than 1 during the period under studied. This index, however, has been decreasing since 1990.

In the case of Indonesia, the study found that main factors affecting demand for Thai rice export are number of Indonesia's population and its real

GNP. These factors are positively related to the demand and elasticities of demand with respect to these factors are 13,6663 and 13,5815 respectively.

In the case of Malaysia, its demand for Thai rice export changes in the same direction with Malaysia's per capita income, but changes in opposite direction with volume of rice export from Thai's competitors and price of Thai rice. Elasticities of demand with respect to these factors are 1.8449, -0.8179, and -0.5159 respectively.

In the case of Singapore, its demand for Thai rice export changes in same direction with exchange rate of Singapore dollar and real GNP, but changes in opposite direction with price of Thai rice and volume of rice export from China. Elasticities of demand with respect to these factors are 1.8494, 1.6685, -0.3069, and -0.0664 respectively.