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: MAJOR ECONOMICS

ENVIRONMENTAL TAX / SHRIMP CULTURE / THAILAND'S SHRIMP EXPORT / MANGROVE
PIYAWADEE CHATCHEN : THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL TAX ON THAILAND'S SHRIMP
EXPORT. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSIST. PROF SANGSIT PIRIYARANGSUN, Ph.D. THESIS
COADVISOR : ASSOC. PROF. SUTHIPHAND CHIRATHIVAT, Ph.D. 201 pp. ISBN 974-637-154-1.

The purpose of this research is to estimate the impact of the environmental tax in the form of border tax adjustment on the export volume and value of Thailand's shrimp. The study had focused on particular cases of important trading partners such as Japan and the US which had applied such a tax to the Thailand's shrimp exports. In this research, price elasticity of Thailand's shrimp export supply and in-depth interviews of those interested persons in Thailand have been taken into consideration. The interview part of the research carried out ground work involving more than 40 officers working in government agencies and private companies related to the industry.

The study applied the multiple regression equation model in the form of Cobb - Douglas or log-log function, in order to find out the relationship between Thailand's shrimp export supply to Japan and the United States as a "dependent variable" and five factors as "independent variables" including the price of Thailand's exported shrimp to Japan and the US, the price of shrimp nutrition or feeding for shrimps, the area of mangrove forest, the productivity per rai, and the export volumes to other countries besides Japan and the US. Time-series secondary data have covered the period from 1981 to 1995.

The result of the above study shows that price elasticity of export supply is 1.314 for the US which is higher than price elasticity of export supply to Japan which is equal to 1.102. This implies that the environmental tax, if applied, would have a stronger effect on the volume of Thailand's shrimp export to the US than that of Japan. Due to the fact that the US is more likely to apply the environmental tax rather than Japan, it is possible for that Thailand in the near future would bear a great impact from the US environmental tax. The result shows, overall, that if both countries impose such a tax on Thailand's shrimp export, Thailand will face an export reduction to those markets more than 2,200 million baht. Therefore, the government of Thailand should rapidly improve their policies accordingly to prevent such a tax imposition from major trading partners such as Japan and the US. This was the opinion overwhelmingly expressed in the interviews.

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