

Ketkamon Sunthornkaweekit 2014: An Analysis of Import Demand for Thai Tsnr in China. Master of Science (Agricultural Economics), Major Field: Agricultural Economics, Department of Agricultural and Resources Economics. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Apichart Daloonpate, Ph.D. 91 pages.

This research aimed to analyze the factors affecting import demand for technically specified natural rubber (Tsnr) exported from various countries to the Chinese market. The main exporting countries in terms of Chinese import value of Tsnr were Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Others. These five exporting countries were selected for this study. According to the analysis, the Linear Approximated Almost Ideal Demand system (LA/AIDS) was employed using the Restricted Seemingly Unrelated Regression (RSUR) method. Monthly time-series data from November 2003 to December 2013 were used in the analysis.

The results from the analysis showed that the factors that affected the Chinese demand for Tsnr from Thailand were own-prices, Malaysia prices, Vietnam prices, and total expenditure for the Tsnr. Own-price elasticity of demand for Thai Tsnr was elastic. Malaysian Tsnr was found to be a substitute for Thai Tsnr. Vietnamese Tsnr was a complementary good with Thai Tsnr. In addition, expenditure elasticity of demand for Thai Tsnr in the Chinese Market was inelastic, indicating that Thai Tsnr was a necessary good.

The problems exporters face normally relate to transportation and government documentation. If these problems were solved, it would clearly increase facilities to exporters.

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Thesis Advisor's signature