

Patcharaporn Boonkorkeaw 2010: An Analysis of Competitiveness in Production and Export of Thai Rice. Master of Science (Agricultural Economics), Major Field: Agricultural Economics, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Thesis Advisor: Mrs. Isriya Bunyasiri, Ph.D. 153 pages.

The objective of the study is to analyze the competitiveness in Thai rice production using the domestic resource cost (DRC) for wet season rice in Supanburi Province in the crop years 1987/1988 and 2007/2008. And to analyze the competitiveness in Thai rice export using the revealed comparative advantage (RCA).

The results indicate that Supanburi Province has a comparative advantage in rice production in the wet season in the crop year 2007/2008 as the DRC value is less than one. The DRC for rice production in the irrigated area is 0.41 whereas that in the rainfed area is 0.73. This implies that rice production in the irrigated area is potentially more competitive than that in the rainfed area as the former has higher rice yields. The comparative advantage in Thai's rice production in the crop year 2007/2008 less increased compound to that in the crop year 1987/1988. Due to farmer's net income from exports increased more than an increase in the cost of domestic factors of production.

The results of the comparative advantage in Thai rice export have shown that Thailand has a comparative advantage in rice export in the world market. The degree of competitiveness tends to increase. In considering the competitiveness in major rice export markets, it is found that the degree of comparative advantage has been increasing in Singapore and the United States markets. While it is likely to decline in China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and South Africa markets.

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Thesis Advisor's signature