

## How had Population Changes Affected Paddy Holdings? A Result of Dynamics for Three Generations in a Rice Farming Village of Central Laos

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### Abstract

It is hardly clarified detailed population dynamics in the small-scale community in developing countries which does not exist complete data of residents. However, an accumulation of the case studies in those communities from comprehensive perspective must be needed to estimate future population trends of the world, because most of world population are occupied in developing countries. Therefore, we are trying to clarify the interrelationship between population dynamics and livelihood changes at the household level for three generations in a rice farming village of central Laos. In the study village, paddy reclaiming began from the lowlands along the stream from the 1930s, but the rate of paddy reclaiming has sharply decreased since 1960s because the lack of lands within the village. Then villagers have begun to purchase the paddy since 1970s. The source of purchase funds was due to migrant to Thailand that has been made since the 1970s. The first migrant worker in the study village was seen in the early 1960s, and villagers have constantly been going to work to Thailand since the 1970s. With an increase in the migrant workers, purchase of paddy from the neighbouring villages and from ex-villagers who went to out of the village made vigorous. As a result, the study village has achieved rice self-sufficiency. Regarding the relationship between population increase and paddy holdings, it is greatly affected by temporary transnational migration under the movement toward regional integration of mainland Southeast Asia. Acknowledgement: This work was supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number 25257004.

### Key words:

Laos; population changes, paddy holdings; temporary transnational migration;