

INFORMATION OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Doctoral dissertation title: Sustainable Livelihoods for Poverty Reduction in the Mekong Delta

Major: Economics, Major Code: 62310101

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1. DISSERTATION SUMMARY

The dissertation analyzes poor households' livelihoods in the Mekong Delta on the aspects of the sustainable livelihoods framework: livelihood capitals, livelihood activities, external factors of government, community, business environment. The logistic regression model for panel data in the period 2010- 2016 is used to assess the impact of livelihood capitals and other factors on choosing livelihood strategies. The propensity score matching and descriptive statistics methods are applied to evaluate the role of livelihood strategies in sustainable poverty reduction. This dissertation also uses other qualitative methods to clarify the research objectives. The research results show that the poor households in the Mekong Delta still have many weaknesses in livelihood capitals, and mainly diversify their livelihood activities to cope with risks. The ability of sustainable poverty reduction in the Mekong Delta is related to specialize livelihood activities. The households escaping poverty tend to change from diversification and farm livelihoods to non-farm livelihoods. The households that are never poor tend to choose farm or non-farm livelihoods. The households falling back into poverty have high participation in livelihood diversification. The effectiveness of livelihood diversification for sustainable poverty reduction is not high due to poor households' diversification in low productivity activities. According to the findings, the dissertation proposes some recommendations for sustainable poverty reduction based on building livelihood capitals and transforming livelihood activities.

2. THE NEW SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS

Firstly, based on inheriting the economics theory of sustainable livelihoods, the dissertation builds the framework of sustainable reducing poverty, which puts people at

the center of development, connecting livelihood capitals with livelihood activities and sustainable poverty reduction goals.

Secondly, this research provides an overall picture of the poor household livelihoods in the Mekong Delta in comparison with the non-poor households in terms of livelihood capitals and livelihood activities.

Finally, the author uses the propensity score matching – one of the techniques in evaluating the impact of policy- to calculate the influence of livelihood activities (farm, non-farm, livelihood diversification) on poverty reduction.

3. APPLICATIONS/ APPLICABILITY IN PRACTICE AND SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER STUDIES

The recommendations in this dissertation are based on the sustainable livelihood framework so that it is feasible, helping poor households to establish their livelihood capabilities to escape poverty sustainably. The suggestions are the basis for policymakers to consider and solve livelihood transformations for poor households to achieve the goal of sustainable poverty reduction.

The dissertation only considers poverty in terms of monetary approach, ignoring other dimensions of poverty. The data in this dissertation is only up to 2016 due to the problem of data latency. It is also a new suggestion for the next research in the future.

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