

Growth Potential of “Farming Method Cultivating White Storks” —Through Factor Analysis Causing the Gap between Theory and the Fact—

Rumi Nakagawa

Key Words: Environmental Economics, Environmentally Friendly Agriculture, Conversion

1. BACKGROUNDS AND OBJECTIVE OF THIS RESEARCH

Aiming for reintroduction of white storks, farmers in Toyooka city decided to convert their farming method to more environmental. Several years later, requirements for certification were designed and the movement became a farming method as “Farming Method Cultivating White Storks”. There are two kinds of farming methods; low-chemical and non-chemical. Conversion in farming method from conventional to them has been promoted due to its high demand from consumer and high income for farmer. Onuma and Yamamoto (2009) did the economic analysis, and concluded that conversion is reasonable. In contrast to their results, the pre-survey of this thesis shows that there are farmers who didn’t convert their method although they understand the advantages of the conversion enough. The objective of this study is to reveal growth potential and challenges of “Farming Method Cultivating White Storks” through analyzing factors behind decision-making of diverse farmers.

2. METHODS OF FIELDWORKS

Stakeholder analysis was made through a pre-survey. Based on the results, farmers were classified into following categories [conversion/management entity/region/pension paid /when]. Interviews were conducted.

3. RESULTS/VERIFICATION/FURTHER STUDY

The study shows that decision-making of farmers are influenced by restrictions of labor input and arable land size. Based on those restrictions, some farmers say they “couldn’t” convert farming method because it’s not reasonable. This is the other way of Onuma’s point. Considering two restrictions to calculation, whose method and data are same as which Onuma adopted, to see how those restrictions impact to the result. As a result, it is cleared that conversion led to decrease in benefit under the two restrictions. In deepening analysis, the study shows there are two groups of farmers; one supports village’s farmland and the other converts farming method. Those two groups compete over gross labor inputs of those who can support farming arable land of neighbors. This happens because of aging issues and decrease in farmers’ number in many villages. In contrast, the study shows that there is a management model that agricultural union in village unit, which can harmonize both movements.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Both of the groups mentioned above contribute to public benefit. To take a good balance between those two contributions, focus should be turned to the issue that most farmers carry a gross limit of labor supply.

REFERENCES

Onuma, Yamamoto (2009)