

Biological

Outlook for new agricultural management in Japan -Evaluation of networked agricultural management organization

Toshiyuki Monma
Professor
Tokyo University of Agriculture



【Background】

New types of agricultural management organizations are emerging in Japan. These organizations have not yet begun to attract much attention, as their operation approaches systems are quite different from traditional Japanese agriculture management. We define such an agricultural management as franchise-style an agricultural management organization which integrates farmers who hold common management objectives for realizing standardized management in order to correspond to the needs of consumers and processors. Leader farmer in such a franchise-style agricultural management offers knowledge, know-how, new production technology and other information to member farmers. Our research group has studied the structure and functions of franchise-style agricultural organizations and a theory for evaluating the relationships between leader farmer and member farmers.

【Results】

Our research have successfully accomplished three main outcomes as follows: 1) the development of an analytical framework based on inter-organization theory and a transaction cost approach to evaluate the structure of networked agricultural management organizations and the characteristics of their activities, 2) this analytical framework was developed by integrating an organizational set approach and a resource dependence approach. In the organization set approach, the impact relationship between leader farmer and member farmers were analyzed. In the re-

source dependence approach, the resource dependence relations and power balance between leader farmers and member farmers were analyzed. Finally, a transaction cost approach was combined with them to comprehensively evaluate the characteristics of the subject organization's activities. 3) we have verified the usefulness of our framework method by applying it to various networked agricultural management organization examples.

【Outlook】

In our research, we have clarified an analytical framework for evaluating the formation and development processes of networked agricultural management organizations, which will become a leading organization of Japanese agriculture. Development of the problem-solving type of agriculture management theory will be promoted through verification research based on our framework and clarification of a more practical analytical framework dependent on the characteristics of target organization.

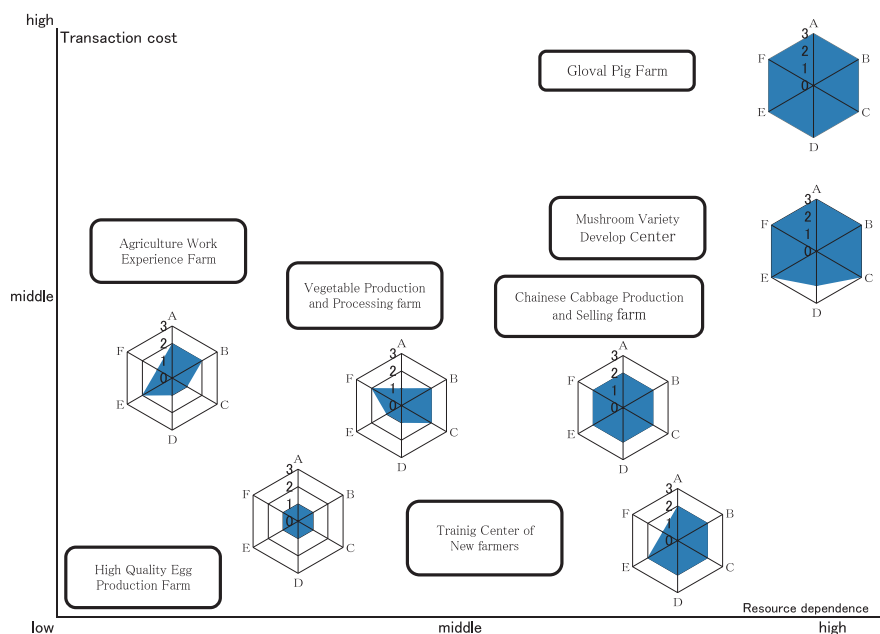


Fig.1 Classification of networked agricultural management organizations based on inter-organizational relationship and transaction cost

Related Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research:

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