

博士論文審査結果報告
Report on Ph.D. / Doctoral Dissertation Defense

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
政策研究大学院大学
Professor KIJIMA Yoko
教授 木島 陽子

審査委員会を代表し、以下のとおり博士論文審査に合格したことを報告します。

On behalf of the Doctoral Dissertation Review Committee, I would like to report the pass result of the Doctoral Dissertation Defense as follows.

プログラム名 Program	政策分析プログラム Policy Analysis Program	
学位申請者氏名 (ID) Ph.D. Candidate (ID)	Nguyen Kim Lan (PHD13101)	
Dissertation Title 論文タイトル (タイトル和訳)	Essays on Impact Evaluations of the Land Consolidation Program in Vietnam ベトナムにおける土地区画整理事業の影響評価に関する研究	
学位名 Degree Title	博士 (開発経済学) Ph.D. in Development Economics	
論文提出日/ Submission Date of the Draft Dissertation	2023年3月1日/ March 1, 2023	
論文発表・審査会開催日/ Date of the Defense and the Doctoral Dissertation Review Committee	2023年3月29日/ March 29, 2023	
論文最終版提出日/ Submission Date of the Final Dissertation	2023年6月5日/ June 5, 2023	
審査委員会/ Doctoral Dissertation Review Committee	主査 Main referee	木島 陽子 KIJIMA Yoko
	審査委員 Referee	高橋 和志 TAKAHASHI Kazushi
	審査委員 Referee	松本 朋哉 小樽商科大学教授 MATSUMOTO Tomoya Otaru University of Commerce
	審査委員 Referee	加治佐 敬 青山学院大学教授 KAJISA Kei Aoyama Gakuin University
	審査委員 (博士課程委員会) Referee (Doctoral Programs Committee)	諸星 穂積 MOROHOSI Hozumi

※ タイトルが英文の場合、文部科学省に報告するため、和訳を付してください

Please add a Japanese title that will be reported to MEXT.

1. Summary of Defense and Evaluation

The doctoral thesis investigates the Land Consolidation Program (LCP) in Vietnam in the 2010s, in which the government aimed at solving severe land fragmentation in the country. The thesis contributes to the literature by exploring not only its economic impacts but also its institutional impacts. It finds that the program makes the land tenure more insecure due to the delays in the process of reissuing the land use right certificate. The thesis also considers the effect of the political connections with government officials, which are believed to strongly influence public decision-making and the distribution of public resources in the context of Vietnam, as a factor affecting the LCP implementation. Even though the topic is important, few studies have examined the issue of LCP in developing countries. The referees agreed that this research topic is suitable as a theme for a doctoral dissertation, and the research findings have not only academic but also practical value for policymakers.

In the Ph.D. dissertation defense, she presented her study clearly and properly responded to the comments and questions by the referees. However, the referees agreed that her thesis had room for improvement in the literature review, writing quality, and some analytical sections. Thus, they requested to incorporate the comments made by the committee members at the defense into the final version of the thesis.

After two months after the defense, she submitted the revised manuscript to the committee members along with a note that described changes in response to the comments and questions at the defense. The referees checked the new version and found that the revisions were made appropriately. Finally, the main adviser checked the revised version, together with a plagiarism check, and told her to add a few minor revisions. On June 5, 2023, the final version was submitted, and the main adviser found it satisfactory. Thus, the doctoral dissertation review committee recommends that GRIPS award the degree of Ph.D. in Development Economics to Ms. Nguyen Kim Lan.

2. Dissertation overview and summary of the presentation.

This dissertation evaluates the impact of a land consolidation program (LCP) using a case study of two provinces in rural Vietnam and five-wave household panel data from the Vietnam Access to Rural Household Survey (VARHS 2010-2018). The government aimed at solving severe land fragmentation in the country as it increases production costs and prevents mechanization. Under this program, local governments followed a collective and centralized approach; in which many farm households simultaneously exchanged plots based on the top-down government plan where participation in the program is exogenously determined. The dissertation contributes to the literature by exploring not only its economic impacts but also the institutional aspects. Specifically, she firstly examines the impact on the land tenure security measured by the share of area size of plots with land use right certificate (LURC) and finds that the program makes the land tenure more insecure due to the delays of the process of reissuing LUPC from administrative officials mainly because of insufficient funding and inconsistent guidelines from upper levels. Secondly, she examines the role of political connections in the program if households with political connections are more likely to receive better quality plots and reissued LURC. The thesis also considers the political connections of household members with government officials with political power, which are believed to strongly influence public decision-making and the distribution of public resources in the context of Vietnam, as a factor affecting the LCP implementation. Even though the topic is important, few studies have examined the issue of the LCP in Vietnam.

The first main chapter examines the economic and social impacts of the LCP. There are more than 700 farm households in the dataset, of which 40% participated in the plot exchange started in late 2012. Using the unique dataset covering the period of the LCP implementation, the candidate employs a Difference-in Differences (DID) approach and its variant methods to evaluate the impact of the LCP. Empirical results suggest that the LCP promoted technology

adoption, reduced on-farm labor inputs, and increased migration. However, there is no program impact on land investment, land transfer, and land productivity. In addition, the program led to a significant reduction in LURC from 2012 to 2018. The decline in land tenure security may have some implications for the program impacts. The results are robust using alternative approaches such as DID with propensity score matching and DID with multiple time periods, which was developed by Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021).

In the second main chapter, the candidate investigates the role of political connections in the LCP, which refer to the household members' social connections to their relatives who are in a bureaucratic position with political power. Using the four latest rounds of the VARHS 2012-2018, the author found that political connections neither affected the program selection process nor the progress of obtaining LURC. The households participating in the LCP reduced the LURC share regardless of their political connection status to a similar extent (approximately 40 percentage points). Furthermore, there is no evidence that connected households achieved higher agricultural productivity than unconnected ones.

The dissertation provides useful implications for policymakers in designing the land consolidation program. Specifically, improving land tenure security is the key factor for farmers to fully exploit the potential benefits of land consolidation in agricultural production.

3. Evaluation Notes from the Doctoral Dissertation Review Committee (including changes required to the dissertation by the referees)

Following the Ph.D. dissertation defense by Ms. Nguyen on March 29, 2023, the degree committee meeting was held online with the attendance of Profs. Hozumi Morohoshi, Kazushi Takahashi, and Yoko Kijima from GRIPS, Prof. Kei Kajisa as an external examiner from Aoyama Gakuin University, and Prof. Tomoya Matsumoto from the Otaru University of Commerce as one of her main advisers.

The referees agreed that the presentation was done well, and the thesis examined very important issues for agricultural policies in developing countries and had interesting empirical findings and useful policy implications. Thus, the referees judged that the dissertation was deserved as a doctoral thesis at GRIPS.

However, the referees also agreed that her thesis had room for improvement in the literature review, writing quality, and some analyses. Then, they suggested that the comments made by the committee members at the defense should be incorporated into the final version of the thesis. Given the number of comments raised by the committee members, they expected that Ms. Nguyen needed to spend two months revising the thesis.

4. Confirmation by the Main Referee that changes have been done to the satisfaction of the referees and final recommendations

About two months after the defense, the candidate submitted the revised manuscript to the committee members along with a note that described changes in response to the comments and questions at the defense. They checked the new version and found that the revisions were made appropriately. Thus, they left the final check entirely to the main adviser. The main adviser checked the revised version, together with a plagiarism check, and told the candidate to add a few minor revisions. On June 5, 2023, the final version was submitted, and the main adviser found it satisfactory.

The doctoral dissertation review committee recommends that GRIPS award the degree of Ph.D. in Development Economics to Ms. Nguyen Kim Lan.