

SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL THESIS

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Title: **Prospect for improving the performance of farm and non-farm sectors for combating poverty and hunger**

貧困・飢餓の克服を目的とした農業・非農業部門のパフォーマンス向上の展望

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Depending on the unique setting of individual researches, farm and/or non-farm sector were found to play an important role for uplifting household welfare. To feed the increasing population and to provide sufficient employment opportunities, development in both agricultural and non-farm sector is important. In this context, the objective of our research is to explore the ways to improve the performance of farm as well as non-farm sector. Specifically, our focus is on the policy issues related to: farm (role of modern technologies, role of extension provided by non-governmental organizations, that is NGO, role of kitchen garden); and non-farm sectors (role of microfinance, role of education). Within our knowledge, these topics are not rigorously studied and are rare in the literature.

For our study, we used both the primary data that we collected and the available secondary data. For the analysis of data, we used several approaches: poverty indices for poverty analysis; gini index for inequality analysis; production function for farm productivity analysis; regression function for income, expenditure, poverty, and consumption analyses and; other statistical approaches like tabulation, mean, and standard deviation for comparative analysis.

Results showed improvements in the welfare levels of household but at the cost of rising disparities, with poor especially hit hard. Farming sector was found not to be performing well due to low and stagnant productivity, lack of use of modern technologies, and poor extension. On the other hand, non-farm sector was not well developed and in the rudimentary stage, which along with low levels of human capital development is obstructing the proper flow of benefits. However, results from our research gave several important policy implications to tackle this situation:

- Policies to make modern agriculture inputs like inorganic fertilizers, chemicals, and improved seeds, which increases farm productivity, easily available within reasonable price and time may help increase their use and will improve the performance of agricultural sector, which in turn will increase overall household welfare.
- Policies favoring gradual transfer of the role of providing agricultural extension services to NGO, which is found to be superior over other organizations, may help the farmers to upgrade their farming technologies and will bring about the desirable changes in the farming sector, which in turn will increase overall household welfare.
- Promoting kitchen gardens with diversified crops may provide households with nutritious agricultural products that help improve their nutritional status and food security condition.
- Prioritizing non-farm sector such as by providing easy loans for establishment of non-farm enterprises and appropriate policy considerations to attract investment may help increase non-farm activities, which in turn will increase employment opportunities outside farm providing households with extra income to cope with destitution.
- Policies that gave emphasis on microfinance projects like provision of microcredit may help households in two ways: upgrade their farming activities, and break barriers for entry to the non-farm sector. Thus, it has a vital role in uplifting household welfare.
- Provision of cheap education at least up to higher secondary levels may help poor households to upgrade their skill and enable them to penetrate in the non-farm sector. Increased non-farm employment will increase income and will help overcome destitution.