

Sustainable Management of Vegetation and Plant use in Tea Cultivation Area in Myanmar

–General Survey on Tea Cultivation Area in Myanmar, Thailand and Laos-

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Myanmar, Thailand, Laos
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Research background

There is an urgent need to plan forest conservation measures especially in the area where rapid deforestation and forest degradation are observed in Myanmar. This research focuses on below topics in order to plan forest conservation measures.

- > The eastern area (Shan state) where rapid deforestation and forest degradation are observed.
- >Local land use (tea cultivation).
- >Possibility of new usage of local plant resources (wild tea).

Research purpose

In this field survey, ground- truth survey was carried out for land use change analysis. Also, use and growth of wild tea were surveyed in Thailand and Laos, to see the possibility of applying wild tea production in Myanmar.

Results/Achievements

<Myanmar, August 18-29th, 2017>.

Field visit and interview survey were conducted in five tea villages in Myanmar. Peoples' ethnicity in those villages are either Danu or Palaung. From the interview, it is understood that tea production in those villages are for domestic use, and the buyers set different price for tea depending on the regions. Also, some villagers said that they used to use wild tea in swidden follows.

<Thailand, August 30-31st, 2017>

In M village, tea has been produced for a long time, but it is only 4-5 years ago that Chinese buyers came by crossing the boarder. The tea garden was not made by wild tea after swidden, but some tea seedlings are observed in abandoned tea gardens.

<Laos, September 1-10th >

In L village, Hmong people started to keep wild tea growing in the follow land

from 15 years ago when Chinese buyers started to buy those tea. In K village, old stand of tea and tea seedlings are observed. Here, Kamu people produce tea from 5 years ago also lead by Chinese buyers.

Plans for further research

It was interesting to know that people in both Thailand and Laos have not produced tea for drinking (except some ethnic people) until recent Chinese visit even though they own natural tea forest. In Myanmar, wild tea use and impact from Chinese economy has not observed as much as we expected before the survey, however, an assumption was arose that tea may go back and forth between domestication and being wild as the demand of local market in a long history. In some cases, some wild tea should have gone back to natural forest. For further research, the importance of wild tea as a local resource might be discussed by surveying those natural tea forest.

References (if any)

『2015 Myanmar statistical yearbook』,2015.Central Statistical Organization.



Tea (M village, Northern Thailand)



Tea leaves in drying process (L village, Laos)

