

Abstract of Doctoral Dissertation

Title: The New Political Economy of Agricultural Development and Food Security in sub-Saharan Africa

Doctoral Program in International Relations
Graduate School of International Relations
Ritsumeikan University

ラジャウナリソン ハジャ ミッシェル
RAJAONARISON Haja Michel

From a political economy perspective, this thesis explains why the recent agriculture and food security policy in sub-Saharan Africa, adopted by development institutions alongside with the private sector – is not working and seeks to advocate solution to tackle it. The thesis problematises the topic according to three narratives: first, introducing the topic of agriculture in the theme of development; second, mobilisation of resources as a big push to agriculture and finally, the stabilisation of the grain markets to ensure global food security.

The thesis argues that the introduction of the mechanism of public, private partnership (PPP) and value chain is marginalising the ability of African countries to manage their agricultural development and food security programme. The thesis elaborates that such mechanism which concentrates on agricultural development inhibits the path of structural transformation of the region, which in turn affect the sustainability of the food system, the social and economic development.

This thesis concludes that the reintroduction of the PPP mechanisms and the market-driven value chain are marginalising African smallholders economically, socially and politically. Global food security that transcends through the global to national and household level represents an impossible trinity, firstly, due to the difference in market mechanisms. Secondly, due to the self-driven interest pursued by countries to secure their own food control, and finally, to the trade-off faced by smallholder between the production of food for self-consumption and high-value commodity for export. Although agriculture represents an important share of the Gross Domestic Product, its role as a leading sector was outstripped by other industries since 1990s. This leading role since then has been led by a hybrid dualism between manufacturing and agriculture.

The contributions of the thesis are threefold: to the background theory of political economy while dealing with the interplay between the economy and politics relative to the present theme. To the focal theory that arises from the theoretical and empirical evidences stemming from this study and conceptualised as 'capacity-driven approach' and to the data theory, presenting the technique of orbit analysis and its application to the analysis of economic information.