

Record of Doctoral Dissertation Screening

Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies

*If possible please fill out this form in both English and Japanese.

Name/ DOB / Nationality	SAHA Shantanu Kumar	2/17/1983	Bangladesh
Last Institution Attended	September, 2015 Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Doctoral Program Completed		
Degree Type	Doctor of Philosophy in Asia Pacific Studies	Date of Award	September 20, 2015
Requirements for Degree Conferral	Persons who comply to the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Degree Regulations Article 13 Section 1	Degree Regulation Article 4 Section 1	
Title of Dissertation (Eng./Jap.)	Challenges in Adopting Floating Bed Cultivation in Waterlogged Areas: A Case Study from Southwest Bangladesh 水浸地域における浮動床の耕作移に関する挑戦; バングラデシュ南西部のケ ーススタディ		
Examiners (Affiliation)	(Supervisor)1. MANI, A.	2. BARAI Munim Kumar	
	3. Venkatachalam Anbumozhi (Asian Development Bank Institute)	4.	
Summary of Dissertation Contents	<p>The aim of this study is to explore how the adoption of floating bed cultivation is taking place among poor farmers in waterlogged areas of southwest Bangladesh and, how it is perceived amongst them. It is based on field-work carried out in the village named <i>Chandra</i>. The <i>Chandra</i> village is located under <i>Trimohini</i> union in <i>Keshobpur</i> upazila of <i>Jessore</i> district. Snowball-sampling procedure was used to find the respondents for the five groups of the study. The five groups of people include poor farmers of ongoing projects, poor farmers from previous projects, poor farmers without experience of floating cultivation, agricultural landowners, and experts and organizers of projects related with floating cultivation.</p> <p>All together 27 research participants were selected. The study found that floating bed cultivation introduced by the NGOs is found not to be adequate to develop a sustainable solution for the poor farmers to cope with adversity. The research did not find any individual initiative of practicing floating bed cultivation within the village. All the floating bed practitioners were the beneficiaries of the NGOs. And, after finishing the project most of them did not continue the practice. The research illustrates that though the floating bed cultivation projects hold potentials to create income opportunities, other complicated issues remain as challenges in adopting the practice.</p> <p>The research identified the challenges of floating bed cultivation as risk and uncertainty, hardship, complexities, and incompatibility with the existing farming system. Furthermore, climatic variability, emphasis on incentives rather than the agricultural practice, incompatibility with the geographical settings, limited NGOs efforts, landlessness and limited access to resources remain as the barrier for the adoption of floating bed cultivation in the study area. This research recommends that more involvement of the government and civil sector with long term planning are necessary to develop sustainable solutions and income opportunities for the poor in waterlogged areas.</p>		

<p style="text-align: center;">Summary of Dissertation Screening Results</p>	<p>The initial screening of the thesis recommended a major re-write with suggestions for changes. Following the candidate's revision, the examiners accepted the thesis as having met the requirements of a doctoral thesis. At the oral defense, the examiners unanimously agreed to pass the candidate for being awarded the PhD degree.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary of Examination Results or confirmation of Academic Skills</p>	<p>The candidate was recommended for the PhD degree. The thesis was viewed as having contributed to a deeper understanding of poor landless farmers undertaking floating cultivation with the help of non-governmental organizations in Bangladesh.</p>