

Chapter 6

Structural Change of Rubber Industry

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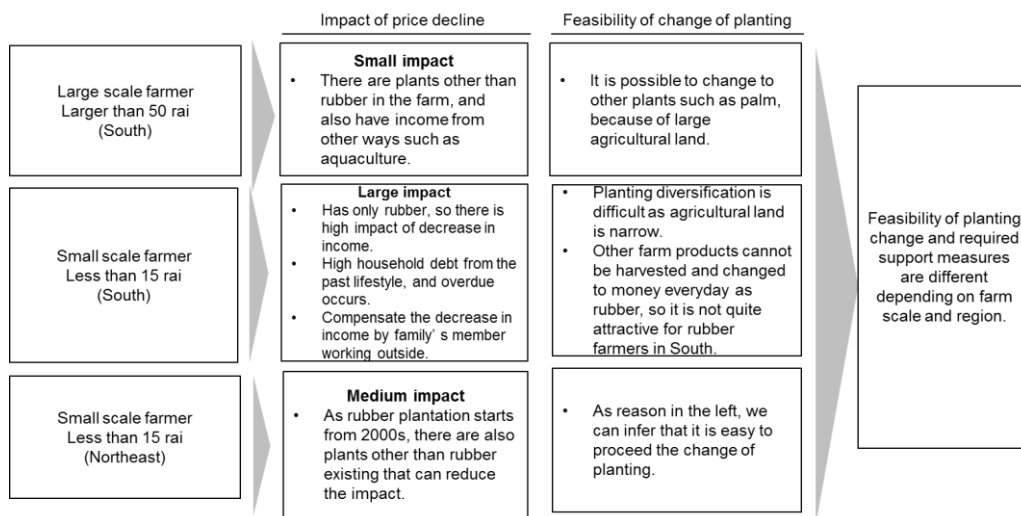
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Issue of the Change in Planting to Stabilise Farmers' Incomes

It is relatively easy for large-scale farmers to change their planting, but planting diversification is more difficult for small-scale farmers, as their areas of agricultural land are too small to easily switch to alternative plants. Also, it is difficult to find alternatives for rubber that can be sold to generate cash on a daily basis, while other crops can be harvested only few times a year. Farmers in the South, who are accustomed to mono-cultures and a way of life with daily cash revenue, find it especially difficult to change their behaviours and covert to other plants. In contrast, farmers in the Northeast are more adaptable, as they have only recently started to plant NR and they are more accustomed to planting other crops and vegetables.

Figure 6-1: Rubber farmers' incomes and the feasibility of planting changes



Source: Field Survey in Hatyai (Feb 2016).