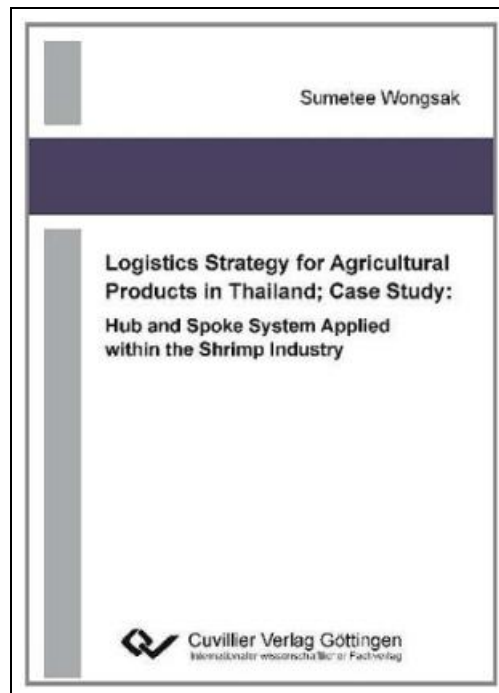


## Logistics Strategy for Agricultural Products in Thailand; Case Study: Hub and Spoke System Applied within the Shrimp Industry



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Cuvillier Verlag Jul 2011, 2011. Taschenbuch. Condition: Neu. Neuware - Transportation costs are typically constitute the largest percentages of the total cost in the production process of agricultural industries. This study aims to apply the hub-and-spoke system to the agricultural transportation and distribution networks of Thai agricultural products in order to reduce transportation costs and to investigate the location of facilities within the shrimp industry by varying parameters. Hubs serve as collection and switching points in the system and transportation flows will be consolidated in the hub links. The concentration in the hub network leads to economies of scale, and for this reason the transportation cost rate will be reduced. In the study, central markets for shrimp are referred to as hubs. The hub location models are divided in uncapacitated hub location models and hub location models with minimal capacity. These models are stated as an integer linear programming models. The objective functions of both models are identical. They include the costs of direct and indirect transportation as well as the construction costs of hubs. While evaluating transportation costs, the opportunity cost reflected in the perishable nature of the agricultural products is accounted for as well. The rates of the opportunity cost are calculated as the difference between averaging shrimp prices of direct trade with the factory and trade within shrimp markets. The difference of the two models lies in the constraints of minimal capacity. To solve the hub location problems, the sum of the costs is optimized through a genetic algorithm. This research employs secondary data from 2006 until 2008 based on information of the Department of Internal Trade and the Department of Fisheries of Thailand. The computational results reveal that the central markets are more likely to be established in potential locations if the saving rate of transportation costs is increased, according to the efficiency of management and vehicles within the network. Furthermore, the change of the opportunity costs has...



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