ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY OF COFFEE PROCESSING FIRMS IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, VIETNAM

NGUYEN NGOC CHAU

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE (AGRICULTURE)
IN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

GRADUATE SCHOOL
CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY
OCTOBER 2000

ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY OF COFFEE PROCESSING FIRMS IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, VIETNAM

NGUYEN NGOC CHAU

THIS THESIS HAS BEEN APPROVED TO BE A PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE (AGRICULTURE) IN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

| EXAMINING COMMITTEE; | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Kamd-No onke | CHAIRMAN |
| Lect. Dr. Kamol Ngamsomsuke | |
| Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aree Wiboonpongse | MEMBER |
| Parkow Seminings Asst. Prof. Dr. Patana Jierwiriyapant | MEMBER |
| Philip Gypmantasiri | MEMBER |

16 OCTOBER 2000

Copyright by the Graduate School, Chiang Mai University

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly pleased to extend my sincere gratitude to all those who offered me help and support during my study at Chiang Mai University and survey research in Vietnam.

Firstly, I would like to express my appreciation and respect to Dr. Kamol Ngamsomsuke, my academic advisor as well as the chairperson of my thesis examination committee, for his immeasurable guidance, encouragement, and support throughout my study at Chiang Mai University.

My respect and thanks are also given to Ajarn Phrek Gymantasiri, Chairman of MCC and the member of thesis examination committee, who has provided me with invaluable comments and guidance during my study at Chiang Mai University. My heartfelt thanks goes to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aree Wiboonpongse, and Assist. Prof. Dr. Pattana Jierwiriyapant the members of my examination committee for their constructive comments and other suggestions.

J.F Maxwell in the Biology Department, Chiang Mai University is thanked for his assistance in review of this thesis, and friendship. I would also like to thank Mr. Phanomsac and his wife Mrs. Tanza for their translations and helps during the time I studied at MCC.

I would like to extend my thanks to all Agricultural Systems students from batches of 1996 to 2000 with whom I enjoyed my studies, and shared ideas. My sincere thanks go to Mr. Bao, Mr. Hoang, Ms. Hoa, Ms. Loan, Ms. Puttawan, Mr. Khanal, Mr. Somkid, and Mr. Sanun for their help during my stay in Chiang Mai. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge many overseas Vietnamese people and to Vietnamese students for their support whilst I was studying in Thailand, especially thanks to Mr. Chinh, Mr. Quynh, and Mr. Truc, etc.

I wish to record my grateful thanks and appreciation to all academic and administrative staff at the Agricultural Systems Program for their cordial support during my studies. It is worthy to mention the name of Khun Om, secretary to the Agricultural Systems Program, for her constant support in all administrative matters.

I am grateful to ÖSW (Germany) for granting me a scholarship to study at MCC. I would also like to thank leaders and staff of the Economic Faculty, Hue University who helped my family in Vietnam and encourage I my study here. I can not forget thanking my good friends in the Central Highlands Vietnam and interviewees who patiently answered my questions and supported for my study.

Last, but not least, I would like to express my love to my mother, and siblings for their continuous encouragement and support during my stay in Thailand. My love and my heart are always devoted to my beloved wife, Tran Thi Du, and my son, Nguyen Tran Ngoc Tuan, who have shared moments of happiness and hardship with me and encouragement to me while I was staying in Chiang Mai.

Nguyen Ngoc Chau