The Competitiveness of Pastoral Livestock Production and Sea-Buckthorn Farming in Mongolia

Pastureland is a public good and herders are free to let their livestock graze. Many herders hold more goats than other types of livestock because cashmere is the basis for cash income, but goats may harm the pastureland. We analyse the competitiveness of livestock production in Mongolia. We used two years’ data from 176 herder households in Bulgan County, Khovd province of Mongolia, and analysed five types of meat, milk, hides, and four types of hair. We find that the livestock production is privately and socially competitive. We conclude that the cattle is the most competitive livestock type in both private and social perspectives, not the goat. Increasing numbers of livestock degrades the pastureland and affects the wildlife and the society. The estimated social cost of pastureland has little effect on the competitiveness, but further research is needed.

Sea buckthorn (Sanddorn – mg. *Sanddorn – mg. *aegagropoda*) provides multiple outputs that are very nutritious and healthy. Plus, it mitigates against desertification. There is no solid economic and market analysis for sea buckthorn, due to a lack of data. We aim to identify the level of private and social competitiveness for sea buckthorn farming in Bulgan county of Khovd province in Mongolia. We confirm that half of the interviewed farmers are competitive, yet their level of competitiveness is not very high. This could be caused by a lack of experience. Interestingly, the private competitiveness level is lower than the social one. The output price is high, which may be owing to governmental supportive policies; however the prices of inputs are even higher. The level of competitiveness of sea buckthorn farming has increased from 2012 to 2013, which might be thanks to supportive government policy “Sea Buckthorn National Programme”. The most serious challenge is lack of finance and processing capacity.

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