

Multiple Pathways of Family-Based Farming in Rural Communities

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1. Introduction

- * Pluriactivity (hereinafter PA) has been neglected or regarded as 'undesirable'.

- * PA has been gradually prevailing contrary to the 'conventional wisdom'.
 - PA is no more representation of inefficiency (lower productivity).
Rather it is a stable component of farm management and well-established lifestyle (Bessant 2006).

- * PA should be revisited from another perspective as follows:
 - Livelihood Strategy (LS) for the maintenance and reproduction of (family-based) farms
 - Critical mechanism embedded in rural communities
 - Informative for policy makers, e.g. farm classification criteria

- * This study aims at empirically analyzing PA in Korea to shed light on its characteristics and attributes.



2. Theoretical Background

* Concept of PA

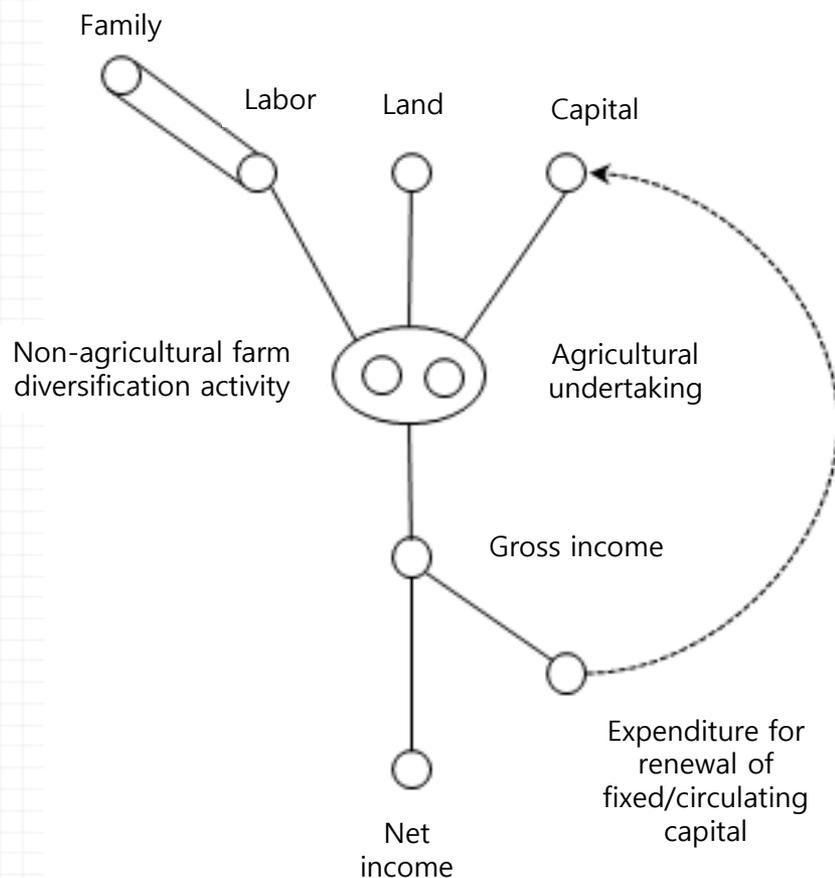
- A combination of agricultural activities with other income generating activities off the farm (Huylbroeck and Durand 2003, Smith and McElwee 2013).

Off-farm Activity (Employment)	D (Agricultural wage labor)	C (Job-holding in the non-agricultural sectors)
On-farm Activity (Farm Operation)	A (Farming & Management)	B (Rural tourism services, direct sales, processing, restaurant etc.)
	Agriculture	Non-agriculture

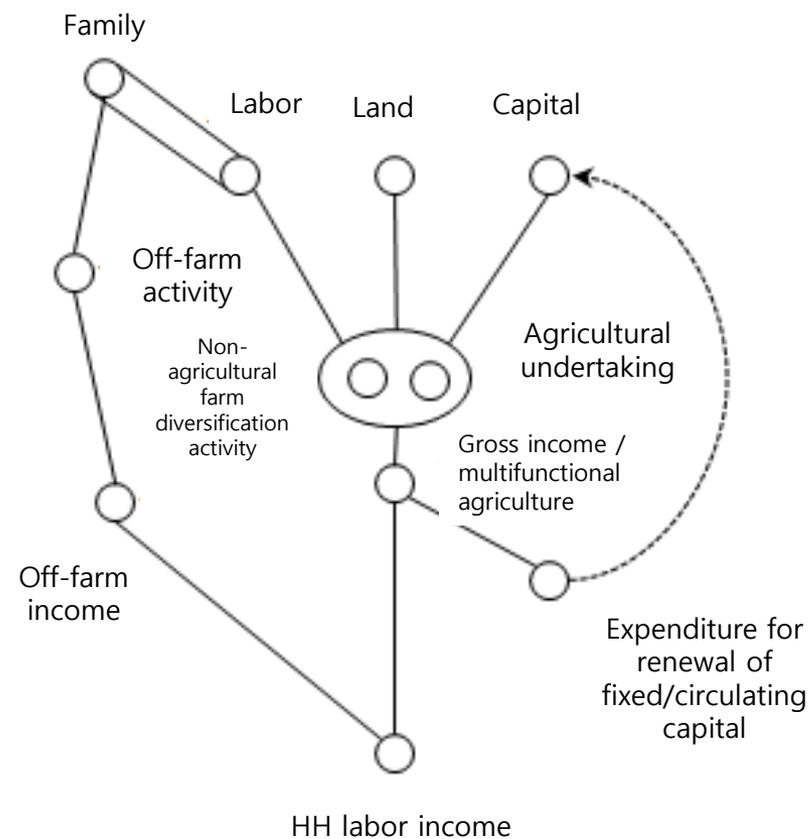
2. Theoretical Background

* Farm households (HHs) carrying out PA: labor-consumption balance flow

- Originating from Chayanov (1966)

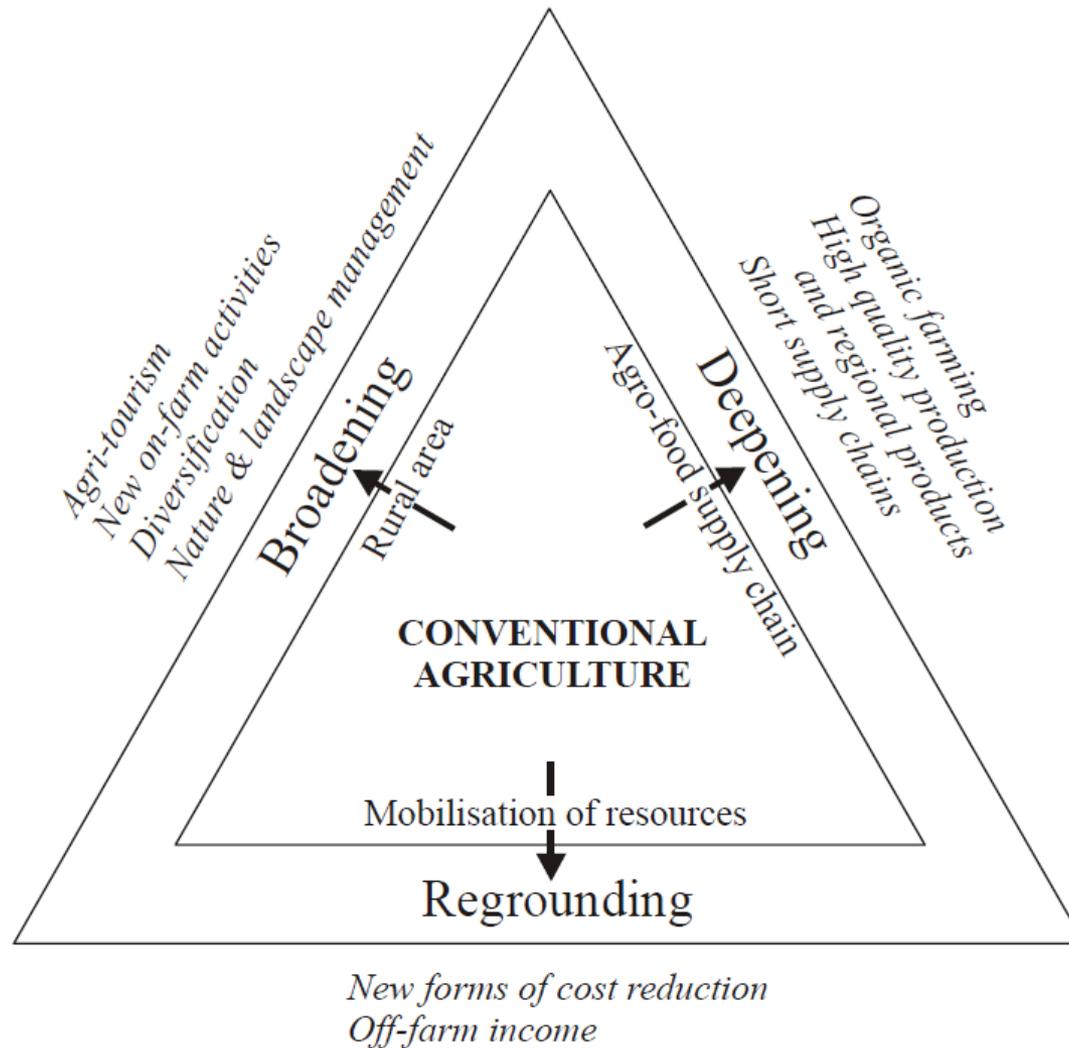


< HH pursuing farm diversification >



< HH combining farm diversification and off-farm activity >

2. Theoretical Background

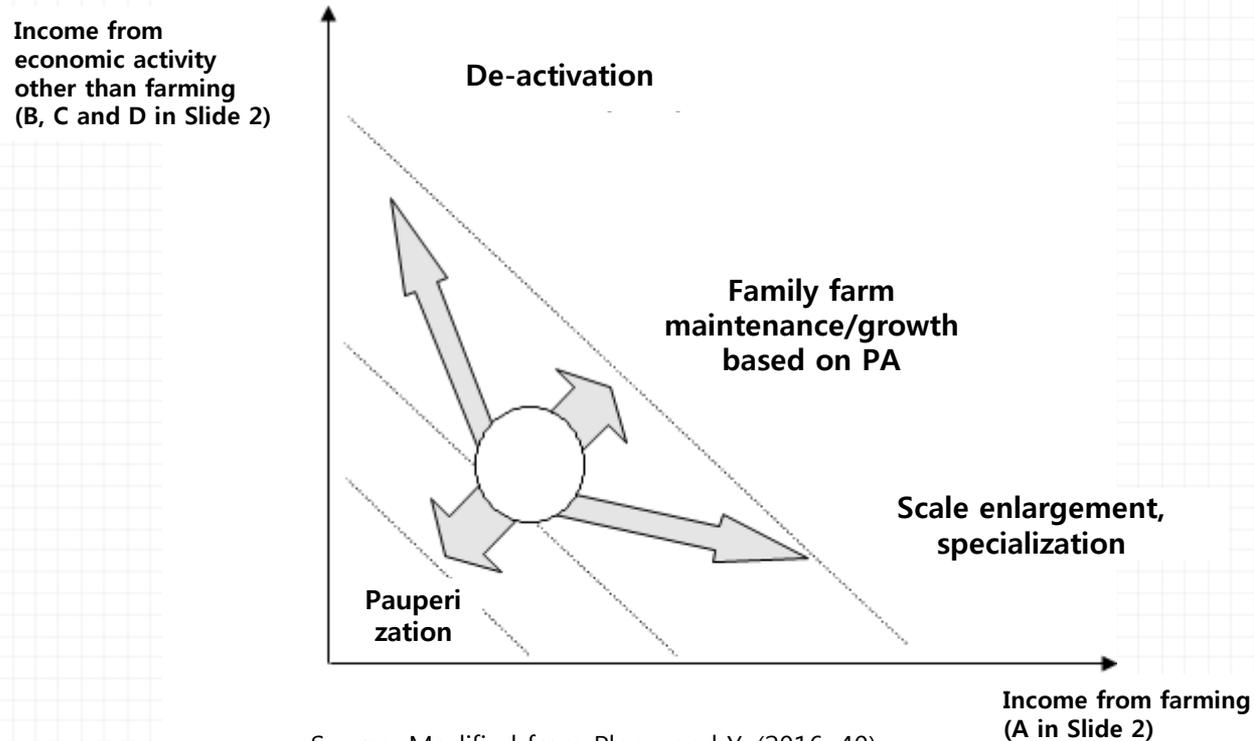


Source: Ploeg and Roep (2003).

2. Theoretical Background

* Multiple Pathways of Family-Based Farming

- How the concept of PA is realized is of main interest.
(Possibly three countries share similarities in common.)
- Amongst others, main drivers include composition of HH members and (rural) labor market situations.



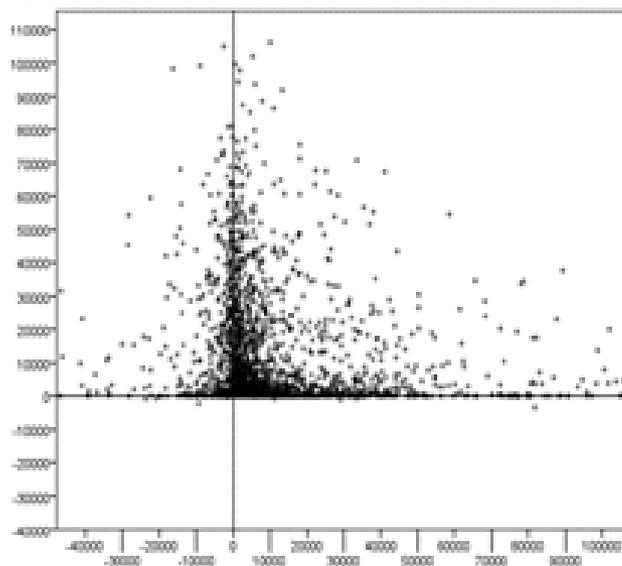
Source: Modified from Ploeg and Ye(2016: 40).

3. Key Findings

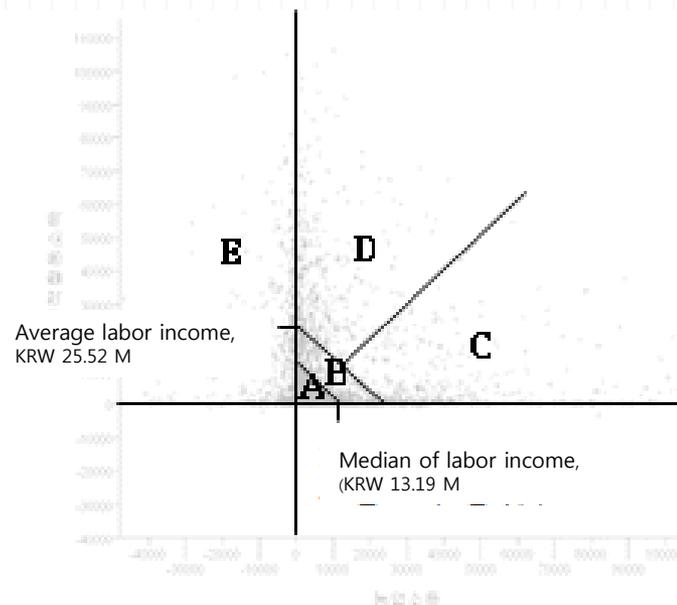
- PA in Korean rural communities is widespread rather than residual/abnormal.
 - * Farm HHs engaging in PA account for 83.7% of total farms in 2015.

- The share of on- and off-farm income differs depending on farm HH income level.
 - * Income source composition and/or PA may be used to classify farm type.

Income from economic activity other than farming (B, C and D in Slide 2)



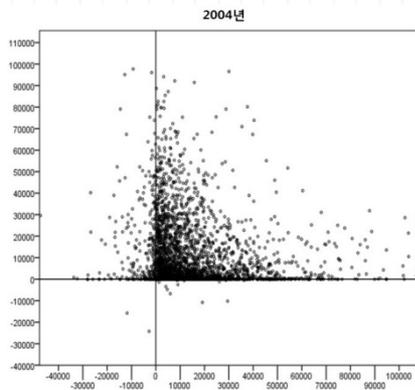
Income from farming (A in Slide 2)



3. Key Findings

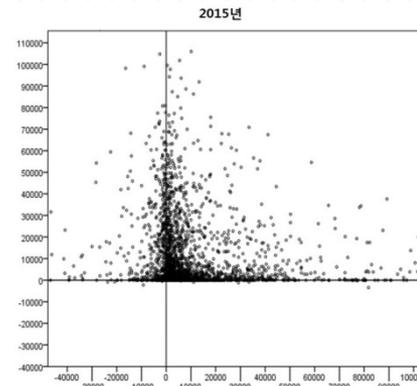
- Bi-polarization of "on- (A in slide 2) and "off"-farm (B, C and D in slide 2) income deepened during 2004-2015.
 - * Volatility of on-farm income is much larger than that of off-farm income.
- Farm HH income gap b/w farms has also increased.
- At the same time, many farms suffer from 'insufficient' income (pauperization).
 - * Resulting from deterioration of "double squeezing", changed HH member composition, structural transformation of rural labor market.

Income from economic activity other than farming (B, C and D in Slide 2)



Income from farming (A in Slide 2)

Income from economic activity other than farming (B, C and D in Slide 2)



Income from farming (A in Slide 2)



3. Key Findings

- 64.6% of Farm HH members over 20 are estimated to engage in PA (based on survey).

* Job holding opportunities are heavily influenced by local labor market structure.

- Farm HH members' age and gender are critical determinants affecting their capability to engage in PA.

Category	Non-working	Farming business only	PA	Off-farm activity only	Total
Male	35	143	348	50	576
Female	48	193	319	47	607
Total	83	336	667	97	1,183

Category	Non-working	Farming business only	PA	Off-farm activity only	Total
20s	56	1	8	39	104
30s	2	19	46	29	96
40s	4	48	93	14	159
50s	1	95	229	11	336
60s	1	140	289	4	434
70s	19	33	2	0	54
Total	83	336	667	97	1,183



3. Key Findings

- Based on employment status, non-agricultural wage laborers have faced with irregularity (instability) of employment, which varies across age.

Category	Paid regular worker	Paid temporary worker	Daily paid worker	Business owner	Unpaid family labor worker	Total
Male	116	29	171	70	10	396
Female	69	42	167	46	40	364
Total	185	71	338	116	50	760



4. Implications and Concluding Remarks

- * When facilitating PA centering on employment concerns, some implications/suggestions can be drawn:
 - Unused resources in rural economy, particularly workforce, must be better utilized.
 - Characteristics of job opportunities available for farm HH members should be considered.
 - In terms of carrying out PA, employment is more appropriate than “self-employment plus another job” strategy.
(Need to correct and refine current policy measures.)
 - Demographic factors should be considered when building up and advancing programs. (Imperative for the elderly and women.)
 - Maintain and develop the basis of services and the social environment in rural areas (QOL matters).

Thanks for your attention.

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