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Abstract Session 3.3 – Regional capacity and governance structure in industrializing wild-simulated ginseng in the Republic of Korea.

Ginseng is a popular herb as traditional medicine over centuries. Wild ginseng grows naturally in mountains. It is endangered by overharvest due to high demand in the market. Responding to the demands and protecting wild ginseng, wild-simulated ginseng occurred as ginseng grown by artificially transplanting seeds or seedlings under forest in the mountains. Wild-simulated ginseng is a lucrative product among non-timber forest products. It contributes to increasing income of forest communities. This study attempted to examine how to develop wild-simulated ginseng industry at the local level in the Republic of Korea. Korea Forest Service controls the whole process of cultivating wild-simulated ginseng for keeping high quality. Three Korean municipalities with the high ratio of forest areas have created special zones for cultivating wild-simulated ginseng towards regional development. This study aims to analyse and compare regional capacity for industrializing wild-simulated ginseng in three counties, Hamyang, Pyeongchang and Hongcheon. Seven capitals were applied to measure regional capacity in wild-simulated ginseng industry; natural, human, financial, physical, social, cultural, and institutional capital. The selected counties have different strategies for developing wild-simulated ginseng industry based on multiple capitals. We interpret the allocation and structure of capitals as the regional capacity for developing wild-simulated ginseng industry at three local cases. The combination of capital and interaction and collaboration among multiple stakeholders were analysed depending on the governance theory. This research contributes to understanding forest governance structures for regional development based on non-timber forest products with the case of wild-simulated ginseng.