

**Community Participation in the Transfer
of Advanced Technologies in Agriculture
to Farm Households in the Mountainous
Region of Northern Vietnam**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface.....	V
Acknowledgements.....	VII
Table of contents.....	IX
List of tables.....	XV
List of figures.....	XIX
List of abbreviations and measures.....	XXI
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Problem statement.....	2
1.2 Research objectives.....	3
1.3 Hypotheses.....	4
1.4 Scope and limitations.....	4
1.5 Organization of the thesis.....	5
2 REGIONAL BACKGROUND.....	7
2.1 Geographical and land characteristics.....	7
2.2 Socio-economic characteristics.....	10
2.3 Agriculture, forestry and fishery.....	14
2.4 Rural infrastructure.....	21
3. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES OF PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.....	25
3.1 Participation in agricultural and rural development.....	25
3.1.1 Importance and purpose of participation.....	25
3.1.2 Main strategies for insuring participation.....	26
3.1.3 Typology of participation.....	27
3.1.4 Benefits of participation.....	29

3.1.5	Costs of participation.....	30
3.1.6	Assessment of participatory elements in agricultural research in the Uplands Program.....	32
3.1.7	Limits and pitfalls of participatory approaches.....	33
3.1.8	Participation in extension and transfer of advanced technologies in agriculture.....	35
3.2	Community participation in agricultural and rural development.....	37
3.2.1	Importance of community participation and community-driven development.....	38
3.2.2	Benefits of community participation and community-driven development (CDD).....	39
3.2.3	Typologies of community participation and community driven-development (CDD).....	39
3.2.4	Community participation and community-driven development (CDD) in extension and transfer of advanced technologies in agriculture.....	40
3.3	Participation and community participation in agriculture in Vietnam...	42
4	STUDY AREA, DATA BASE AND RESEARCH	
	METHODOLOGY.....	47
4.1	Study area: Bac Kan province and Cho Don district.....	47
4.1.1	Bac Kan: land characteristics.....	47
4.1.2	Bac Kan: socio-economic characteristics.....	47
4.1.3	Bac Kan: agriculture, forestry and fishery.....	49
4.1.4	Bac Kan: rural infrastructure.....	51
4.1.2.1	Cho Don: land characteristic.....	51
4.1.2.2	Cho Don: socio-economic characteristics.....	53
4.1.2.3	Cho Don: rural infrastructure.....	54

4.2	Data base and research methodology.....	54
4.2.1	Selection of communes.....	54
4.2.1.1	Ngoc Phai and Dong Lac communes: land characteristics.....	55
4.2.1.2	Ngoc Phai and Dong Lac communes: socio-economic characteristics.....	55
4.2.1.3	Ngoc Phai and Dong Lac communes: agriculture and animal husbandry.....	56
4.2.2	Selection of villages.....	56
4.2.3	Data collection.....	57
4.3	Research methodology.....	58
4.3.1	Descriptive statistical and comparative analysis.....	58
4.3.2	Economic model applied to analyze factors affecting participation of farm households in the transfer of advanced agricultural technologies.....	58
4.3.3	SWAP analysis.....	60
5	SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF FARM HOUSEHOLDS.....	61
5.1	Characteristics of household heads.....	61
5.2	Characteristics of households.....	65
5.2.1	Household size.....	65
5.2.2	Agricultural labor force.....	66
5.2.3	Households' livestock husbandry.....	67
5.2.4	Crop cultivation by households.....	71
5.3	Household income.....	75

6	TRANSFER CHANNELS AND PARTICIPATION OF FARM HOUSEHOLDS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE TRANSFER OF ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES.....	79
6.1	Transfer system of advanced agricultural technologies.....	79
6.1.1	Government extension programs (GEPs).....	79
6.1.2	Research institutes and ministerial programs (RIMPs).....	82
6.1.3	Foreign aid organizations (FAOs).....	83
6.1.4	Non-government organizations (NGOs).....	86
6.1.5	Government companies, enterprises and plants (GCEPs).....	87
6.2	Participation of farm households and communities in the transfer of advanced agricultural technologies.....	89
6.2.1	Participation in technical training courses.....	89
6.2.2	Participation in study tours and workshops.....	97
6.2.2.1	Study tours.....	97
6.2.2.2	Workshops.....	100
6.2.3	Participation in trial and demonstration models.....	103
7	DETERMINANTS OF PARTICIPATION OF FARM HOUSEHOLDS IN THE TRANSFER OF ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES.....	109
7.1	Local community characteristics.....	109
7.2	Transfer channels.....	113
7.3	Farm household characteristics.....	113
7.3.1	Factors for participation of farm households in technical training courses.....	114
7.3.2	Factors for participation of farm households in study tours.....	116
7.3.3	Factors for participation of farm households in models.....	117

8 THE PROCESS OF INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE AND THE TRANSFER OF ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES.....	121
8.1 Establishment of the government's agricultural extension system.....	121
8.2 Strengthening investment in research and the transfer of advanced agricultural technologies.....	121
8.3 Subsidies for farm households.....	122
8.4 Encouragement and promotion of foreign programs and NGOs in the transfer of advanced agricultural technologies and rural development.....	122
8.5 Socialization of extension work and the transfer of advanced agricultural technologies.....	122
8.6 Agricultural commodity promotion.....	123
8.7 Commercial services promotion.....	123
8.8 Grassroots democracy.....	124
9 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS.....	129
9.1 Summary.....	129
9.2 Conclusions.....	134
9.3 Policy implications.....	136
10 GERMAN SUMMARY.....	139
10.1 Zusammenfassung.....	139
10.2 Schlussfolgerungen.....	145
10.3 Politikauswirkungen.....	147
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	149
APPENDICES.....	157

DETERMINANTS OF POOR FARM HOUSEHOLDS' SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION IN TRANSFERRING ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES (A case study from the Northern Mountainous Region)

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Abstract

The Mountainous Region of Northern Vietnam (MRNV) is divided into two parts, the Northeast and the Northwest, and occupies 31% of Vietnam's total natural land area. It is a region with significant potential for crop and livestock production, as well as forest exploitation. More than 11 million people representing 31 different ethnic minority groups live in this region; there are 1 million Tay; 600,000 Thai and Nung, respectively; 500,000 Mong, Muong and Dzao, respectively; and 17 other small groups with a population under 10,000. Each minority group generally has its own distinct customs and traditions, various socio-economic characteristics and community structures that create diverse systems of economics, society and culture in the region (Chung et al., 2003). In the MRVN, however, one also finds the highest poverty rate in the whole country. The poverty rate in 2002 was 43.9% (GSO VHLSS, 2003), 23.5% of Vietnam's poor households were located in this region (National Program on Poverty Reduction, 2003) and over 75% of the poor belonged to the above mentioned ethnic minorities (UNDP, 2000). Poverty reduction in the MRNV is a very high political priority for the Vietnamese Government. Thus, in recent years, many advanced technologies in agriculture have been transferred to households and communities through five main transferring channels. Chung et al., (2003) found that one of the reasons that the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the transfer process have been limited is that farm households were not involved in the transfer of advanced technologies. Especially for the poor, advanced technologies have not met their needs. The overall objective of this paper is to determine the positive and negative factors that have affected farm household and community participation in the transfer of advanced agricultural technologies.