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

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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.