

Improved market engagement for sustainable upland production systems in the north-western highlands of Vietnam



Key details

Location

Vietnam

Duration

Start Jun 2009

End Feb 2014

Budget

AUD 2,362,179

Commissioned organisation

The University of Queensland

Partners

Centre for Agrarian Systems Research and Development; Hanoi Agricultural University; International Center for Tropical Agriculture; Northern Mountainous Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute; Plant Protection Research Institute

Project Leader

Elske van de Fliert - University of Queensland

Program

Agribusiness

Project code

AGB/2008/002

Overview

The aim of this project was to increase smallholder engagement in competitive value chains associated with two farming systems, one based around maize and the other

temperate fruit.

Lack of market integration, inappropriate and unsustainable land management and limited ability of poor smallholders (mostly ethnic minority people) to absorb risk have resulted in continued poverty within the north-western highlands region of Vietnam. Project work first focussed on promising locations where the two farming systems were practised and there had been recent improvement in market connectivity.

The project initially identified and analysed constraints, needs and opportunities for the target groups. Subsequent activities involved on-farm activities to introduce and evaluate improved crop management approaches and value chain development for marketing produce. Pilot trials enabled the research team to select promising methodologies that could be subsequently incorporated into government and non-government development strategies.

Project outcomes

The project achieved a wide range of outcomes and impacts. In terms of scientific impact, it contributed to the introduction of a transdisciplinary and collaborative research framework in the Vietnamese research for development arena, the advancement of the Conservation Agriculture in Southeast Asia (CANSEA) network, and the establishment of the usefulness of the “pin” method (a modified profile meter method) to measure soil erosion under Vietnamese highland soil conditions.

The project had a significant focus on capacity building in order to draw together different Vietnamese

organisations, target communities, practitioners and researchers from different disciplines as to foster collaborative work leading to tangible and sustainable impacts in the field. Capacity impacts resulting from the intensely collaborative approach and numerous training events were particularly apparent among project's field researchers from partner organisations and farmer researchers.

