



University-based extension education and services in Vietnam

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Introduction

- AE farming practices are an inevitable alternative to the existing agrochemical dependent agriculture.
- Extension is considered an important bridging institution between research, education and farmers
- In Vietnam, a number of universities have been providing extension education and services for the last two decades.
- Roles of universities in providing extension education and services are not yet studied and synthesized.
- This study aims to uncover some profiles of university extension education and services, through which contributes in raising such important issue into the public floor.

Research approach

Two approaches adopted for this study.

- **First**, from the list of 436 universities and colleges, 16 universities and colleges are identified of having extension education program.

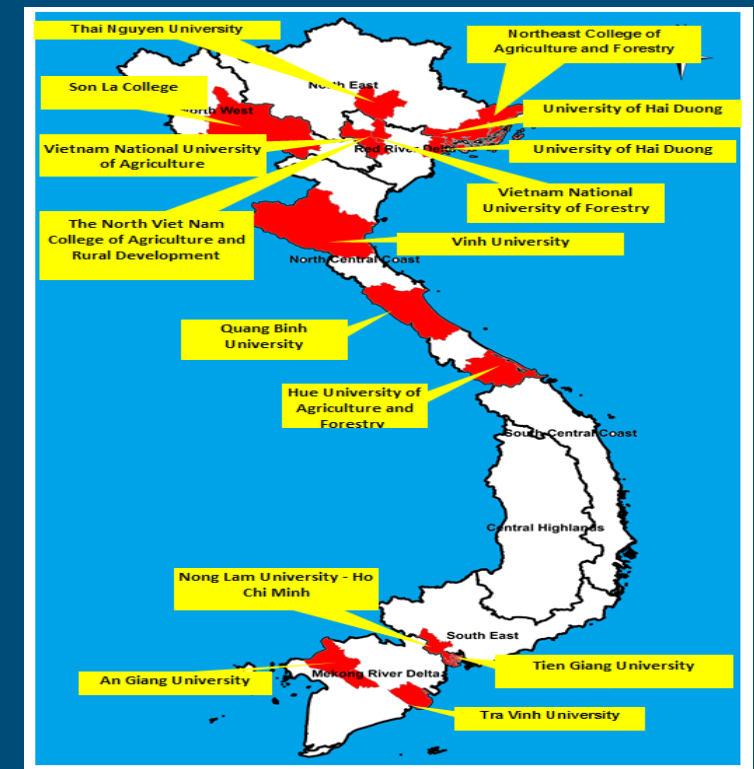
For extension researches and services, only VNUA and CTU have made information available on their websites for public access for the period of 2012-2016.

- **Second**, six agricultural and forestry universities in the North and Central Vietnam were contacted for a survey containing: (1) assessment of university roles in agroforestry extension services; (2) assessment of university roles in extension education.

5 responses from 4 universities were received, including: Hong Duc University (Thanh Hoa province), Vietnam National University of Forestry (Hanoi), Hue Agroforestry (Hue province, with 2 responses), and Dalat University (Lam Dong province).

University extension education

- There are 16 universities (12 universities and 4 colleges) which are providing agroforestry extension education program.
- 80% of human resources of the government extension system are graduated from universities.
- Even newly opened, students enrolling in extension program reduced in recent years



Levels	Extension workers		Divided by Education level (%)				
	Number (staffs)	Percentage (%)	University and Higher	College	Vocational	Elementary	Short training courses
Provincial level	2,114	5.8	80	20		0	
District level	4,347	11.8					
Commune level	8,780	23.9	0	24	42	34	0
Village level	21,479	58.5	13			41	46
Total	36,720	100.0					

University extension services

- Most of universities seeking funds from local governments, NGOs or their own annually provided research budget for extension researches and services.
- Universities can provide a wide range of extension activities, from inputs to farming, post-harvest practices and animal raising. All of these activities have been project-funded.
- Some extension services in which private actors pay for the cost are remained at researcher's individual level.
- In 5 years, VNUA has implemented 725 agroforestry researches/projects, of which 5.7% related to AE farming practices.
- CTU has implemented 292 agroforestry researches/projects, of which 6.8% related to AE farming practices

University extension services

- Most of VNUA and CTU projects related to AE farming practices are small scale, focusing on GAP production, bioproduct development & utilization and waste recycling.
- None are identified to work on other AE practices such as CA, OA, SRI, VAC...

VNUA		Major components			
Types of projects	Number of projects	Demonstration	GAP/safe production	Bioproducts, biopadding, waste recycling	Others
National level	2	1		1	1
Ministry level	4		1	2	1
Provincial level	5	2	4	1	
University level	11		1		1
International cooperation	2		6	6	2
Student's research	17		9	6	2
Total	41	3	21	16	7

CTU		Contents				
Type of projects	Number of projects	Demonstration	GAP/Safe production	Bioproducts, biopadding, waste recycling	IPM	Others
Ministry level	2					2
Provincial level	12	3	5	2	1	2
University level	3			2		1
Student's research	3			3		
Total	20	3	5	7	1	5

Impacts of university extension services

- Universities can access to international fundings for research and extension services, project staff, with better educated and higher payment, are likely working with more commitment and effectiveness.
- There are a number of good records on impacts of university extension projects.
- However, university extension is very much small scale as compared to government extension system.

Conclusions

- University extension course is newly set up, but students enrolling have been reduced in recent years.
- Eventhough considered an important field , university extension is not officially institutionalized into government extension system.
- Extension research and services of universities have been very restricted in both number and scale.
- University extension is suggested to be institutionalized into government extension system to:
 - To strengthen practical knowlegde for lecturers and researchers
 - To provide a better extension education which drives to improvement of government extension system quality.
 - To offer extension services in addressing specific and/or newly emerged farmer's farming problems and needs.