Agroecological zoning for extension of climate friendly agriculture in some provinces of Northwest Vietnam

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Content[®]

- About project "Climate change and ethnic minorities in Northern Vietnam"
- Studies for agroecological zoning in Northwest region
- Zoning in Son La province
- Zoning in Dien Bien district
- Zoning in Lai Chau province
- Selection of extension activities on climate friendly techniques
- Climate Change Responded Agriculture Indices

Overall project information

- Name: Climate change and ethnic minorities in Northern Vietnam
- **Duration:** 01 July 2014 30 June 2017
- Donor: CISU (Danish organization)
- Implementing agencies:
 - Danish agriculture development agency (ADDA)
 - Center for Nature and People Reconciliation (PanNature)
 - Farmer Unions of Son La, Lai Châu provinces
 - Fund for Woman Development of Điện Biên district.



Project areas:

- 5 districts of Son La province,
- 3 districts of Lai Chau province
- Dien Bien district of Dien Bien province

Objectives of project

Development objective:

Ethnic farming communities in remote mountainous areas of Son La, Dien Bien, and Lai Chau provinces in Northern Vietnam have improved access to information on climate change policies and gained influence on local policies and planning for natural resources, addressing climate change adaptation, food security, and poverty reduction.

Immediate objective

By end of the project, local government, NGOs and farmer organizations in project areas are able to facilitate and develop development policies and planning in natural resources sector that enable communities to adapt regional and international strategies to climate change, reduce impacts on the environment and maintain sustainable livelihood alternatives.

Survey methods

- Field survey in 26 selected communes of the 8 districts
- At provincial level: consultation with provincial agriculture extension offices.
- At district level: interview with district agriculture offices.
- At commune level: interview with commune chairmen, extension officers and farmer unions.
- At village level: focus discussion of farmer groups:
 - 1) Overview of village history
 - 3) Crop calendar
 - 5) Transect walk

- 2) Village mapping
- 4) SWOT on sustainability of current agriculture system
- 6) Interviews of households.

Basis for agroecological zoning in the project areas

The basis for agroecological zoning combine:

- Natural ecological conditions (such as topography, climate, soil, hydrology)
- Current agriculture systems and practices.
- Management and governance status in agriculture of targeted areas.

Zoning at district level.

Agroecological zoning in Son La



Northern Mountainous zone

Thuận Châu and Mường La districts

■ High elevation (400 – 900 m). Not much populated. Fertile soil.

Main crop: one season rice, maize, cassava, rubber; fruit trees (including

temperate fruits).



Nà Sản plato

- Son La city and Mai Son district.
- Medium elevation, small elevation differences. Populated area. Heavily degraded soil.
- Crop: rice, maize, cassava; coffee, sugar cane, tea.



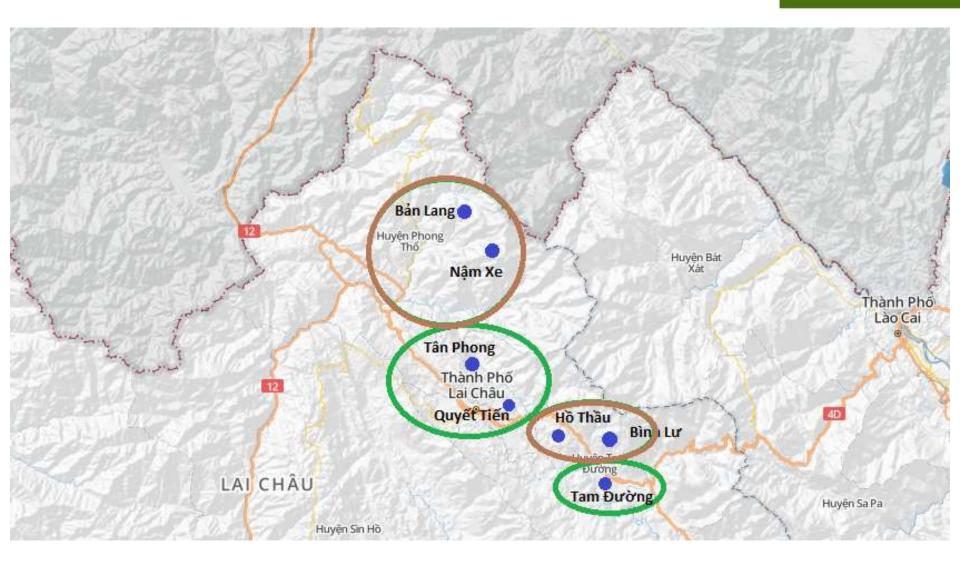
Southern Mountainous zone

- Yên Châu district.
- Slope area. Intensive farming.
- 2 seasons of rice, low land fruits, maize, rubber; tea.





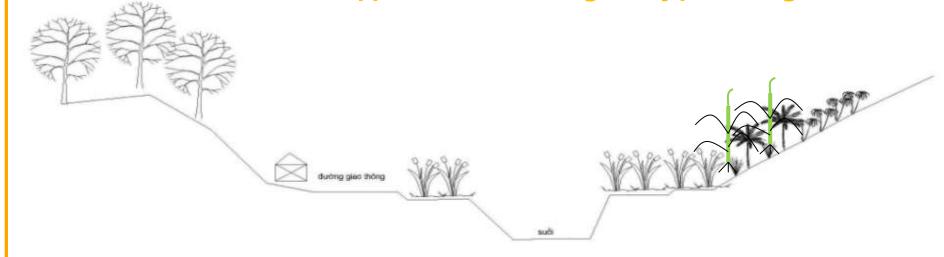
Agroecological zoning in Lai Chau



Mountainous zone



Bản Hợp 2 – xã Bản Lang – huyện Phong Thổ

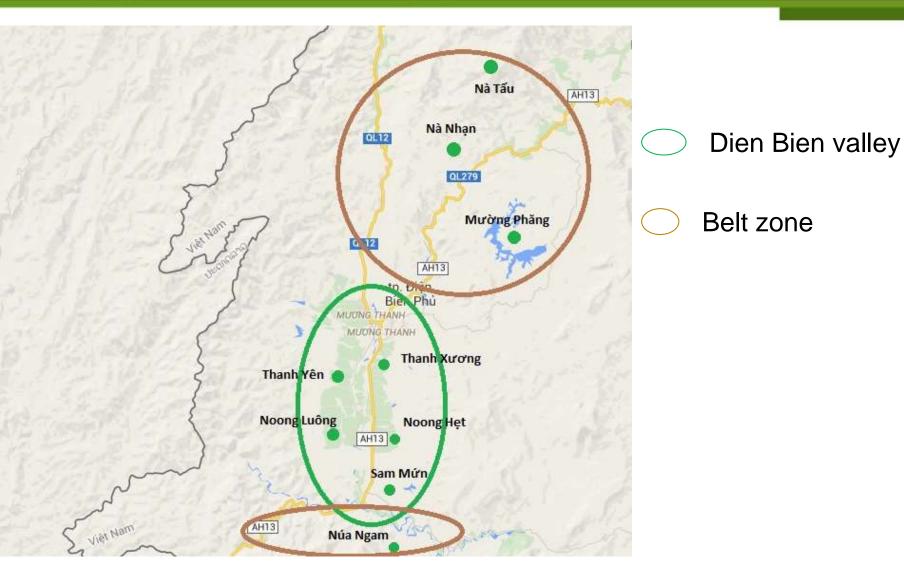


Flat zone



Bản Khèo Thầu – xã Hồ Thầu – huyện Tam Đường

Agroecological zoning in Dien Bien





Belt zone

Dien Bien valley

Selection of extension activities on climate friendly techniques

Based on the agroecological zoning the project defines that there are 2 main typical landscapes for selection of suitable agriculture techniques applied with the aim to improve climate change adaptability of the areas:

- SRI for valley, alluvial lands: for flat valleys and areas along rivers techniques of SRI for rice cultivation is selected to be promoted through agriculture extension.
- Sustainable maize cultivation on slope lands: for slope areas on the hills techniques of sustainable maize cultivation is selected. The techniques include intercropping maize with legume, grasses or agroforestry.

The extension activities for the techniques are conducted through Training of Trainer (ToT) of local facilitators (LFs) followed by Farmer Field Schools (FFSs) in the selected villages.

Climate Change Responded Agriculture Indices

- For promoting application of climate friendly agriculture techniques it is essential to have the role of local government in planning of agriculture in their places. A set of indices assessing status of local actors (province, district and commune authorities) in responding to climate change. The indices will cover:
 - Adaptation indices
 - Mitigation indices
 - Readiness of local stakeholders in climate change responds.
- Relevance, representativeness and measurability of the indices are defined in accordance with the agroecological zoning in the targeted areas.
- The indices will be consulted with commune and district officers and representatives of village farmers.

