❖ **Environmental impacts**. Recommendations for soil erosion prevention, water and agro-biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, conservation of indigenous species, minimise landscape fragmentation.

❖ **Economic and social impacts**. Recommendations for livelihood improvements, i.e. incomes owing to improved market access, more effective use of inputs, and risk reduction.

- Communities assisted to make the needed transitions for adoption of new systems and technologies.
- Marginalised people, including women and ethnic minority groups, empowered.
- Value chains for promising agroforestry products analysed and market links established and/or improved; market training conducted; agroforestry producer groups established and several value-added activities piloted.

❖ **Capacity building**

- Capacity of national staff increased in terms of rigorous scientific research and new approaches such as participatory analyses, farming systems research, livelihoods analysis, market chain analysis and value-adding activities.
- Technical capacity of farmers and extension workers enhanced through new extension materials and methods.
- Recommendations provided for improved policies related to diffusion and adoption of agroforestry.

Partnerships

- World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Son La, Dien Bien and Yen Bai provinces
- Tay Bac University
- North-West Centre for Forestry Sciences and Production
- Northern Mountainous Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute

Timeframe

November 2011 - June 2016

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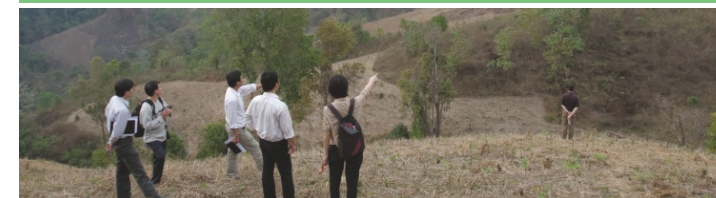www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/sea/vn

AGROFORESTRY FOR LIVELIHOODS OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN NORTHWEST VIET NAM (AFLI)

2011-2016

The issue

Forests occupy more than half of northwest Viet Nam and agriculture is characterised by shifting cultivation. Recent improvements in infrastructure facilitate market access and thereby increase livelihood opportunities for the 3.4 million people living in the area.

However, the rapid expansion of agriculture and widespread shifting cultivation have also resulted in degradation of agro-ecosystems and forest destruction and fragmentation - which threaten environmental sustainability and food security.

Agroforestry offers an integrated approach that can secure the livelihoods of rural households while curbing land degradation and deforestation. In response to efforts both from the government and ACIAR to support the region, ICRAF Viet Nam is joining forces with national partners in Son La, Dien Bien and Yen Bai provinces to implement a comprehensive agroforestry research.

Aim
To improve the performance of smallholder farming systems in northwest Viet Nam through agroforestry.

Objective
To increase the productivity of associated crop and livestock systems, leading to more diverse and sustainable production systems and better income from tree products.

Specific objectives
• To develop best-practice agroforestry systems for three agro-ecological zones (<600 m.a.s.l., 600-800 m.a.s.l. and >800 m.a.s.l.).
• To improve the availability of high-quality germplasm to enable the expansion of agroforestry systems.
• To enhance market access and opportunities for adding value to agroforestry products.
• To improve extension methods and policy dialogues for successful dissemination of agroforestry systems.

Research questions
• Which agroforestry systems and technologies are best able to deliver livelihoods and environmental improvements in the target region?
• How can innovative agroforestry systems be designed to match different local agro-ecological zones, socio-economic settings and infrastructure opportunities?
• What are the most appropriate propagation and establishment techniques for desired agroforestry species and how to improve farmers' access to high-quality seeds and seedlings of these species?
• Where in the value chain of priority agroforestry products can farmers get better income and how can farmers' entrepreneurial skills for agroforestry products be improved?
• What are policy opportunities and constraints for expanding promising agroforestry systems in the region?
• What are the best methods for promoting wide-scale adoption of beneficial agroforestry systems and technologies?

The research approach
• Design agroforestry systems in collaboration with farmers.
• Establish on-station and on-farm trials on propagation of priority agroforestry species and develop small-scale nurseries.
• Enhance market access for priority agroforestry products.
• Identify value-adding opportunities and facilitate links between producers and other market actors.
• The above findings are spread through farmers' field schools, cross-site visits, farmers field days and training sessions and consultations.
• Research findings will inform communication strategies, policy dialogues, extension activities through workshops, media products, extension materials and training.
• Monitor and evaluate project impacts and overall outcomes.

Expected outputs and impacts
❖ *Scientific impacts*. Insights for wider applications about how smallholders make decisions related to agroforestry under changing policy, market and environmental contexts.
• Best-practice agroforestry systems and technologies for diversified and sustainable incomes developed for three agro-ecological zones.
• Community nurseries producing high-quality planting material for agroforestry systems created.