



Inter-University Cooperation for Rural Development



Dang Vu Binh, Vu Dinh Ton, Philippe Lebailly, Joseph Dufey



Challenges of rural development in Vietnam

by J-Ph Peemans... 10 years ago

Importance of rural development for global development of the country

Rural population ($\leq 70\%$) \uparrow

→ need of food self-sufficiency in rural areas

Urban population $\uparrow \uparrow$

→ need of increasing food product supply and diversification

Global economy of the country

→ need to export agricultural products

Mean living standards \uparrow

→ need to avoid impoverishment of rural households





Challenges of rural development

Market liberalization

→ International references

→ Loss of autonomy in farmers' decision for crop and animal production

→ Increasing income differences among rural households according to regions, inside régions, and inside rural communities, depending on market facilities, available infrastructure and adapting capability to new context





Challenges of rural development

How to reconcile market performance and sustainable development ?

So far, no general model has proved efficient in all aspects of market economy and sustainable development throughout the world

Major local components are included in global problematics e.g. historical context of local development

→ Challenge for interdisciplinary and interuniversity cooperation





Challenges of rural development

Modernization of agriculture

↔ sustainable development

Huge modernization projects often failed to catch up « backwardness » of rural communities

→ social and environmental damages

→ emergence of few performing farmers and

→ marginalization of others (« extinction » in the North)

→ conflicts for land and water resources in the South





Challenges of rural development

Rediscovery of rural community dynamics

Need for reverse approach of rural development
→ inherent dynamics of rural societies

Historical creativity and adaptability

Intuitive knowledge of local ecosystems in all dimensions
(physical and human constraints)

Essential approach in Vietnam with 70% rural population





Challenges of rural development

North-South university partnership for rural development

No simple transfer from North- to South-Universities and from South-Universities to rural communities

Exchange of expertise to approach common problematics

Involving qualified disciplinary specialists whose priority is to integrate their own speciality in interdisciplinary approach of rural development, first condition for sustainable development

Monodisciplinary approaches lead to non sustainable development and often serious damages to rural communities and environment

Studies should target the majority of small farm holders and related contractors in rural areas





CUD cooperation with Hanoi Agricultural University (HAU)

Inter-Institutional Cooperation

(**CUI**, **C**oopération **U**niversitaire **I**nstitutionnelle)

Program started in 1997

Aims at general and « long term » support to
≈ 12 universities in the world

HAU selected because of impact on rural development →
general development of Vietnam

- all disciplines (faculties) involved in rural development
- lot of agricultural executives and decision-makers throughout Vietnam were trained at HAU
- number of students ≈ Belgian « complete » universities





CUD cooperation with HAU



First program 1997-2002



Creation of the « Interdisciplinary Study Center for Rural Development » (CEIDR)

- Research on farming system changes in the last decades
- Particular focus on animal production and socio-economics
- Support to local initiatives of farmers



Training of teachers and researchers (international courses in Hanoi, short stays in Belgium)

Editing teaching material for bachelor students

Filling (part of) the gap of scientific books and journals on rural development

Second program 2003-2007

CEIDR development

- access to national and international funds
- extension of research to small rural enterprises for agricultural product processing (involvement of the new Faculty of post-harvest and food processing technologies)

Small research projects of bachelor students supervised by young teachers

Support to practice training of bachelor and master students





CUD cooperation with HAU



.../... Second program 2003-2007

Involvement of new Belgian colleagues (younger generation)

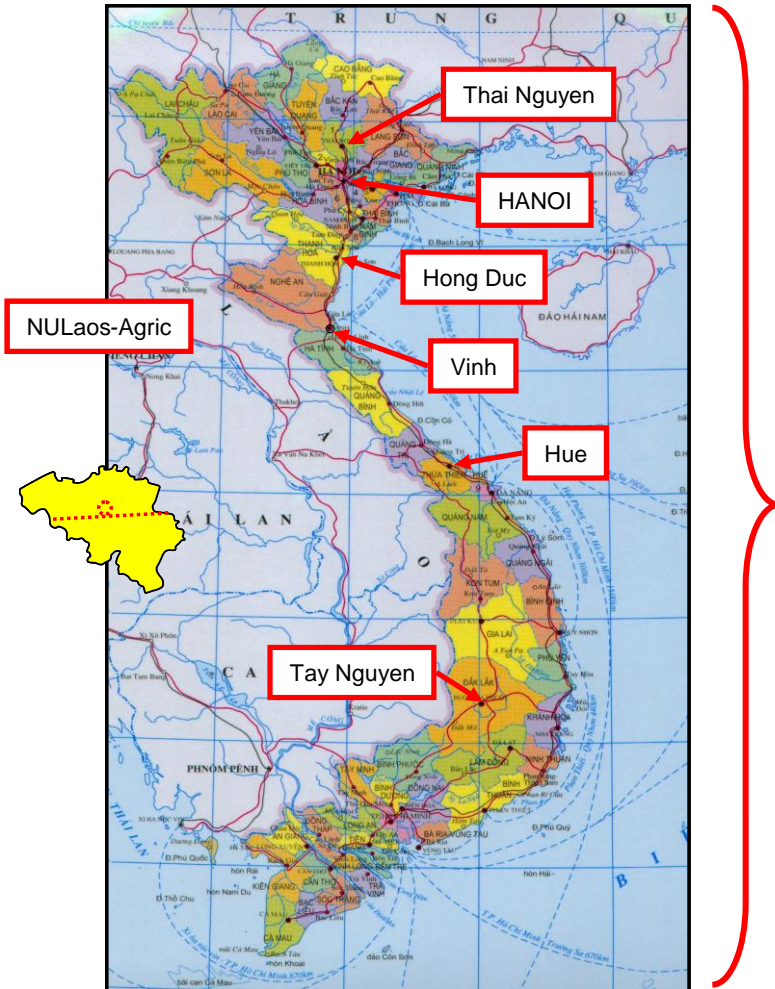
Post-graduate scholarships in Belgium

Support to PhD students in Vietnam and partial support to PhD students in Belgium with Vietnamese scholarships (+ 1 full CUD)

Support
to central library of HAU
to intra- and internet networks
to foreign language learning



Third program 2008-2012



Increasing financial support
(2.000.000 euros / 5 years)

All faculties included +
associated universities and
research institutes (VAAS...)

CEIDR: autonomy from CUD
support

.../...



CUD cooperation with HAU



.../... Third program 2008-2012

Fund for research projects : annual application

- focused on rural development
- inter-faculty and inter-university studies
- involving PhD students

PhD scholarships

- 12 in Vietnam (need to support and upgrade local PhD schools)
- 12 in Belgium (« sandwich »)

→ Strategic point to discuss in this panel





CUD cooperation with HAU

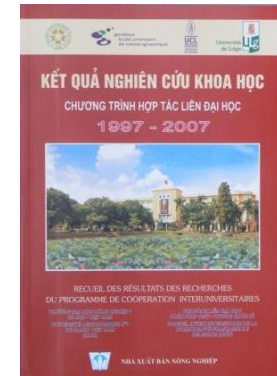


.../... Third program 2008-2012

Training sessions to scientific research methodologies
(future master?)

Inter-faculty seminars on rural development
and annual inter-university workshops

Support to the reform of master programs
at HAU and to the management of studies and students



Hanoi, Dec 5th, 2008

CUD-DGCD annual price for the
best 3 « small research projects »
involving bachelor students





CUD cooperation with HAU



New CUD program in 2008 « Pôles de Formations Spécialisées » (PFS)

September 2009 : opening of an international Master in Rural Sociology and Economics at HAU

- Vietnam
- Laos
- Cambodia

Towards recognition in Vietnam and Belgium





CUD-PIC projects on rural development in Vietnam

« Projets Interuniversitaires Ciblés »

By starting dates (3-5 years projects) :

1998 : Lutte contre la pauvreté en milieu rural grâce au développement des productions animales



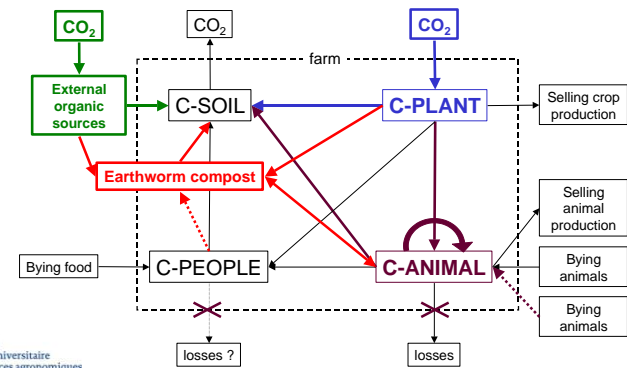
2000 : Recherche-développement d'une technologie d'utilisation rationnelle et durable des eaux nécessaires à l'irrigation dans le Delta du Mékong

.../...



CUD-PIC .../...

2004 : Amélioration de la production vivrière sur les sols pauvres de la zone côtière du Centre Vietnam par une optimisation du cycle des matières organiques au sein des exploitations familiales



2007 : Développement de l'entrepreneuriat en amont et en aval de l'activité agricole au Vietnam

2009 : Improving management practices and food safety related to the use of chemicals for a sustainable freshwater aquaculture in the Mekong Delta

Thanks to the CUI-UAH piloting committee



Hanoi, Dec 5th, 2008

Not to forget we are working for these people

