

Impacts of household livelihood assets on farmers' forestland-use changes in Thua Thien Hue province, Vietnam.



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BACKGROUND

The transformation of swidden cultivation, hill and home gardens, rubber tree plantations, and residual natural forests to smallholder acacia plantations has been taking place vigorously in Thua Thien Hue, Vietnam. Previous studies in Vietnam have documented how various household factors affect land use change, with notable differences between communities of different rural ethnicities, and among households with different socio-economic capital (McElwee and Tran 2021, Thulstrup 2015). This research complements previous studies about how do household livelihood assets affect farmer's forestland use changes over 15 years (2005–2020).

METHODOLOGY

Secondary data

Government statistics, relevant literature and local secondary data

Primary data

Household survey: 222 households (111 King HHs and 111 Minority ethnic HHs)

Data analyses

Multiple regression analysis:
+ Dependent variables: area of plantation forest change;
+ Independent variables: 20 factors were separated into five livelihood asset groups.

Human Capital:
Age and education;
Total labour

Social Capital:
Occupation; Social status; Residency period

Natural Capital:
Type of land area (acacia; rubber; agricultural...); Total landholding cover change.

Physical Capital:
Family housing quality; Gross and Livestock assets

Financial Capital:
Total income; Access to borrowing/credit

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

- Three variables were significantly associated with forestland use change (change in households' acacia plantation area) (Table 1):
- + Households with better education => Increase social capital (established social relationships, easy access to projects, technical science) => boldly convert other types of land to acacia plantation;
- + Households with a longer residence period => Better access to resource capital (production land) => increases in acacia area.
- + Poor households (difficult to invest capital for afforestation) => have less land ownership.

Table 1. Multiple Regression Analysis assessing the factors affecting change in plantation forests

Variables	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta	
Education of HH leader	26.962	7.559	.409	.001**
Household classification	-43.470	17.598	-.277	.016*
Residency period	24.345	10.964	.220	.029*

- Local people continue to develop plantations by all means, putting natural forests at risk of being threatened.
- There is a difference in access to plantation land between poor and non-poor households => increases the risk of conflicts of interest and land disputes.
- Ethnicity is less relevant as a factor in household-level land use change.

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