FIRST TECHNICAL REPORT OF THE PROJECT
"MIMAP: RURAL POVERTY MONITORING (VIETNAM) II"
(Centre File: 98-0207-01/03846)

Reporting period: from 1 January 1999 to 31 December 1999

The research project on "Rural Poverty Monitoring in Vietnam" has been initiated since 1996 as one of the two MIMAP projects. During the period from April 1996 to April 1998, based on data collected by various surveys conducted in Vietnam by different institutions, the project has analysed the poverty issues to enhance understanding on aggregate effects of macroeconomic policy changes on households and poverty assessment methodologies currently applied in Vietnam. The project proposed idea that poverty monitoring in Vietnam's rural areas should be based on the community-based and participatory principles. A set of indicators was proposed by the project for poverty monitoring which consisted of data of two level: household and community data.

The project document for the second phase (1999-2001) have been approved in November 1998. The research project is aimed to improve the methodology of poverty monitoring in Vietnam in view of targeting and assessing the impact of poverty alleviation policies and programs; to understand the response mechanisms of households to poverty alleviation policies, especially in the domains of micro-credit and land reforms in Vietnam; and to work out recommendations in view of improving the management of anti-poverty and rural development programmes in Vietnam.

1. Research activities:

During 1999, the project has been focussed on a quantitative survey with the aims to test the set of indicators at micro levels (household and commune), to test the process of data collection, processing, distribution and use. Instead of sampled survey as suggested in the project proposal, the research team decided to conduct a census in the selected sites, in order to collect more comprehensive data of households and communities.

Paying attention on natural, cultural and economical diversification of regions in Vietnam (including managerial skills of policy-making authorities of regions), the household census has been conducted in selected provinces of 4 typical geographical and socio-economic regions:

+ Northern mountainous region (Thai-nguyen province),
+ Northern (Red River) delta (Hai-duong province),
+ Southern (Mekong River) delta (Tra-vinh province), and
+ Southern mountainous region (Lam-dong province).
Total sample size is 22 communes with about 30,500 households (instead of 24 communes and 1920 households as suggested).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Number of communes</th>
<th>Number of households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hai-duong</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thai-nguyen</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tra-vinh</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lam-dong</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td><strong>30,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The questionnaire consists of 20 questions relating 12 indicators.

The census have been conducted by survey teams which have been established in 4 provinces. Members of these teams are policy-makers, researchers and university staffs from Provincial Statistics Buros (in Thai-nguyen and Tra-vinh), Provincial Economic Policy Department (in Hai-duong) and University (in Lam-dong). Many representatives of local governments and mass organisations in communes have also been mobilised to participate in data collection and discussion.

Data collected from this census has been processed and analysed.

Besides, a socio-economic baseline survey covering 1000 households has also been done in a city (Hai-phong city) with aims to make a comparison between rural and urban poverty.

Two presentations on preliminary research results has been completed and presented at the MIMAP Annual Conference in the Philippines in the year 2000. An article presenting the poverty survey results in Hai-phong city has also been published in the Vietnam's Socio-Economic Development Review. ¹

**b/ Training activities:**

One member of the research team has attended the training course on Methods and Techniques of Household Survey and Data Processing which organised by MIMAP Programme in Laval University in May 1999 (lead by Dr. Luis-Marie Asseline). The knowledge has been implemented in the survey and data processing and bringing good results.

**c/ Other activities:**

¹ The presented papers and article are as follow:
Members of the research project have been participated in different activities relating poverty study and policy-oriented discussion, such as conferences, seminars, preparation of some governmental documents on poverty alleviation policies.

Members of the research project have been co-operating with some other capacity-building and development projects relating poverty reduction in Vietnam (for example, the CIDA-sponsored "Localised Poverty Reduction Programme" (which conducted by Vietnam National Centre for Social Sciences and 5 Vietnamese universities) and the CIDA-funded "Microenterprise Assistance Project" (which conducted by CECI in two provinces). Through discussion and advises, the MIMAP project has been implemented its poverty monitoring methodology in these capacity-building and development projects.

Assessment of the project implementation:

In 1999 the research and training activities of the project has met the suggested objectives. Based on research findings and preliminary application of research results in the policy-making and implementation practice, the achieved results are assessed as satisfied.

Plan for the next year (2000):

1. Conducting the second survey (sampled with more deep interview of households). Implementation of the MIMAP-developed poverty methodology in some other development projects in Vietnam. (1st objective of the project)

2. Conducting the topic study on impacts of rural microcredit and land policies to the poor in surveyed communes. (2nd objective of the project).

Hanoi, September 2000

Project leader: Dr. Vu Tuan Anh
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Project title: RURAL POVERTY MONITORING (VIETNAM)  
Project File: IDRC file: 03846/98-0207-01

Reporting Periods:  
Actual Expenses: From 1 January 1999 to 31 December 1999  
Estimated Expenses: From 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2000

Payment Received:  
Date of Receipt: 11 January 1999  
Amount: 31,640.81 USD  
Equivalent to VND: 439,301,006 VND

Financial Report:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital Equipment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination</td>
<td>20,715,000</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overhead</td>
<td>700,000</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Expenses</td>
<td>638,500,000</td>
<td>300,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>61,220,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>9,800,000</td>
<td>30,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>730,935,000</td>
<td>430,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signatures:  
Project Leader:  
Senior Financial Officer:  

(in Vietnamese Dong - VND)
TECHNICAL REPORT OF THE PROJECT "MIMAP: RURAL POVERTY MONITORING (VIETNAM) II"
(Centre File: 98-0207-01/03846)

Reporting period: from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2000

The research project is aimed to improve the methodology of poverty monitoring in Vietnam in view of targeting and assessing the impact of poverty alleviation policies and programs; to understand the response mechanisms of households to poverty alleviation policies, especially in the domains of micro-credit and land reforms in Vietnam; and to work out recommendations in view of improving the management of anti-poverty and rural development programmes in Vietnam.

1. Research activities:

During 1999, the project has been focussed on a quantitative survey with the aims to test the set of indicators at micro levels (household and commune), to test the process of data collection, processing, distribution and use.

In the second year of the project, the research focused on two activities:

1. Conducting the second survey (sampled with more deep interview of households). Implementation of the MIMAP-developed poverty methodology in some other development projects in Vietnam. (1st objective of the project)

2. Conducting the topic study on impacts of rural microcredit and land policies to the poor in surveyed communes. (2nd objective of the project)

The research team has conducted field study (deep interview) in two provinces (Hai-Duong in the North and Lam-Dong in the South of Vietnam). Based on the results of this field work, several recommendations for improvement of poverty reduction measures have been elaborated and discussed with local governmental agencies.

MIMAP's poverty monitoring system has been implemented in a poverty situational study, which serves action plan design of the CIDA-sponsored poverty reduction programme in rural mountainous areas of Thanh-Hoa - the province in the Central Region of Vietnam. A research team of MIMAP (including 3 researchers of SEDEC and Dr. Louis-Marie Asselin from CECI conducted a poverty assessment survey, which covered 200 households and 4 communes in two districts of Thanh-Hoa province. Results of the poverty assessment survey and recommendations on poverty monitoring system were used for project design and accepted to be implemented for baseline survey an project evaluation in the next five years.¹

Besides, the research team has been processing the data collected by some last surveys and analysing the impacts of land and credit policies on the poor.

b/ Workshop:
The project team leader attended the MIMAP Annual Conference held in Pallawan (the Philippines) in September 2000. Two presentations on preliminary research results have been completed and presented at this workshop.² Members of the research project have been participated in different activities relating poverty study and policy-oriented discussion, such as conferences, seminars, preparation of some governmental documents on poverty alleviation policies.

Assessment of the project implementation:
In 2000 the research activities of the project have met the suggested objectives. Based on research findings and preliminary application of research results in the policy-making and implementation practice, the achieved results are assessed as satisfied.

Plan for the third year of the project (2001):
1. Implementation of MIMAP-developed PMS methodology in poverty alleviation project in Thanh-Hoa province and in some previously surveyed localities.
2. Study on possibility of elaborating an integrated multi-dimensional poverty indicator.
3. Study on impacts of land and credit policies on poverty alleviation.
4. Production and dissemination of articles and a monograph containing results of the research project.

Hanoi, 15 February, 2001

Project leader: Dr. Vu Tuan Anh

² The papers presented at the MIMAP Annual Conference in Palawan are:
- Vu Tuan Anh (2000), "Poverty Monitoring in Vietnam".