POVERTY MONITORING IN BA-THUOC AND NHU-XUAN DISTRICTS, THANH-HOA PROVINCE

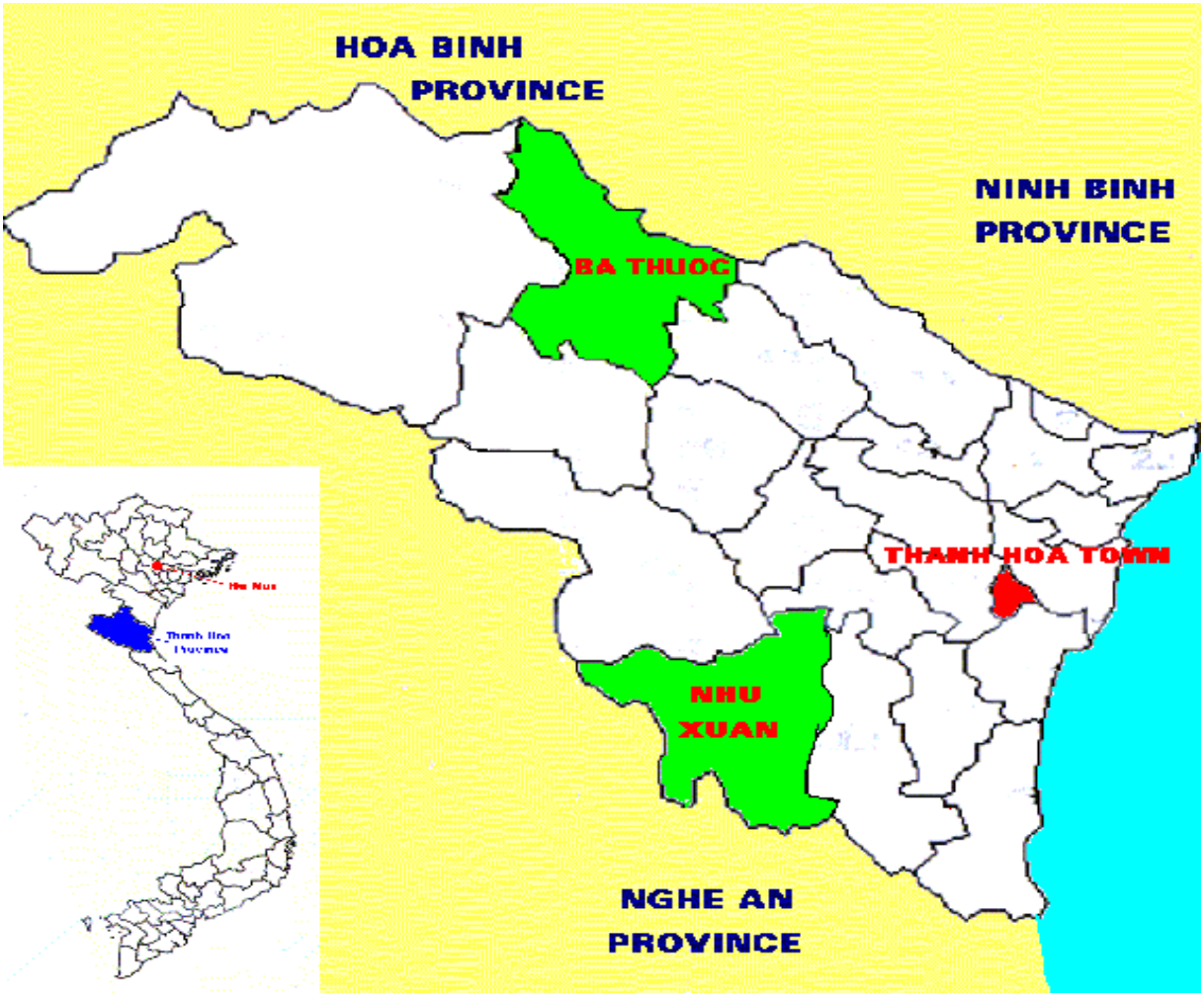
Vu Tuan Anh

with Louis-Marie Asselin contribution (CECI)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
JANUARY 2001

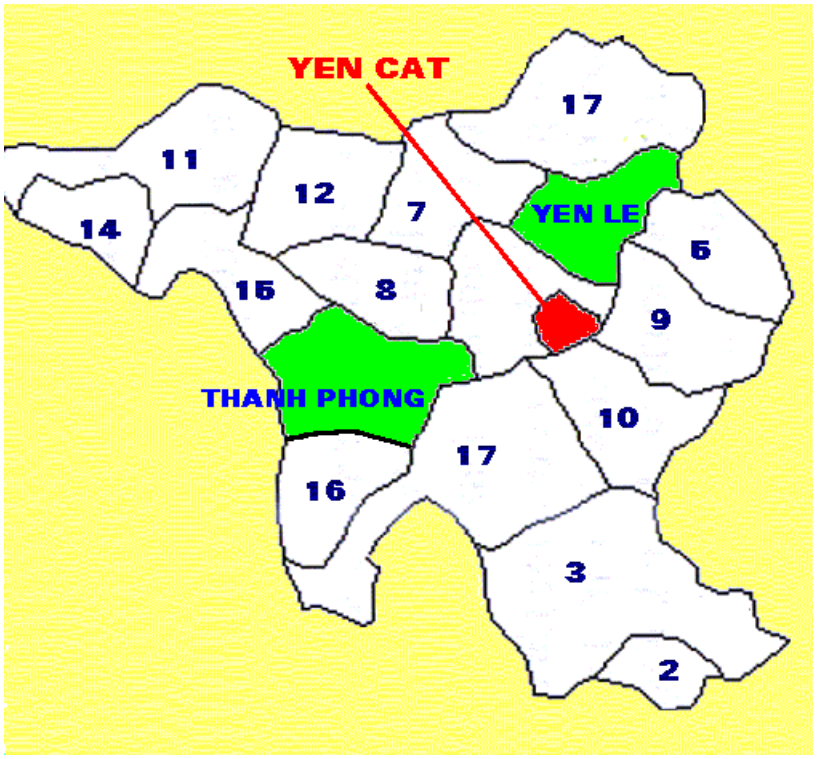
PART 1: INTRODUCTION 6
1.1. JUSTIFICATION 6
1.2. METHODOLOGY 7
1.3. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA 9
1.3.1. Territory and population: 9
1.3.2. Land resources: 10
1.3.3. Economic zoning: 10
1.3.4. Economic situation: 12
PART 2: EXISTING POVERTY MONITORING SYSTEM 14
2.1. institutional system 14
2.2. Methodology of MOLISA's POVERTY MONITORING SYSTEM 15
2.3. Some remarks on the existing poverty monitoring system 16
PART 3: POVERTY PROFILE OF THE PROJECT AREA 18
3.1. Poverty MAP OF the project area 18
3.2. POOR COMMUNITIES: A SILHOUETTE 24
3.3. THE POOR IN PROJECT AREA: HOW POOR THEY ARE? 33
3.4. THE POOR IN PROJECT AREA: SPECIFIC GROUPS 38
3.5. POOR PEOPLE'S NEEDS AND POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS 39
PART 4: POVERTY MONITORING ACTIVITIES IN PROJECT FRAMEWORK 41
4.1. CONTEXT AND BASIC PRINCIPLES 41
Principle 1 41
Principle 2 42
4.2. MULTI-DIMENSIONAL POVERTY AND POVERTY ASSESSMENT 43
4.3. POLICY FEEDBACK MECHANISM 47
4.4. POVERTY MONITORING AND PROJECT'S EVALUATION SURVEYS: 48
4.4. POVERTY MONITORING CAPACITY BUILDING 49
APPENDIX 6
Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000 6
Tables 6

MAP1 : PROJECT AREA



	Thanh Hoa Province	Nhu Xuan District	Ba Thuoc District
Area (km2)	11168	731.4	747.4
Adminisytative units	24 districts, 3 towns 625 communes	15 communes, 2 urban centres	22 communes, 1 urban centres
Population (persons, Census 1/4/1999)	3,467,609 Male: 48.87% Female: 51.13%	55,415 Male: 50.16% Female: 49.84%	97,720 Male: 49.22% Female: 50.78%
Popul. density (pers/km2)	385	77	
Popul. growth rate (%, average 1989-1999)	1.471	1.822	1.335
Number of households (1/4/1999)	772,203	10,375	19,312
Ethnicity		Thai 30%, Tho 30%, Kinh 28% Muong 12%	Muong 47.5% Thai 37.5 % Kinh 15%
Poverty rate (MOLISA 1998)	18.1%	40.9%	30.6%

Map 2 : Nhu-Xuan District



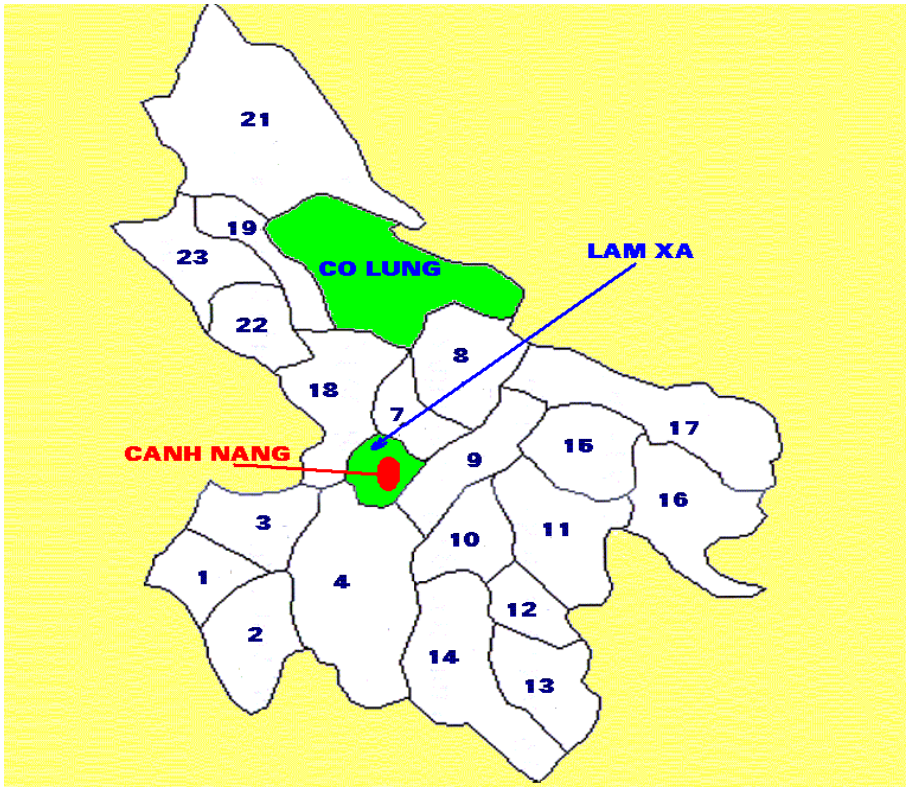
COMMUNES:

1. Yen Cat Town
2. Bai Tranh
3. Xuan Binh
4. Hoa Quy
5. Xuan Quy
6. Yen Le
7. Cat Van
8. Cat Tan
9. Binh Luong
10. Tan Binh
11. Thanh Quan
12. Thanh Lam
13. Thanh Phong
14. Thanh Xuan
15. Thanh Son
16. Thanh Hoa
17. Thuong Ninh

Map 3 Ba-THUOC District

COMMUNES:

1. Ky Tan
2. Van Nho
3. Thiet Ke
4. Thiet Ong
5. Lam Xa
6. Canh Nang
7. Tan Lap
8. Ha Trung
9. Ai Thuong
10. Dien Quang
11. Dien Lu
12. Dien Trung
13. Dien Ha
14. Dien Thuong
15. Luong Ngoai
16. Luong Trung
17. Luong Noi
18. Ban Cong
19. Lung Niem
20. Co Lung
21. Lung Cao
22. Thanh Lam
23. Thanh Son



ABBREVIATIONS

FA	Farmers' Association
HH	Household
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
DOLISA	Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
PC	People's Committee
VBA	Vietnam Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development
VBP	Vietnam Bank for the Poor
VND	Vietnam Dong
YU	Youth Union
WU	Women Union

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

Currency Unit = Dong (Vietnam Dong, VND)
US$1.00 = VND14,500 (December 2000)
CA$1.00 = VND10,000 (December 2000)

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. JUSTIFICATION

CIDA's Vietnam Rural Poverty Reduction Program supports poverty alleviation in two Vietnamese provinces: Thanh-Hoa and Soc-Trang. The program in Thanh-Hoa includes three inter-related projects:
a) The Capacity Development and Enabling Environment Project which will be implemented at provincial and district levels and involves strengthening the participatory development and management skills of officials and organisations.
b) The Small Scale Infrastructure Development and Services Project based on a counterpart fund that has been set up and will provide financial resources for the construction, upgrading and rehabilitation of small scale infrastructure in fifty communes designated for assistance by the PPC

c) The Improved Livelihood for Mountainous Communities Project which will be implemented at district and commune levels

The third project will operate firstly in two districts and should be laterly expanded to two other districts of Thanh-Hoa province with aims to improve the quality of life and incomes of households in poor communes. The expected outcomes of the project are :

- Increased income of selected households and a decline in the number of households classified as poor;
- Improved ability of the poor to satisfy their basic human needs through increased access to food and nutrition, education, primary health care, and water and sanitation facilities;
- Greater decentralisation and involvement of selected rural households and communities in identifying, planning and implementing appropriate development activities and projects, including small scale social and productive infrastructure works.

Two poor mountainous districts - Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc, which have high poverty rates but good potentials for development, have been selected for implementation of the project in the first stage.

The project will be broken down into several discrete activity components including poverty monitoring. A project design mission is currently organised for identifying and analysing the poverty issues facing the target rural populations; defining the opportunities for improving incomes and access to basic services; selecting the communities which will be primarily targeted in the project; and selecting the implementing partners of the project. Several Canadian and Vietnamese experts are invited to participate in project designing works. In this framework, a Poverty Assessment and Monitoring team is set up with Dr. Louis-Marie Asselin from CECI-Quebec as the team leader, Dr. Vu Tuan Anh from Vietnam Socio-Economic Development Centre (SEDEC) as local consultant, Dr. Nguyen Xuan Mai and Dr. Trinh Tat Dat also from SEDEC as field investigators .
Tasks of the Poverty Assessment and Monitoring team are the following:

- Define a set of assessment criteria and produce survey tools for investigating the level of poverty and poverty issues.
- Determine the responsible agencies for poverty data collection, monitoring and reporting and analyse and synthesise poverty data as a base to compare data collected during field surveys.
- Analyse the data that has been compiled to create a profile of the poverty situation in the 2 selected districts.
- Validate the results and identify, analyse and prioritise poverty issues and development needs
- Elaborate a poverty monitoring system for the project, including mechanisms for policy feedback and lessons learned.
- Make recommendations for integrating poverty monitoring data into project MIS.

The team has been working in a very pressed schedule, namely:

- November 8th - 18th: Defining and reviewing a set of assessment criteria and survey tools for investigating the poverty situation; Attending orientation workshops with partner groups in two districts.

- November 21st - December 1st: Field survey in two districts.

- December 2nd - 15th: Data processing and analysing, report writing.

1.2. METHODOLOGY

The investigation and assessment of poverty has been conducted with implementation of the community-based and participatory poverty monitoring methodology, which has been developed recently by SEDEC in the framework of the IDRC-sponsored research program on "Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies" (MIMAP).

Main principles of the poverty assessment are the following:

1) *Comprehensive analysis:* Poverty is observed as a multi-dimenssional feature and therefore assessed not only by only one main indicator (such as income or expenditure) which is popularly used in practise uo to now. The whole spectrum of human basic needs is considered in order to plan for sustainable human development.

2) Community-based data collection: Local people (leaders of hamlets, mass organisations, rural intellegents, etc.) are involved to be surveyors. Respondents trust local monitors and they are not in trouble or shy when they provide their owned information. And, because monitors know their community, they have a good sense of whether people are responding truthfully. Household information is proving to be extremely accurate because local people are gathering it.

3) Participatory approach and localisation of information: By empowering and transferring information to commune members, people have been able to devise solutions and make decisions on their own behalf. Community members and decision-makers can quickly assess which policies are effective at fighting the causes of poverty.

Survey methods:

Data collection has been conducted at different levels: district, commune and households.

- At the district level: poverty rates of all communes which surveyed by District Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs in 1997-1999 with MOLISA methodology have been collected. The economic potentials and poverty ranks of communes also have been discussed with district officials.

- At the commune level: basic data of the commune has been collected with a 15-page format. The investigation team have also some disscusions with commune leadership and representatives of mass organisations on socio-economic situation and poverty issues of the commune.

- At the household and individual levels: information on living situation, economic activities and social issues has been collected and disscused during the field survey.

The field survey combines both quantitative and qualitative methods:

a- Quantitative survey with questionnaire toward approx. 50 households in each commune (See Household Questionnaire in Appendix).

b- In-depth interviewing 4-6 households, among them 1 middle, 1 average, 2poor and 1 very poor. Content of interview is the causes of poverty, HH'sneeds.c- Group disscusion with some household representatives, hamlet leaders, leader of mass organisations in the commune (approx. 15-18 persons). Content of disscusion is definition of poverty, how to measure poverty, development needs of community and households, priorities of development project proposals.

Survey sample selection:

There are 3 types of socio-economic zones in each of two districts Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc:1. Remote, economically less developed and poorest zone (population with almost 100% of Thai ethnic group).

2. Middle zone.

3. More naturally favourable zone with more economic potentials.

Because the project foccuses more on poor communities, the survey team has selected in each district two communes locating in two first zones, namely:

- Remote zone: Thanh-Phong commune in Nhu-Xuan district and Co-Lung commune in Ba-Thuoc district.

- Middle zone: Yen-Le commune in Nhu-Xuan district and Lam-Xa commune in Ba-Thuoc district.

To be surveyed households have been randomly selected from most of hamlets of the commune. Number of selected households in hamlets differes from 3 to 12, depending on the size of hamlets. Number of surveyed households is approximately 50 in each commune. Total number of surveyed households in four communes is 213.

Table 1.1a: Quantitative survey sample

District	Sampled commune	Total number of households	Number of surveyed households
Nhu-Xuan	Thanh-Phong	432	50
	Yen-Le	899	50
Ba-Thuoc	Co-Lung	821	61
	Lam-Xa	727	52
TOTAL	**4 communes**	**2879**	**213**

Data collection and processing:

About 10 local people have been involved in the data collection of the quantitative survey. They are hamlet heads, representatives of mass organisations (women, youth, farmers' associations, etc.), rural intellegents (teachers, medicine doctors, technicians). They have been trained and monitored by the field investigators.

The qualitative surveys (household in-depth interviews) have been conducted by the field investigators.

The group discussion has been also lead by members of the field survey team.

After data quality control, two household questionnaires have been eliminated. Data of quantitative household survey has been first processed with Excel sofware, to get almost immediate output for meetings in December. They have been later processed with the SPSS software, to take into account some data weighting in view of improving the precision of estimates. Some explanation is here required. Sampled households have been post-stratified within each commune as poor/non-poor according to Molisa definition, with the 55 000 VND per month/capita poverty line. Observations have been weighted commune-wise in each stratum (poor/non-poor) relatively to the total number of poor/non-poor household as known from Molisa poverty rates (see « Poverty rates of communes » after Maps 4 and 5, pp. 26-27) and population census data. Details are given here below in Table 1.1b.

Table 1.1b: Quantitative survey: weighting procedure

District	Sampled commune	Total number of households	Sample	Weight
Nhu-Xuan	Thanh-Phong	432	50	
	• poor	218	41	5.317
	• non-poor	214	9	23.779
	Yen-Le	899	49	
	• poor	280	20	14.000
	• non-poor	619	29	21.345
Ba-Thuoc	Co-Lung	821	61	
	• poor	241	35	6.886
	• non-poor	580	26	22.308
	Lam-Xa	727	51	
	• poor	156	23	6.783
	• non-poor	571	28	20.393

1.3. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA

1.3.1. Territory and population:

Both Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc are mountainous districts of Thanh Hoa province. Nhu-Xuan district locates in Southwest and Ba-Thuoc district locates in Northwest of the Thanh-Hoa City.

The territorium areas of both districts are similar, while the population in Ba-Thuoc district is almost double comparing with the population in Nhu-Xuan district. Therefore, the population in Ba-Thuoc district is almost double than ones in Nhu-Xuan district.

Table 1.2: Area and population of the project area

	Nhu-Xuan District	Ba-Thuoc District
Area (km2)	705.3	747.4
Administrative units	15 communes, 2 urban centres	22 communes, 1 urban centres
Population (persons, Census 1/4/1999)	55,415 Male: 50.16% Female: 49.84%	97,720 Male: 49.22% Female: 50.78%
Popul. density (pers/km2)	75.7	130.7
Popul. growth rate (%, average 1989-1999)	1.822	1.335
Number of households (1/4/1999)	10,375	19,312
Ethnicity	Thai 30%, Tho 30%, Kinh 28%, Muong 12%	Muong 47.5%, Thai 37.5%, Kinh 15%

Source: National Population Census in 1 April 1999.

Both districts have mainly rural characteristics. Most population is farmers. Except public servants working in the district administration, off-farm workers are few in number.

Nhu-Xuan district consists of one district urban centre - the Yen-Cat town, another urban unit - the Bai-Tranh town, which is the centre of the state farm, and 17 rural communes, of which 13 are defined by the Government status as high mountainous communes.
Population of Nhu-Xuan is 55,415 (1 April 1999) with 10,375 households. There are 4 ethnic minority groups locating in Nhu-Xuan district. Thai group consists of 30% of population, Tho 30%, Kinh 28% and Muong 12%.
Ba-Thuoc population consists of 97,963 persons (1 April 1999). Muong ethnic group (45%) combines population of the district, Thai (36%), Kinh (18%) and others (1%). The birth rate is low.

1.3.2. Land resources:

In Ba-Thuoc district there is more agricultural land than in Nhu-Xuan district. Here there are several communes which having favourable paddy fields. However, because the population in Ba-Thuoc is doubled the population in Nhu-Xuan district, the average per capita agricultutal land between two districts is 1,5 times, namely 963 m2 in Ba-Thuoc district and 720 m2 in Nhu-Xuan district. The land suitable for paddy cultivation, which is considered as the most important resources of household economy, is very limited in both districts, although there is more in Ba-Thuoc district. In average, the paddy land per capita in Ba-Thuoc district is 553 m2 and in Nhu-Xuan district is only 264 m2. These paddy area can supply only approximately 200 kg of rice for Ba-Thuoc inhabitant and 100 kg of rice for Nhu-Xuan inhabitant in a year. [1] Households used to cultivate some other food crops such as cassava and corn on agricultural and forestry land in order to secure their needs in food.

Table 1.2: Land resources

	Nhu-Xuan District		**Ba-Thuoc District**	
	ha	%	ha	%
Total area	70,532.8	100	74,740.1	100
Agricultural land	3,992.6	5.6	9405.7	12.6
Of which: Paddy land	1,461.9	2.1	5403	7.2
Forestry land	38,277.4	54.2	42,756.8	57.2
Residential land	3,72.2	0.5	1,130.8	1.3
Public facilitators	1,325.8	1.8	964.9	1.5
Unused land	33,090.7	37.9	20,481.9	27.4

Source: Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development of Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc district People's Committee.

Forestry land accountes more than half of territory in both districts. However, there is small area still with forest which could be exploited for commercial purposes.
In Ba-Thuoc district, there is 13,369 hectars with natural forest, 4690 ha with re-planted forest. Of which total forest area, 10,428 ha with wood trees and more than 6000 ha with bamboo trees. About 12,500 ha is land without forest or covered with bush. The rest of so called forestry land is stone mountains covered by poor forest.
In Nhu-Xuan district, there is 37,689 ha of natural forest and 588 ha of planted forest. There is 18,533 ha of watersheet forest. The planted forest is young and cannot be exploited yet. Most of the natural forest is poor and should be protected.
According to national policies for forestry protection, exploitation of natural wood forest is not allowed for commercial purposes. The local population can now get benefit from the forest through collecting fuel wood, bamboo shoots for daily needs, and cultivate bamboo forest for commercial purpose.
Agricultural and forestry land is already alocated to household use.

1.3.3. Economic zoning:

According to the development strategy and long-term plan for 2000-2010 of the People's Committees of both Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc districts, the district territory could be divided into 3 geographo-economic zones as follow:

(1) Remote and high mountainous land: This type of zone has large natural area, but limited agricultural land. The transport conditions are very difficult. There are roads connecting to most of the commune centres, but qualily

[1] These amounts might differ in comparison with indicators estimated by local authorities. Here we take in our calculation all district population, including non-farming; and the yield per hectar per year (two crops) is suggested as 4 tons of rice.

of roads is very poor. In raining season, many communes are isolated because it's no possible to access to them because of no bridges passing rivers and streams. Public infrastructure (irrigation system, schools, health clinics) is in shortage and of very poor quality. Most of communes in these zones don't have electricity from national grid. Almost population here is Thai ethnic group.

Main economic activities here are food cultivation (rice, cassava, corn), animal husbandry (buffaloes, cattles, pigs, chicken and other poultries. There is few off-farm and trading business. The economy of both household and community level has strong self-subsistence characteristics. The orientation of production in this zone is combined agro-forestry activities.

This type of zone in both Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc districts consists of 6 communes with not much differed area.

(2) Middle upland: In this geographo-economic zone, the cultivation of traditional food crops (rice, corn, cassava) is combined with expansion of some other cash crops such as ground nuts, beans, vegetables. In last few years, some long-term plants have been encouraged to be cultivated, such as fruit trees (longans, litchi, pineapple), coffee, tea, rubber trees, etc. Compared with the previous type of zone, this zone has more favourable transport and communication conditions, therefore production for commercial purposes is more developed. Off-farm and trading activities are used to developed in localities around the district centre and along the main roads.

This type of zone in both Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc districts consists of 9 communes with similar area.

(3) Low upland and plain land: This zone has more favourable natural conditions for agricultural development, expecially for food crops (rice, sweet potatos, corn), vegetables, cash crops (beans, ground nuts, sugar cane, etc.). Some long-term cash crops such as tea and fruit trees are oriented to expanded.

In Nhu-Xuan district, this zone incluses two communes in the South of district. There are here relative good infrastructure of the State farm and one tea processing workshop in Bai-Tranh. The is a plan to set up some other agricultural product processing factories, which will establish a industrial park in the future.

In Ba-Thuoc district, this zone consists of 8 communes which are main producers of rice and other agricultural products of the district. Development of a diversified agriculture is the main orientation for this zone in the next future.

Table 1.3: Economic zones

	Nhu-Xuan District	Ba-Thuoc District
Zone 1: Remote and high mountainous land	- 6 communes: Thanh-Quan, Thanh-Phong, Thanh-Hoa, Thanh-Son, Thanh-Lam, Thanh-Xuan. - Total area: 25,994 ha. - Agric. potentially land: 3,019 ha. - Total number of households: 2,644	- 6 communes: Ban-Cong, Lung-Niem, Lung-Cao, Co-Lung, Thanh-Lam, Thanh-Son. - Total area: 22,740 ha. - Agric. potentially land: 3,513 ha. - Total number of households:5,005
	- Total number of population: 15,575	- Total number of population: 25,013
Zone 2: Middle uplands	- 9 communes: Thuong-Ninh, Yen-Le, Cat-Van, Cat-Tan, Xuan-Quy, Hoa-Quy, Binh-Luong, Tan-Binh, Yen-Cat Town. - Total area: 28,254 ha. - Agric. potentially land: 7,234 ha. - Total number of households: 5,612	- 9 communes: Ky-Tan, Van-Nho, Thiet-Ke, Thiet-Ong, Lam-Xa, Ai-Thuong, Tan-Lap, Ha-Trung, Canh-Nang Town. - Total area: 27,056 ha. - Agric. potentially land: 4,392 ha. - Total number of households: 7,100
	- Total number of population: 28,512	- Total number of population: 34,538
Zone 3: Low uplands and plain land	- 2 communes: Xuan-Binh, Bai-Tranh. - Total area: 16,284 ha. - Agric. potentially land: 2,739 ha. - Total number of households: 2,079	- 8 communes: Dien-Thuong, Dien-Ha, Dien-Quang, Dien-Trung, Dien-Lu, Luong-Noi, Luong-Ngoai, Luong-Trung. - Total area: 24,944 ha. - Agric. potentially land: 5,162 ha. - Total number of households: 7,207
	- Total number of population: 9,860	- Total number of population: 36,161

1.3.4. Economic situation:

Farming is the main economic activity of the population in both districts. As descripted above, cultivation of food crops (rice, corn, cassava, sweet potato) and raising animals (buffaloes, cattles, pigs, goats, chickens, ducks, gees) are "traditional" types of production. Intensification of agriculture is implemented in several communes which are located around administrative and commercial centres, and along main roads. In remote communes, production is still based on very bacward technologies and old varieties of plants and animals. Percentage of products made for market is small. Farmers produce firstly for sastifying needs of their households. They think on selling and buying at the market only if they had suplus products. Self-subsistence production is typical for poor communities and households.

The productivity is therefore not high. Average yield per hectar in Nhu-Xuan district in 1999 is as follows: spring rice - 3.3 tons; autumn rice - 2,8 tons; sweet potato - 7 tons; cassava - 8 tons; ground nuts - 1.6 tons; beans - 0.6 tons; sugar cane - 50 tons; tea - 1.2 tons.

Table 1.4: Agricultural outputs of Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc districts (data of 1998)

	Nhu-Xuan District	Ba-Thuoc District
Food crops (tons)	16,668	28,000
Of which: Rice	10,818	-
Ground nuts (tons)	600	300
Beans (tons)	125	200
Sugar canes (tons)	-	2000
Buffaloes (head)	16,400	19,300
Cattles (head)	4,800	13,000
Pigs (head)	15,200	37,000
Goats (head)	4,200	-
Poultries (head)	150,000	350,000

Source: Deprtments of Statistics, People's Committees of Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc districts.

Off-farm activities are developed mostly around district centres and along main roads. Many kinds of off-farm production and services are also focussed on narrow local consumption. The most developed are construction material production (stone, bricks, lime, wood processing) and transport service. Some traditional handicrafts of ethnic groups such as textile and weaving (of Thai ethnic group), production of battan and bamboo goods (of Thai and Muong ethnic groups), hand-made artistic products are reduced and even dissappeared because of invation of imported and industrially made consumer goods.

In Nhu-Xuan district there are totally 33 households do industrial and handicraft activities, 6 households do transport services (with 12 trucks, 2 tractors).

In Ba-Thuoc district, there are recorded 1188 off-farm businesses with 3031 labourers in May 1998. Among them, 289 businesses are agricultural product proccessing (rice mills, animal food production), 169 are of garment and traditional textile production, 71 are producing construction materials (bricks, lime, stone), 33 are wood proccessing, 20 are transporting with motor vehicles and 490 are transporting with buffaloe/cattle carts, 68 are of reparation services, etc.

It's to note that needs of off-farm production and service development is very actuall in both districts because almost all agricultural products are not proccessed, people lack many kind of goods for their daily consumption, while they still are un- or underemplyed. Constrains to such development are lack of technology, capital and management skills.

PART 2: EXISTING POVERTY MONITORING SYSTEM

There is only one source supplying poverty assessment at the district and commune levels. It's periodical (annual and 6-month) poverty assessment based on MOLISA methodology and conducted by local officials.

2.1. institutional system

During the period of 1992-1997, the movement for poverty reduction and hunger eradication has been initiated by local communities and mass organisations. Local goverment and mass organisations have set up funds for poverty reduction and implemented different forms of poverty alleviation activities.

The National Program for Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction (HEPR) is promulgated by Vietnam Government in 1998. The characteristics differing HEPR from poverty alleviation movement are the following:

- HEPR is organised by the Government and financed by the state budget;

- A institutional system is established from the national level to local level;

- Targets of HEPR are not only poor households and individuals, but also poor communities.

At the national level, a National Executive Board of HEPR is established and consisted of leaders of several ministries and mass organisations. MOLISA is the coordinating agency. The HEPR management office is located in MOLISA.

At the local levels (province, district and commune), Committees for Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction which consist of leader of local government and mass organisations have been organised and taking responsibility of mobilisation of local resources and involvement of people's participation in poverty reduction activities.

Provincial and district Departments of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs are coordinating agencies of HEPR respectively in their localities.

At commune level, Committee for Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction used to consists of 5-6 members, of which Chairman of the Fatherland Front used to be the chair of the Committee, and representative of Commune People's Committee and Commune mass organisations (Women Union, Youth Union, Farmers' Association), chief of commune health clinic are members.

Commune Committee for Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction has the following tasks:

- Planing orientations and measures for poverty reduction in commune;
- Conducting poverty assessment survey, setting list of the poor, ranking targeted households, analysing causes of poverty;
- Organising implementation of infrastructure buiding projects and measures which based on funds distributed from district and provincial budgets;
- Coordinating all mass organisations in the commune in poverty reduction activities;
- Organising mutual aid groups for poverty alleviation purpose among commune population, mobilising community resources for this purpose;
- Regularly monitoring the poor households with aim to help them on-time;
- Building demonstrating models of income generation and poverty alleviation in the commune and multiplying these models among population;
- Involving people's participation in poverty alleviation activities and implementing Governmental Decree on democratisation at grassroot levels.

Commune Committee for Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction have periodical meetings in order to decide action plan, to distribute funds and other benefits to households (if they got from district, provincial and national

budget). It has also responsibility to monitor poverty situation in the commune in cooperation with hamlet heads and hamlet representatives.

In 1997 MOLISA promulgated the national poverty line (based on per capita income) and guideline for poverty survey. Two poverty surveys have been conducted in 1997 and 1999 by communes. Data have been integrated bottom-up from hamlet level to commune, district, provincial and national levels. After survey, a list of poor households and individuals in each hamlet have been made in three copies and kept by hamlet head, commune People's Committee and district DOLISA. Distribution of loans and benefits (such as subsidies for health treatment, children education) to poor households is conducted in accordance with this list of the poor. Every 6 months, leadership of communes must provide to DOLISA a report on poverty situation (changes of number of poor and hunger households), implementation of poverty reduction measures which have been decided by Commune Committees for Poverty Reduction.

In district People's Commiittee, the vice-chairperson in charge of cultural, educational and social affairs is used to be contact person for projects and activities relating poverty alleviation. DOLISA is the implementing agency for such projects and activities. DOLISA used to consist of 4-5 officials, of which 1-2 persons are responsible for coordination and management of poverty reduction projects and policies.

Beside DOLISA, Department of Statistics (DS) in district People's Committee also collects and maintains data on living standards and poverty of population. DS used to consist of 4-5 officials. Compared with DOLISA, DS is more experienced and trained in conducting survey, organising and managing database.

Both DOLISA and DS (and District PC in general) are poorly equiped with office equipment. They don't have computers, therefore maintainance and use of database are in poor situation.

2.2. Methodology of MOLISA's POVERTY MONITORING SYSTEM

a) Definition of poor commune and poor household:

Poor communes and poor households are target of HEPR.

Poor commune is defined as the commune where there more than 40% of households are poor and lacks of neccesary public infrastructure facilities such as roads connecting commune with district center, primary schools, health clinic, electric grid, safe water, market and small irrigation systems.

Poor household is defined as the household having average per capita income lower than poverty line.

Poverty line is defined by MOLISA for the period of 1998-2000 is as follows:

Table 2.1: MOLISA's Poverty Line for 1998-2000

Status of household	**Areas**	**Average income per capita in a month**	
		Kinds (kg of rice)	Value (VND)
Poor	Rural mountainous areas and islands	Below 15 kg of rice	Below 55,000
	Rural plain and midlands	Below 20 kg of rice	Below 70,000
	Urban areas	Below 25 kg of rice	Below 90,000
Hungry	The whole country	Below 13 kg of rice	Below 45,000

Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc districts belong to the "rural mountainous areas", so the poverty line used for poverty assessment here is 55,000 VND/month/person.

MOLISA has currently suggestions that poverty line for the period of 2001-2005 will be adjusted, namely:

- Rural mountainous areas: Below 80,000 VND
- Rural plain and midlands: Below 100,000 VND

- Urban areas: Below 150,000 VND

b) Poverty assessment survey:

According to MOLISA methodology, two main indicators are used for household poverty assessment. They are per capita income and household's property value. However, there is no clear guide on how to combine these two indicators in poverty assessment. In practise, only income indicator is used for definition of poor status of households.

The process of poverty survey is as follows:

- The poverty survey is not covering all households living in the commune. For reducing works, at first the Commune Committee for Poverty Reduction builds a list of all households and ranks by the living standard categoria which members of the Committee propose based on their opinion. The ranking may include the following living standard categoria: rich, good, middle, poor and very poor / or hungry. Then they select all households of middle, poor and very poor categoria for survey.

- With assisstance of DOLISA officials, the Commune Committee for Poverty Reduction organises a training course on survey for surveyors, who used to be heads of hamlets, leaders of mass organisations in the commune and some officials working in the commune administration.

- Surveyors distribute questionnaire to households and guide them how to fulfil it.

- Households declare their income (= turnover - expences) and value of property (included houses, animal stalls, production means, consumer durables, productive materials, value of not-yielded-yet products, etc.) in a questionnaire format.

- Surveyor and members of Commune Commiittee for Poverty Reduction check the questionaires, define poor/hungry households based on income indicator and set up lists of poor and hungry households.

- A meeting of hamlet representatives is organised to discuss and approve the list of the poor. Participants of such meeting are representatives of commune leadership, hamlet heads, leaders of mass organisations, representatives of households which listed in the list of the poor and some other households in the hamlet. Meeting protocols and approved lists of the poor must to be sent to Commune PC.

- Commune PC check the lists of all hamlets, then present list of all poor households in the commune to DOLISA.

2.3. Some remarks on the existing poverty monitoring system

The existing poverty monitoring system has some good points and also some weaknesses.

Good points:

- First, in practise the poverty survey is a census covering all households. While sampled surveys provide information only on poverty situation in total and poverty rates of a number of selected households, censuses can give the exact address of all poor households and individuals in communities.

- Second, MOLISA poverty assessment bases widely on participation of community.

- Third, poverty assessment is institutionalsed. It became an enforced and periodically repeated procedure, for which the local administrative agencies (at district and commune level) should take responsibility.

Weaknesses:

- First, poverty assessment bases on income indicator only. This assessment cannot reflect poverty as a multi-dimensional feature of human wellbeing.

- Second, quality of collected data on income is not ensured. Because of ussually low educational level of the poor in rural areas and of difficulties of income calculation especially in non-marketised and non-monetary self-subsistency economy, declared income quantity is very problematic.

- Third, because of almost no funds spent for surveyors' training, data collection and proccessing, poverty assessment seems to be an additional work burden for commune PC officials and all people who are involve in this procedure. In the result, many steps and methods of survey are not followed. Reliability of the assessment results is therefore certainly reduced.

PART 3: POVERTY PROFILE OF THE PROJECT AREA

3.1. Poverty map of the project area

According to MOLISA poverty assessment, poverty rate in Nhu-Xuan was 40.9% and in Ba-Thuoc district was 30.6% in 1999. This is much higher than average provincial poverty rate (18.1%). Poverty rate in Ba-Thuoc is similar as this indicator of all 11 mountainous districts in Thanh-Hoa province. (Table 3.1.)

While the population in Nhu-Xuan district acounted 1.5% of total population of Thanh-Hoa province, number of poor people accounted 3.2% of total number of poor people in the whole province. The situation in Ba-Thuoc is lightly better than in Nhu-Xuan, but still serious. Poverty percentage accounted 4.4% while population percentage accounted 2.8%.

Table 3.1. Poverty rate according to MOLISA assessment in 1999

	Thanh-Hoa Province	**Plain districts (13)**	**Mountainous districts (11)**	**Nhu-Xuan District**	**Ba-Thuoc District**
Total number of HHs	772,203	547,530	159,159	10,375	19,312
% of province	100	70.9	20.6	1.3	2.5
Population (pers.)	3,636,418	2,492,489	851,760	56,212	103,277
% of province	**100**	**68.5**	**23.4**	**1.5**	**2.8**
Number of poor HHs	140,026	86,872	48,062	4,244	5,909
% of province	100	62.0	34.3	3.0	4.2
Poverty rate (% of poor HHs)	**18.14**	**16.12**	**30.2**	**40.9**	**30.6**
Number of poor people	686,034	416,986	245,116	21,644	30,136
% of province	100	60.8	35.7	3.2	4.4
Poverty rate (% of poor people)	**18.9**	**16.7**	**28.8**	**38.5**	**29.2**
Of which: Rate of extrem poor HHs (hungry HHs), %	5.59	4.14	12.61	**17.0**	**13.6**

Based on self-assessment of interviewed households, the MOLISA poverty assessment also provided information on poverty situation and poverty causes of the poor. (Tables 3.2 and 3.3). In order to compare the situation in project area with other localities in Thanh-Hoa provinces, these table summarised data of whole Thanh-Hoa province, 13 districts in coastal and plain areas, 11 districts in mountainous areas. Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc districts are two among these last 11 districts.

Table 3.2. Poverty situation according to MOLISA assessment in 1999

	Thanh-Hoa Province	**Plain districts (13)**	**Mountainous districts (11)**	**Nhu-Xuan District**	**Ba-Thuoc District**
% of provincial population	**100**	**68.5**	**23.4**	**1.5**	**2.8**
Lacking food	101,476	64,016	20,247	3995	3862
% of province	100	63.1	20.0	3.9	3.8
% of poor HHs	72.5	73.7	42.1	**94.1**	**65.4**
Bad housing	44,497	23,737	20,247	2652	2037
% of province	100	53.3	45.5	6.0	4.6
% of poor HHs	31.8	27.3	42.1	**62.5**	**34.5**
Lacking money for health treatment	31,906	19,323	11,241	858	564
% of province	100	60.6	35.2	2.7	1.8
% of poor HHs	22.8	22.2	23.3	**20.2**	**9.5**
Children droped schools because of lacking money	12,145	7,402	3,870	267	360
% of province	100	60.9	31.9	2.2	3.0
% of poor people	8.7	8.5	8.0	**6.3**	**6.1**

As table showed, food shortage is the most serious problem of the poor in Nhu-Xuan district (94% of poor households suffered), while in Ba-Thuoc district this problem is less serious despite of relative high percentage of poor households suffered (65%). Bad housing of the poor is another serious problem in Nhu-Xuan district.

Compared with whole province, in Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc districts poor people are worry less for education and health care.

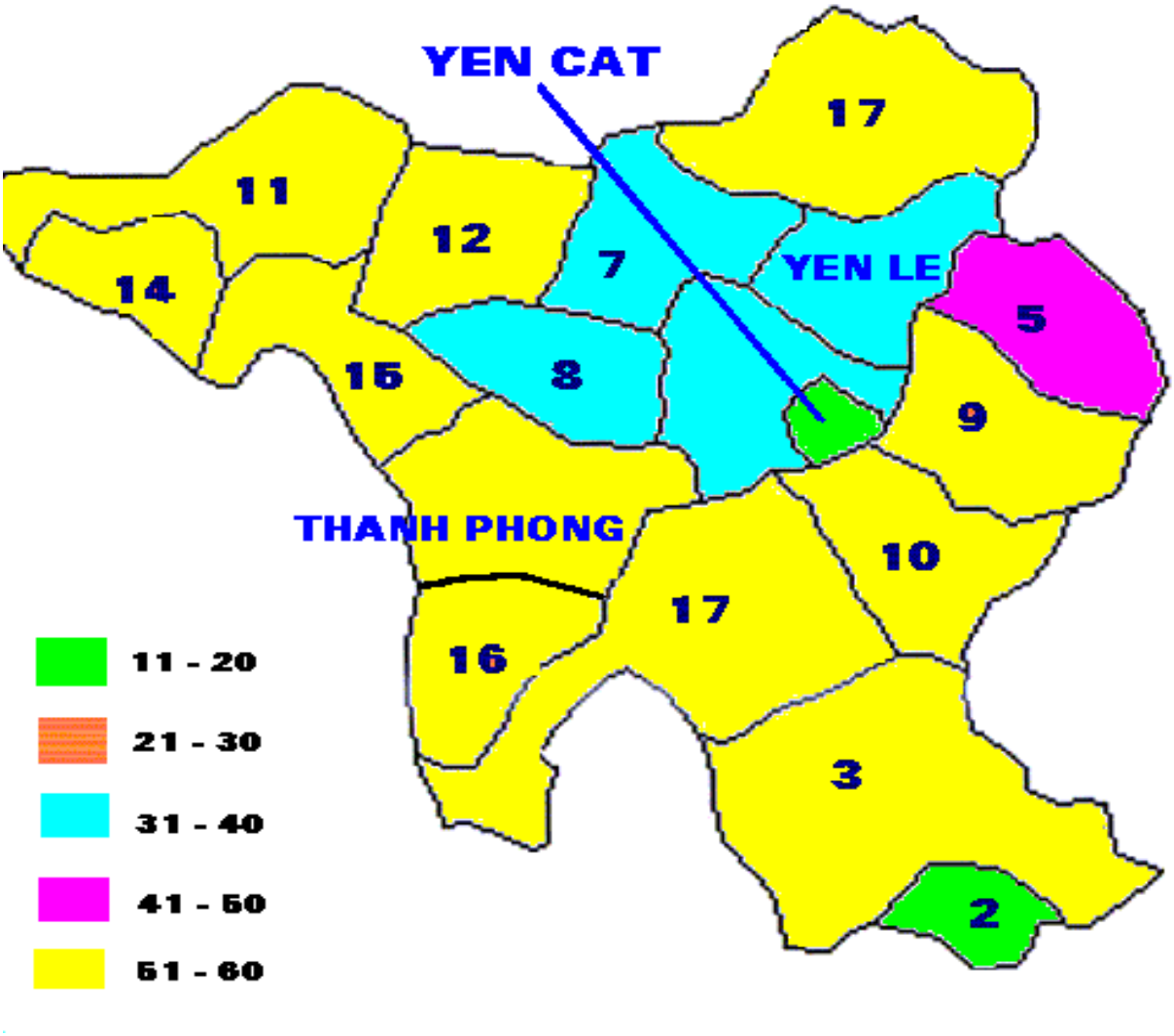
Explaining causes of their poverty, almost all poor households in both Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc considered shortage of capital as a first factor. On the second rank is lack of knowledge and experiences in business.

Data of MOLISA poverty assessment in Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc districts reflected different location of poverty. This could be shown in poverty maps, which is based on poverty rate of communes. (Map 4 and 5).

Table 3.3. Causes of poverty according to MOLISA assessment in 1999

	Thanh-Hoa Province	Plain districts (13)	Mountainous districts (11)	Nhu-Xuan District	Ba-Thuoc District
% of provincial population	**100**	**68.5**	**23.4**	**1.5**	**2.8**
Lacking economic management skills	49,638	24,199	24,151	1,572	3,171
% of province	100	48.8	48.7	3.2	6.4
% of poor HHs	35.4	27.8	50.2	**37.0**	**53.7**
Lacking labour force	18,754	13,923	3,367	263	480
% of province	100	74.2	17.9	1.4	2.6
% of poor HHs	13.4	16.0	7.0	**6.2**	**8.1**
Having many dependents	25,263	14,769	8,884	1,302	720
% of province	100	58.5	35.2	5.2	2.9
% of poor HHs	18.0	17.0	18.5	**30.6**	**12.2**
Lacking capital	109,553	64,769	41,659	3,868	5,539
% of province	100	59.1	38.0	3.5	5.0
% of poor HHs	78.2	74.6	86.7	**91.1**	**93.7**
Lacking land	8,681	5,368	2,573	170	239
% of province	100	61.8	29.6	2.0	2.8
% of poor people	6.2	6.2	5.4	**1.6**	**4.0**
Having sick members	13,756	9,786	3,225	331	361
% of province	100	71.1	23.4	2.4	2.6
% of poor HHs	9.8	11.3	6.7	**7.8**	**6.1**
Negative social evils	583	238	279	9	18
% of province	100	40.8	47.8	1.5	3.0
% of poor people	0.4	0.3	0.5	**0.2**	**0.3**
Suffered by disasters	1,982	1,343	582	31	57
% of province	100	67.8	29.4	1.6	2.9
% of poor people	1.4	1.5	1.2	**0.7**	**1.0**

Map 4: POVERTY MAP OF NHU-XUAN DISTRICT



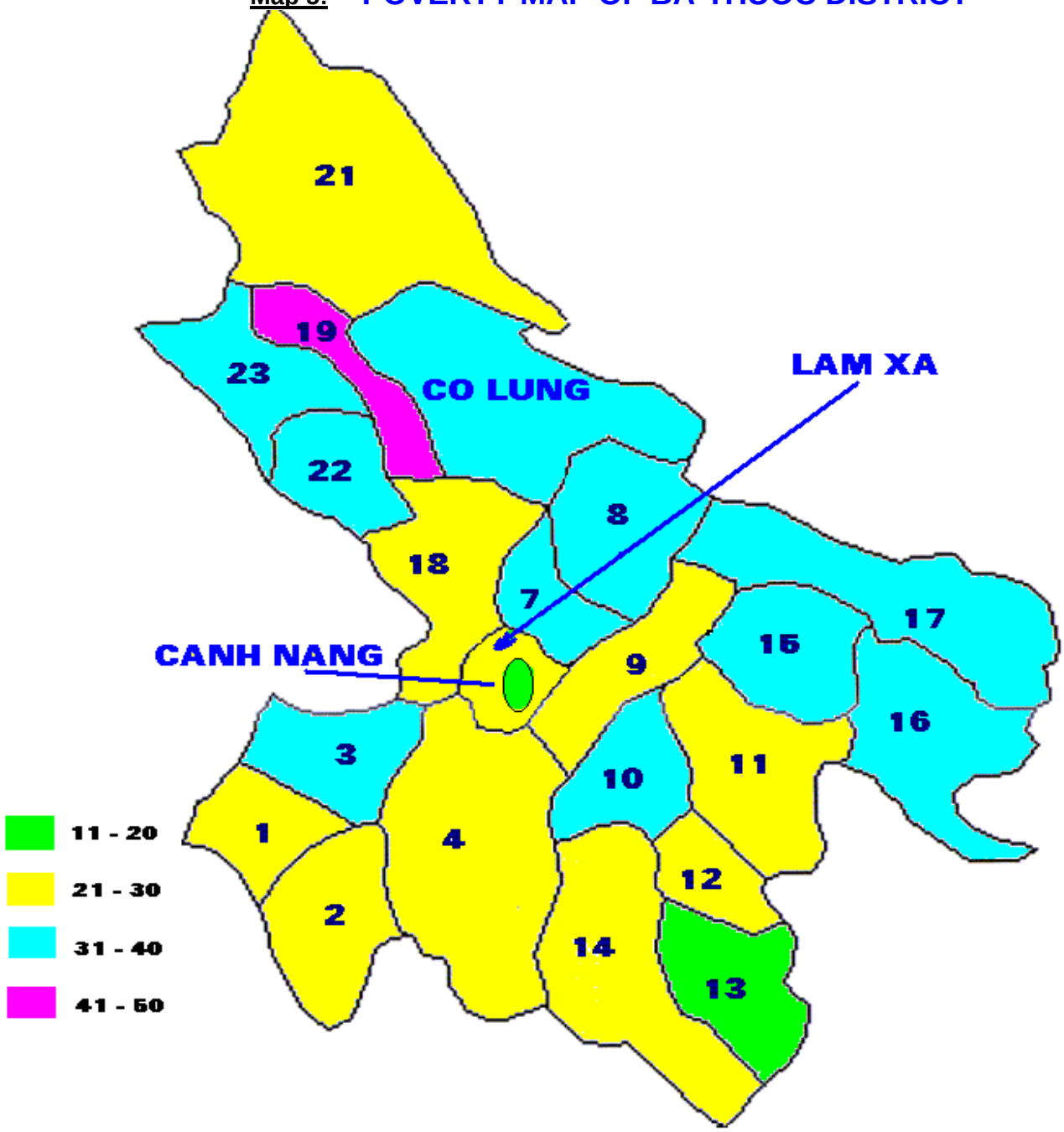
POVERTY RATE OF COMMUNES IN NHU-XUAN DISTRICT (5)

ZONE 1:	
11. Thanh-Quan	60.3
12. Thanh-Lam	51.6
13. Thanh-Phong	50.4
14. Thanh-Xuan	52.1
15. Thanh-Son	52.8
16. Thanh-Hoa	50.4

ZONE 2:	
1. Yen-Cat Town	14.4
4. Hoa-Quy	32.0
5. Xuan-Quy	49.7
6. Yen-Le	31.1
7. Cat-Van	35.1
8. Cat-Tan	32.4
9. Binh-Luong	51.6
10. Tan-Binh	52.3
17. Thuong-Ninh	50.5

ZONE 3:	
2. Bai-Tranh	11.9
3. Xuan-Binh	55.9

Map 5: **POVERTY MAP OF BA-THUOC DISTRICT**



POVERTY RATE OF COMMUNES IN BA-THUOC DISTRICT

ZONE 1:	
18. Ban-Cong	25.8
19. Lung-Niem	42.6
20. Co-Lung	29.3
21. Lung-Cao	39.7
22. Thanh-Lam	34.2
23. Thanh-Son	35.3

ZONE 2:	
1. Ky-Tan	29.8
2. Van-Nho	28.0
3. Thiet-Ke	34.8
4. Thiet-Ong	24.7
5. Lam-Xa	21.5
6. Ai-Thuong	13.7
7. Tan-Lap,	34.2
8. Ha-Trung	39.3
9. Canh-Nang Town	26.7

ZONE 3:	
10. Dien-Quang	29.0
11. Dien-Lu	25.4
12. Dien-Trung	30.1
13. Dien-Ha	19.6
14. Dien-Thuong	29.0
15. Luong-Ngoai	40.0
16. Luong-Trung	35.4
17. Luong-Noi	33.0

3.2. POOR COMMUNITIES: A SILHOUETTE

As said in the Part 1, the socio-economic survey was conducted in 4 communes within two districts.

According to their geographic features, such communes are classified into two types: remote and high mountainous, and middle upland areas. The remote and high mountainous communes, Thanh-Phong commune in Nhu-Xuan district and Co-Lung commune in Ba-Thuoc district, are the ones which meet with the most difficulties in socio-economic development. They are poor firstly because they are suffered by geographical, economical and cultural isolation, despite of their good potential for economic development. The communes locating in middle upland areas and closed to district centre and main roads, namely Yen-Le commune in Nhu-Xuan district and Lam-Xa commune in Ba-Thuoc district, have another problems. They are poor communities firstly because they suffered by shortage of resources and productive factors, such as agricultural land, capital and knowledge.

3.2.1. Population and resources:

Average size of communes:

The average land area of a surveyed commune is almost 3000 ha. The size of a mountainous commune is larger than that of a midland commune.

Table 3.4: Size of communes

	Average area (ha)	Number of households	Population (persons)	Number of hamlets
Average	2990	720	3394	10
Nhu-Xuan district:	2825	666	3142	
- Thanh-Phong (zone 1)	3001	432	2442	6
- Yen-Le (zone 2)	2648	899	3841	12
Ba-Thuoc district:	3155	774	3646	
- Co-Lung (zone 1)	4890	821	3840	12
- Lam-Xa (zone 2)	1420	727	3452	9

On average, each commune has 10 villages/hamlets, the under-commune population unit, and the lowest administrative unit in the administrative system (at the village/hamlet level, there exists no administrative apparatus, but only a village/hamlet head authorised by the commune administration to perform some functions of administrative management).

Population and Ethnicity

On average, a surveyed commune has 720 households with 3394 persons. Each household has an average of 4.7 persons. Male population acountes 48.8% and female 51.2%.

In the 4 surveyed communes, the inhabitants belong to 4 ethnic groups: Thai, Tho, Muong and Kinh. In two remote high mountainous communes, almost 100% of population is Thai. In two midland communes people of different ethnic groups live together.

Table 3.5: Ethnicity of population (number of HHs)

	Thai	Tho	Muong	Kinh	Hoa
Nhu-Xuan district:					
- Thanh-Phong (zone 1)	432	0	0	0	0
- Yen-Le (zone 2)	8	591	20	232	0
Ba-Thuoc district:					
- Co-Lung (zone 1)	821	0	0	0	0
- Lam-Xa (zone 2)	183	0	301	241	2

Land resources:

The average per-capita land area for agricultural production and forestry in the surveyed communes is nearly 7222m^2, including 1026m^2 of agricultural land and 6195m^2 of forestry land. Rice field is very limited in all communes. In average the area of rice field is only 338 m2 per capita.

The per-capita agricultural and forestry land area in the high mountainous communes is much larger than that of the midland communes.

Table 3.6: The per-capita areas of some types of land (m^2).

	Agric and forestry land	Agricultural land	Forestry land	Rice field
AVERAGE	7222	1026	6195	338
Nhu-Xuan district:				
- Thanh-Phong (zone 1)	10325	1080	9245	355
- Yen-Le (zone 2)	6134	669	5465	396
Ba-Thuoc district:				
- Co-Lung (zone 1)	11011	826	19185	339
- Lam-Xa (zone 2)	2022	1610	411	261

3.2.2. Infrastructure:

Communications and transport:

Communication roads constitute the most important component of infrastructure, which help to narrow the economic, social and cultural gaps between communities.

Of the 4 surveyed communes, Thanh-Phong and Co-Lung - the remote communes don't have sealed roads. The most convenient mean to travel to the nearest sealed road or to urban centres, is motocycle or bicycle. One-way travel to the distric centre by motocycle-taxi ("*xe om"*) costs around one-month income of a poor farmer. In raining season, these remote communes used to be isolated due to overflooded streams on the way.

Telecommunication:

A very popular means of communications at present is the telephone. The number of telephones per number of persons is an index which shows the socio-economic development level of communities.

However, in the project area, many communes do not have any telephone, because there is no telephone grid or wireless apparatus. In Nhu-Xuan district, only two of 17 communes (including district town) have telephone connection to commune People's Committee. In Ba-Thuoc district, there is 4 of 23 commune People's Committees connected by telephone.

Among 4 surveyed communes, Yen-Le and Lam-Xa - the communes locating closed to district town have telephone connection. However, telephone is still a luxurious thing for farmers. In Yen-Le commune, for example, there are totally 4 telephones, of which 1 belongs to commune PC, and the rest 3 belongs to district officials whos houses locating in this commune. In Lam-Xa commune, the situation is similar: there is only 2 telephone, of which 1 belongs to commune PC, and another belong to district official.

Electricity:

The communes located along main roads are already supplied with electricity. In Nhu-Xuan district, 5 of 17 communes have electricity from national grid. The number in Ba-Thuoc district is also 5 of 23 communes. Two surveyed communes, Yen-Le and Lam-Xa have electricity. In Yen-Le, 37% of households is using grid electricity. This indicator in Lam-Xa commune is 95%. Most of the peasant households use electricity mainly for lighting and audio-visual equipment. Some households use electricity for production, namely for milling rice and animal food. In Yen-Le commune, there are 8 such households, and in Lam-Xa commune there are 23 rice mills.

Two other in remote zone don't have electricity yet. Households use mini hydroelectric generators for producing electricity in household scope. In Thanh-Phong commune, there is only 9 households who could purchase such machine. In Co-Lung commune, 451 households (55%) ownes mini hydro generator. This figure shows that if the income of the household is increased, the supply of electricity to the mountainous population can be achieved quickly and effectively through small generators, without having to wait for State investment in transmission lines from the national grid, which is very costly.

Schools:

All communes in both districts have at least one primary school (1-5 grades). Some communes have lower secondary school (6-9 grades).

Table 3. 7: Number of schools, classes, teachers and students

	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa
Primary schools:	**1**	**2**	**4**	**1**
- Number of classes	12	28	28	18
- Number of teachers	-	36	28	23
- Number of students	-	725	569	492
+ Boys	-	385	280	281
+ Girls	-	340	289	211
Lower secondary schools:	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0**
- Number of classes	9	7	13	0
- Number of teachers	-	12	15	0
- Number of students	-	196	430	275
+ Boys	-	99	230	143
+ Girls	-	97	200	132

The infrastructure of the schools varies qualitatively and quantitatively from school to school. Schools in remote mountainous areas are small and poor in construction quality. They remain makeshift, made of wood or bamboo and roofed with leaves. School funiture in a very poor situation. Sanitary conditions are seriously bad: there is no toilet, no safe water, few playground, etc.

Health care establishments:

The grassroots medical station (in communes) constitutes one of the important infrastructure projects to which the Vietnamese government has attached importance. A national programme has been formulated for the establishment of at least one medical station in a commune in order to meet the fundamental needs of the people for medical examination and treatment and to apply measures of primary health care. All 4 surveyed communes have their own medical stations though their structural facilities remain very poor.

Table 3.8 : Number of medical staff in surveyed communes

	Thanh-Phong		Yen-Le		Co-Lung		Lam-Xa	
	Public	Private	Publ	Priv	Publ	Priv	Publ	Priv
Doctor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assisstant doctor	1	1	3	0	3	0	2	0
Nurse	9	1	12	0	1	0	1	0
Midwife	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Conditions for economic exchange:

Rural markets constitute a means of economic exchange among households and at the same time reflects the development level of the rural economy. In Ba-tThuoc district, there is in total only 7 markets. In average 3 communes share one market. No one of 4 surveyed communes has a market in its area.

3.2.3. Present economic situation:

Since the implementation of the «Doi moi »(renovation) policy, the economic activities in rural areas have been carried out mainly by family households. The community units (such as co-

operatives, village/hamlets, communes) have play a very weak role in such activities. Therefore, in this situational analysis survey, we focused on analysing economic issues at the household level. At the commune level, the survey aimed at bringing out a general economic picture which cannot be fully reflected through the study of a small number of sampled households. The picture will outline the diversity of rural economic activities, the economic resources which can be exploited by communes, the extent, economic efficiency and the social impact of that exploitation.

The diversity of economic activities:

So far, agricultural production has been the main economic activity of the population in all surveyed communes. In two communes located closely to district urban centre, the economic activities are more diversified, as seen through a number of households doing trading and servicing activities. However, the number of such households is still not significant.

Table 3.9: Main occupation of households

	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa
Total number of HHs	432	851	821	727
- Farming	432	820	818	655
- Fishing	0	0	0	18
- Industry, handicraft	0	0	0	1
- Trading, services	0	16	0	15
- Public servants	0	15	3	28

Cultivation:

Food plants, first of all rice, constitutes the major crop in all communes of both project districts. Besides rice, other food-bearing plants (maize, sweet potatoes, cassava...) are also planted to supplement food sources for both people and domestic animals.

In Nhu-Xuan district, some projecs of cash crop development such as tea, coffee, sugar cane, longans have been implemented. Seedlings and some 5-year loans have been provided to farmers. A certain area of such crops have been planted and will be expanded contunuerly. District officials are optimistic on perspectives of these projects. However, according to our observation, if the farmers will not be supported furtherly with technological transfering and marketing, these projects would not reach estimated results. In this case, farmers will suffer losses and become poorer due to debt burdens.

Table 3.10: Main crops per household (m2)

	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa
Rice	2007	2139	1583	1238
Cassava	139	0	609	1265
Corn	12	0	365	1652
Sugar cane	0	1528	-	62
Tea	0	176	-	-
Coffee	856	-	-	-
Longan	1102	-	-	-

Vegetables, beans	-	-	49	110

Animal husbandry:

Buffalo, cattle, pigs, ducks, chickens are the main animals raised by households in two districts. In surveyed communes, on average, each family raises 1 buffalo or cow. Buffalo and cattle are raised as draught animals for farm work and transport and also for sale to earn a large sum of money for families. In many areas inhabited by ethnic minority people, the number of buffalo or cattle is considered an evaluation index of the wealth of a family. Poor households used to not have a draught animal.

Pigs are raised for family consumption and also for sale. Each family raises 1-3 pigs on average and a flock of several dozen chicken and ducks mainly to supply meat for the family.

Table 3.11: The average number of domestic animals per household (head)

	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa
Buffaloes, cattles	-	0.7	1.9	0.8
Pigs	-	1.3	3.3	1.8
Poultry	-	12	30	25

Generally, animal husbandry is a sideline which yields income for households and supplies protein and lipids for the daily meals in households. However, domestic animals raised in small quantities cannot provide enough protein for the population. Aquatic products caught in rivers, streams, ponds, rice fields or raised in ponds become a major source of protein for the majority of the population, particularly the poor.

Forestry:

Forestry sees to be an imprtant economic activities in mountainous and upland regions like Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc districts. Though the State has implemented a policy of allocating forest to households for care, management and exploitation, the percentage of newly planted forests managed by households is not so high, particularly in mountainous regions. In order to plant and preserve forests, capital and labour has to be invested in a long-term manner. New forests can only provide initial yields after at least 7 to 10 years. There is a also a contradiction in that forestry development potential in the surveyed communes is very great but the capability to exploit such potential is limited due to the poverty. Therefore, forestry development has been confronted with more difficulties than other areas where the business cycle is shorter such as the cultivation of short-term plants, animal husbandry, fish-farming.

Table 3.12: The forest land area of the surveyed communes (ha).

	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa
Total forest area	2256.7	2099.4	3911	142
Of which: Planted forest	21.5	109.5	10	142
Natural forest	2236.2	1889.9	3901	0
Forest allocated to HHs	2000 (est.)	1374	3911	142
Average per HH	4.6	1.6	4.7	0.2

Off-farm activities:

As remarked in above part on the diversity of the economic activities, in two districts, including 4 surveyed communes, industries, handicrafts, trade and services are less developed. Data obtained in surveyed communes shows that only 17 households in Lam-Xa commune produce construction materials (3 households) and doing tailoring service fro villagers. Total number of laborers working in these activities is 46 persons, of which 28 men working in construction material production, and 18 women are of tailor.

Concluding remarks on the current economic development situation of the surveyed communes:

a) Monoculture still prevails in communes. In the entire economy, cultivation of food crops, firstly rice, plays the most important role. Animal husbandry plays the role of cash generation.

b) Technological equipment and know-how for production is poor.

c/ Though being practised over a long period and having local market, off-farm activities have not been developed proportionate to its potential.

3.2.4. Living conditions:

Residential housing:

It can be remarked that the residential housing structure corresponds to the structure of the living standard of the people. Households with solid houses or brick with tiled-roofs are usually wealthier families. Households with average living standards in the plain region often have houses made of good wood or one-storey brick houses. The percentage of bamboo houses with straw-roofs and makeshift huts corresponds to the percentage of poor and hungry families in localities.

Most of the residential buildings in 4 surveyed communes are temporary constructions: wooden or bamboo houses with leaf/straw-roofs. Such styles of housing comprise between 45% and 65%.

The second type of housing is bamboo houses with thatched roofs, huts or tents, which account for from 5% to 45%.

The number of households living in semi-permanent houses made of good wood or brick one-storey houses accounts for from 2% to 42%.

The solid multi-storey buildings represent a very small percentage, around 1% in Yen-Le commune.

Picture 2: A relative permanent wood house

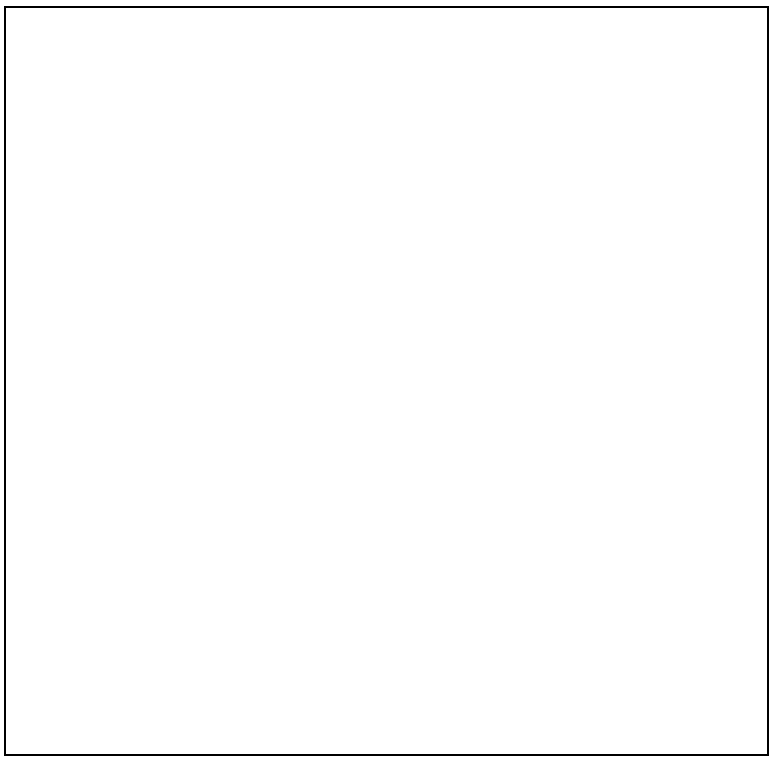


Table 3.13: The status of residential houses of households in a commune (% of households in a commune)

Type of houses	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa
Permanent multi-storey building	0	1	0	0
One-storey brick houses or houses made of good wood	10	24	2	42
Not good wood or bamboo houses	46	48	63	53
Bamboo houses with straw-roofs, huts, tents	44	28	35	5

Clean water

Supplying clean water still is a serious problem in many communes in two project districts.

Water, taken from wells dug by people with rudimentary tools, is the major source of drinking water for the people in 3 surveyed localities. The percentage of households using such sources of water is from over 50% in Co-Lung commune to 84% in Yen-Le commune. In Thanh-Phong commune, only 14% of households have a dug well.

Drinking water taken from natural sources (rivers, streams, lakes) is major type in Thanh-Phong and Co-Lung communes.

A smaller percentage of households have to use water from mountainous streams. In fact, these sources produce rather clean water if it is properly transported and stored in a hygienic way.

In some localities where natural conditions are often harsh (for example on high mountains), without any sources of underground or surface water, people have to use rain water in their daily needs. This is a good source of water, however, in order to store and use it, a large sum of money is required for the construction of storage tanks. This is not easy, particularly for poor people.

Table 3.14: Sources of drinking water (% of households in a commune)

Sources of drinking water	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa
Dug wells	14	84	50	66
Rivers, lakes, ponds	86	16	46	21
Steams from mountains	-	0	4	13

Environmental hygiene:

People in the surveyed communes are not accustomed to protecting the hygiene of their environment. Most of the households discharge garbage into forests, rivers, streams, ponds, lakes without treatment.

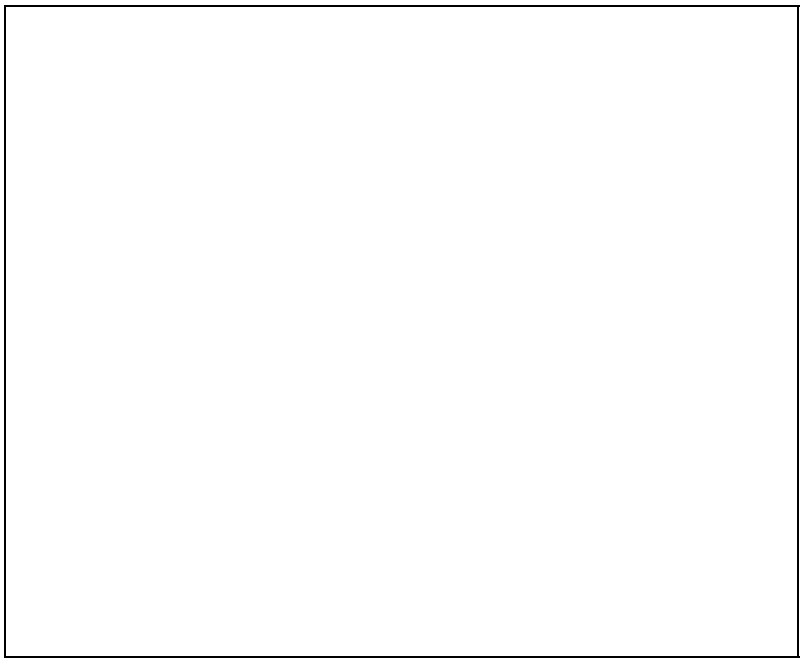
Though campaigns for building toilets which have hygienic systems (decomposition toilet, decomposition privies, double vault compost latrine, dry vault) have been in action many years in whole country, very few of the households in the surveyed communes have toilets meeting hygienic standards. Worthy of note is that a significant number of the households do not have their own toilets or privies.

Table 3.15: Type of toilet (% of households in a commune)

Type of toilet	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa
Decomposion toilet	0	0.4	0.1	0.1
Double vault, dry vault latrine	0	0	38.1	0.6
Simply toilet	0.5	98	49.2	96.8
No toilet	99.5	1.6	12.9	2.5

The same situation happened with bath facilities. Most of households in rural areas, especially in mountainous communes. People do not have behaviour to facilitate a washplace. This is very inconvenient especially for women. They do not have a place to wash themselves and they used to go far to rivers, streams or lakes for washing. The movement encouraging households to build a washplace is firstly for improving health care conditions of women. However, in surveyed communes there is very few households having a bathroom or even a simply washplace.

Picture 3:



In Thanh-Phong and Co-Lung communes, Thai people lieve in two-storey houses. The higher storey is living space of people. In the ground space, the hygiene used to be in bad situation, because of animal composes and garbages. Animal stalls are still located very closed to houses. Bad sanitary environment causes many dieseases. Especially, malaria still affects in some mountainous communes.

3.3. THE POOR IN PROJECT AREA: HOW POOR THEY ARE?

In our situational analysis survey, most of households selected assessed that they are poor. The self-assessment is as follows:

- Good enough	2.3 %
- Middle	23.5 %
- Poor	47.4 %
- Very poor	26.8 %

A very little different assessment was provided by local surveyors. Only two households assessed as poor by surveyors said that they belong to very poor status.

It's to note that this structure of living standards does not reflect the structure of commune population, because the number of samples is small, and selection is not totally random. To define more objectively the structure of living standards of communities, it's to conduct a census, or a more comprehensive sampled survey.

On the group discussions organised in four communes, in resonse to question "What is a poor household?", people have a almost similar answer:

- "Poor households have low income, regularly are in shortage of food, do not have enough cloths, cannot supply enough money for children education and for treatment of diases". (A farmer from Co-Lung commune).

- "Poor households have a bad house, don't have enough food and dailly neccesary consumer goods, do not have money for investing in production, their children cannot go to schools". (A farmer from Thanh-Phong commune")

- "Poor households are such households who are not satisfied with their basic needs: lacking food, do not have good cloths, do not have enough warm blankets, their houses are temporary, made of bamboo trees and thatch roofs, their children can have only low education grades" (A village head in Thanh-Phong commune).

- "Poor people used to have low income, low technical and business capacity, do not have enough resources (money, productive means) to develop production and earn enough bread for their faminy". (A woman in Yen-Le commune).

Responding to question "How to measure poverty?" the majority of people considere income as main indicator, but they also indicated several other terms which should be also involved for measuring other aspects of basic needs.

Data collected from our situational analysis survey show several dimensions of the current living standards.

Results from the household questioonnaire are given in the Appendix. The statistical tables given there present basic aspects of well-being of households in surveyed communes, by commune and district, plus, for each well-being dimension, the figures relative to poor and non-poor households. Tables are numbered according to the numbering of the sections in the questionnaire.

Most relevant indicators are presented in Table 3.16 below, disaggregated by commune and by poor/non-poor households, according to Molisa definition.

Table 3. 16: Basic aspects of well-being of households in surveyed communes

	4 communes	Zone 1: Remote		Zone 2: Middle		Molisa classification	
		Thanh-Phong	Co-Lung	Yen-Le	Lam-Xa	Poor	Non-poor
POPULATION							
Number of hlds	2879	432	821	899	727	895 31.1%	1984 68.9%
Number of persons	14267	2294	3774	4558	3642	4794 34%	9473 66%
Per HH:	5.0	5.3	4.6	5.1	5.0	5.4	4.8
- Male	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.4
- Female	2.4	2.9	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.3
Female-headed households	227	61	21	71	75	120 13.4%	107 5.4%
LABOUR FORCE							
% of economic active persons	55.3	45.3	62.1	55.0	54.9	49.5	58.2
Number of labourers in HH	2.7	2.4	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.8
- Male	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.4
- Female	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.4
S***tructure of labour (%):***							
- Farming	86.8	94.1	89.9	87.5	78.3	92.6	84.2
- Industry, handic.	1.6	0	0.9	0	5.1	3.5	1.5
- Trade, services	3.7	0.5	0	0	14.3	2.8	4.1
- Public servants	7.4	3.8	9.8	7.4	6.5	1.9	9.8
AGRICULTURAL.LAND (m2)							
Number of HHs not having agric. land (%)	8.4	3.7	0	4.7	25.2	6.3	9.3
Agric. land per HH	2699	3268	2601	3002	2096	2566	2759
- Rice field	1707	1483	1900	1838	1459	1640	1737
- Corn	97	0	66	0	171	95	97
- Cassava	461	528	634	206	553	499	443
- Fruits	81	464	1	33	4	136	56
- Tea	119	0	0	383	0	150	106
- Coffee	145	968	0	0	0	95	168
- Sugar cane	169	0	0	542	0	39	228
FORESTRY LAND (m2)							
Number of HHs not having forestry land (%)	33.3	15.4	22.2	29.1	61.7	34.0	32.9
Forestry land per HH	11909	24149	3724	19153	4922	10077	12735
- Planted forest	2894	417	1178	5016	3679	700	3883
- Natural forest	9015	23731	2546	14136	1243	9377	8852

	4 communes	Zone 1: Remote		Zone 2: Middle		Molisa classification	
		Thanh-Phong	Co-Lung	Yen-Le	Lam-Xa	Poor	Non-poor
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (number of head per HH)							
Buffaloes	0.54	1.14	0.03	0.72	0.55	0.51	0.56
Cattle	0.46	0	1.41	0.10	0.11	0.32	0.52
Pigs	1.77	1.03	2.07	1.74	1.90	1.13	2.06
Poultries	30.94	13.23	41.58	34.48	25.08	16.08	37.64
% HH not having buffaloes/cattle	39.6	41.1	14.0	48.1	57.0	39.5	39.6
HOUSING (%)							
Multistore house	0.7	0	0	2.4	0	0	1.1
Onestore brick, good wood house	4.8	0	2.7	0	15.9	1.5	6.3
Permanent wood house	31.1	33.7	26.1	48.1	26.1	12.3	39.5
Wood bamboo thatch roofed house, tent	63.2	65.1	71.2	49.5	70.1	85.6	53.2
Not having owrned house	0.2	1.2	0	0	0	0.6	0
DRINKING WATER SOURCES (% of HH)							
Dug well	56.4	42.9	20.7	89.8	63.6	45.9	61.2
Mountain stream	7.5	16.6	3.6	3.1	12.1	12.3	5.4
River, pond, lake	32.4	40.5	75.7	0	18.7	39.6	29.1
Other sources	3.6	0	0	7.1	5.6	2.3	4.3
HH taking water home (%)	51.2	23.3	16.3	83.5	67.3	39.4	53.5
Average distance to water sources (m)	119	160	217	43	76	165	98
DURABLES (number per 100 HHs)							
Motocycle	13	6	11	17	15	1	18
Bicycle	89	21	91	120	89	59	103
TV set	28	7	18	43	34	9	36
Radio receiver	48	52	69	36	37	33	55
Electric fan	33	0	11	39	69	9	43
Refrig.	4	0	0	2	11	0	5
Water pump	1	0	0	2	1	1	1
Rice milling machine	12	11	23	9	4	2	17
Other (mini hydrogenerator etc)	5	0	14	2	0	1	7
CLOTHS (% HH)							
Having enough warm cloths	55.8	15.9	43.3	74.9	70.1	27.1	68.8
Having enough warm blankets	68.3	38.6	56.3	83.3	81.3	47.0	77.7

	4 communes	Zone 1: Remote		Zone 2: Middle		Molisa classification	
		Thanh-Phong	Co-Lung	Yen-Le	Lam-Xa	Poor	Non-poor
Having enough moskito nets	84.2	88.3	64.0	96.9	88.8	78.5	86.7
EMPLOYMENT							
Underemployment (% of HH)	67.5	38.7	82.2	61.3	76.0	77.0	63.2
Number of months with job shortage	4.6	4.3	3.3	4.7	6.2	4.8	4.5
EDUCATION							
Children not going to school / number per 100 hlds	10	15	9	8	12	24	4
- Boys	4	7	4	2	5	7	2
- Girls	7	9	5	6	7	17	2
Illiterate adults/ number per 100 hlds	21	23	40	6	16	31	16
- Male	6	7	13	0	4	11	3
- Female	15	15	27	6	12	19	13
HEALTH							
% of chronically sick people	8.9	8.1	8.7	11.6	6.3	10.3	8.3
- Male	7.0	3.5	9.7	7.7	5.2	7.5	6.7
- Female	10.9	12.0	7.6	16.0	7.5	13.0	9.9
INCOME							
Average per capita net income in a month (VND)	76,439	51,439	80,121	83,960	78,957	27,087	101,415

3.4. THE POOR IN PROJECT AREA: SPECIFIC GROUPS

The quick situational assessment shows that some groups among the poor should be paid a specific attention. These groups are especially poor and most vulnerable. There are following groups:

a) Population in remote mountainous areas:

Population lieving in remote zone like 6 "Thanh-*" commune in Nhu-Xuan district and 6 communes in Quoc-Thanh zone in Ba-Thuoc district are mostly Thai group. Majority of population here are poor because they are geographically isolated and have few opportunity to communicate, exchange and trade with other communities. While certain resources (such as forest potentials, unused land) are available, they could not mobilise these resources for economic development. There are many factors causing high levels of poverty here, especially among ethnic minority groups: the poor quality of land, access to water, limited education and knowledge, poor health and many diseases, some social and cultural barriers for development, especially some traditional living behavious.

Three key issues the population faces in such communities are:

- Ensuring food security through improvement of small irrigation system, implementation of new plant ans animal varieties and new technologies.

- Inproving communication and transportation through construction and rehabilitation of road system.

- Transfering technical ans economical knowledge of the population.

b) People who have few agricultural land:

The landless used to be poor. Comraing with in delta regions, landless problem in mountainous areas such as Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc districts seems not serious. Percentage of landless households is not high. Besides, there is here large area of unused land on mountains or remote zone. However, problem in mountainour areas is the lack of agricultural land, firstly paddy land. In a self-subsistence economy wich is typical not only in household scope but in large community scope in the project districts, opportunity to earn cash income and to be cassual employed is very limited. A certain area of paddy land or food crop cultivated land secures the minimum basic need in food for households.

Box: Landless groups

- In Lam-Xa commune, there are 18 fishing households. They do not have agricultural land and even residential land. These families lieve on their boats. They are catolic. Every month, a church servant goes to boats to do religion procedures.

This community is called "Xom Chai" - the Fishing Hamlet. All 18 households are poor.

- Another landless community also in Lam-Xa commune is "Xom Van Tai" - the Transport Hamlet. Previously, people in this hamlet were members of a transport cooperative. Ten year ago, the coop disorganised. As non-agricultural workers, people in this hamlet did not get a piece of agricultural nor forestry land. Some households earn income by doing transport service with their owned animal cart. Some other work as cassual labourere in construction material production (stone mine, brick workshops). Their income is not stable and low.

Key problem for this type of poor group is to create a stable job opportunity in off-farm industries. Constrains are shortage of capital and lack of an appropriate cooperation or organisation which could play the marketing role.

c) Woman-headed households:

There are not many woman-headed households. Such households are ussually poor, because they used to have relatively low levels of educational attainment and lack functional skills and information. The household heads are

often widows, diverced or single mothers. The poor situation is especially serious in woman-headed families of ethnic group.

Box: Poor woman-headed family

Ms. Ha Thi Bien, 35, lieves in Thanh-Phong communes. She is an ophan and lieved with her cousin. She was married, left the village to go to husband's house in other commune. She has a daughter. 6 years ago, she divorced and brought her daughter back to her village. The cousin gave her a piece of residential land and she got 500 m2 of agricultural land from the commune. Her daughter is 11 years old and goes to school of 4th grade. Bien and her daughter lieve in a straw-roofed hut without walls and furnitures.

She cultivates rice, some cassava. But the food amount is enough for 3-4 months. She goes to forest to collect wood, bamboo shoots, bamboo trees and sell to neighboring households. In lucky days she earns 5-7,000 VND.

d) Households suffered by diseases and disasters:

Long-term or serious sickness of someone in the family or natural disasters used to bring many rural households to economic colapse. Our survey shows that about 10% of population in surveyed communes suffered by long-term sickeness. Costs for treatment and hospitalisation are now heavy burdens for households. Despite of national policy of free medical services for the poor, the local budget in both Nhu-Xuan and Ba-Thuoc is still not able to cover the costs of providing free health insurance for the poor. Although the district hospitals treate free of charge for the poor patients, not all sick people can go to hospital. In addition, the costs of sickness are not only medicaments, but many other expences, for example for nutrious food, for patient transportation, etc.

e) Young families:

Young couples ussually lieve independently from their parents. They face some difficulties due to having few resources (land, capital) and experiences. A certain share of poor households are families of young couples. These families have potentials to overcome quickly poverty, if they could get some assisstance in obtaining loans and know-how transfer.

3.5. POOR PEOPLE'S NEEDS AND POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

A group discusion was organised in each commune to exchange opinions on community's and household's needs; and to raise ideas on possible rural development and income egenerating projects.

Participants were heads of villages/hamlets, representatives of mass organisations in the commune such as Women Union, Farmers' Union, Veterants' Association, Youth Union, and some farmers.

Despite of different options on priorities of needs, there are similar lists of needs in communes. They incluse following needs:

- Improving road and communication conditions in remote communes.
- Constructing small irrigation facilities such as dams, reservoirs, water chanells.
- Providing long-term credit to households.
- Helping to do marketing.
- Improving health clinics, sanitary environment in communes.
- Supplying good varietties of plants and animals; providing more agricultural services.
- Transfering technical and economic knowledge to farmers.
- Developing off-farm industries to create more jobs and imcome for landless people.
- Improving schools, furnitures; supplying educational tools and materials.

- Etc.

Concerning priority ranks, in both remote communes - Thanh-Phong in Nhu-Xuan district and Co-Lung in Ba-Thuoc district, people agreed that improving small irrigation systems is the most actual and effective activity, because this will help to increase agricultural productivity, reduce losses caused by natural disasters.

In both middle upland communes - Yen-Le in Nhu-Xuan district and Lam-Xa in Ba-Thuoc district, people consider creating non-farming jobs and finding market for agricultural products as the most important measures for poverty alleviation and income generating.

All people need to have more funds for investing in production. However, the acceptance of credit conditions depends on type of economic activities and living standards of households. The rich households have more opportunities to access to credit funds, based on commercial principles. In opposite, the poor have narrower access to credit, despite of that the credit is preferential, with lower interest rate.

Box: An experience of credit provision

CIDSE is an international NGO. It conductes a microfinance project in Ba-Thuoc district (V611).

In Lam-Xa commune, this credit project begin to operate in May 1999. Credit funds managed by the commune Women Union.

The mechanism of credit provision is as follow:

In 1st year, each woman can get an amount of 500,000 VND for 50 weeks (one year) with interest rate of 1.5% per month. Every week, she must return to funds: 2% of borrowed funds (=10,000 VND), interest rate (= 1,800 VND); and a enforced savings (= 1,000 VND). In total, she should have 12,800 VND in cash weekly.

In 1st year, 41 women borrowed money.

In second year, each woman can borrow 1,000,000 VND for 50 weeks. Among 41 women, only 13 continue to borrow money. 17 women don't want to borrow because interest rate is too high and borrowers should repay every week. 11 other women cannot participate because they have violated the rule of funds: some could not repay funds every week, some did not participated in meetings. Among them one woman could repay funds in 40 weeks and could not continue to repay in the rest 10 weeks. The chairwoman of commune Women Union should give her money to cancel debt.

In the second years, beside 13 women borrowed in the 1st year, 63 other women are newly borrowers. Totally there are 76 women participating in the credit activity with total money of 44.5 mill. VND.

Women in the commune said that this kind of credit is suitable only for trading activities in urban areas, because the funds revolves in a very short time (daily or weekly). Funds invested in cultivation, animal husbandry and other economic activities cannot be give so high profit and so quickly, especially in mountainous areas. Poor women who do not have any cash surplus also cannot accept the rules of weekly repayment and enforced savings. One woman said: "If I could have some money to save every day, I do not need to borrow".

The need of knowledge trasfer is very actual. Most of people in mountainous areas have limited educational level, and aslo limited access to updated information. Agricultural extension services have been provided not widely. In each district there is only one agricultural extension center with limited staff. Approximately, in one year people in communes could have only one training course.

Box: Good experience of technological transfer

There are 4 young technicians working in Co-Lung commune. They are mechnical ingeneur, veterinary technician, doctor assisstant and agronomist. They are members of so called "Young intellectual volunteer teams" organised by Vietnam Youth Union (VYU). They get salary from VYU and work in communes. They provide agricultural, medical services to villagers, organise training course, help commune PC, mass organisations and health clinic in transfering knowledge. These volunteers could be key staffs in promoting new technologies in communes.

PART 4: POVERTY MONITORING ACTIVITIES IN PROJECT FRAMEWORK

4.1. CONTEXT AND BASIC PRINCIPLES

The results-based management of the project « Improved Livelihoods for Poor Mountainous Communities in Thanh Hoa Province » requires a Poverty Monitoring System (PMS) as the main component of the project's Management Information System (MIS). The Poverty Assessment team believes strongly that the PMS design should not be done in an isolated way, strictly project centered, but, on the contrary, with a wide perspective of integration :

a) within the whole set of other CIDA funded poverty reduction projects in Vietnam, and particularly with the « Capacity Development and Enabling Environment Project », implemented also in Thanh Hoa,
b) within already recognized work in Vietnam on PMS methodology,
c) within the international research activities on poverty issues and specifically on PMS methodology.

We are convinced that a danger to avoid is to try again to ''reinvent the wheel'' in such a difficult area. But at the same time, the team recognizes that the project's specific needs have to be adressed, which requires adaptation and extension to existing work and tools.

Principle 1

The project's PMS is developed with as much integration as possible with similar initiatives, in other poverty reduction projects and programs in Vietnam, and with national as well as international PMS methodogical development activities.

With that perspective, the Poverty Assessment team will try to input in the project as much as possible of his many years experience in collaborative research, here in Vietnam, on PMS methodology within the international MIMAP network, funded by IDRC. Since more than ten years, this network advocates for locally feasible participative PMS, as an alternative, or at least as a necessary additional approach, to national PMS based on heavy and expensive household survey methodologies, which face important constraints in terms of replicability (frequency), geographical and socioeconomic groups disaggregation and data appropriation at the analysis level. The poverty concept underlying this methodology is a multidimensional one, referring to the most usual basic needs and capabilities, and including income as an important dimension.

The local level MIMAP PMS approach opens the door to its use as an effective tool for the implementing strategy and the impact and result assessment relative to poverty reduction projects at local community level. Local participation is seen as a fundamental characteristic for at least two reasons :

a) data reliability : people will provide good information if they perceive its relevance and feel involve in the whole process,
b) system sustainability : if the system is implemented essentially with local human resources, after a first input in training, it should continue inasmuch as people see the PMS as an operational tool for their community life.

Local participation requires local feasibility as well in data collection as in data primary uses. In fact, usefulness of the data for the community must be obvious, otherwise there is no motivation for implementing the system. There are two basic primary uses to poverty indicators relative to a small community :

a) advocacy at a higher administrative level in the process of public or external funds allocation,
b) targeting local development sectoral interventions on most deprived households or individuals within the community.

Advocacy requires that at least some data (indicators) be comparable across communities. Both advocacy capability and local targeting contribute to develop the local capacity in grassroot level development planning, on an objective basis.

The major secondary use of local poverty indicators is poverty impact assessment of a specific project or programme. It's obviously a central interest from the project's point of view.

Principle 2

The project's PMS is a locally participative system in view of insuring the data reliability and its sustainability ; it must be locally feasible in data collection and primary uses, advocacy and project targeting.

Participation does not mean that the set of collected poverty indicators is defined ultimately by each local community, with the risk of not being comparable from one community to another one. For advocacy purpose, there must be a set of indicators common to all local communities. This is the core set of indicators, stable not only across communities but also through time.

The core set of indicators can also be sufficient for targeting interventions within the community. But according to diverse development priorities in different communities, targeting needs may require that a community-specific set of indicators be added to the core set. It gives flexibility to the system since it can be adjusted to each community development strategy, while keeping the important property of comparability.

Principle 3

The project's participative PMS has a core set of common indicators which reflect the muldimensional aspect of poverty. It may also include an additional subset of indicators, community-specific, to meet the local development strategy needs, especially for sectoral interventions targeting and/or specific project strategy and management needs.

The MIMAP Vietnam PMS methodology takes the commune as its basic operational unit. Nevertheless, to meet targeting needs, particularly in the Thanh Hoa project, for household level indicators, the hamlet identification variable may play an important role in the data analysis plan. Thus, it should be present in any household questionnaire.

It is proposed here that the MIMAP Vietnam PMS indicators, at the commune and household level, constitute the core set of indicators of the project's PMS. Viewed from the requirements of the project's MIS, the MIMAP PMS should then satisfy the assessment needs at the purpose level, for two of the three project's outcomes, increased income and basic needs satisfaction. For the third outcome, local involvement in identifying, planning and implementing activities and projects, and for the expected outputs still to be defined by sectoral teams and the gender team, a PMS extension by an additional set of indicators should complete the project's MIS for the RBM needs.

Principle 4

The project's PMS is articulated with the project's MIS at the purpose/outcome level, through its core set of indicators taken from the MIMAP methodology. Full articulation with the MIS obtains from an additional set of indicators to be defined once the project's outputs have been formulated.

It should be understood that the MIMAP methodology, light locally feasible indicators, cannot be presumed to be fully applicable with the additional set of indicators, still unknown. But as much as possible, the spirit underlying the MIMAP PMS should inspire the definition and methodology of these additional indicators.

Gender is recognized as a major issue in all project components. This fact must be reflected in the PMS, and more generally, everywhere in the MIS.

Principle 5

To meet at least part of the requirements of the gender component, all relevant core set MIMAP indicators will be disaggregated according to gender. The same applies to the additional set of indicators collected for the complete MIS.

4.2. MULTI-DIMENSIONAL POVERTY AND POVERTY ASSESSMENT

Theoretically, there are two approaches to assess the poverty: a) using the direct indicators reflecting basic needs, and b) using indirect indicators, such as income or expenditures. According to the former approach, one measures the real amount of consumption of some products and services to meet human basic needs. By the latter approach, ones measures either income or expenditure per capita of the population.

These two approaches have both good points and weaknesses.

Direct indicators reflect accurately the degree of meeting basic needs, but they have different units of measurement and not easily brought together to a synthetic one. Therefore, by the direct method it is difficult to define a certain limit as the poverty line and rely on it to calculate the number of poor people. But the direct indicator can be used in forming policies in each field, for example improving the nutrition state of the poor by increasing calories and changing the ration structure, improving the medical services by giving more sufficient supply of medicines, increasing the number of school children at their proper age group or eliminating illiteracy, etc.

In contrast, the indirect/value (income or expenditure) indicator has general significance but it does not imply all aspects of the human basic needs. By the use of this integrated indicator, the poverty line can be worked out, allowing to find out the number of the economically poor and poor households in each locality.

Currently, national poverty assessment surveys (VLSS, MOLSA's annual poverty monitoring, GSO's annual multi-purpose household surveys) use mostly the indirect indicators as poverty line indicators. Some direct indicators are collected not regularly by some national programmes (health, nutrition, education, etc.). Therefore, there is still not enough comprehensive database reflecting human basic needs at provincial and district levels.

We suggest that ***both above-mentioned types of indicators should be used*** in the poverty monitoring system in Thanh-hoa project.

In the National Program for Hunger eradication and Poverty Reduction for the period of 1996-2000 and for the coming period of 2001-2005, Vietnamese government focuses on two subjects: commune as the basic administrative unit and household as basic cell of the society. Based on data needs for poverty alleviation policy implementation, we propose a poverty monitoring system with indicators reflecting the degree of satisfaction of human basic needs ***at these both levels: commune and household/individual***.

The commune indicators reflect the satisfaction of basic needs mainly in public goods and services such as the supply of safe water, electricity, roads and transportation, schools, sanitation and living environment, public order and security, the participation of the population in community decisions and social activities .(Table 4.1)

The household and individual indicators reflect the minimum norms of the most basic needs in family and individual life such as food; clothing, dwellings, jobs, health, education. In practice, these norms are poverty thresholds in different spheres of human-being. (Table 4.2).

Table 4.1: Poverty monitoring indicators at the community level

Sphere	Indicators	Sources
I. General living standard	1.1. Percentage of the poor (or poor households).	Household survey
	1.2. Price of one working day on the local labour market.	Annual interview
	1.3. Average per capita income.	Household survey

II. Land availability	2.1. Cultivated (agro, forestry, fishery) area per capita.	Cadastrial office of district and commne
	2.2. Percentage of landless households or households having too few land (under 1/2 of average area per capita in the community).	Household survey
III. Employment	3.1. Number/Percentage of under-employees (not having jobs more than 3 months in a year).	Household survey
	3.2. Percentage of labourers in farming sector.	Household survey
	3.3. Percentage of labourers in off-farm sectors.	Household survey
IV. Health	4.1. Malnutrition rate of children of 0-4 (age last birthday) years old (having the weight under 80% of standards).	Children health survey and examnination conducted by health clinic
	4.2. Percentage of immunized children (according to Expanded Program of Immunization)	Commune Health Service (CHS) records
	4.3. Availability of health facilities (clinic, pharmacies) in commune	Records of commune clinic
	4.4. Number of medicine staff (public and private) per 1000 inhabitants.	Records of commune clinic
V. Education	5.1. Adult (male/female) illiterate rate.	Household survey
	5.2. Enrollment of children (girls and boys) of primary education age (6-11 years old).	Records of commune primary schools
	5.3. Number of teachers per 1000 inhabitants.	Records of commune schools
VI. Housing and sanitary facilities	6.1. Percentage of households having temporary/permanent houses.	Household survey
	6.2. Percentage of households supplied with safe water.	Records of commune clinic
	6.4. Percentage of households having sanitary toilet.	Records of commune clinic
	6.5. Percentage of households using electricity as main lighting energy sources.	Records of electricity management unit or annual household survey
VII. Infrastructure and communication	7.1. Availability of roads conecting commune with district and province.	Observation
	7.2. Availability of local market.	Observation
	7.3. Number of telephones per 1000 inhabitants.	Records of post office
	7.4. Percentage/Number of households having no TVs, radio receivers.	Household survey
VIII. People'	8.1. Number of members of political, mass	Interview of commune

participation in social activities	and social organisations per 1000 inhabitants.	government and mass organisation
IX. Gender relations	9.1. Number of women working as public holders and leaders of social and mass organisations per 1000 inhabitants.	Interview of commune government and mass organisation
	9.2. Percentage of girls/boys attending upper secondary school (grades 10-12) and higher education.	Records of schools.
	9.3. Percentage of households having bathroom.	Records of commune clinic

Table 4.2: Indicators for household poverty monitoring

Spheres	Indicators	Sources
I. Food	1.1. Food consumption (per capita amount of rice in one month)	Sampled household records
	1.2. Value of per day ration (quality of food)	Sampled household records
II. Clothing	2.1. Availability of necessary cloths and blankets in cold seasons.	Household survey
	2.2. Availability of necessary mosquito nets.	Household survey
III. Employment	3.1. Un- and under-employment (lacking jobs over three months a year)	Household survey
IV. Health	4.1. Average per capita number of days in which members of household suffered illness	Household survey
	4.2. Ability of household members to have medical care	Household survey
V. Education	5.1. Number of illiterated adult members	Household survey
	5.2. Children in 6-11 age group don't go to school	Household survey
	5.3. Household has no radio or TV	Household survey
VI. Housing	6.1. Household lives in temporarily housing (tents and huts)	Household survey
	6.2. Availability of sanitary toilet	Household survey
	6.3. Availability of safe water	Household survey
VII. Income	7.1. Per capita income	Household survey
	7.2. Structure of household income (farm / off-farm incomes)	Household survey
VIII. Expenditures	8.1. Expenditures for food	Sampled household records
	8.2. Expenditures for production	Sampled household records
	8.3. Expenditures for education	Sampled household records
IX. Benefits from public programmes	9.1. Number of HH members and days geting training	Household survey
	9.2. Amount of received loans	Household survey
	9.3. Other financial assisstance (e.g. free health treatment, free books and curriculums, etc.)	Household survey
X. Assets	(to be developed)	
XI. Household's assessment	10.1. Self assessment on living standards	Household survey
	10.2. Assessment on impacts of poverty alleviation projects	Household survey

At this point, we want to clearly emphasize our basic approach, which will be to build on the most well known and large-scale operational existing system and to try to improve this system. This system is the MOLISA system, based on household income measurement, an indicator that appears in Table 4.2, sphere VII. This approach is developed below, but it is worthwhile to summarize here what it globally means :

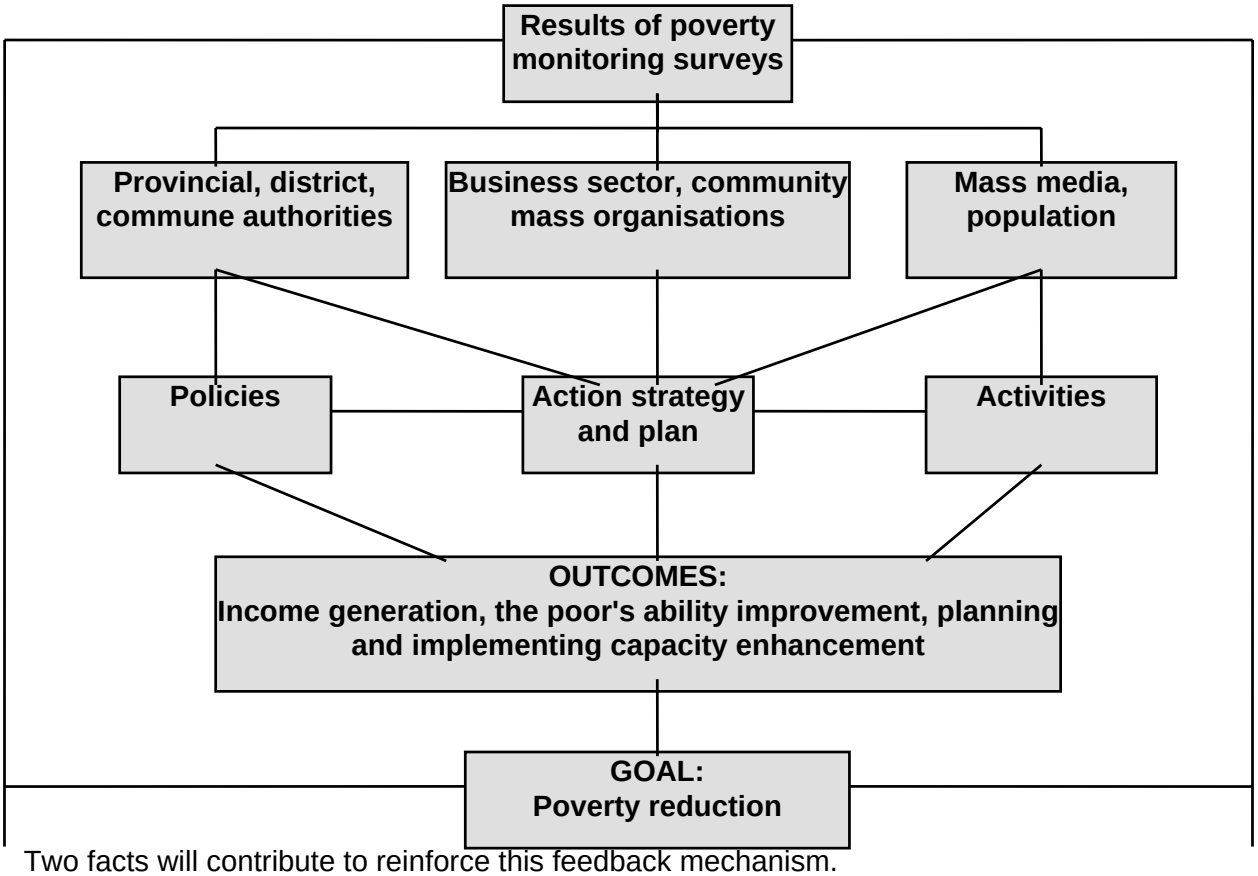
BASIC APPROACH

The Thanh Hoa project PMS will build on the existing MOLISA system and try to improve this system on three aspects :

- a more reliable household income light indicator,
- an extension of the set of indicators at the commune and household levels, to cover most of the basic needs,
- the regular updating mechanism.

4.3. POLICY FEEDBACK MECHANISM

Information collected by poverty monitoring surveys must serve as tools for monitoring implementation of the project activities and policy adjustment. In order to use this information, it should be supplied not only to local administration and project management unit, but also provided widerly to mass organisations and population with appropriate forms. This feedback process is described below.



Two facts will contribute to reinforce this feedback mechanism.

1. The approach of building on and improving the existing MOLISA system, supported at national level and implemented in all communes as a management tool for poverty reduction programs, will certainly mobilize the attention of all administrative levels (national, provincial, district, commune) on the way poverty impact is looked at in this project. Lessons learned, and, as we expect, increased efficiency through a finer targeting and a stronger community involvement in monitoring the project, should then diffuse beyond the project's area.
2. The fact that the project's PMS will rely on the experience shared in an international network, MIMAP, strongly policy oriented, will allow all vietnamese partners, at different levels, to benefit from lessons learned elsewhere, especially on the interaction between macro-policies and the efficiency of micro-level interventions.

4.4. POVERTY MONITORING AND PROJECT'S EVALUATION SURVEYS:

a) Scope:

It is needed to collect regularly living standard data, ideally every year. However, variables (or indicators) change differently. There are indicators to be analysed on a monthly (for example, expenditures) or annual basis (most of indicators). But there are a lot of variables which change slowly and might be collected and processed after longer term, for example 5 years (housing and land). According to the objectives and the planned uses of a PMS, its set of indicators will vary, and the updating process consequently. The PMS to be implemented in Thanh Hoa project area, whose proposed indicators are presented in tables 4.1 and 4.2 above, will include a specific updating system, requiring annual measurement for some indicators, and pluriannual for others. All this will have to be detailed later.

Also, as seen from tables 4.1 and 4.2, the level of measurement differs according to the type of indicator, from the commune level to the household and individual level, and either with a census of the commune household, or on a sampling basis.

Moreover, the PMS, while being the central component of the project's MIS, is only a part of it. Thus, the additional set of indicators will have its own requirements in terms of periodicity and scope of covering.

At this stage of the project definition, the system of surveys meeting the project management needs can be just roughly described. A schedule of monitoring surveys could look like this, if the project cycle in a given commune extends over 5 years :

Year 1	Baseline survey of socio-economic situation in project sites	PMS : a) community level indicators in project communes b) household level indicators : all households in project communes MIS additional indicators : all households or a sample of households in project communes, depending on the indicators In-depth interview (10-15 HHs) and group discussion in each project commune
Year 2	Annual update in project sites	PMS and MIS : updating of relevant indicators, according to their variability across time.
Year 3	Annual update in project sites Midterm qualitative household survey	PMS and MIS : updating of relevant indicators, according to their variability across time. In-depth interview (10-15 HHs) and group discussion in each project commune
Year 4	Annual update in project sites	PMS and MIS : updating of relevant indicators, according to their variability across time.
Year 5	Final survey of socio-economic situation in project sites	PMS and MIS : updating of relevant indicators, according to their variability across time. In-depth interview (10-15 HHs) and group discussion in each project commune

Theoretically, the wider scope of sample selection is the better. On the other hand, we must take into account that different types of non-sampling errors increase with sample size, as well as data management issues (database maintenance, data analysis within a reasonable time, etc.). There are currently more than 19,000 households in 23 communes in Ba-Thuoc district and 11000 households in 17 communes in Nhu-Xuan district. The diversity of socio-economic characteristics of population in different communities is very high.

The CIDA-supported project on "The Improved Livelihood for Mountainous Communities" will be implemented firstly in the two districts with total budget of 9 mill. CAD, over a period of five years. The scope of poverty monitoring, and more comprehensively, of project monitoring survey activities depend on the project's expected coverage during the five-year period, and on the project cycle within any commune, for an annual perspective of the workload and the related costs. In other words, it's impossible to be more precise here, since everything we can say depends on the project implementation stratregy, according to the expected level of outputs. The preceding table (survey schedule), applied to the number of implementing communes every year, gives a rough idea of the workload, database size and required resources, if the project complete cycle is 5 years. The picture would be quite different if the cycle was shorter, e.g. 3 years.

b) Data gathering:

Data gathering of the poverty monitoring survey based on the participatory principle.

Local experts, non-governmental organisations and people will involved in the process of data gathering, processing and analysis. It will create opportunity for local people to understand their poverty situation and to encourage them to activate the poverty alleviation measures.

The necessary pre-conditions of the implementation of participatory principle in poverty monitoring are:

- Awareness of local governments on their high responsibility in organizing data gathering and processing procedures.

- Availability of mass organisations which are actively operating for poverty alleviation.

- Self poverty monitoring methodology is enough simple so that every common people could understand and implement.

The commune data are gathered by cadres of statistics in the commune authorities on the basis of reports by administrative institutions, schools, and mass organizations. The acquisition of the above data is quite possible if the cadres of statistics of the commune is entrusted with this task and paid a certain subsidy for the job. In case the level of knowledge of the village cadres is limited (as in some mountainous areas) the regular gathering of these data can be entrusted to teachers working in the local school.

The data at household level are gathered with involvement of heads of villages (hamlets), representatives of mass organisations, local intellegents (teachers, health staffs, students of upper secondary schools, etc.). In view of really deepening the participative process and enhancing the local capacity, the hamlet sociological unit (village) with his leaders should be envisaged as a key actor in the implementation of PMS activities.

Most of the indicators are simple, they can be gathered by interviews combined with rapid observations. Some investigations can be entrusted to mass organizations as the Women, Peasants, Gardeners' Associations which are active members of the Committee of Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction of the village. These organisations should be active facilitators and participants of group discussion.

c) Data processing:

After gathering primary data, CECI consultants and district experts will synthesize it according to two systems : the community and household levels. The comparisons of poverty standards of the household level will reveal which ones belong to the category getting priority in support.

Later, data processing functions will be transferred to commune level. For that, the restoration of function of the statistics cadres in communes and enhancement of their capacity are most important. This capacity building could even start with the baseline operations. Considering the huge amount of data coming out of complete coverage for the core set of indicators at household level, it could be advantageous and more manageable to define the hamlet as the basic aggregation unit for these indicators, and thus, to develop the local capacity for data aggregation at this level. These are hypothesis to be pilot tested quite early in the implementation phase.

4.4. POVERTY MONITORING CAPACITY BUILDING

a) Training:

The database of communes and households should be established and kept in the distric administration. Nevertheless, data should be available in the commune, even with some disaggregation at the hamlet level, not only for local involvement in project monitoring, but more generally for local development management (targeting). This requirement would be met if some manual aggregation of household data was done within the commune, before the transmission at the district level. Then, some very simple and basic training would be needed at the commune level, involving the hamlet leaders (see above).

As mentioned in Part 2, according to regulation of MOLISA, district DOLISA is responsible for poverty alleviation and it manages database of MOLISA poverty assessment. In parallel, district Department of Statistics (DS) produces and stores statistical data of district, including household survey. Officials of DS are more experienced in conducting survey and managing database, than officials of DOLISA.

In order to make poverty database useful for policy making and implementing, it's to improve capacity of all officials in both DOLISA and DS. A training course on survey techniques and database use should be provided for them. Main content might be the following:

- Basic methods and techniques of socio-economic survey.

- Basic knowledge on computed database.

- One or two popular softwares with that the project will use for poverty monitoring.

This training course would be organised in two districts separately, with approx. 10 participants each.

Second training need is to provide to 1-2 officials in each district an advanced course on management of computed database. These officials will be better selected from DS. They will be trained in Thanh-Hoa University, or in a training centre for computer science in Thanh-Hoa city or Hanoi.

Third training need is improvement of statistical sytem for officials who are responsible for keeping statistics in communes.

b) Equipment:

It's to equip DOLISA and DS with computers, so these departments can produce and exploit household database for their works. In addition, some minimal equipment could be needed (filing cabinets, hand calculators, etc.) at the commune level.

APPENDIX

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000

Tables

Thanh Hoa "Situational Analysis Survey" Nov-Dec 2000
Sample description

			Ba Thuoc			Nhu xuan			
			Molisa poor household			Molisa poor household			
			Very Poor	Mod Poor	Non-Poor	Very Poor	Mod Poor	Non-Poor	Total
Zone	Remote	Count	26	9	26	38	3	9	111
	Middle	Count	17	6	28	15	5	29	100
Ethnicity	Kinh	Count	5	2	8	4		9	28
	Muong	Count	9	2	18	2	1	5	37
	Tay	Count						1	1
	Thai	Count	29	11	28	39	3	11	121
	Tho	Count				8	4	12	24
Sex Hld. head	Female	Count	6	2	2	8	1	3	22
	Male	Count	37	13	52	45	7	35	189
Total	Count		43	15	54	53	8	38	211

Thanh Hoa "Situational Analysis Survey" Nov-Dec 2000
Sample description

			Ba Thuoc				Nhu xuan			
			Molisa poor household				Molisa poor household			
			Very Poor	Mod Poor	Non-Poor	Total	Very Poor	Mod Poor	Non-Poor	Total
Zone	Remote	Count	26	9	26	61	38	3	9	50
	Middle	Count	17	6	28	51	15	5	29	49
Ethnicity	Kinh	Count	5	2	8	15	4		9	13
	Muong	Count	9	2	18	29	2	1	5	8
	Tay	Count							1	1
	Thai	Count	29	11	28	68	39	3	11	53
	Tho	Count					8	4	12	24
Sex Hld. head	Female	Count	6	2	2	10	8	1	3	12
	Male	Count	37	13	52	102	45	7	35	87
Total	Count		43	15	54	112	53	8	38	99

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 1a Population represented

		Commune							Molisa poor hld	
		Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa	Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total	'Poor'	'Non-poor'
# hlds		432	899	821	727	1548	1331	2879	895	1984
Population		2294	4558	3774	3642	7415	6851	14267	4794	9473
Hld size		5,3	5,1	4,6	5,0	4,8	5,1	5,0	5,4	4,8
Male per hld.		2,5	2,7	2,4	2,5	2,4	2,6	2,5	2,7	2,4
Female per hld.		2,9	2,4	2,2	2,5	2,3	2,6	2,4	2,7	2,3
Zone	Remote	432		821		821	432	1253	459	794
		100,0%		100,0%		53,0%	32,5%	43,5%	51,3%	40,0%
	Middle		899		727	727	899	1626	436	1190
			100,0%		100,0%	47,0%	67,5%	56,5%	48,7%	60,0%
Ethnic group	Kinh		248		211	211	248	459	103	355
			27,6%		29,0%	13,6%	18,6%	15,9%	11,6%	17,9%
	Muong		149		442	442	149	590	117	474
			16,5%		60,8%	28,5%	11,2%	20,5%	13,0%	23,9%
	Thai	432	57	821	75	896	489	1384	507	877
		100,0%	6,3%	100,0%	10,3%	57,9%	36,7%	48,1%	56,6%	44,2%
	Tho-Tay		445				445	445	168	277
			49,6%				33,5%	15,5%	18,8%	14,0%
Sex Hld. head	Female	61	71	21	75	95	132	227	120	107
		14,1%	7,9%	2,5%	10,3%	6,2%	9,9%	7,9%	13,4%	5,4%
	Male	371	828	800	652	1453	1199	2652	775	1877
		85,9%	92,1%	97,5%	89,7%	93,8%	90,1%	92,1%	86,6%	94,6%
Total		432	899	821	727	1548	1331	2879	895	1984
		100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 1b Distribution of the poor households

		Molisa classification			Total 4 communes
		Very Poor	Mod Poor	Non-Poor	
# hlds		706	189	1984	2879
hld %		24,5%	6,6%	68,9%	100,0%
Zone	Remote	381	78	794	1253
		30,4%	6,2%	63,4%	100,0%
	Middle	325	111	1190	1626
		20,0%	6,8%	73,2%	100,0%
Ethnic group	Kinh	90	14	355	459
		19,6%	3,0%	77,4%	100,0%
	Muong	89	28	474	590
		15,1%	4,7%	80,2%	100,0%
	Thai	415	91	877	1384
		30,0%	6,6%	63,4%	100,0%
	Tay-Tho	112	56	277	445
		25,1%	12,6%	62,3%	100,0%
Sex Hld. head	Female	92	28	107	227
		40,6%	12,1%	47,2%	100,0%
	Male	614	161	1877	2652
		23,2%	6,1%	70,8%	100,0%

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 1c Labour Force

	Commune				Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa				'Poor'	'Non-poor'
Population	2294	4558	3774	3642	7415	6851	14267	4794	9473
Active persons	1039	2506	2344	1998	4342	3545	7887	2374	5514
Act persons per hld	2,4	2,8	2,9	2,7	2,8	2,7	2,7	2,7	2,8
Male lab. per hld	1,2	1,4	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,3	1,4	1,3	1,4
Female lab. per hld	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,3	1,4
Farming	978	2193	2107	1563	3670	3172	6842	2200	4642
Industry, handi	0	0	22	102	124	0	124	41	83
Trade, services	5	0	0	285	285	5	291	66	224
Public servants	40	185	230	129	359	224	584	44	540

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 2a Agricultural land (m2) per household

		Commune				Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
		Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa				'Poor'	'Non-poor'
Other	%	3,7%	4,7%		25,2%	11,9%	4,4%	8,4%	6,3%	9,3%
Farmer	%	96,3%	95,3%	100,0%	74,8%	88,1%	95,6%	91,6%	93,7%	90,7%
Agric land per hld		3268	3002	2601	2096	2364	3088	2699	2566	2759
Rice field		1483	1838	1900	1459	1693	1723	1707	1640	1737
Corn		,	,	66	171	97	,	97	95	97
Cassava		528	206	634	553	596	284	461	499	443
Fruits		464	33	1	4	2	173	81	136	56
Tea		0	383	0	0	0	258	119	150	106
Coffee		968	0	0	0	0	314	145	95	168
Sugar cane		0	542	0	0	0	366	169	39	228

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 2a (cont.) Agricultural land (m2), per farm

		Commune				Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
		Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa				'Poor'	'Non-poor'
Farmer	%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Agric land per farm		3393	3152	2601	2803	2682	3231	2947	2739	3043
Rice field		1540	1930	1900	1952	1921	1802	1864	1750	1916
Corn		,	,	66	175	97	,	97	98	97
Cassava		559	216	634	740	676	299	505	535	492
Fruits		482	35	1	5	2	181	89	145	62
Tea		0	402	0	0	0	270	130	160	117
Coffee		1005	0	0	0	0	328	159	101	185
Sugar cane		0	569	0	0	0	383	185	42	252

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 2a (cont.) Agricultural land (m2), per capita

	Commune						Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa	Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan		'Poor'	'Non-poor'
Agric. land per cap	616	592	566	418	493	600	545	479	578
Rice field	279	363	413	291	353	335	344	306	364
Corn	,	,	14	34	20	,	20	19	21
Cassava	101	41	138	110	124	56	93	95	93
Fruits	87	7	0	1	0	34	16	25	12
Tea	0	75	0	0	0	50	24	28	22
Coffee	182	0	0	0	0	61	29	18	35
Sugar cane	0	107	0	0	0	71	34	7	48

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 2a (cont.) Agricultural land (m2), per capita, farmers only

	Commune						Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa	Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan		'Poor'	'Non-poor'
Agric. land per cap	627	624	566	544	557	625	591	508	634
Rice field	285	382	413	379	399	349	374	325	400
Corn	,	,	14	35	21	,	21	20	21
Cassava	104	43	138	144	140	58	102	101	102
Fruits	89	7	0	1	1	35	18	27	13
Tea	0	80	0	0	0	52	26	30	24
Coffee	186	0	0	0	0	64	32	19	39
Sugar cane	0	113	0	0	0	74	37	8	52

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Forest land (m2), per hld, owners only

	Commune						Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa	Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan		'Poor'	'Non-poor'
With forest	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Planted forest per hld	493	7073	1514	9600	3969	4674	4337	1061	5792
Natural forest per hld	28035	19932	3271	3244	3263	22886	13512	14212	13202
Total forest per hld	28528	27005	4785	12844	7232	27560	17850	15273	18994

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 2b Forest land (m2), per hld

	Commune				Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa				'Poor'	'Non-poor'
No forest	15,4%	29,1%	22,2%	61,7%	40,7%	24,6%	33,3%	34,0%	32,9%
With forest	84,6%	70,9%	77,8%	38,3%	59,3%	75,4%	66,7%	66,0%	67,1%
Planted forest per hld	417	5016	1178	3679	2352	3523	2894	700	3883
Natural forest per hld	23731	14136	2546	1243	1934	17251	9015	9377	8852
Total forest per hld	24149	19153	3724	4922	4287	20774	11909	10077	12735

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 3a Animal husbandry, heads per hld

	Commune				Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa				'Poor'	'Non-poor'
Without animals	1,2%	1,6%		7,5%	3,5%	1,5%	2,6%	3,7%	2,1%
With animals	98,8%	98,4%	100,0%	92,5%	96,5%	98,5%	97,4%	96,3%	97,9%
Buffalo per hld	1,14	,72	,03	,55	,27	,86	,54	,51	,56
Cattle per hld	,00	,10	1,41	,11	,80	,07	,46	,32	,52
Pigs per hld	1,03	1,74	2,07	1,90	1,99	1,51	1,77	1,13	2,06
Poultries per hld	13,23	34,48	41,58	25,08	33,83	27,58	30,94	16,08	37,64
Without buff/cattle	41,1%	48,1%	14,0%	57,0%	34,2%	45,9%	39,6%	39,5%	39,6%
With buff/cattle	58,9%	51,9%	86,0%	43,0%	65,8%	54,1%	60,4%	60,5%	60,4%

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 3b Animal husbandry, heads per hld having buffalos/cattle

	Commune				Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa				'Poor'	'Non-poor'
With animals	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Buffalo per hld	1,94	1,39	,03	1,28	,42	1,59	,90	,85	,92
Cattle per hld	,00	,20	1,63	,26	1,21	,13	,76	,53	,87
Pigs per hld	1,27	1,99	2,16	1,76	2,04	1,74	1,91	1,24	2,22
Poultries per hld	15,21	27,86	44,56	37,42	42,37	23,40	34,51	17,86	42,04
With buff/cattle	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 4 Housing

	Commune						Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa	Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan		'Poor'	'Non-poor'
No own house	1,2%					,4%	,2%	,6%	
Multistore brick		2,4%				1,6%	,7%		1,1%
Onestore brick			2,7%	15,9%	8,9%		4,8%	1,5%	6,3%
Permanent wood	33,7%	48,1%	26,1%	14,0%	20,4%	43,5%	31,1%	12,3%	39,5%
Wood bamboo	62,6%	46,4%	71,2%	58,9%	65,4%	51,6%	59,0%	76,7%	51,1%
Thatch roof	2,5%	3,1%		11,2%	5,3%	2,9%	4,2%	8,9%	2,1%

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 5a Drinking water

	Commune						Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa	Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan		'Poor'	'Non-poor'
dug well	42,9%	89,8%	20,7%	63,6%	40,8%	74,6%	56,4%	45,9%	61,2%
mountain stream	16,6%	3,1%	3,6%	12,1%	7,6%	7,5%	7,5%	12,3%	5,4%
river, pond ,lake	40,5%		75,7%	18,7%	48,9%	13,1%	32,4%	39,6%	29,1%
other		7,1%		5,6%	2,6%	4,8%	3,6%	2,3%	4,3%
Inside home	23,3%	83,5%	16,3%	67,3%	40,3%	63,9%	51,2%	39,4%	56,5%
Outside home	76,7%	16,5%	83,7%	32,7%	59,7%	36,1%	48,8%	60,6%	43,5%

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 5b Drinking water average distance (m)

	Commune						Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa	Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan		'Poor'	'Non-poor'
Distance	160	43	217	76	151	81	119	165	98

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 6 Durables (# per hld.)

		Commune				Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
		Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa				'Poor'	'Non-poor'
6a. Motocycles	# per hld	,06	,17	,11	,15	,13	,13	,13	,01	,18
6b. Bicycles	# per hld	,21	1,20	,91	,89	,90	,88	,89	,59	1,03
6c. TV sets	# per hld	,07	,43	,18	,34	,25	,31	,28	,09	,36
6d. Rado receivers	# per hld	,52	,36	,69	,37	,54	,41	,48	,33	,55
6e. Electric fans	# per hld	,00	,39	,11	,69	,38	,26	,33	,09	,43
6g. Refri	# per hld	,00	,02	,00	,11	,05	,02	,04	,00	,05
6h. Cars	# per hld	,00	,00	,00	,00	,00	,00	,00	,00	,00
6i. Tractors	# per hld	,00	,00	,00	,00	,00	,00	,00	,00	,00
6k. Water pumps	# per hld	,00	,02	,00	,01	,00	,02	,01	,01	,01
6l. Rice dreshers	# per hld	,11	,09	,23	,04	,14	,10	,12	,02	,17
6m. Other machines	# per hld	,00	,02	,14	,00	,08	,02	,05	,01	,07

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 7 Cloths, blankets, moskito nets

			Commune				Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
			Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa				'Poor'	'Non-poor'
7a. Warm cloths enough	No	Col %	84,1%	25,1%	56,7%	29,9%	44,1%	44,2%	44,2%	72,9%	31,2%
	Yes	Col %	15,9%	74,9%	43,3%	70,1%	55,9%	55,8%	55,8%	27,1%	68,8%
7b. Warm blankets enough	No	Col %	61,4%	16,7%	43,7%	18,7%	32,0%	31,4%	31,7%	53,0%	22,3%
	Yes	Col %	38,6%	83,3%	56,3%	81,3%	68,0%	68,6%	68,3%	47,0%	77,7%
7c. Moskito nets enough	No	Col %	11,7%	3,1%	36,0%	11,2%	24,4%	5,9%	15,8%	21,5%	13,3%
	Yes	Col %	88,3%	96,9%	64,0%	88,8%	75,6%	94,1%	84,2%	78,5%	86,7%

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 8a Underemployment

			Commune				Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
			Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa				'Poor'	'Non-poor'
8a. Lack of jobs	No	Col %	61,3%	38,7%	17,8%	24,0%	20,7%	46,0%	32,5%	23,0%	36,8%
	Yes	Col %	38,7%	61,3%	82,2%	76,0%	79,3%	54,0%	67,5%	77,0%	63,2%

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 8b Underemployment: # of months

	Commune						Total 4	Molisa poor hld	
	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa	Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	communes	'Poor'	'Non-poor'
8b. How many months # of months	4,3	4,7	3,3	6,2	4,6	4,6	4,6	4,8	4,5

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 9 Education

		Commune							Molisa poor hld	
		Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa	Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	'Poor'	'Non-poor'
9a. Children 6-14 not going to school	Number	66	70	77	88	166	136	302	215	87
	Mean per hld.	,15	,08	,09	,12	,11	,10	,10	,24	,04
9a1. Male	Number	29	14	36	34	70	43	113	67	46
	Mean per hld.	,07	,02	,04	,05	,05	,03	,04	,07	,02
9a2. Female	Number	37	56	41	54	96	93	189	148	41
	Mean per hld.	,09	,06	,05	,07	,06	,07	,07	,17	,02
9b. Primary schooling	Number	710	849	419	734	1153	1559	2713	1096	1617
	Mean per hld.	1,64	,94	,51	1,01	,74	1,17	,94	1,22	,81
9b1. Male	Number	355	467	278	408	686	822	1508	579	929
	Mean per hld.	,82	,52	,34	,56	,44	,62	,52	,65	,47
9b2. Female	Number	355	382	163	319	483	737	1220	510	710
	Mean per hld.	,82	,43	,20	,44	,31	,55	,42	,57	,36
9c. Lower secondary schooling	Number	140	511	658	347	1004	651	1656	359	1297
	Mean per hld.	,33	,57	,80	,48	,65	,49	,58	,40	,65
9c1. Male	Number	50	319	410	163	573	370	943	165	779
	Mean per hld.	,12	,36	,50	,22	,37	,28	,33	,18	,39
9c2. Female	Number	90	191	225	183	408	282	690	194	496
	Mean per hld.	,21	,21	,27	,25	,26	,21	,24	,22	,25
9d. Upper secondary schooling	Number	0	241	45	183	228	241	470	48	421
	Mean per hld.	,00	,27	,05	,25	,15	,18	,16	,05	,21
9d1. Male	Number	0	163	0	95	95	163	259	28	231
	Mean per hld.	,00	,18	,00	,13	,06	,12	,09	,03	,12
9d2. Female	Number	0	78	45	88	133	78	211	21	190
	Mean per hld.	,00	,09	,05	,12	,09	,06	,07	,02	,10
9e. Adult illiterated	Number	98	57	330	115	445	155	600	274	327
	Mean per hld.	,23	,06	,40	,16	,29	,12	,21	,31	,16
9e1. Male	Number	32	0	107	27	134	32	166	101	65
	Mean per hld.	,07	,00	,13	,04	,09	,02	,06	,11	,03
9e2. Female	Number	66	57	223	88	312	123	435	173	261
	Mean per hld.	,15	,06	,27	,12	,20	,09	,15	,19	,13

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 10 Health

			Commune							Molisa poor hld	
			Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa	Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	'Poor'	'Non-poor'
10a. Chronically sick	Number		186	530	328	231	559	716	1275	492	783
	Mean per hld.		,43	,59	,40	,32	,36	,54	,44	,55	,39
10a1. Male	Number		37	184	191	95	286	221	507	182	325
	Mean per hld.		,09	,20	,23	,13	,18	,17	,18	,20	,16
10a2. Female	Number		148	346	137	136	273	494	768	310	458
	Mean per hld.		,34	,38	,17	,19	,18	,37	,27	,35	,23
10b. How far to	Average time (min.)		45	40	40	29	35	42	38	44	35
10c. Where treatment	a:self	%	1,2%			,9%	,4%	,4%	,4%	1,4%	
	a,b	%			19,3%		10,2%		5,5%	7,7%	4,5%
	a,b,c	%		1,6%	,8%		,4%	1,1%	,7%	2,3%	
	a.b.c	%				2,8%	1,3%		,7%		1,0%
	b:commune	%	82,8%	18,1%	31,2%	3,7%	18,3%	39,1%	27,9%	34,6%	24,9%
	b,c	%	1,2%	21,2%	48,7%		25,9%	14,7%	20,7%	22,3%	20,0%
	c:hospital	%	14,7%	59,1%		92,5%	43,5%	44,7%	44,0%	31,8%	49,6%

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 11a Credit

			Commune							Molisa poor hld	
			Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa	Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	'Poor'	'Non-poor'
11a. Borrowed	No	Number hlds.	135	134	187	156	344	269	613	243	369
		%	31,7%	14,9%	22,8%	21,5%	22,2%	20,3%	21,3%	27,4%	18,6%
	Yes	Number hlds.	292	765	634	571	1204	1057	2261	646	1615
		%	68,3%	85,1%	77,2%	78,5%	77,8%	79,7%	78,7%	72,6%	81,4%

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 11b Credit (cont) Borrowers only

			Commune				Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
			Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa				'Poor'	'Non-poor'
11b. How much borrowed	Avg indebtness VND		1,566,276	4,686,837	2,138,587	3,969,243	3,006,046	3,825,716	3,389,065	2,696,288	3,666,317
11c. From whom	1: relatives,friends	%		4,6%		10,7%	5,1%	3,3%	4,3%	5,3%	3,8%
	1,2	%				1,2%	,6%		,3%	1,0%	
	1,3	%		2,8%		1,2%	,6%	2,0%	1,2%	1,0%	1,3%
	1,4	%		3,7%				2,7%	1,2%	4,3%	
	2,3 (2:private lender)	%		2,8%		4,8%	2,3%	2,0%	2,1%	1,0%	2,6%
	2,4	%				1,2%	,6%		,3%	1,0%	
	3:VN Agric. Bank	%	80,9%	57,5%	29,2%	51,2%	39,6%	64,0%	51,0%	35,2%	57,4%
	3,4	%	5,5%	4,6%				4,9%	2,3%	4,6%	1,3%
	3,6	%		9,2%		1,2%	,6%	6,7%	3,4%	5,4%	2,6%
	4:Bank for the Poor	%	13,6%	14,7%	70,8%	23,8%	48,5%	14,4%	32,6%	39,9%	29,7%
	7:other	%				4,8%	2,3%		1,2%	1,0%	1,3%

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 12 Household self-assessment of living standard

			Commune				Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
			Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa				'Poor'	'Non-poor'
12. Self-assessment	Good	%	5,5%	2,4%		8,4%	4,0%	3,4%	3,7%		5,4%
	Middle	%	11,0%	40,3%	39,7%	31,8%	36,0%	30,8%	33,6%	7,0%	45,6%
	Poor	%	42,9%	46,3%	46,5%	38,3%	42,6%	45,2%	43,8%	63,4%	35,0%
	Very poor	%	40,5%	11,1%	13,8%	21,5%	17,4%	20,6%	18,9%	29,6%	14,1%

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 15a Income/expenditure per household (annual, VND)

	Commune				Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa				'Poor'	'Non-poor'
15. Total gross income	4,013,691	6,764,066	5,024,405	5,945,430	5,456,954	5,871,382	5,648,549	3,021,276	6,833,736
Rice Turnover	2,750,978	1,930,055	1,536,237	1,423,926	1,483,491	2,196,501	1,813,125	1,430,025	1,985,945
Cultivation production value	2,968,669	2,610,945	1,772,543	1,719,103	1,747,446	2,727,051	2,200,330	1,664,921	2,441,858
Livestock outputs	502,021	2,028,255	2,007,974	1,645,314	1,837,655	1,532,888	1,696,757	906,111	2,053,425
Total production expences	736,592	1,656,235	605,123	1,199,270	884,157	1,357,748	1,103,104	1,280,268	1,023,184
Total non-food consumption expenditures	953,798	2,990,054	1,683,663	1,765,505	1,721,519	2,329,150	2,004,439	1,448,829	2,257,683

Thanh Hoa Situational Survey Nov-Dec 2000
Table 15b Income per capita (VND)

	Commune				Ba Thuoc	Nhu Xuan	Total 4 communes	Molisa poor hld	
	Thanh-Phong	Yen-Le	Co-Lung	Lam-Xa				'Poor'	'Non-poor'
Annual income per capita (gross)	756,005	1,334,216	1,093,106	1,186,901	1,139,168	1,140,652	1,139,881	564,071	1,431,276
Net monthly income per capita	51,439	83,960	80,121	78,957	79,550	73,073	76,439	27,087	101,415