COMMUNITY-BASED POVERTY MONITORING IN VIETNAM

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Poverty Monitoring in Vietnam

Two Poverty Monitoring Systems:

1. Household Living Standard Surveys:
   - Main indicators: income and expenditures
   - Implementing agencies: WB, GSO
   - Methodology:
     + National survey conducted by GSO and provincial statistics departments
     + Centralised data processing
     + Results provided for macroeconomic policy making.
Poverty Monitoring in Vietnam

2. Community-Based Poverty Assessment:
   - Main indicators: income
   - Time: annual, since 1995
   - Implementing agencies: MOLISA + provinces
   - Methodology:
     + MOLISA identified income-based poverty line
     + Community’s leaders conducted HH income survey
     + Households in hamlet discourse on poverty assessment and decide who are poor
     + Results used for daily implementation of poverty reduction policies.
Strengths and weaknesses of present CBPMS

• **Strengths:**
  + Participation of local people in poverty assessment
  + Providing useful information on poverty for local needs and for implementation of national poverty reduction policies.
  + Low costs

• **Weaknesses:**
  + Limited content (only income indicator)
  + Difficult to synthetise data at national level because data were collected in different periods.
Our Poverty Monitoring Concept

1) **Comprehensive analysis:** Poverty is observed as a multi-dimensional feature and therefore assessed not by only one main indicator.

   => Set of indicators = Income + Basic needs (food, cloths, access to public services, etc)

2) **Community-based data collection:** Local people are involved in data collection and processing.

3) **Localisation of information:** Local communities own and use collected information in their poverty reduction and rural development activities.
How to do?

1. Local people are surveyors
   Our experts are trainers and supervisors. Local staff are surveyors.

2. Combination of quantitative methods and qualitative methods
   Using questionnaire and indicators combined with group discussion, key informant interviews, etc.

3. Localisation of survey results:
   + Simple questionnaires
   + Simple data processing software
   + Simple output indicators
Research Activity of Vietnam's CBMS-Project in 2002-2005

- Establishing a system of poverty observatories.
- Implementing CBMS methodology in data collection and processing of poverty observatory system;
- Testing methodology, implementing in one/some selected provinces, then extending in the whole country.
Purpose of poverty observatory system

- To follow-up poverty tendencies in the whole country.
- To analyse impacts of policy and measures of poverty reduction to poor households and comunes.
- To evaluate of implementation of the National Programme of Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction.
Sampling principle

Survey samples should include representatives of:

- Different major geographical types of the country (delta, low and high mountainous, coastal, big - small cities);
- Different types of population communities (rural, sub-urban, urban);
- Different main ethnic groups.

=> Combining representative and random sampling.
Sampling

• There are 8 geographical-economic regions in Vietnam => Selecting 1-2 provinces in each region.
• Randomly selecting 1-2 communes in each province.
• There are 1000-2000 households in a commune. => Survey size is approx. 200 households in each commune.
• Randomly selecting hamlets in selected communes.
• Conducting household census of the selected hamlets.
Poverty observatories in 2002

* 13 provinces
* 20 communes:
  + 17 rural
  + 3 urban
* 4000 households
* 18,000 individuals:
  + 82% ethnic majority
  + 18% ethnic minorities
Indicators of community profile

1. **General living standard**: poverty incidence, price of labour day
2. **Land**: cultivated area per capita, % of landless HHs
3. **Employment**: % under-employed labourers, % farm- / off-farm labourers
4. **Health**: child malnutrition rate, child mortality rate, availability of communal health clinics, # medical staff per 1000 inhabitants
5. **Education**: adult illiterate, enrolment of children in primary school age, # teachers per 1000 inhabitants
6. **Living conditions**: % types of housing, safe water, bathroom, sanitary toilet, electricity.
7. **Culture & communication**: availability of public cultural facilities, local market, # telephones per 1000 inhabitants.
8. **Participation in social activities**: # members of political, social and mass organisations per 1000 inhabitants.
9. **Gender relations**: # female leaders of social organisations and public holders.
Indicators of household poverty

1. **Food security**: Food poverty line (per capita amount of rice in a month), value of daily ration.

2. **Employment**: under-employment rate.

3. **Health**: adult chronic illness, ability to access to medical care.

4. **Education**: adult illiterate rate, enrolment of children in primary school age, availability of TV, radio.

5. **Housing**: types of house.

6. **Income**: per capita income, structure of household’s income.

7. **Expenditures**: main consumption expenditures:
   - Food
   - Education
   - Health care
   - Social and community relations
   - Contribution for community funds.
Data processing

- Computerising collected household data.
- Using commonly and easily used software (Excel)
- Designing ready formula files for main indicators
- Testing and transferring data processing tools to localities.

=> Easy implementation and extending CBMS system at localities.
Thank you