

Land Reform and Rural Livelihoods

Institutional Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources
Institutioneller Wandel der Landwirtschaft und Ressourcennutzung

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Aim and Scope of the Series

„Nothing endures but change“. Heraclitus the Ephesian (ca. 535–475 BC)

Institutions, defined as “the rules of the game”, are a key factor to the sustainable development of societies. They structure not only the multitude of human-human interactions of modern societies, but also most of the human-nature interactions. Poverty, famine, civil war, degradation of natural resources and even the collapse of ecosystems and societies often have institutional causes, likewise social and economic prosperity, sustainable use of resources and the resilience of socio-ecological systems. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries are those human activities where the interdependencies between human-human and human-nature interactions are perhaps most pronounced, and diverse institutions have been developed in history to govern them.

Social and ecological conditions are, however, ever changing, which continuously challenge the existing institutional structure at a given point in time. Those changes may be long-term, like population growth or climate change, medium-term, such as new technologies or changing price relations, or short-term, like floods or bankruptcies, but all of them pose the question whether the rules of the game need to be adapted. Failures to adapt timely and effectively may come at a high social cost. Institutional change, however, face a principal dilemma: on the one hand, institutions need to be stable to structure expectations and effectively influence human behaviors; on the other hand, they need to be adaptive to respond to the ever changing circumstance mentioned above. Understanding stability and change as well as developing adaptive institutions and effective, efficient and fair mechanisms of change are, therefore, of central importance for societies and an ongoing research challenge for social scientists.

If we want to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and adaptability of institutions, it stands to reason that we have to develop a good understanding of the causes, effects, processes and mechanism of stability and change. This is the aim of the series “Institutional Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources,” which attempts to answer the questions “How do processes and mechanism of institutional change actually work? What and who are the main determinants and actors driving, governing and influencing these processes? What are the economic, political, social and ecological consequences? How can adaptive institutions be designed and developed, and what governance structures are required to make them effective?” These are the questions at the heart of the series. The works published in this series seek to provide answers to these questions in different economic, social, political and historical contexts.

Volker Beckmann and Konrad Hagedorn
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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Abbreviations and Glossaries

AFTA	Asean Free Trade Area
ADB	Asian Development Bank
Agr.	Agriculture
BARD	Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development
BFP	Bureau of Forest Protection
BNRE	Bureau of Natural Resources and Environment
CCTS	Center for Cadastral Technical Services
CEECs	Central and Eastern European Countries
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CISs	Commonwealth of Independent States
CL	Communal Level
CLAC	Communal Land Allocation Committee
CMEMA	Committee for Mountainous and Ethnic Minority Affairs
CPC	Communal People's Committee
CP	<i>Chinh Phu</i> - Government
CT	<i>Chi Thi</i> - Directive
CTNP	Cat Tien National Park
CT/TW	<i>Chi Thi Trung Uong Dang</i> – Directive of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party
<i>Cung</i>	Traditional Offering
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DC-DKTK	<i>Cong Van Huong Dan Cua So Dia Chinh ve Dang Ky Thong Ke</i> - the Provincial Department of Land Administration's Document on Land Registration and Land Statistics
DFID	Department for International Development
DMS	Department of Migration and Sedentarization
DNRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
DL	District Level
<i>Doi Moi</i>	Renovation or Reform
<i>Dong Nam Bo</i>	The Southeastern Region of Vietnam
D-POs	Direct and Participant Observations
DR	Document Research
DRV	The Democratic Republic of Vietnam
DPC	District People's Committee
e.g.	<i>exempli gratia</i> (for example)
et al.	<i>et alia</i> (and others)
etc.	<i>et cetera</i> (and so on)

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGs	Focus Groups
FIPI	Forest Inventory and Planning Institute
FSU	Former Soviet Union
GDLA	General Department of Land Administration
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoV	Government of Vietnam
GSO	General Statistics Office
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH - German Agency for Technical Cooperation
Ha	Hectare
HDBT	<i>Hoi Dong Bo Truong</i> - The Council of Ministers
HD-DC	<i>Huong Dan Dia Chinh</i> - The Guideline for Land Administration Affairs
HHs	Household(s)
HRS	Household Responsibility System
ibid.	<i>ibidem</i> (in the sample place)
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
i.e.	<i>id est</i> (that is)
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
KATO	Comparative Analysis of the Transition Process in the Agricultural Sectors of Selected Central and Eastern European Countries Project
KIs	Key Informants
<i>Kinh</i>	Major Vietnamese
L/CTN	<i>Lenh Cua Chu Tich Nuoc</i> - Order of the State President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
LTC	Land Tenure Certificate
<i>Ma</i>	Indigenous Ethnic Minority Live in the Southern Uplands of Vietnam
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Mil.	Million
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOF	Ministry of Forestry
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NFLSV	The National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam
NL	National Level
No.	Number
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Product(s)
OEI	Open-End Interview
QD-TTg	<i>Quyết Định Cua Thu Tuong Chinh Phu</i> - Decision of the Premier

QD-BNN-TCCB	<i>Quyết Định Của Bộ Nông Nghiệp và Phát Triển Nông Thôn về Tổ Chức Cán Bộ</i> - Decision of MARD on Personnel
RV	The Republic of Vietnam
RLCL	Rural Land Contracting Law
SD	Secondary Data
SFE	State Forest Enterprise
SI	Structured Interview
SID	Simpson Index
SL	Sustainable Livelihoods
SRV	The Socialist Republic of Vietnam
SSI	Semi-structured Interview
TAT	Technical Assistant Team
<i>Tay</i>	Indigenous Ethnic Minority Traditionally Live in Vietnam's Northern Uplands
<i>To Doan Ket</i>	The Solid Team of Agricultural Production
<i>Tap Doan San Xuat</i>	Production Bridge
TT-TCDC	<i>Thông Tư Của Tổng Cục Địa Chính</i> - Circular of GDLA
TTLT-TCDC-BTC	<i>Thông Tư Liên Bộ Của Tổng Cục Địa Chính và Bộ Tài Chính</i> - Joint Circular of GDLA and Ministry of Finance
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
UNDP	The United Nation Development Program
UNRISD	The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
US\$	United States Dollar (1 US\$ equalizing 15,393 VND at the time of fieldwork)
VBARD	Vietnamese Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
VBSP	Vietnam Bank for Social Policies
VDR	Vietnam Development Report
VL	Village Level
VLAT	Village Land Allocation Team
VND	Vietnamese Dong (the National Currency of Vietnam)
WCARRD	World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
VCP	Vietnam Communist Party
VWP	Vietnam Workers' Party
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature