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“Development on the margin”

Adaptation of Farming Systems to Socio-economic Changes in Market-oriented Economy of Vietnam

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Abstract

Vietnam has been an attempt to participate in the World Trade Organisation in opening economy; therefore, farming system has had an adaptation to meet the market-oriented demand. To understand an operation of adapting of farms related to socio-economic changes, an investigation was conducted by semi—structure questionnaire at three representative communes with 210 households and local administrators in Cam Giang district, Hai Duong province. The result showed that in the period 1986–1992 (before Land Law 1993), production systems were extensive and small scale. After enforcement of new Land Law 1993 to 2003, the farmers had a chance for accumulating land, access capital sources and a lot benefit from the extension programs thus, these farms were intensive with larger scale. From 2003 to 2010, under the provincial policy 69.2 % households brought and rented land, 70.6 % accessed credit sources for expanding production, three types of system were established: Winter Crop System (WCS), Animal and Aquaculture System (AAS) and Mix Production System (MPS). The WCS had 80 % specialised carrot cultivation farms thanks to comparative advantages as the riverside land with fertile alluvium soil. The intensive AAS occupied 65 % with 1000—3000 broiler chickens or 50—100 fattening pig per cycle with largest land scale 20 sao (360m²/sao) brought the highest income with 192,314 thousand VND, but it has more often faced many risks of epidemics, instability of output price. The scale of MPS was the smallest (under 5 sao per household) and lowest income (nearly 42 million VND per household per year). However, it had 1.4 labors per household joined in non-farm activities to get a higher and firmer income. The study has demonstrated the farming system has changed in quantity and quality and each household was carried out an individual adaptive strategy for getting more stable efficiency.

Keywords: Adaptation, Agricultural System, Farming System