

# Co-governance of Natural Resources in Cao Quang

## Internship Program





# 1. Introduction

- ❖ Community based groups ( participatory need assessment for improving livelihoods) from 1994 to 1996
- ❖ Awareness Raising, capacity training, grassroots leadership ( 1997-2000)
- ❖ Community's need for land users' rights ( 2002)
- ❖ Community based land allocation (2003) nearly completed



- ❖ Land allocation process was replaced by Cao Qung Forest Enterprise (End of 2003)
- ❖ Cao Quang people organized negotiation with the government to get back their territory (2004-2005)
- ❖ #342/QD-TTg/2005 ( resigned Cao Quang government's forest enterprise)
- ❖ The land territory was returned to Cao Quang people(2006 – 2007)
- ❖ Startup of a few land areas of Acacia plantation\_700 Ha (2009-2014)
- ❖ Mushrooming of Acacia plantation throughout forest areas (2014-2025) 10% of total land territory (1100 ha) for mid-term household economy
- ❖ Legal frameworks for land rights provided by the government (2017)
- ❖ Community's needs aligning with the government's objectives
  - ❖ In 2019, a pilot program was launched involving 42 households
  - ❖ The program was expanded in 2022 to include 525 households



## 2. Co-governance

❖ **A process** : Co-governance that involves various stakeholders, including community members, leaders, government authorities, and agencies

❖ **Effective management power sharing** : Structure of horizontal and vertical governance

Horizontal = household units, community leaders, and agencies

Vertical = official community representatives, the executive committee, and local authorities





### 3. Process of co-governance

- a. Designation of rights and responsibilities
- b. Agro-Ecology based Landscape features/charecteristics
- c. Management and Monitoring





# a. Designation of rights and responsibilities



- ❖ **Demarcating the boundaries for community territories and forest landowners:** Enabled to manage their forests and lands, ensuring that no area is neglected
- ❖ **Allocation of forest areas along with clearly defined responsibilities:** Greater community's participation in bottom-up management respecting traditional rules and adhering to national laws
- ❖ **Ensuring Rights to manage and use land as well as promoting resource security and sustainability**





## b. Agro-Ecology based Landscape design

- ❖ Master land-use planning based on landscape core features/charecteristics
- ❖ 3 designated layers with specific purposes: Upper layer, Middle layer and Lower layer ( better management for environmental care and preservation)
- ❖ Beautiful natural environment ensuring effective and sustainable land use





## b. Agro-Ecology based Landscape design

### ❖ Upper Layer

#### Natural Forest :

- **Ecological genetic values:** sustaining local flora and fauna plus water sources
- **Non-timber products:** for household needs, such as food, herbal medicines, and essential household materials
- **Healthy Environment:** improving air quality, providing abundant water sources, enriching the soil in the lower layers, mitigating climate change, preventing landslides, and protecting topsoil



### ❖ Middle Layer

**Production Forest – Acacia forests:** short-term and mid-term cash income, supporting various social, educational, and developmental needs of families



### ❖ Lower Layer

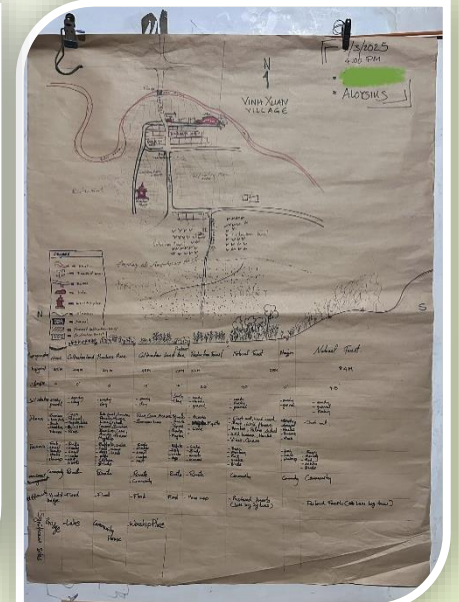
**Seasonal agriculture and agro-ecological garden:** daily livelihood source, goods and income for the immediate needs of the families





## c. Management and Monitoring

- ❖ **Diagram mapping and landscape transects cutting:** Better land management planning from the family level to the community level
- ❖ **Resource monitoring and auditing** (systematic calculations and documentation of resources according to category, name, type, quantity, volume and usefulness):
  - better decision making for resource use, preservation and enhancement
  - helps mitigate the global impact of carbon credits in a fair and equitable manner
- ❖ **Digital maps:** Quick access to essential geographic information and facilitating effective resource management and oversight





## 4. Achievements/Results of Co-governance in Cao Quang

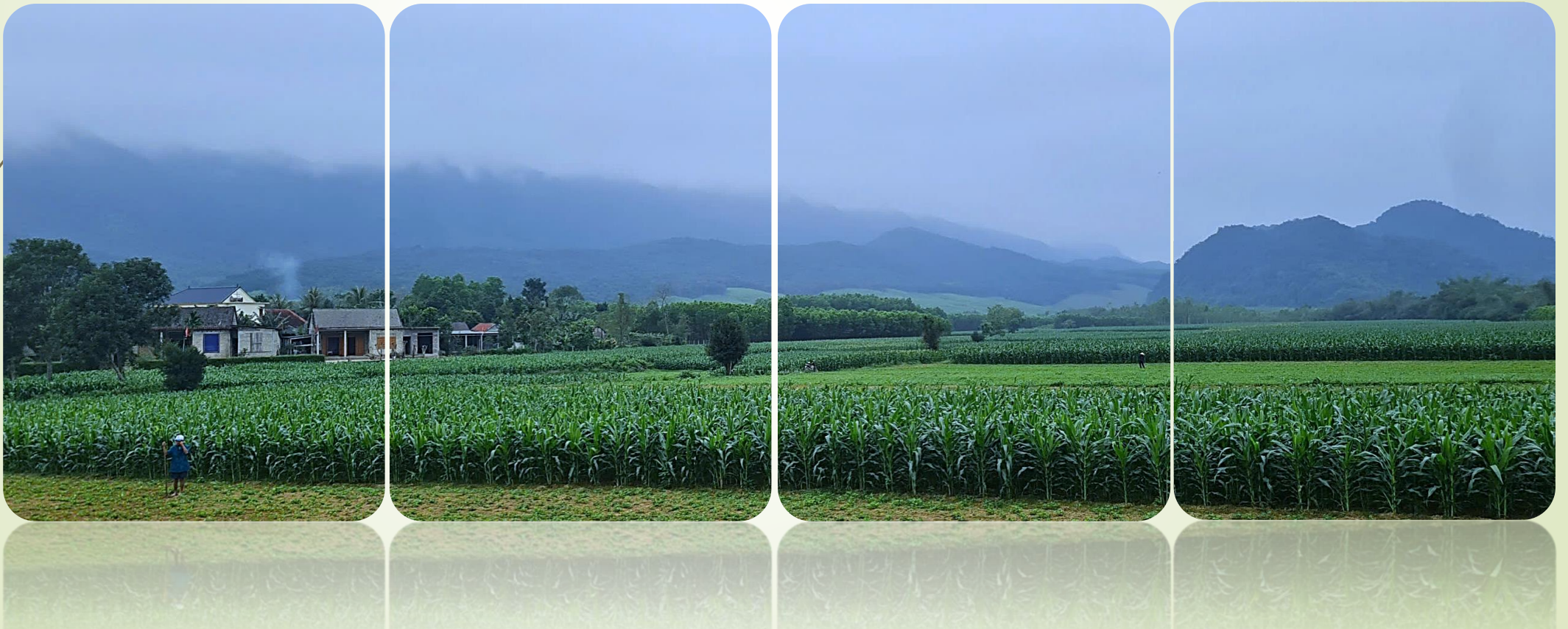
- ❖ ***Transitioning from community-based groups to community-based institutions:*** Strong leadership
- ❖ ***Transforming Barren Lands into Forested Areas:*** Barren lands to forested areas ( case of Vinh Xuan)
- ❖ ***Co-governance as part of political, economic and livelihood system:*** Addressing political, economic, and livelihood challenges necessitates considering co-governance in land use
- ❖ ***A concrete model of successful co-governance:*** Attention and interest from both national and international observers, as well as development organizations; Two key supportive elements of community-based institutions and agro-ecology-based landscape design
- ❖ ***From individual responsibilities to communal accountability:*** rights and responsibilities of individual person are interconnected for the common good of the community as a whole





## 5. Summary

- ❖ A powerful example of how grassroots leadership and co-governance can harmonize environmental sustainability with community empowerment and socio-economic development





Thank you for your attention

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