



## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

### Mary: Assignment, Exercise, Essay & Narrative Reporting

#### April 11, 2025. Comments on SYMPOSIUM

The *SYMPOSIUM* was a very *collaborative event*, with a diverse group of participants. The event covered topics such as agriculture and green revolution, carbon measurement, and the topics learned during the 2-month internship, such as co-governance, nursery, and master land use planning. *Co-governance is a very important* topic in Vietnam. Currently, Vietnam is encouraging the *reduction of 10% of Acacia plantations* each year and replanting them with indigenous trees. Various departments were able to share their views on the presentations. The *land management (co-governance)* of Cao Quang and Vin Xuan villages is a *strong example* for us and a model village to emulate. The key farmers are not only qualified but also practical.

We learned that they are able to share what they know and understand well and are also teaching others their knowledge. Looking at the participation of different departments, we also concluded that *SPERI has good leadership, advocacy skills, and leadership skills*. We also learned that it is necessary to continue to conserve forests while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples *in line with the government's guidance*.

The *SYMPOSIUM* event is an approach and can be a *powerful way for advocacy*. Through the participation of the press and media, the public will be able to learn about SPERI's activities, the status of participation and opinions of various departments. It is hoped *that better work plans can be drawn up* based on the discussions and reviews of sharing in *SYMPOSIUM*.

If there had been an introduction program with the participants, it would have been possible to learn which organizations were represented. Due to the limited time available for the event, there was no time for questions and discussion. Mary/ 11/4/2025/ 2:06 PM.

#### April 11, 2025. Understanding Concept of Internship Program /Short define

##### (1) What do you mean about agriculture?

- Agriculture is a simple livelihood activity that is widely practiced in mountainous and flat regions around the world. It is a livelihood activity that relies on the land and natural environment to provide food for oneself and generate income by growing different seasonal crops, short-term crops, and long-term crops. There are also different agricultural systems that have evolved over time.

##### (2) Chemical agriculture (can eat directly for example – rice)

- Agriculture is seen as an income generating business, and due to the increasing demand for foreign products, the use of chemicals to make crops grow faster, produce more fruits, and increase yields has become more common. This has led to an increase in crop yields and a quick

income in the short term. However, chemicals can also cause environmental damage, such as soil erosion, the destruction of beneficial insects, and air and water pollution. Chemicals are increasingly used in rice and corn cultivation, especially in the fields of rice and corn.

**(3) Industrial agriculture**

- Mechanized agriculture is a farming system that replaces human and animal labor with machines. This system allows for faster planting, harvesting, production, and distribution, leading to faster income generation. As mechanized agriculture develops, cash crops such as maize, oil palm, and cassava are grown as the primary crops, and livestock is also being raised. As machines replace humans, they face challenges such as job losses, food shortages, and land loss.

**(4) Technological agriculture**

- Technological cultivation is the use of technology to produce seeds, and to create a new seed by cross-pollinating two different seeds. The technology is designed to make the seeds produced using artificial cultivation more productive, more resistant to weather and pests, less water-absorbing, and less dependent on chemical fertilizers.

**(5) Digital agriculture – GPS everything (coming from Chemical producing by factory) – Remote control**

- Digital agriculture is the practice of using GPS devices to measure ground conditions and remotely control modern equipment to prepare the soil for planting seeds, sow seeds, spray water, apply fertilizers, harvest fruits, and pack them.

**(6) Organic farming (Madam Huyen garden)**

- Organic farming is a system of cultivating crops that are environmentally friendly and that use natural methods to improve the soil. It is a system of growing biodiversity in a natural way in a place. It is an agricultural system that benefits the environment by interrelating plants, soil, and insects. From land preparation to harvest, soil preparation, planting, fertilization, and maintenance are all done naturally without the use of any chemicals.

**(7) Agroforestry farming (Mr.Su)**

- Agroforestry farming is a sustainable agricultural business that involves the cultivation of various crop forests and livestock in one place based on the slope. Agroforestry farming provides benefits such as increased carbon absorptions, protection against soil erosion, promotion of biodiversity, and income generation through the sale of non-timber forest products and livestock.

**(8) Agroecology**

- Agroecology is a way to protect the environment, conserve biodiversity, and ensure social and economic equity for farming communities. It emphasizes working with nature, using the techniques such as crop rotation, organic farming, and agroforestry to build environmentally and socially just, resilient, and sustainable food systems.

**(9) Ecological cultivation (HEPA)**

- Ecological farming refers to the practice of managing and nurturing ecosystems, a way/method that supports both environmental health and agricultural productivity. It involves understanding and applying farming, gardening, forestry, and other land management practices to enhance biodiversity, soil health, water conservation, and overall ecosystem sustainability.

## **March 07, 2025. Co-Governance Understanding (by Mrs Lanh)**

### **Q1. How land, forest and Acacia Plantation management practices in Vinh Xuan village?**

Vinh Xuan village is a village bordering the Nan River. In terms of agriculture, the land near the river is used for planting peanuts, corn, and acacia. In the village, along with the houses, mangoes, bananas, lychees, guava, guava, yams, limes, coconuts, sugarcane, papaya, and cassava are cultivated as seasonal crops. They also raise buffaloes, cows, and chickens. In the western part of the village, rice and acacia are also cultivated. There are three types of land use in Vinh Xuan village. The first type of land is mixed seasonal crop land, acacia-only land, and natural forest conservation land.

Although the village is facing to flooding every year due to its proximity to the Nan River, the people of Vinh Xuan Village have been carefully planning their harvests to avoid damage to their crops, based on the potential for flooding. They have also planned to relocate their cattle and buffaloes to higher ground to avoid loss of water.

The soil types are land (silty), sandy, and rocky. Sandy soils are more suitable for growing Acacia than seasonal crops. Chestnut trees, a valuable tree, are also found in the natural forest, and the people of Vinh Xuan Village value and preserve them to increase their income. The natural forest reserve also preserves a water source that can provide enough water for the entire village of Vinh Xuan. Along the water source, you can find natural medicinal plants, crabs, fish, and frogs. We learned that wild animals such as squirrels, cockroaches, wizards, bears (rare), and monkeys also live in the natural forest. We also learned that there are more than (200) types of natural medicinal plants.

The people of Vinh Xuan village own seasonal crop and Acacia land by family, and the natural forest is protected by a public ownership system. They also have the right to extract and use non-timber forest products from the natural forest.

We also learned about the history of the sacred place and the worship rituals of the village elders in Vinh Xuan village. We also learned about the history of a lake in the northeast of the village and the banyan tree near the lake, which is in high demand, but is not sold and is valued by the villagers.

We observed that the people of Vinh Xuan village, from relevant authorities to the villagers, are using and managing their land assets well.

### **Q2. What is Co-Governance Practice of Land, Forest and Acacia in Vinh Xuan village?**

In Vinh Xuan village, the land is divided into residential area, natural forest, eco forest (Acacia), agricultural land, farmland, land for peanut and corn cultivation. Acacia is the main crop for their income. Before 2017, the forest was scarce due to the logging of trees in the natural forest, but after 2017, the villagers have been restoring the natural forest by planting trees. The land is divided into corn, peanut, Acacia, rice, and natural forest according to soil type. Chestnut trees in the natural forest and eco forest are preserved as high-value trees. The natural forest management is led by the villagers. It has also been found that there is a rule not to plant alternative crops such as Acacia on the land where chestnuts are

grown. Small groups are formed and they regularly visit the forest to inspect. They carefully inspect and take action to determine whether there is excessive logging and good forest management. Vinh Xuan Village has not received any complaints about the cutting or management of trees in its natural forest to date, and their forests are well managed. Land allocation and co governance system is very strong and enforcement among the community.

Departments and community representatives are also found to be actively involved in village land management.

Land-related conflicts are being handled by organized groups. It has been observed that the issued laws and regulations are being implemented well by the village community.

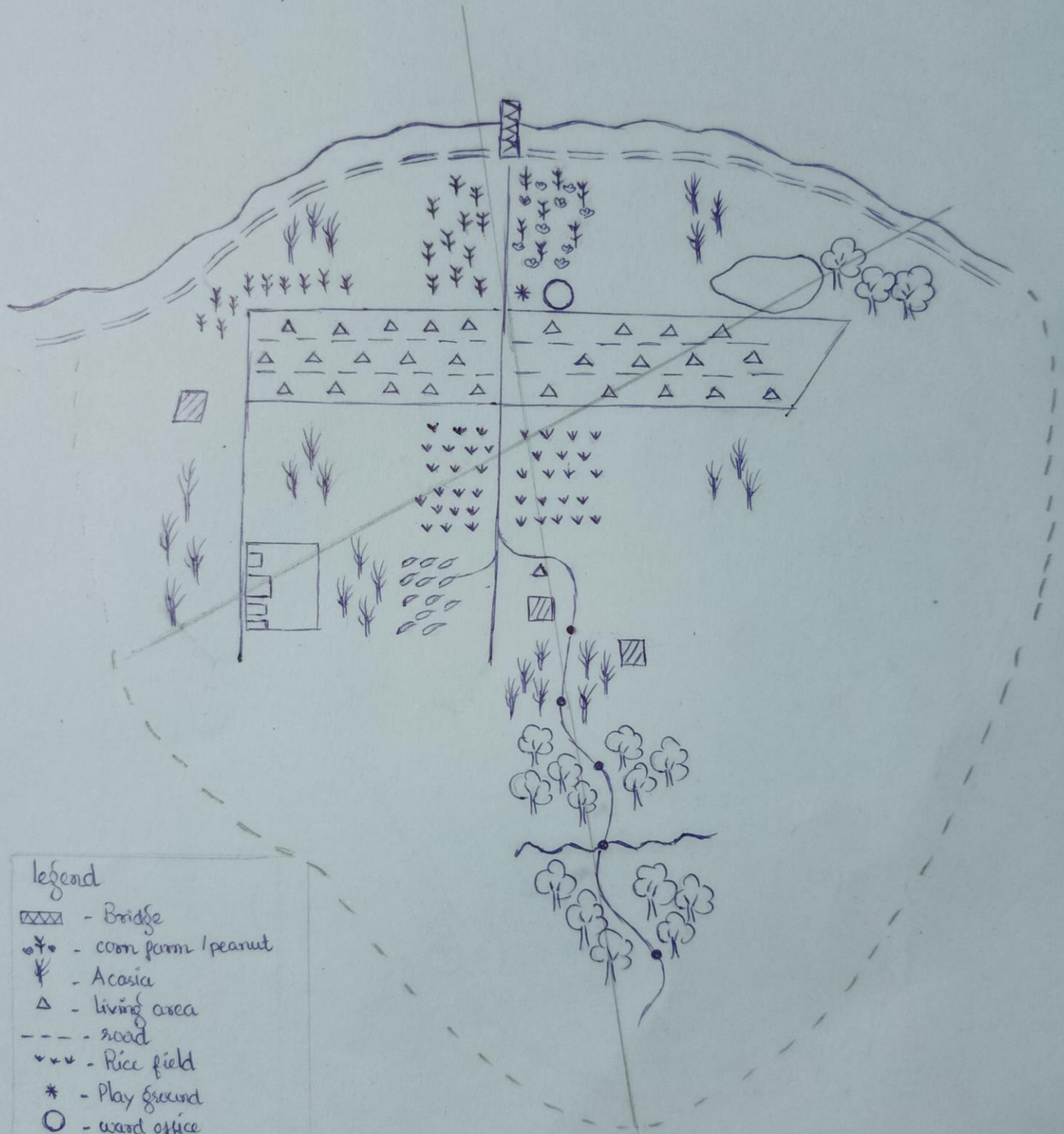
- I learned about the features of a map, such as the distance (scale) that a map should have, the description of the four sides of the map, the officially recognized boundaries of the map, and the proportions of the map and also learned about (5) features involved in the Earth's geological processes which are geological process of the earth (there are 5 layer in Geological process of the earth, (1) surface, (2) Air, (3) Water, (4) Rock and (5) Parent rock;
- I learned more about the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and the information it contains. Concept of contours and their descriptions and differences above sea level based on their assumptions were also studied. If a map contains contours, it will be possible to read the resources of the village, the conditions of the forests and mountains, the ravines/valleys, the water sources, the conditions of crop production, and the presence of houses and other buildings with the greatest accuracy.
- Soil erosion due to the use of NPK fertilizers was also studied. The diagram map is only for understanding the situation of a village, while the transept cutting landscape map can provide more accurate estimates, including sea level elevation, slope, soil conditions, soil type and soil thickness, what types of plants and animals live in which soil type. In addition, it was learned that it can show the challenges, difficulties and solutions in the village, and plans for further improvement. In Kaung Kwan Village, if there are problems related to land within the village, the relevant Chief Minister is responsible for resolving them, and if there are conflicts between provinces, the national assembly is responsible for resolving them. Kaung Kwan Village's conflict resolution system is very simple, and we learned about the responsibilities and accountability of the relevant organizations, as well as their attitudes towards the public./.

**Feb 25, 2025. Understanding in Ecological Cross Section sharing by Mr.Ka**



# Vinh Xuan Village Map.

## Diagram Map



### legend

- Bridge
- corn farm / peanut
- Acacia
- living area
- road
- Rice field
- Play ground
- ward office
- cowshed
- banyan tree
- spiritual place
- Bamboo / Bushes

MARY

(10:50 AM)

(2/3/25)

**Feb 23, 2025. Essay. What is Community Based Participatory Approach (CBPA)? (250 words).**

Community based participatory approach is a collaborative research method that involves community members, researchers, and organizational representatives to improve community land/ forest and natural resources management. Community members participated in all stages of the research process and work together with researchers to address the issues on the land/ forest and natural resources management by leveraging local knowledge and empowering communities to take action on their own behalf. It is also included village's history, customarily used of natural resources, land & forest management, the history of education, health, religion, livelihood and inheritance of land and forest. It is a research activity that continuously studies weaknesses and what can be done to improve them and record of the village must be carefully compiled and share to the community.

How important of Community based participatory research in community development mission?

Community based participatory research involving the village community is a major undertaking in which the community must participate in re-analyzing their village to a deeper understanding of the research's results/ the issues, the relevant solutions and they will be able to formulate better village development plans by themselves. In order to be sustainable, the most appropriate way is the participation of the people themselves. Community only can provide the information about village history, social context, customary land use and forest management correctly. It is to focus on action to improve a certain situation, learn from each other and combine the knowledge into action and enable to contribute to all partners that they are working with and share the responsibilities.

***Share by [ttlanh@speri.org](mailto:ttlanh@speri.org):***

*The most valuable indicator of a Community Based Participatory Approach should be on the one hand that "members of the community/villagers realize their strength better for further going developments, and in the other hand, that the outsider, such as community development learner/researcher is gaining and learning themselves who they are in the village situation". Therefore, the outsider will avoid self-bias in understanding the reality of community circumstances for further on-going development understanding.*

*Moreover, CBPA is the most basic understanding principle for further action, strategic and visionary planning in driving forwards toward a CO-GOVERNANCE ORIENTATION of Community Based Ecological Landscape Governing towards Agro-Ecology of Up Land Use for sustainable ecological livelihood of the Indigenous Community.*