

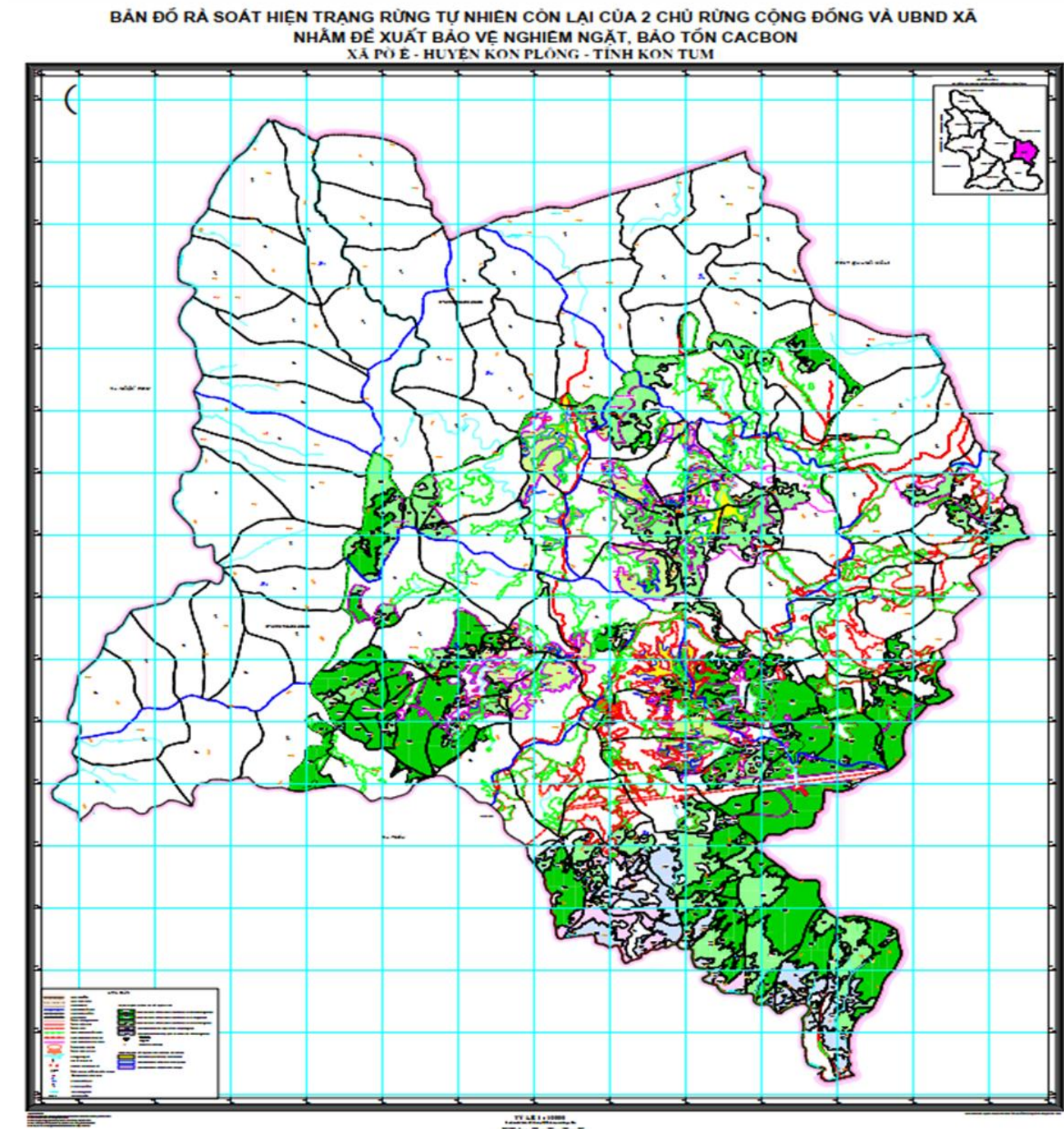


The Impact of Industrial Cassava in PO E Commune (KonTum Province, Central Highland 2016-2025)

A Case Study on Economic Morality & Ecological Disruption

Human Nature of PO E Commune

Indicator	Details
Administration	Po E Commune, Kon Plong District, Kon Tum Province
Total Land Area	11,132.76 ha
Forestland	9,117.20 ha
Agricultural Land	764.31 ha
Demographics	564 families / 2,270 people
Primary Ethnicity	H're ethnic group (95% of population)
Language Family	Mon-Khmer language family
Migration History	Moved to Kon Plong in early 1950s
Origin Territory	Quảng Ngãi and Bình Định provinces
Topography	Mountains, foothills, and river valleys
Cultural Heritage	Community sacred forestlands



HRE'S SPIRITUAL & CULTURAL VALUES – STRICTLY PRESERVED FOR GENERATION



Vietnam's 2020 GDP Target

Marco Industrialization

Resolution No. 13-NQ/TW/2012/01/16 aimed at basically turning Vietnam into an industrialized country toward modernity by 2020.

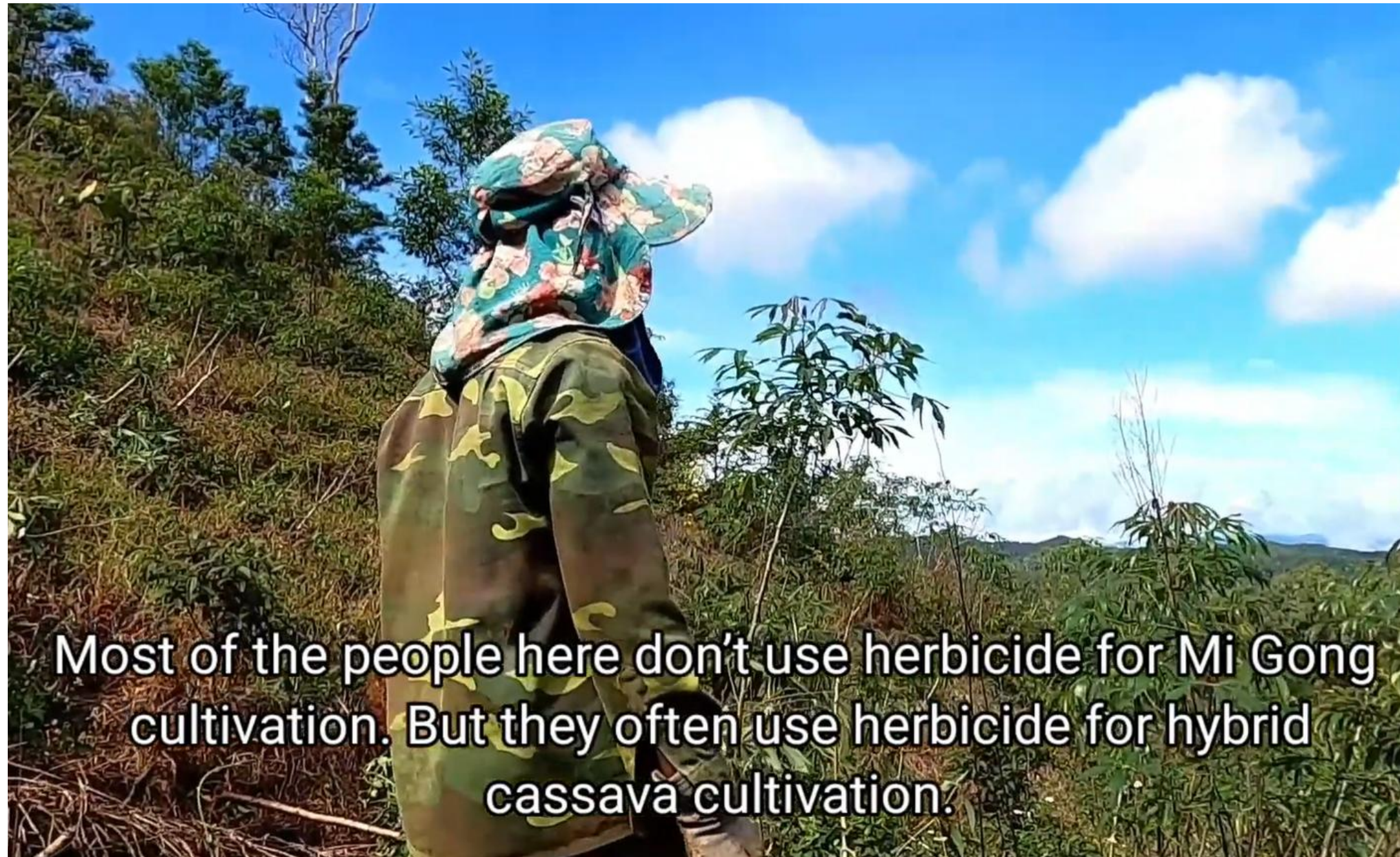


Local Action

Decision No. 1980/QD-TTg/2016 stipulates the income criteria for new rural communes as follows the per capita income in the Central Highlands region is 41 million VND/person) catalyzed the establishment of the Vietnam Cassava Association.



The Shift: Introduction of Industrial Cassava



This provided the legal framework for provinces to set up commercial cassava companies, which in turn acted as the institutional sponsors for building processing factories.

Ecological Fallout: Soil Degradation

- **Nutrient Depletion:** Monocrop sắn consumes extreme amounts of soil nutrients, causing accelerated erosion.
- **Survey Insight (2021):** 32 out of 39 surveyed households reported immediate, severe soil degradation.
- **Declining Yields:** Weakened crop growth over time results in smaller tubers and significantly lower financial returns.
- **Weed Proliferation:** Exponential increase in invasive weeds that rapidly develop resistance to chemical control.



Severe Threat to Human & Animal Health

- **Toxic Accumulation:** Chemical herbicides heavily contaminate local soil, water reservoirs, and the air.
- **Human Impact:** Chronic exposure causes frequent headaches, nausea, persistent fatigue, and acute loss of appetite.
- **Livestock Mortality:** Critical downstream contamination of water sources led to massive deaths of village buffaloes.
- **Ecological Poisoning:** Monoculture demands inherently undermine the primary safety of the local living environment.

Destabilization of the Household Economy

- **Erosion of Security:** Diminished focus on highly stable, traditional subsistence farming and forest collection.
- **The Debt Spiral:** Declining crop yields force farmers to buy more chemical inputs on high-interest credit from traders.
- **Economic Inequality:** Emergence of unprecedented wealth disparity, isolating families lacking sufficient labor force.
- **Hidden Operational Cost:** New expenses like motorbike fuel for transit completely erode any perceived profit margins.

Loss of Biodiversity & Eco-Services

- **Indigenous Loss:** Rapid disappearance of native rice strains and structural shrinkage of rotational farming land.
- **Chemical Overload:** Forced implementation of phosphate and potassium fertilizers destroys soil micro-organisms.
- **Water Contamination:** Toxic runoff systematically damages aquatic habitats, collapsing local biodiversity.
- **Deforestation Drive:** Farmers clear remaining primary forests to secure fertile land, fueling an ecological crisis.



Erosion of Community Culture & Identity

- **Social Breakdown:** Individualistic market drivers replace centuries-old practices of voluntary labor exchange.
- **Loss of Community Cohesion:** Weakened solidarity as financial self-interest fragments traditional village networks.
- **Disappearing Rituals:** Abandonment of ancestral seasonal ceremonies dedicated to nurturing and respecting nature.
- **The Philosophical Shift:** Destruction of the deeply rooted H're philosophy of 'nurturing the soil' and the community.

Discussion: Appropriation Without Dispossession

- **The Structural Trap:** Farmers remain on their land but completely lose control over their labor and production terms.
- **Asymmetrical Trade:** Merchants advance expensive inputs at high prices and buy back yields at predatory low prices.
- **Debt Bondage:** Farmers are locked into continuous cycles, effectively providing free land and labor to factory systems.
- **Final Inquiry:** Does an economy that strips local security for external profit meet the standard of being ethical?

Introduction: The Moral Economy

- **Core Question: What are the true metrics of an ethical or unethical economy?**
- Human well-being and environmental health v.s Value Crises
- Global Production System: Prioritizes financial return, leading to resource depletion and environmental toxicity.
- Indigenous Production System: Focuses on domestic security, preserving ecological balance and long-term soil fertility.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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