

Intervention:	Social Forestry Development Project Song Da
Country:	Vietnam
Date:	12/1992 – 06/2004
Challenge:	Decrease in forest area, high erosion and destruction of natural resources through unsustainable land use
Approach of the Intervention:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> development and dissemination of adapted technical and participative methods for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sustainable natural resources management - village development planning and land use planning, - allocation of the land use rights, and for - local forestry <input type="checkbox"/> strengthening the management capacities of village communities in sustainable and efficient use of natural resources <input type="checkbox"/> development of a participative demand-oriented extension system for agriculture and forestry with the help of community consultants and a market information system <input type="checkbox"/> facilitation of implementation capacities of local institutions, especially in the fields of planning, management, and monitoring and evaluation through trainings and further education courses (over 700 trainings were organized) <input type="checkbox"/> Dissemination of the methods developed by the project by facilitating their institutionalization on regional level and the establishment of networks
Benefits and Impacts:	<p><u>Impacts that can be directly related to the project:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The participative land use planning, developed by the project, is implemented in 220 villages (358 villages total) in the two provinces, thereof 50% with direct support of the project. Democratization processes in the country and self-responsibility of the village population have therewith been strengthened. <input type="checkbox"/> In the course of land use planning, 855 000 ha of forests have been assigned to households, groups and communities, 50% of which are managed by the communities. <input type="checkbox"/> Illegal logging has been reduced <input type="checkbox"/> Village development planning is practiced in 208 communities (>2400 villages): over 50% is already independent from the project <input type="checkbox"/> Improved agriculture production methods have been introduced. E.g. fertilization, new sorts of rice and corn, integrative plant protection, animal health assistants on the community level, bee keeping. <input type="checkbox"/> New income sources have been created through fruit and vegetable cultivation. <input type="checkbox"/> An agricultural extension system with experts on community level has been established in 133 communities (345 villages) <input type="checkbox"/> 20 farmer interest groups have been created that use the recommended methods. <input type="checkbox"/> Women participate more actively in decision-making processes on the village level. <p><u>Indirect impacts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Through the introduced participatory village development planning, and thereof developed infrastructure projects and social services, the living conditions of the target group has improved considerably <input type="checkbox"/> Damages to the environment have been reduced by stopping deforestation and reducing erosion. This also reduces the sedimentation process of lower areas, such as the Hoa Binh

	<p>reservoir that supplies 30% of Vietnam's electricity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The process of democratization has been supported by the introduction of participatory planning methods on all administrative levels, which marks a reduction of the "top-down" –approach towards a "bottom-up" procedure
Lessons learned:	<p>Key factors for the projects success are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The intensive involvement in networks with other projects the development of methods and their introduction has improved □ The succeeding involvement of provincial authorities has supported the institutionalization and dissemination of strategies □ Participative land use planning and allocation of land use titles are a pre-condition for a sustainable resource management in responsibility of the villagers □ Application and dissemination of participative planning procedures leads to fortification of self-help capacities and makes a broad mobilization of local resources possible □ Participative procedures stimulates trust between the villagers, authorities and administration □ For projects in sustainable natural resource management a sufficiently long project period is necessary, to finalize the sequences of situation analysis, development and trial of new methods, as also their dissemination and institutionalization <p>In two aspects the frame conditions limit the project's success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Deep soil profiles in the project area restrict the target group's commitment to erosion control. This unfavourable relation of revenue and expense makes transfer payments for the successful introduction of erosion control inevitable. □ In comparison with agriculture, forestry has a low priority to the households. The willingness to deliver inputs (labour, capital) into forestry is low.
Implementing agency & partners:	GTZ, Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development