

Livelihood structure and its issue in a coastal area of central Vietnam

- Case study of Vinh Tri hamlet in Hai Duong commune, Thua Thien-Hue Province-

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1. BACK GROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In the coastal area of central Vietnam, the nature and living environment has been affected by the shrimp aquaculture which has been popular since the 1990s, and the development of urban areas. Previous studies have pointed out that such environmental changes have led to degradation of the natural environment in these areas and sustainability of the livelihood. There are several reasons for such problems. For example, excessive development of unified livelihood which aimed for economic development without a long-term perspective has increased the vulnerability of the livelihood structure. And the administrative support for poor households, in many cases, did not meet local needs and circumstances.

The objectives of this study are to detect the structure of the living in the area surrounding the lagoon precisely and to clarify its characteristics and needs. Then this study indicate improvement to reconsider the local environmental problems and the way of regional support,

2. STUDY AREA AND METHODOLOGY

The study area of this study is Vinh Tri hamlet Hai Duong commune Huong Tra district Thua Tien-Hue province located in the coastal area of central Vietnam. The coastal area of the central Vietnam is a flood prone area. The main livelihood in the area is rice cultivation, aquaculture, and fishery. These livelihoods have conducted for a long time by adapting the influences of natural disasters.

The interview survey for the inhabitants of the target area was conducted twice, from September to December 2015 and on September 2016. In the survey of 2015, a wide range of information about Vinh Tri hamlet was collected. In the survey of 2016, a semi-structured interview was conducted with 45 randomly selected households to grasp the circumstances and problems of each household livelihood precisely.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It was found that the Vinh Tri hamlet is hardly affected by urbanization in the surrounding area despite there are many poor households and lack of governmental supports. It was confirmed that there were a certain number of households continuing a multiple livelihood structure which conducting both various livelihoods and livestock ownership. Such type of livelihood is able to avoid the catastrophic damage even if some of livelihoods were damaged by disasters. So this type of livelihood is not easy to be affected by natural disasters in line with local circumstances. However, economic circumstances of the area are not well. While maintaining a complex livelihood structure, it is needed that supports to increase each livelihood income and to reduce natural disaster damage.

It is also founded that many young people of household members are working outside the village. The remittance by these workers is an important income for many of households. However, it is obvious that such a situation will cause depopulation problems in the future, and the sustainability of the district will be lost.

Taking into account about the present situation of the region in detail and reviewing the way of simple economic support, it is necessary to think about the appropriate way to develop regional strengths.