

The livelihood of local people after building a micro-hydropower plant in Vietnam

Nguyen Tuan Anh

Nguyen Thi Hoang Lien

Vietnam National University, Hanoi

Main points of the presentation

- The research setting and methodology
- Local people in making plan for construction of Suoi Trang hydropower plant
- Impact of building Suoi Trang hydropower plant on local people livelihood
- Impact of operating Suoi Trang hydropower plant on local people livelihood
- Final remarks

The research setting and methodology

- Suoi Trang hydropower plant is located in Bac Phong commune, Cao Phong district, Hoa Binh province
- Suoi Trang hydropower plant was invested by Van Hong Ltd Company
- The plant started to operate in September 2010, with total capacity of 2.7MW.

Suoi Trang hydropower plant



The research setting and methodology

- Observation
- In-depth interview
- Sociological survey

Local people in making plan for construction of Suoi Trang hydropower plant

- Not many people appreciated the need for local people to play roles in this phase:
 - Not necessary: 60.0 %
 - Necessary: 4.0 %
 - Very necessary: 0.0 %
 - Others: 36.0 %
 - Total: 100.0 %

Local people in making plan for construction of Suoi Trang hydropower plant

- In practice:
 - Local people did not play any role in this phase
 - Local officials also did not play any role in this phase
- That led to problems related to the likelihood of local people during and after building the plant

Impact of building Suoi Trang hydropower plant on local people livelihood

- During the construction of Suoi Trang hydropower plant:
 - Many local people were hired by the investor to make the canal and roads to the hydropower plant in 2 years
 - The participation in plant construction brought more income for many local people with the pay of about 70,000VND/day

Impact of building Suoi Trang hydropower plant on local people livelihood

- Necessity of local employment in construction of the plant:
 - Unnecessary: 4.0 %
 - Necessary: 56.0 %
 - Very necessary: 6.0 %
 - Other opinions: 34.0 %
 - Total: 100.0 %

Impact of building Suoi Trang hydropower plant on local people livelihood

- Many households were reclaimed part of their agricultural land
- Some households were lost their entire land and had to find other jobs
 - In village Dai, 20 households lost their land for the plant
 - Compensation rate for the land loss for road construction to the hydropower plant was 3.000 VND/m²
 - Compensation rate for the land loss for water canal to the hydropower plant was 5.000 VND/m²

Impact of operating Suoi Trang hydropower plant on local people livelihood

- Agricultural land of many households have been flooded seasonally or almost the whole year when the level of water in the dam reservoir raises
 - The agricultural land of 24 households in Mon village were flooded seasonally or almost all the time in a year
 - Households facing seasonal flooding have not received any compensation.

Impact of operating Suoi Trang hydropower plant on local people livelihood

- Operation of hydropower plant caused lacking of water for agricultural/forestry production
 - 26.0% said their agricultural/forestry production more difficult

Final remarks

- The local community needs to be consulted at the construction planning phase
- The survey and assessment on impacts of the plant need to be carefully conducted prior to construction
- The negative impacts on local community during operation of the plant need to be timely calculated and adequately compensated to the affected people



**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR
YOUR ATTENTION!**