

Livelihood Transition and Conversion of Traditional Knowledge Towards Sustainable Rural Development

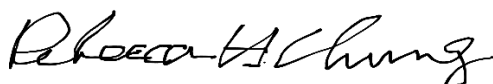
Minh-Tu Le¹ and Rebecca H. Chung¹

1. Department of Tropical Agriculture and International Cooperation, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Abstract

This study addresses rural sustainable development by justifying the local conditions and resources. A conceptual framework for sustainable rural development was proposed, which encompasses five systems: social, economic, locality, creative, and physical. This study aims to investigate the determinants for employment transition in the economic system as well as the conversion of traditional knowledge in the creative system. A data set comprising of 300 households engaged in large cardamom cultivation in Hoang Lien National Park in the Northern Vietnam was analyzed using a Probit model. The results showed that labor surplus, information access, the rural network of social organizations, size of land use, and road infrastructure affected the employments transition; while cultural capital, non-farm employment, credit capital and knowledge-transfer influenced the conversion of traditional knowledge. In addition, the results confirmed a causal relationship among the systems in the conceptual framework. That is, the social system and the physical system exerted a strong influence on the economic system, and in turn the economic system and the locality system influenced the creative system.

Key words: Agroforestry, credit access, ethnic minorities, large cardamom (*Amomum tsao-ko Crevost Lemarim*), non-farm employments, social network, tourism employments.



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