



Why is land use what it is?

Northwest Vietnam (Dien Bien, Son La, Yen Bai)

Continent: Asia

Country: Vietnam

Annual rainfall:

1400-2500mm

Dien Dien, Son La and Yen Bai:

Area: 3,063,000 ha

Population: 2,390,000 person

Forest cover: 45 %

Agricultural land: 14 %

Key crops: Rice, maize, coffee, tea, rubber

Agricultural practices: Mono-cropping, shifting cultivation, intensification



Current land-uses

The history of land-use in the Northwest Vietnam has gone through different stages:

- Pre-colonial and French colonial regime (before 1945)
- Resistance war period (1945-1954)
- Cooperative management (1954-1986)
- Transition period from cooperative to individual management (1986-1995)
- Individual management (since 1995).

Hill rice



Secondary forest



Terraced rice



Reservoir



Paddy rice



Maize

KEY ISSUES

- Soil erosion
- Water scarcity
- Low productivity
- Land degradation
- Forest encroachment
- Low product quality

Authors: La Nguyen, Delia Catacutan, Hoang Thi Lua,
Nguyen Mai Phuong, Do Trong Hoan

