

**HUE UNIVERSITY  
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**A STUDY OF ACTUAL STATUS AND ELIGIBLE  
SOLUTIONS IN FOREST LAND ALLOCATION TO ETHNIC  
MINORITIES IN LE THUY AND QUANG NINH DISTRICTS,  
QUANG BINH PROVINCE**

**NGUYỄN TỪ ĐỨC**

**DISSERTATION SUMMARY**

**Discipline: LAND MANAGEMENT**

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## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Topic's significance

In the area of Le Thuy, Quang Ninh districts of Quang Binh province, ethnic minorities are mostly Bru-Van Kieu accommodating in the West. This is long-term inhabitant community who are hard-working and they take land allocation seriously to develop their life conditions. Therefore, during past years, land allocation and land title have always attracted attention. However, policies for ethnic minorities have not met real requirements; there is also low completion rate of land allocation and land title to ethnic minorities; and shortage of forest land for production to ethnic minority households. This is due to ineffective performance method, asynchronized research from reasoning to reality in order to comprehensively evaluate forest land allocation to ethnic minorities. Ethnic minorities habitat is characterized with geographical location along with great Truong Son range where is a strategic place of national defense and security, ecological environment protection, watershed, and diversedecological system. Hence, forest land allocation for inhabitant stability is an important and strategic task for socio-economical developmet, national-defense and security locally and regionally.

Therefore, it is essential for the author to proceed the study of: **"A study on the actual status and eligible solutions in forest land allocation to ethnic minorities at Le Thuy and Quang Ninh districts, Quang Binh province"**.

### 2. Research objective

To evaluate the actual status of land use need and unsolved issues in forest land allocation to bring forward suitable and effective solutions for forest land allocation over to ethnic minorities in the area of Le Thuy, Quang Ninh districts, Quang Binh provinve.

### **3. Scientific impact and practical relevance**

#### ***a. Scientific impact***

The research result adds to literature review of the government management in real estate in general, forest land in particular and directions in stabilizing and developing ethnic minorities living standard in a scientific manner, on rational and sustainable use of forest land.

#### ***b. Practical relevance***

The research takes place on the ground that Quang Binh province is accelerating forest land allocation over to household for productions, especially ethnic minorities. Therefore, this study partly resolve an issue of concern at the related spot, for the sake of the neighborhood and ethnic minorities.

### **4. Findings**

- The PhD research is a scientific work which is studied under the new policy orientation of 2013 Land Law, clearly defining the State's responsibility for land for ethnic minorities with the viewpoint that "Adopting policies which creates conditions for ethnic minority people who directly make agricultural production in rural areas with agricultural production land."

- The state agencies' data sources on land use management are often determined by traditional measurement methods. The study applies GIS and Remote Sensing to analyze forest land variability during the phase of 2005 - 2015 in the study area, also the assess actual status of forest land use, management and transition in socio-economic in the area.

- The study clarifies the actual status of ethnic minorities' utmost need over forest land; maps out 4 suitable solutions related to forest land allocation over ethnic minorities, which is plausible to implement on spot.

## **Chapter1. OVERVIEW**

### **1.1. THEORETICAL BASIS**

#### **1.1.1. Land and forest land**

##### *1.1.1.1. Land definition*

##### *1.1.1.2. Forest land*

#### **1.1.2. Land allocation**

##### *1.1.2.1. Land allocation definition*

##### *1.1.2.2. Governmental management on land allocation*

#### **1.1.3. Common issues of ethnic minorities**

##### *1.1.3.1. Definition of ethnic minority*

##### *1.1.3.2. The overview of ethnic minorities in Vietnam*

### **1.2. PRACTICAL BASIS**

#### **1.2.1. Research result of forest management and forest land worldwide**

#### **1.2.2. Forest land allocation issues in Vietnam**

##### *1.2.2.1. The overview of forest land allocation policy in Vietnam*

##### *1.2.2.2. The study of actual status of forest land allocation in Vietnam*

### **1.3. SOME DISSERTATION-RELATED WORKS**

## **Chapter 2. RESEARCH TARGET, CONTENT AND METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1. Research scope and target**

#### *2.1.1. Research scope*

+ *Spatial scope:* The study takes place in the southwest of Quang Binh province with mostly ethnic minorities neighbourhood, at Le Thuy

and Quang Ninh districts and specifically in communes of Kim Thuy, Ngan Thuy, Lam Thuy, Truong Son and Truong Xuan.

+ *Timely scope*: study figures accumulated from 2005 to 2016.

### **2.1.2. Research target**

- Research targets are households and individuals who are ethnic minorities and related land users and managers in the west of Le Thuy, Quang Ninh districts, Quang Binh province.
- Governmental policies related to land and forest land allocation over to ethnic minority individual and household in the study area.
- Research-related forest land resource and land allocation of ethnic minorities.

### **2.2. Research content**

- Research generally the natural, socio-economic conditions in various communes in the west of Le Thuy, Quang Ninh districts, Quang Binh province.
- Analyze forest land use variability in forest land allocation policy in mountainous communes of Le Thuy, Quang Ninh districts, Quang Binh province with the support of GIS and Remote Sensing.
- Study, analyze and assess forest land use need together with effects seen from forest land allocation over to ethnic minorities in the study area.
- Study and evaluate the implementation of governmental policies of forest land allocation to ethnic minorities in Le Thuy, Quang Ninh districts, Quang Binh province.
- Recommend solutions of effective forest land allocation over to ethnic minorities in the study area.

### **2.3. Research methodology**

#### **2.3.1. Secondary data**

Methodology to accumulate secondary data mostly for the study of natural, socio-economic conditions, to assess the implementation of

governmental policies towards forest land allocation to ethnic minorities in the study area, and to solve data issues for the research.

### **2.3.2. Primary data**

#### ***2.3.2.1. Semi structured interview***

To acquire data for the study, for the analysis and assessment of land use need, land policies and effects of forest land allocation for production, the study interviews 318 ethnic minority households in the study area with simple and suitable question survey.

#### ***2.3.2.2. Stakeholder data***

This is implemented by structured interview towards 63 targets from commune level to provincial level in related units. The study conducted 70 in-depth interviews, 09 meetings and working sessions on research-related content. The author also participated in various seminars and conferences.

#### ***2.3.2.3. Participatory rural appraisal (PRA)***

With the support of indigenous, PRA method is used to investigate, assess and analyze difficulties and advantages in forest land allocation, and to clarify land use need, to encourage the neighborhood to raise their solutions in order to resolve related issues.

#### ***2.3.2.4. Fieldtrip method***

The fieldtrip is taken place not only in the study area but also in related areas where bear similar characteristics and provide fruitful data for the research.

### **2.3.3. Statistics**

Data is selected and analyzed to be processed on statistical software SPSS and Microsoft Excel as foundations for the assessment to direct the study scientifically and practically.

### **2.3.4. Mapping method**

Map types used for the study: cadastral map, topographical map, edaphic map, forest map, actual status maps of land use and allocation to evaluate, analyze to help with the most general overview of the study.



### **2.3.5. GIS application and Remote Sensing**

GIS application and Remote Sensing are conducted by remote sensing images with the support of GIS to analyze and interpret for the study of forest land in the area. Remote sensing images are interpreted on the softwares of ENVI 5.2 and ArcGIS 10.2.

### **2.3.6. Expert method**

The research used expert knowledge to finalise the recommendations for forest land allocation to ethnic minority people. 09 meetings on the research's related topics have been organized. Experts' and other opinions from related workshops have been used for the research/ results.

## **Chapter 3. RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1. THE IMPACT OF NATURAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ON THE RESEARCH CONTENT**

#### **3.1.1. Natural condition**

##### ***3.1.1.1. Geographical position***

The study area is in the southwest of Quang Binh province within geographic coordinates of 16°55'-17°26' North and 106°17'-106°52' East.

##### ***3.1.1.2. Topography***

##### ***3.1.1.3. Climate***

##### ***3.1.1.4. Hydrography***

##### ***3.1.1.5. Edaphic characteristics***

##### ***3.1.1.6. Forest vegetation***

#### **3.1.2. Socio-economic conditions**

##### ***3.1.2.1. Economy***

### ***3.1.2.2. Population***

### ***3.1.2.3. Job***

### ***3.1.2.4. Healthcare***

### ***3.1.2.5. Education-Training***

### ***3.1.2.6. Transportation***

## **3.1.3. Cultural and religious characteristics; cultivation practice of ethnic minorities in the study area**

It can be easily seen that Bru-Van Kieu culture and religion is on their ancestor and god, which has a substantial impact on farming practice by the neighborhood. Forest trees and forest land place an important part in daily life. It is due to the fact that Bru -Van Kieu has been considered forest's children who have great faith in god. For them, forest is blood and the shield, the yield granted by god for their reproduction. Therefore, they always appreciate the green color of the forest. As for them, it is the land of sacred value where god exists.

## **3.1.4. General assessment on natural and socio-economic conditions**

### ***3.1.4.1. Negative effect on allocation of forest land to ethnic minority people***

The land allocation and cultivation have been affected by rough terrain, which is deeply divided by high mountain ranges, with steep slopes in some areas, and also severe climate conditions.

Ethnic minority people live scatteredly and far from the center. Therefore, the propaganda and dissemination of government's policies in general and policy on forestland allocation are limited, taking more time in need of the involvement of people. Difficult economic conditions have a great impact on people who receive land for cultivation because they do not have enough expense to invest in production, leading to ineffective use of land, fallow and land dispute.

The low level of culture and the backward cultivation practices of the ethnic minority people have a great impact on the allocation of forest land to them.

#### ***3.1.4.2. Positive impact on forest land allocation to the ethnic minority people***

- Geographic location is relatively favorable for the forest land allocation.
- Gray soil Feralit (Xf) accounts for 81.09% of the total natural area of the research area. This is a good soil type which is suitable for use in agro-forestry, encouraging people in receiving land for expanding production and improving life.
- Road system is relatively convenient for forest land allocation policy.

### **3.2.THE ANALYSIS OF 2005-2015 FOREST LAND VARIABILITY IN THE WEST OF LE THUY AND QUANG NINH DISTRICTS, QUANG BINH PROVINCE**

#### **3.2.1. Research data**

Remote sensing image in the study is provided by Vietnam National Remote Sensing Center, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmen. Image types are SPOT 5, 2,5m pixel; VNRED-SAT1, 2,5m pixel on Panchromatic. Satellite image data reaches the standard of level 3, Satellite data reaches third level standard, which is adjusted along with Vietnam National - 2000 coordinates.

#### **3.2.2. Satellite image processing**

As for adjusted satellite images, they are analyzed into 4 targets-soil types as follows: natural forest land, cultivated forest land, hydrographic forest land, other land.

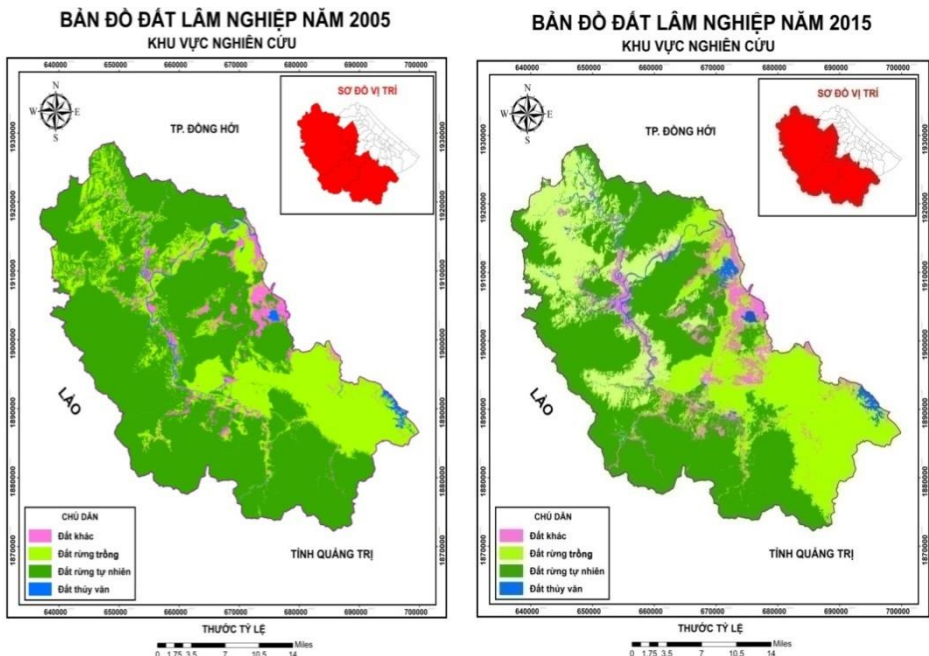
Assessment result of satellite image classification accuracy of 2005 and 2015 is that: cultivated forest land is classified with highest accuracy degree (0,90% of 2005, and 0,94% of 2015). As for Overall Accuracy, it is 0,85% of 2005 and 0,91% of 2015. Corresponding Kappa indexes are 0,8

and 0,88. Those constitutes good and very good numbers as firm foundation for the research.

### 3.2.3. Actual forest land mapping

Actual forest land map is built on the software of ArcGIS 10.2, adjusted on papar map for the correlation and comparision among research resources.

*Figure 3.3. Actual status of forest land in the study area in 2005 and 2015*



### 3.2.4. To evaluate 2005-2015 forest land variability in the study area

The study assesses forest land variability to reach research objective, and to have the overall picture of land use variability during the phase of 2005 – 2015 in the study area, clarifying the origin and forecast the broadening tendency of cultivated forest land.

**Table 3.7. Forest land variability in the study area***Unit: ha*

<i>Land use type</i>	<i>Time</i>		<i>Difference by year 2005 -2015</i>
	<b>Year 2005</b>	<b>Year 2015</b>	
Cultivated forest land	44 168,35	71 683,11	<u><b>+27 514,77</b></u>
Natural forest land	126 811,18	90 845,06	<u><b>-35 966,12</b></u>
Other land	5 607,23	13 307,74	<b>+7 700,51</b>
Hydrographic land	4 616,92	5 367,77	<b>+750,85</b>

During the phase of 2005 - 2015, cultivated forest land increases remarkably with 27 514,77 ha, it is 44 168,35 ha in 2005 and reaches 71 683,11 ha after 10 years. Second to this group is the Other land, with 7 700,51 ha growth. On the contrary, natural forest land dramatically drops from 126 811,18 ha to 90 845,06 ha, experiencing the decrease of 35 966,12 ha.

**Table3.8. Flows of land type in the phase of 2005 - 2015***Unit: ha*

<i>Flows Land types</i>	<b>Cultivated forest land</b>	<b>Natural forest land</b>	<b>Other land</b>	<b>Hydrographic land</b>	<b>2015</b>
<i>Cultivated forest land</i>	<b>38 165,75</b>	<u><b>31 067,36</b></u>	2 450,00	0,00	<b>71 683,11</b>
<i>Natural forest land</i>	0,00	<b>90 845,06</b>	0,00	0,00	<b>90 845,06</b>
<i>Other land</i>	5 475,51	4 692,00	<b>3 140,23</b>	0,00	<b>13 307,74</b>
<i>Hydrographic land</i>	527,09	206,76	17,00	<b>4 616,92</b>	<b>5 367,77</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>44 168,35</b>	<b>126 811,18</b>	<b>5 607,23</b>	<b>4 616,92</b>	<b>181 203,68</b>

Analysis result of land use variability clearly shows the transition of land type. According, the transition from natural forest land to cultivated forest land constitutes a large proportion of land use variability, with 31 067,36 ha.

### **3.3. THE ACTUAL STATUS OF FOREST LAND USE NEED OF ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE WEST OF LE THUY AND QUANG NINH DISTRICTS**

#### **3.3.1. Actual status of forest land use and management in the study area**

*Table 3.10. Forest land inventory by users and managers in related communes in 2015*

<i>Communes in study</i>	<i>Land area by users (ha)</i>					<i>Land area under the management of Communes' People Committee (ha)</i>
	<i>Total approved land use area</i>	<i>Household/ individual</i>	<i>Economic organization</i>	<i>Government -controlled entities</i>	<i>Neighborhood and religious unit</i>	
Trường Sơn	69 349,38	1 710,81	26 423,19	40 576,11	639,26	5 509,80
Trường Xuân	12 320,83	2 140,13	717,26	9 463,45	0	842,08
Lâm Thủy	19 304,33	276,62	19 027,71	0	0	2 624,34
Kim Thủy	42 769,63	6 718,65	17 676,28	18 374,7	0	2 867,78
Ngân Thủy	11 104,77	377,11	10 727,66	0	0	2 062,53
<b>Total:</b>	<b>154848,94</b>	<b><u>11 223,31</u></b>	<b><u>74 572,10</u></b>	<b><u>68 414,26</u></b>	<b>639,26</b>	<b>13 906,53</b>

Most of forest land use right is in hands of economic organizations and government-controlled entities, with 142 986,36 ha accounting for 92,33% of total approved forest land use, and accounting for 84,72% of total forest land in the area. On the contrary, forest land allocated to households and individuals only accounts for 6,66% of forest land area.

### 3.3.2. The role of production forest land as for ethnic minorities' life in the study area

- Impact on employment structure of ethnic minorities.
- Impact on income source of ethnic minorities.
- Impact on living quality of ethnic minorities.

### 3.3.3. Ethnic minorities' forest land-use need assessment

Figures reflecting on ethnic minorities' need of production forest land allocation are as follows in table 3.14.

**Table 3.14.** *Ethnic minorities' need of being allocated with production forest land*

No.	Study area	<i>The need of production forest land allocation</i>			<i>Percentage (%)</i>
		Households in the study (unit)	Households in need (unit)	Area (ha)	
1	Trường Xuân commune	31	30	94	96,77
2	Trường Sơn commune	94	94	403	100
3	Lâm Thủy commune	50	50	303	100
4	Ngân Thủy commune	53	53	503	100
5	Kim Thủy commune	90	89	723	98,88
<b>Total</b>		<b>318</b>	<b><u>316</u></b>	<b><u>2.026</u></b>	<b>99,37</b>

316 households in need are allocated with production forest land, accounting for 99,37 %, with the area of 2 026 ha, at Trường Sơn, Lâm Thủy and Ngân Thủy communes, 100% of interviewed households are

in need of more allocated production forest land with the area of 1 209 ha, constituting the average of 6,4 ha on each household.

**Table 3.15.** *Production forest land area in use by ethnic minorities until 2016*

Area range of land in use	Trường Xuân commune (household)	Trường Sơn commune (household)	Kim Thủy commune (household)	Ngân Thủy commune (household)	Lâm Thủy commune (household)	Total (household)	Rate (%)	Note
No land	03	39	40	26	34	<b>142</b>	<b><u>44,65</u></b>	
Under 01 ha	01	08	03	0	02	<b>14</b>	<b>4,41</b>	<i>Deficient land group</i>
From 01ha to under 2,5 ha	13	32	29	18	09	<b>101</b>	<b><u>31,76</u></b>	
From 2,5ha to 05 ha	12	14	13	06	05	<b>50</b>	<b>15,72</b>	<i>Sufficient land group</i>
Over 05 ha	02	01	05	03	0	<b>11</b>	<b>3,46</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>100</b>	

142/318 ethnic minority households have no production forest land, accounting for 44,65%. The rate of household in use of production forest land from 01 to under 2,5 ha is quite high with 101 households and 31,76%. However, under related guidelines, under 2,5 ha of production forest land on one ethnic minority household is the deficient



range. Then, in terms of forest land range in use, 257 households are still short of land, accounting for 80,81%.

It is essential to develop forest land allocation for the population in general and ethnic minorities in particular. 174 households (54,7%) in the total of interviewed 318 households affirm that forest land allocation to the population is essential. Meanwhile, 136 households (42,7%) address that it is extremely essential.

During the past years, the government has conducted various policies towards ethnic minorities, social infrastructure has always been substantially invested, but ethnic minorities still suffer from underdeveloped living conditions. 138/318 households (43,4%) answer that living conditions in 2016 do not develop over 2010. 121/318 households (38%) sense changes but the changes are not substantial.

Production forest land variability of ethnic minorities in 2016 does not change a lot compared to that of 2010. In the study, 116 in 176 households who are forest land user answer that their forest land area stands still compared to the area in 2010; 11 households witness land area growth, while 49 households experience land area drop. As for 116/176 ethnic minority households of stable land area, it can be seen that forest land allocation policy does not impact in a remarkable way on land use status of the population.

In the study, among essential needs, it is substantially essential for ethnic minorities to be allocated with production forest land to support production and improve living standards, as in table 3.19.

**Table3.19.** *Need of being supported to develop production of ethnic minorities*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Proposals by household</b>	<b>Rate(%)</b>
Allocate production land	314	<b><u>98,7</u></b>
Provide seed	154	48,4
Create jobs	86	27,0
Water (irrigation water)	153	48,1
Supply food	176	<b><u>55,3</u></b>
Grant capital	225	<b><u>70,7</u></b>
Production tools	31	9,7
Rural infrastructure (road, electricity, reservoir...)	71	22,3

It can be seen that most of the neighborhood is in need of extra allocated forest land, accounting for 98,7% interviewed households. This is also more essential need than other. Numerous households need capital and seed supply, with 70,7% and 48,4% respectively. The majority suffers from poor living conditions, there is no capital for production and cultivation. Therefore, they need capital supply for forest production.

### **3.4.THE EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTING FOREST LAND ALLOCATION POLICY TOWARDS ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE STUDY AREA**

#### **3.4.1. Governmental policy on forest land allocation during the past time**

- Late 1990s: during this phase, there were hindrances in implementing forest land allocation due to policy and human resources.

- 2000 - 2005: however, unsolved issues in forest land allocation lead to other context. Forestry and agroforestry companies own the exploitation right over forestry resources whereas households are rented

to conserve the forest. There is limitation of land use right by households who then suffer from bad living conditions.

- Since 2005, there have been improvements in forest land allocation which resolve long-lasting issues in the past time. The priority is shifted to need assessment of land use so that allocation policy can reach right target, being environmental friendly, poverty reduction, sustainable development and vulnerable target, ethnic minorities...Accordingly, various governmental policies of forest land allocation have been issued.

### **3.4.2. The result assessment of forest land allocation policy towards ethnic minorities in the study area**

*Talbe 3.20. Forest land allocation result towards ethnic minorities in the study area up to 2015*

N o.	Name of commune	District	Forest land in use by households, individuals (ha)	Forest land area allocated to ethnic minorities (ha)	Rate (%)
1	Trường Sơn	Quảng Ninh	1 710,81	1 499,8	87,66
2	Trường Xuân		2 140,13	937,9	43,82
3	Kim Thủy	Lệ Thủy	6 718,64	1 748,0	26,01
4	Ngân Thủy		377,11	125,6	33,30
5	Lâm Thủy		276,62	140,1	50,64
Tota:			11 223,31	4 451,4	39,66

The study shows that in the total forest land of 11 223,31 ha in use by household and individual, 4 451,4 ha are allocated by the government, accounting for 39,66%.

In 2016, there is a substantial growth of human resource in forest land allocation, varying from provincial staff to commune staff, on average 73% staff of all levels participated in forest land allocation.

100% of this resource agree that forest land allocation to ethnic minorities are extremely important. However, there is controversy as to its effectiveness. 55,6% agrees that it is effective, whereas 44,4% proposes that forest land allocation is not effective substantially.

One of remarkable result of forest land allocation in the area is the numerous certificate grant of land use right for household and individual who are ethnic minorities.

**Table 3.24.** *The actual status of certificate grant of land use right up to 2016*

The status of land use right	Trường Xuân commune (household)	Trường Sơn commune (household)	Kim Thủy commune (household)	Ngân Thủy commune (household)	Lâm Thủy commune (household)	Tổng (household)	Rate (%)
Granted with certificate	25	32	17	14	12	100	<b><u>56,82</u></b>
Proceduring with certificate	01	06	22	01	2	32	<b>18,18</b>
Without certificate	2	17	11	12	2	44	<b>25,00</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>100</b>

Among 318 interviewed ethnic minority households, 176 are in use of production forest land. Among which, 100/176 households (56,82%) are granted with land use right certificates; 32/176 households (18,18%) are in the process, and 44/176 households (25,0%) are without certificate. The study shows that certificate of forest land use right plays an important role and directly impacts on exploitation and purchase of forest trees by households.

### 3.4.3. Difficulties in forest land allocation to ethnic minorities in the study area

#### 3.4.3.1. In terms of policy

- + Instability of land and forestry policies
- + Overlapping legal documents with poor law enforcement
- + Insufficient rights of forest land users.
- + Land use planning, forestry planning are asynchronized.
- + Post land allocation policy is unclear and ineffective.

#### 3.4.3.2. In terms of development

- + Asynchronized process, insuitable method.
- + Forest land allocation is not attached with forest allocation.
- + Forest land allocation does not create favorable conditions for the users who are ethnic minorities.

**Table 3.25.** Result of forest land allocation for ethnic minorities in the study area during 2009 - 2015

No.	Year	Confiscated land area over to local management (ha)	Land area allocated to ethnic minorities (ha)	Land area difference (ha)
1	2009	6 514,70	0	+6 514,70
2	2010	0	0	0
3	2011	0	0	0
4	2012	2 222,20	499,40	+1 722,8
5	2013	271,10	<b><u>1 073,34</u></b>	-802,24
6	2014	4 112,74	<b><u>1 748,07</u></b>	+2 364,67
7	2015	0	961,10	-961,10
<b>Total:</b>		<b>13 120,74</b>	<b>4 281,91</b>	<b>+8 838,83</b>

- + There is still a shortage of leadership, collaboration among various levels, and low level of awareness of related staff.

### **3.4.3.3. *Practical hindrances***

- + Old-fashioned cultivation practice of ethnic minorities
- + Severe climate conditions, difficulties of geographical condition.
- + Dispute of land use right among land users.
- + Land fragmentation from the neighborhood.
- + Land asset dispute under local management.
- + Budget shortage.

## **3.5. LESSONS LEARNT AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS OF FOREST LAND ALLOCATION TO ETHNIC MINORITIES**

### **3.5.1. Lessons learnt**

- Programs, projects of the government and non-governmental organization (NGO).
- Forest land allocation activity by Department of Natural Resources and Environment.
- Forest land allocation activity by local authority.

### **3.5.2. Proposed solutions**

#### **3.5.2.1. *Solutions' basis***

From February to April, 2016, investigation, interviews and meetings are conducted for stakeholders' feedback. The study shows that 63 ideas (100% of survey) propose concrete solutions of forest land allocation in the study area. Apart from structured interview, the study proceeds with in-depth interview with various stakeholders, getting access to numerous viewpoints for plausible solutions.

There are 318 structured interviews with households in the area of 05 related communes, random sample is proceeded to ensure validity. All 318households feedback over the status of forest land allocation in the past time. Feedback from stakeholders help data to be objective and realistic in the study.

### 3.5.2.2. Proposed solutions

#### a, Proposed by stakeholders

- *Solution group 1* - Implement.
- *Solution group 2* - Finance.
- *Solution group 3* - Policy.
- *Solution group 4*—Governmental management.

**Table 3.27.** *The result of proposed solutions by stakeholders*

No.	Solution group	Commune level	District level	Provincial level	Others	Total	Total (%)
01	1	4	5	4	9	<b>22</b>	15,83
02	2	9	16	1	12	<b>38</b>	27,34
03	3	7	12	6	10	<b>35</b>	25,18
04	4	15	16	7	6	<b>44</b>	31,65
<b>Total:</b>		<b>35</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>100</b>

#### b, Solutions

*\* In terms of implementation:*

- Local and professional bodies issue a unified procedure, method of forest land allocation for ethnic minorities.

- Allocate forest land bordering the neighborhood.

- Full assement of need and range of forest land use of ethnic minorities to implement the allocation to the right target user with appropriate land area for production.

*\* In terms of finance:*

- Give budget priority to forest land allocation to ethnic minoritires.

- The authority needs to be along with the neighborhood, providing capital policy, seed policy and cultivation technology transfer

so that the neighborhood can effectively cultivate and feel eager to receive forest land for farming.

-The authority and professional bodies are in charge of providing information related to the market and output product consuming trend.

*\* In terms of policy:*

- Stress on propaganda of forest land allocation.
- Highlight participatory role of the neighborhood.
- Provide related staff of all levels training courses of ethnic minorities and professional knowledge of land planning and forest land allocation.

*\* In terms of management:*

- Attract participatory role of related bodies of various levels of authority.
- Revise and assess forest land use by organizations; to strongly confiscate land of ineffective use and management to allocate to individual, household and other neighborhood for more effective use.
- Add more regulations to limit land use transfer after allocating to priority users who are ethnic minorities.
- Detailed planning of forest land for allocating directions towards the neighborhood in remote and mountainous areas on the basis of need assessment.

### **c, Implementing solutions**

On each issue among solutions, various authority level or professional body is assigned related tasks, together with the participation from socio-economic organizations to synchronize solutions. Then, the related solutions can be realized, according to table 3.28.



**Table 3.28. Participatory level in implementing proposed solutions**

<b>Implementing level Solution</b>	<b>Centre</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Commune</b>	<b>Hamlet</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Scale</b>
- In terms of implementing	2	30	53	7	3	5	<b>100</b>
- In terms of finance	5	38	30	10	2	15	<b>100</b>
- In terms of policy	2	22	29	25	18	4	<b>100</b>
-In terms of management	7	38	33	19	2	1	<b>100</b>
<b>Total points:</b>	<b>16</b>	<b><u>128</u></b>	<b><u>145</u></b>	<b>61</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Rate (%):</b>	<b>4,00</b>	<b><u>32,00</u></b>	<b><u>36,25</u></b>	<b>15,25</b>	<b>6,25</b>	<b>6,25</b>	<b>100</b>

The study shows that effective participatory role belongs to district and provincial level with the respective scale of 145 and 128, whereas participatory rate of 36,25% and 32,00%. Among proposed solutions, the role from central bodies is indispensable for the solutions' effect, such as: continuous leadership, legal document, financial support, etc for the forest land allocation to ethnic minorities. However, the participatory rate is lowest, at 4,00%.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Conclusions

1) Ethnic minorities of Le Thuy and Quang Ninh districts accommodate mainly in the west, in the area of Trường Sơn commune, Trường Xuân commune (Quảng Ninh district), Kim Thủy commune, Ngân Thủy commune, Lâm Thủy commune (Lệ Thủy district) where suffer from difficult and underdeveloped living conditions. Ethnic minorities account for 62,52% of total population. In this area, Bru-Van

Kieu still has old-fashioned cultivation practice, with low levels of education. Those factors impact a great deal on land management and forest land allocation to ethnic minorities in the past years.

2) With the support of GIS and Remote Sensing, the study shows exact result of forest land variability during 2005 - 2015 in the west of Lệ Thủy and Quảng Ninh districts, Quảng Bình province. Accordingly, natural forest land suffers from biggest variability, with the area drop of 35 966,12 ha, cultivated forest land increases by 27 514,77 ha. Land variability is resulted from purpose transition of land use whereas natural land to cultivated land transition witnesses the largest area. Apart from objective reasons, the land variability is also resulted from strengthened governmental policy of forestation and forest land allocation in the study area in the past time.

3) As a matter of fact, production forest land plays an important role in the livelihood of ethnic minorities, impacting on employment structure, income and living quality. Therefore, their need of production forest land is quite substantial. In the study, surveyed 176/318 households (55,34%) have cultivated forest land. 316/318 households (99,37%) are in need of cultivated forest land with 2 026 ha. 257 households are short of forest land, accounting for 80,81%. Then, the shortage of cultivated forest land is an essential issue, which is very important for daily living conditions of ethnic minorities.

4) In the west of Lệ Thủy and Quảng Ninh districts, Quảng Bình province, forest land allocation for ethnic minorities has seen positive changes. By 2015, total cultivated forest land allocated to ethnic minorities reaches 4 451,4 ha, accounting for 39,6% of land area in use of households. This number is 4 281,9 ha during 2012-2015 period. Resources participated in forest land allocation increase, information of forest land allocation is wide spread, related staff's awareness towards forest land allocation to ethnic minorities is improved, certificates of land use right are more numerous. However, forest land allocation to ethnic minorities are not effective enough, there are difficulties in forest land allocation in terms of policy, implementation and practical hindrances.

5) On the basis of evaluating results of forest land allocation in the past time, on practical conditions, the study proposes 4 solution groups in terms of implementation, finance, policy and management. Solution groups have all related content to tackle hindrances and unsolved issues in forest land allocation to ethnic minorities in the west of Lệ Thủy and Quảng Ninh districts in the past time, creating favorable conditions in forest land allocation for the neighborhood, and for ethnic minorities in particular.

## **2. Recommendations**

1) To strengthen forest land allocation towards ethnic minorities, to continue the study to add and revise institution, policy of land and forestry for the sake of vulnerable target who is the ethnic minorities.

2) To broaden the study of forest land allocation in other area, to analyze the quantity and statistics to have an overall viewpoint of management policy, forest land allocation to households, individuals in line with governmental regulations.

3) Authority bodies and professional bodies should refer to research result, especially proposed solutions to conduct and make forest land allocation consistent for poverty reduction and ecological environment.