

Farm Management Schemes within Organic PGS; Survey and Analysis in Sóc Sơn, Hanoi, Vietnam

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Abstract

A comparative analysis of collective and individual management schemes within Organic Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) in the Hanoi province in northern Vietnam indicates that collective farm management enhances social and ecological practices. The study has juxtaposed the schemes in terms of social and ecological systems as well as impressions of farmers and retailers.

Introduction and Background

Demand is rising for organic vegetables in Vietnam. This poses many challenges for small-scale rural farmers who supply the Hanoi markets. Strict third party certification is well beyond their reach, both in terms of cost and technical ability. Organic participatory guarantee systems (PGS) offer an alternative through peer-review and social control, supporting appropriate farming practices, local market development, and social cohesion (Zanasi and Venturi 2008). PGS is based on civil society (Fonseca et. al, 2008), and ensures agro-biodiversity conservation and livelihood security by recognizing the merits of traditional practices and customs (Darloug 2008). PGSs are context specific and the systems vary greatly, but all propose collective efforts for marketing and certification of organic products. The purpose of this study was to determine how PGS farmers manage collective work and decision-making in land-use planning when they share collective organic land.

Material and methods

A comparative analysis of two PGSs management systems took place from January to April 2012.

Conclusions

Results from this study suggest that the transition from individual plot management to cooperative land management assures better crop rotations, more reliable fallow periods, higher use of green manures, better and more reliable yields and higher quality and productivity overall.

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