Dynamics of Livestock Production Systems during the Economic Transformation Period in Northern Vietnam: Case Study in Cam Giang District, Hai Duong Province

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In Northern Vietnam, livestock production has been strongly encouraged to develop by the government for many years as an important livelihood strategy to alleviate household poverty. However, it still develops slowly and unsustainably. This study aims to understand the differentiation of livestock production systems during the economic transformation period. A survey which based on participatory and retrospective approach was conducted at 38 households at two communes in Hai Duong province in 2010 by a semi-structure questionnaire. The results indicated two major stages of livestock production system evolution, including diversification process from 1993 to 2000 and specialization and intensification era from 2000 up to present. The land law in 1993 and land conversion policy in 2003 were of great importance to the farm expansion in the rice fields. The acceleration of industrialization and urbanization in 2000s influenced significantly to the evolution of livestock production systems in terms of land use and off-farm jobs. In recent years, the repeated outbreak of various infectious epidemics since 2003 and the rapid increase of concentrated animal feed caused many disappearances of small farms and faced the rest huge threats and difficulties. To better adaptation to the changes, the intensive systems start to diversify their livestock flocks and develop strong connections with big suppliers and collectors. The semi-intensive ones are more resilient by keeping diversified livestock-fish-crop systems while seeking for off-farm activities.

Key Words: Dynamics, Livestock production systems, Diversification, Specialization, Northern Vietnam