

Village Culture House

A case study in Cao Bang Province

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Presentation plan

- Rational for the promotion
- Promotion progress
- Relation to Grassroots Democracy

Rationale for the promotion

- Positive experience of culture houses in several ethnic groups
- The culture house also has enriched social activities
- Combine poverty reduction with cultural components
- Preserve cultural identities and improve the provision of information

Rationale cont...

- Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS) sees culture as a component to facilitate development
- Socio-economic associations, communities and international organizations are encouraged to support this effort

Rationale...

- simultaneously strengthens culture and the dissemination of information at the grassroots level
- promotes cultural & social activities (entertainment area), facilitates experience sharing, communication of information related to their farm production, decision making, problem and conflict solving (meeting place).
- to be used by different programs, projects as a vector in the efforts of poverty alleviation
- serves as a platform for promotion and dissemination of grassroots democracy, successful farm practices, market information, new technologies ...

Promotion progress

- Ministry of Culture and Information is authorized to implement the policy
- Several decisions and campaigns have been launched to promote the House throughout different levels
- The respective province decide mode of support based on their own financial ability
- Leaders of all levels take responsibility in the implementation of the policy
- Villagers are main actors

Promotion progress

- Interaction between the levels of authorities are not good, miscommunication has led to the misunderstanding on the purpose and function of the house
- Different ethnic groups with the same house design
- Villagers do not yet take the leading roles in the construction and management of the house
- Mountainous areas are too poor to steer up the dynamic

Promotion (cont...)

- Villagers are very much concerned for the contents of the house
- Equipments of the house should be made available for some basic activities (meetings, music)

- Due to the lack of ownership, villagers have not taken the role of house management, in other word, not clear strategy for the house management

Relation to GD

- The positive idea of the central government has been welcomed by the local authorities and people
- The authorities and villagers share in common the purpose and function of the house
- Both government and villagers think that the house will help increase the competence of villagers due to frequent take part in community discussion

Functions of the house

Relation (cont...)

- Cultural identities' preservation is not well perceived by the local people
- The management of the house has not been well discussed and communicated with the villagers therefore there is different expectation among the local authorities and villagers
- Due to miscommunication, villagers do not yet have the sense of ownership
- Objective and strategies are good but the they are not really fit with the poverty condition/situation

Thanks you for your attention!