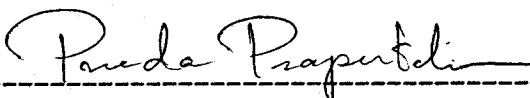


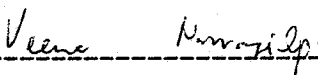
SELF-DIRECTED STUDY TITLE: **AN ANALYSIS OF FARMERS' MATERIAL LIFE AFTER
THE RENOVATION PROCESS IN VIETNAM**

AUTHOR: **MR. HOANG MANH QUAN**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE:


----- Chairman

(Dr. Preeda Prapertchob)



(Dr. Veena Nanasilp)

ABSTRACT

Rural areas in Vietnam play a very important role in the nation's development, so the Vietnamese Government has made tremendous efforts to develop them. The rural areas and farmers' life, including farmers' material life, have changed greatly due to the economic renovation which has been pursued since 1981. More knowledge of the farmers' material life after the renovation process is desirable for establishing proper policies and effective solutions to improve their living standard and to make the renovation more successful. This study aims to understand the current situation and to study the effects of the renovation on farmers' material life focusing on four main indicators: income, living expenditure, diet, and assets.

This study has found that the renovation process has brought about a great many changes for the better in terms of farmers' material life as indicated by increases in the four above-mentioned indicators, and rate of increases has accelerated year by year.

With regard to the current situation of farmers' material life, it has been found that farmers' average monthly per capita income is 61 thousand Vietnamese Dong (VND) and that there is a disparity among sources of income. The major source of income is from crops. Livestock and non-agricultural sector share a low percentage of the total income. Most of farmers' income is spent on food with a very small amount spent on education, health care. Farmers' diet is characterized by intake of foods deficient in both energy and nutritional value. Concerning farmers' assets, the average agricultural land holding per person is low, the means of production are rudimentary and outdated, and machinery equipment is possessed by few. Much progress has been made in terms of housing construction, but household assets are still in a poor state. High-value household assets are little owned by the farmers.

This study has also shown that along with great achievements, the renovation has also caused some problems of which the disparity between the rich and poor, and new hardships for the poor are critical issues affecting farmers' material life.

This study has also proposed recommendations for measures, policies and further studies to improve the farmers' material life.