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On my research

My research is concerned with the socio-economic change in the rural area of the Northern part of Vietnam, so-called the Red-River Delta. I am seeking to describe how villagers had changed their economic activities during the period of transition from the planned economy to the market-oriented economy, which led to their present economic conditions.

Before 1986 when the Doi-Moi policy was announced and the market economy was introduced, there was no formal labor market in Vietnam. Under the planned economy, the government and public organizations arranged the people to work as labor in cooperatives and national companies, on the basis of information obtained from the family register. After 1986, however, Vietnam started to introduce a market mechanism, and the role of such organizations has been gradually reduced. Instead, it became more common that people had to secure their livelihood by themselves, that is, by taking advantage of their capabilities and by responding to the circumstances. This caused major socio-economical changes such as diversification of job types, working patterns and so on.

In my research, therefore, I plan to conduct a household survey of a village, which had gone through the diversification of economic activities, to show how particular economic activities were chosen by each villager, what made such options possible, and how the socio-economic conditions of the village today were created.