

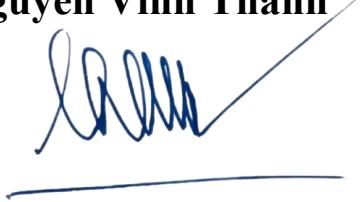
HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SON LA PROVINCE**

**DOCTORAL DISSERTATION
MAJOR: ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT**

Scientific Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Vinh Thanh



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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the topic

Socio-economic development in ethnic minority areas is both a humanitarian objective and a strategic requirement in sustainable development management, ensuring social equity and national political stability. In the context of Vietnam's deep integration into the global economy, economic management needs to promote growth while ensuring effective resource allocation, especially in areas facing significant development barriers such as ethnic minority and mountainous regions.

Many domestic and international studies have addressed ethnic policies; however, most stop at the macro level or analyze individual programs separately. There have been limited systematic studies explaining the governance effectiveness of policies supporting the economic development of ethnic minorities under limited resources, as well as assessing the adaptability of beneficiary communities. Although studies by Nguyen Quoc Suu, Ngo Van Nhan; Nguyen Phu Minh; and the World Bank have highlighted the need to improve policies, they still lack a consistent analytical framework regarding the relationship between policy design, local institutional capacity, and beneficiaries' responses.

In Son La Province, practice shows that despite the implementation of various policies under national programs such as the National Target Program under Decision No. 1719/QD-TTg (2021–2030) and the province's Resolution No. 16-NQ/TU, outcomes remain fragmented and not commensurate with invested resources. The gap between policy design and implementation capacity has become a core issue in local public economic management. Therefore, an in-depth study of organizational models, operational mechanisms, and the adaptability of policies supporting economic development for ethnic minority people in Son La is both practically significant and contributes to filling theoretical gaps in

economic management and governance of development in special regions.

From the above analysis, it can be affirmed that a systematic study of policies supporting economic development for ethnic minority people in Son La is urgent in both theory and practice. The topic provides a scientific basis for improving the design, organization, and evaluation of public policies in localities with similar characteristics, contributing to more effective resource allocation, strengthened state management, and sustainable development in ethnic minority areas. For these reasons, the doctoral candidate chose the topic: “Policies Supporting Ethnic Minority Communities in Economic Development in Son La Province” for the PhD dissertation in Economic Management.

2. Research objectives and tasks

2.1. Research objective

To analyze and evaluate the current status of implementing groups of policies supporting economic development for ethnic minority people in Son La Province during 2018–2024, focusing on clarifying how implementation is organized at the provincial, district, and commune levels; and examining achieved results through key forms of support such as household economic development, cooperatives, enterprises, supply of inputs and seeds/varieties, product consumption, and the development of effective production models. On that basis, the dissertation identifies limitations in implementation, determines causes, and proposes a system of solutions to improve effectiveness, thereby promoting sustainable economic development for ethnic minority communities in the coming period.

2.2. Research tasks

Review related studies, identify what has been studied, research gaps, and the dissertation’s focus.

Systematize and (with analysis) supplement the theoretical basis and summarize implementation experience of policies supporting ethnic minority economic development in several provinces with conditions similar to Son La.

Analyze and evaluate the implementation status in Son La during 2018–2024, drawing out achievements, limitations, and causes.

Propose orientations and solutions to enhance the effectiveness of organizing and implementing these policies in Son La in subsequent years.

3. Research subjects and scope

Research subject:

Policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development, approached from policy content and implementation organization at the provincial level.

Scope:

Geographical scope: Son La Province.

Time scope: Assessment of the situation for 2018–2024; proposed solutions for 2025–2030 and subsequent years.

Beneficiaries: Ethnic minority people in Son La Province.

Content scope:

1. Policies supporting access to resources;
2. Policies supporting production organization;
3. Policies supporting product consumption;
4. Policies supporting the development of socio-economic infrastructure.

4. Research Approach and Methodology

4.1. Research approach

The dissertation approaches the research problem from the perspective of public policy management in the economic sector, with a focus on policies supporting economic development in ethnic minority areas at the provincial level—where implementation is subject to central government direction while provinces retain autonomy in coordination and execution. The specific approaches include: (i) a policy-cycle approach (policy formulation – policy content-policy implementation); (ii) an approach grounded in the particularities of state management at the provincial level; and (iii) an

interdisciplinary and systems-based approach.

4.2. Specific research methods

The dissertation combines qualitative and quantitative research methods to ensure both theoretical depth and practical relevance in policy assessment. The selected methods are aligned with the research objectives, tasks, and the characteristics of the study area.

4.3. Field survey design and expert interviews

4.3.1. Survey objectives

The field survey was conducted to collect first-hand information from stakeholders related to policies supporting economic development for ethnic minority people in Son La Province. The survey results serve to: assess the level of access to and benefits received from support policies; reflect policy effectiveness from the perspectives of local residents and grassroots officials; identify barriers and factors affecting policy implementation; and provide practical evidence for proposing appropriate policy management solutions.

4.3.2. Survey subjects and scope

(a) Household survey (quantitative)

The study surveyed 200 ethnic minority households in four communes across four districts representing different geo-economic regions. Specifically: Muong Bu Commune (former Muong La District), Muong Sai Commune (former Quynh Nhai District), Muong Hung Commune (former Song Ma District), and Muong Leo Commune (former Sop Cop District). These communes have high proportions of ethnic minority populations, distinct topographical and settlement characteristics, and are representative of lowland, midland, and highland areas.

(b) Interviews with officials and experts (qualitative)

The qualitative component was carried out through in-depth interviews with management officials and experts to elicit professional insights and obtain a deeper assessment of policy implementation mechanisms, existing difficulties and bottlenecks, and proposed solutions. Specifically, in-depth

interviews were conducted with three groups: (1) commune- and district-level officials (20 interviews); (2) provincial-level officials (10 interviews); and (3) experts (8 interviews).

4.3.3. Survey process and implementation steps

Step 1: Design of survey instruments

Step 2: Pilot testing and refinement of instruments

Step 3: Field data collection

Step 4: Data processing and analysis

4.3.4. Role and use of survey data in the dissertation

Field survey data and in-depth interview findings were used as key empirical evidence to analyze, compare, and validate the dissertation's arguments in two core chapters: Chapter 3 and Chapter 4.

5. Novel scientific contributions of the dissertation

The dissertation systematizes the theoretical foundations of provincial-level policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development in Vietnam in general and in Son La in particular.

It analyzes and clarifies the contents and principles of supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development through the implementation of policies that facilitate access to resources, support production organization, support product consumption, and support technical infrastructure at the provincial level. The dissertation also summarizes the experience of issuing and organizing the implementation of such policies in several provinces with conditions similar to Son La.

It proposes orientations and solutions to improve the effectiveness of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development in Son La Province for the 2025–2030 period and subsequent years.

The dissertation's findings contribute scientific evidence for continued innovation, refinement, and implementation of policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development in other provinces. In

addition, the research results may serve as reference materials for teaching and further research in related economic topics.

6. Structure of the dissertation

In line with the stated objectives and research tasks, in addition to the Introduction, Conclusion, and References, the dissertation consists of four chapters.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH ON POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1.1. STUDIES ON POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1.1.1. Studies on policies supporting access to and use of resources

1.1.2. Studies on policies supporting production organization

1.1.3. Studies on policies supporting product consumption

1.1.4. Studies on policies supporting the development of socio- economic infrastructure

1.2. KEY FINDINGS FROM RELATED STUDIES, RESEARCH GAPS, AND ISSUES THIS DISSERTATION FOCUSES ON

1.3.1. Main findings from studies related to the dissertation topic

**1.3.2. Research gaps on policies supporting ethnic minority
communities' economic development and the dissertation's research focus**

These gaps can be identified from the following aspects:

Regarding policies supporting access to and use of resources: Most existing studies mainly stop at identifying the essential role of resources

such as land, preferential credit, vocational training, and technical assistance for ethnic minority people's livelihoods.

Regarding policies supporting production organization: Production organization systems in ethnic minority areas have been supported through the establishment of cooperative groups and cooperatives, and by promoting linkages among farm households and enterprises. Although some models have recorded initial effectiveness in increasing agricultural value and creating more stable livelihoods, current studies have not approached the issue from the perspective of production management institutions. Specifically, there is still no analytical framework that clarifies managerial capacity, financial transparency, the ability to manage market risks, and the financial sustainability of state-supported production organization models.

Regarding policies supporting product consumption: Although policies related to trade promotion, traceability, branding support, and the application of digital technology in agricultural product marketing have been initially implemented, empirical studies assessing their effectiveness in ethnic minority areas remain very limited. There has not yet been an analysis showing how policy can regulate market risks and allocate benefits fairly within agricultural value chains in ethnic minority regions.

Regarding policies supporting the development of socio-economic infrastructure: Existing works mainly record the scale and scope of infrastructure investment such as rural roads, electricity, water supply, schools, health stations, and digital transformation in ethnic minority areas. However, most still focus on physical outputs (number of facilities, coverage levels) without adequately assessing investment efficiency, actual utilization, and spillover impacts on production development and people's livelihoods.

Chapter 1 Summary

Chapter 2

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OF POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.1. CONCEPTS, CHARACTERISTICS, AND ROLES OF POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.1.1. Some basic concepts

2.1.1.1. *The concept of ethnicity in Vietnam*

* *The concept of an ethnicity/nation*: In modern social sciences, an “ethnicity/nation” is often understood as a stable human community sharing common historical origins and cultural characteristics, language, territory of residence, and a sense of collective identity. According to UNESCO (2003), an ethnicity/nation is a form of social organization that exists stably throughout history, with its own distinct cultural and socio-economic structure, reflecting the particular development of a group of people within a specific historical context.

* *The concept of an ethnic minority*: An “ethnic minority” (a minority ethnic group) is defined in relation to the population size of ethnic groups within a country, in which minority groups have a smaller population compared to the majority ethnic group. In practice, the terms “ethnic minority” and “minority ethnic group” are often used interchangeably when contrasted with the majority ethnicity.

2.1.1.2. *The concept of policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development*

* *The concept of policy*: In Vietnam, this concept is understood as follows: “Policy is a set of institutionalized measures introduced by a power holder or a management entity, which provides preferential treatment for one or more social groups, stimulates their motivation, and

guides their actions in order to achieve a specific objective within the development strategy of a social system.”

* *The concept of support:* Support is a term widely used in social life. It can be understood simply as assistance or the provision of resources to address a problem or difficulty. However, support is not limited to direct help; it also includes the provision of information, counseling, guidance, and orientation.

The concept of policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development:

From the above approaches, it can be defined that policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development are forms of state assistance through different measures aimed at providing financial support, technical support, training, or other resources to help ethnic minority people overcome difficulties and advance in economic development.

The concept of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development at the provincial level

Implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development at the provincial level is the process of organizing and carrying out policy decisions formulated by the State through the provincial government apparatus, in order to translate policy objectives into concrete actions, with the aim of promoting sustainable socio-economic development for ethnic minority communities in the locality.

Provincial-level implementing actors include the Provincial People's Committee—the highest state management body at the local level—playing the role of directing, approving plans, organizing implementation, and inspecting and supervising the entire policy execution process.

Beneficiaries are prioritized according to the principle of “stratifying needs and the degree of hardship,” focusing on the most vulnerable population groups. Support contents are primarily structured around four key pillars.

2.1.2. Characteristics of policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development

2.1.3. Roles of policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development

First, policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development contribute to improving material and spiritual living standards and creating motivation for socio-economic development among ethnic minority communities.

Second, these policies help strengthen trust, maintain political and social stability, and build national unity in ethnic minority areas.

Third, such policies promote harmonious development between economic growth and the assurance of cultural and social development as well as ecological environmental protection.

Fourth, implementing these policies contributes to strengthening national defense and security, consolidating a firm "people's defense posture," and proactively preventing and defeating hostile forces' disruptive activities.

2.2. SUPPORT CONTENTS, ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALIZATION AND IMPLEMENTING APPARATUS, AND CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING IMPLEMENTATION EFFECTIVENESS OF POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.2.1. Contents of policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development

2.2.1.1. Supporting access to resources: land, capital, technology, and labor

2.2.1.2. Supporting production organization: supporting household economies, cooperatives, and enterprise establishment

2.2.1.3. Supporting product consumption

2.2.1.4. Supporting the development of the socio-economic infrastructure system

2.2.2. Decentralization and organizational apparatus for implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development at the provincial level

2.2.3.1. Decentralization of implementation

2.2.3.2. Organizational apparatus for implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development

2.2.3. Criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development in Son La Province

2.3. FACTORS AFFECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES

2.3.1. Local factors

2.3.2. External factors

2.4. EXPERIENCE IN ORGANIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SOME LOCALITIES

2.4.1. Typical local experiences in Vietnam

2.4.2. International experience: the cases of Thailand and Malaysia

2.4.3. Lessons for Son La Province

Chapter 2 Summary

Chapter 3

CURRENT STATUS OF POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SON LA PROVINCE

3.1. NATURAL CONDITIONS, SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN SON LA PROVINCE

3.1.1. Natural conditions

3.1.2. Socio-economic conditions of Son La Province

3.1.3. Characteristics of ethnic minorities in Son La Province

3.1.4. Economic activities of ethnic minority groups in Son La

3.2. CURRENT STATUS OF IMPLEMENTING POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SON LA PROVINCE DURING THE 2018–2024 PERIOD

3.2.1. Current status of implementing policies supporting production resources

3.2.1.1. Steps for implementing policies in Son La Province

3.2.1.2. Current status of implementing land-access support policies for ethnic minority people

3.2.1.3. Current status of implementing credit-access support policies for ethnic minority people

3.2.1.4. Current status of implementing agricultural and fishery extension policies in ethnic minority areas

3.2.1.5. Current status of implementing vocational training support policies for ethnic minority people

3.2.2. Current status of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities in production organization

3.2.2.1. Supporting ethnic minority households' economic development

3.2.2.2. Supporting the development of cooperatives among ethnic minority communities

3.2.2.3. Supporting ethnic minority communities in enterprise establishment

3.2.2.4. Supporting the development of several effective production models

3.2.3. Current status of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities in inputs, materials, seed/varieties, and product consumption

3.2.3.1. *Supporting ethnic minority communities in the supply of inputs, materials, and seed/varieties*

3.2.3.2. *Supporting ethnic minority communities in product consumption*

3.2.4. Current status of implementing policies supporting the development of socio-economic infrastructure systems in ethnic minority areas

3.2.4.1. *Supporting the construction of transport roads*

3.2.4.2. *Supporting the construction of irrigation systems*

3.2.4.3. *Supporting the construction of electricity and clean water systems*

3.2.4.4. *Supporting the development of other basic social services*

3.2.5. Characteristics of policies supporting economic development in ethnic minority areas from central and local levels

3.3. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTING POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SON LA DURING 2018–2024

3.3.1. Achievements in implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development in Son La during 2018–2023

First, the policy framework has been issued in a coordinated manner and closely aligned with practical conditions.

Second, policies supporting production resources have shown clear progress. During 2018–2024, support policies helped tens of thousands of ethnic minority households in Son La access preferential credit, obtain land-use right certificates, and participate in technical training on production.

Third, policies supporting production organization and product consumption have been expanded. In recent years, Son La has promoted collective economic development in ethnic minority areas; the number of

cooperatives and cooperative groups has increased rapidly in both scale and fields of operation. Many “four-actor linkage” models (the State – scientists – enterprises – farmers) have been implemented, creating closed value chains from production to consumption.

Fourth, infrastructure serving production and daily life has improved markedly. The province has invested in thousands of kilometers of rural roads along with irrigation systems, power grids, and domestic water supply, thereby creating breakthroughs in socio-economic infrastructure for ethnic minority areas in Son La.

Fifth, support policies have generated positive impacts on people's living standards. Policies supporting economic development have brought about clear improvements in ethnic minority areas in Son La. The poverty rate has declined by more than 3% per year, helping narrow development gaps with other regions. Average income per capita has increased thanks to expanded production and more diversified livelihoods.

3.3.2. Limitations in implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development in Son La during 2018–2024

3.3.3. Causes of limitations in implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development in Son La during 2018–2024

3.3.3.1. Policy-related causes

First, central government policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development.

Second, macro-level economic planning policies.

Third, the policy formulation process has not sufficiently taken into account the specific characteristics of each ethnic group.

3.3.3.2. Causes related to implementing actors

First, the province's particular conditions.

Second, socio-cultural conditions.

Third, the provincial budget.

Fourth, the capacity and political determination of the provincial government.

3.3.3.3. Causes related to beneficiary/recipient groups

Chapter 3 Summary

Chapter 4

OBJECTIVES, ORIENTATIONS, AND SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF IMPLEMENTING POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SON LA PROVINCE

4.1. FORECAST OF THE CONTEXT AFFECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SON LA PROVINCE

4.1.1. Integration trends

4.1.2. National economic development trends

4.1.3. Socio-economic development trends in Son La Province

4.1.4. New economic development trends affecting policies supporting economic development in ethnic minority areas of Son La Province

4.2. OBJECTIVES, ORIENTATIONS, AND EFFECTIVENESS MEASUREMENT FOR IMPLEMENTING POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SON LA PROVINCE

4.2.1. Objectives for implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development in Son La Province for the 2025–2030 period

General objective

Promote production development; tap into potential and advantages;

foster innovation; increase incomes; and stabilize the living conditions of ethnic minority communities. Accelerate rapid and sustainable poverty reduction; reduce the number of communes and villages facing exceptionally difficult socio-economic conditions; plan and arrange stable residential settlement; build a synchronized socio-economic infrastructure system; and promote comprehensive development in education and training, healthcare, and culture. Preserve and promote the positive cultural identities of ethnic minority groups while eliminating outdated customs and practices; ensure gender equality and address urgent issues affecting women and children; improve the quality of human resources; and build a contingent of ethnic minority officials and civil servants with an appropriate structure, integrity, and competence to meet task requirements. Consolidate and strengthen the great national unity bloc; ensure national defense and security; build a strong grassroots political system; and reinforce and enhance ethnic minority communities' trust in the Party and the State.

Specific objectives by the end of 2030

Continue to narrow disparities in socio-economic development between urban areas (towns and townships) and communes in exceptionally difficult and border areas; reduce the poverty rate by an average of 3–4% per year; ensure that 70% of communes in ethnic minority areas meet new rural development standards; eliminate “poor districts” benefiting from special policies; complete 100% of fixed-cultivation and fixed-settlement sites, with no remaining unplanned spontaneous migration; eradicate temporary/unsafe housing and fundamentally address shortages of residential land and production land for ethnic minority households. Develop an ethnic minority cadre contingent ensuring that the proportion of ethnic minority officials, civil servants, and public employees is consistent with the population share of each ethnic group. Create favorable conditions for people in exceptionally

difficult and border areas of the province to access and benefit from high-quality healthcare, cultural, and educational services. Continue improving economic and socio-cultural indicators toward gradual, comprehensive, sustainable development and integration, while firmly ensuring national defense and security.

4.2.2. Orientations for organizing the implementation of policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development in Son La Province

4.3. SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF IMPLEMENTING POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SON LA PROVINCE

4.3.1. Solution group related to policy contents supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development

4.3.1.1. Innovate support contents for ethnic minority communities in production organization

4.3.1.2. Innovate support contents for ethnic minority communities in product consumption

4.3.1.3. Pay greater attention to supporting ethnic minority communities in developing the socio-economic infrastructure system

4.3.2. Solution group related to implementing actors of policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development

4.3.2.1. Improve the organizational apparatus for implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development

4.3.2.2. Innovate decentralization arrangements for organizing the implementation of policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development

4.3.2.3. Enhance the capacity and leadership/management accountability of officials responsible for implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development

4.3.3. Solution group related to policy beneficiaries/recipients

4.4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.4.1. To the Government

4.4.2. To the Ministries of Finance; Agriculture and Environment; and Home Affairs

4.4.3. Recommendations to the Son La Provincial People's Committee

4.4.4. Recommendations to the Departments of Finance; Agriculture and Environment; and Home Affairs of Son La Province

Chapter 4 Summary

CONCLUSION

Supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development is a major policy of the Party and the State, aimed at assisting ethnic minority people in developing the economy and improving their living standards. Such support is implemented through multiple policies and carried out in a coordinated manner from the central level to localities. Over time, these policies have produced positive results and made significant contributions to hunger eradication and poverty reduction, especially in ethnic minority, remote, and isolated areas.

Building on and inheriting scientific values from published works, the doctoral candidate developed a theoretical framework including: the concept of policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development; a proposed analytical framework for such policies; the characteristics and roles of these policies; clarification of the basic contents of policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic

development; and the decentralization and organizational structure of the implementing apparatus for these policies in Son La Province. The dissertation identifies factors affecting the implementation of policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development in Son La, analyzes implementation experience in several provinces with characteristics similar to Son La, and draws lessons for Son La in organizing the implementation of such policies.

On the basis of the theoretical framework, the dissertation assesses the current status of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development across four core areas: policies supporting access to resources, policies supporting production organization, policies supporting product consumption, and policies supporting technical infrastructure. It highlights Son La's achievements in implementing these policies, such as: Party committees and authorities at all levels paying attention to policy implementation in line with the guidelines of the Party, the State, and the province; supporting ethnic minority people's access to key resources including land, capital, technology, and agricultural and fishery extension services; supporting the formation of product-consumption linkages and value chains; and investing in the construction, upgrading, and improvement of facilities and infrastructure serving production.

The doctoral candidate also identifies limitations in implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development in Son La in recent years, including: incomplete issuance of guiding documents by responsible agencies and units; some investment and support policies being fragmented and spread thin; policies focusing mainly on providing support but not effectively linking all stages from inputs to infrastructure and market outputs for products; limited ability to connect and engage enterprises as partners in policy implementation; and insufficiently regular and in-depth dissemination, communication, and

guidance on policy documents, resulting in delays in people's access to information. The dissertation also points out groups of causes of these limitations, including policy-related causes, causes related to implementing actors, and causes related to beneficiaries.

Based on the assessment of policy implementation, the doctoral candidate provides forecasts regarding influencing factors and proposes several groups of fundamental solutions to address limitations and improve the effectiveness of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development in Son La in the coming period. Through these solutions, the doctoral candidate believes that if they are implemented in a coordinated and effective manner, the effectiveness of policies supporting ethnic minority communities' economic development in Son La Province will be improved and become more impactful.

LIST OF PUBLISHED SCIENTIFIC WORKS RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC

1. Nguyen Chi Chung (2024), “Policies to support ethnic minorities in developing production in Son La province”, *Journal of Economics and Forecasting*, (17).
2. Nguyen Chi Chung (2024), “Policies to support ethnic minorities in consuming agricultural products in Son La province”, *Journal of Economics and Forecasting*, (18).
3. Nguyen Chi Chung (2024), “Improving the quality of implementing policies to support ethnic minorities in developing the economy in Son La province”, *Journal of Economics and Forecasting*, (19).