

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

NGUYEN CHI CHUNG

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

**DOCTORAL DISSERTATION
MAJOR: ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT**

HA NOI - 2026

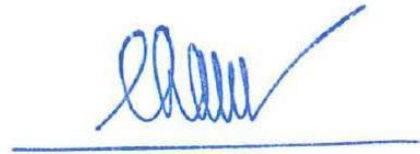
**This dissertation was completed at
Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics**

Chairman of the Council



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dinh Thi Nga

Scientific Supervisor



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Vinh Thanh

Reviewer 1: PGS.TS. Do Anh Duc

National Economics University

Reviewer 2: PGS.TS. Hoang Van Hoan

Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics

Reviewer 3: PGS.TS. Dinh Hong Linh

*University of Economics and Business Administration,
Thai Nguyen University*

**The dissertation was defended before the Academy-level Dissertation
Evaluation Council at Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics
at 08 hour 00 day 05 month 5 year 2026**

The dissertation can be accessed at:

**The National Library of Vietnam and
The Library of Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics**

INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the topic

Son La is a mountainous border province in the Northwest region of Vietnam, holding an important strategic position in terms of socio-economic development, national defense, and security. It is also a locality where ethnic minority people account for the majority of the population. Over the years, the Party and the State have promulgated numerous guidelines and policies to support ethnic minority communities in economic development, sustainable poverty reduction, and the improvement of both material and spiritual living standards for people in ethnic minority and mountainous areas. Many major programs and projects have been implemented, such as Program 135, Decision No. 2085/QĐ-TTg, Decision No. 2086/QĐ-TTg, and the National Target Program for Socio-Economic Development in Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas for the 2021–2030 period.

The practical implementation in Son La province shows that policies supporting ethnic minority people in economic development have achieved many positive results, contributing to improvements in infrastructure systems, enhancement of people's living standards, reduction of the poverty rate, and promotion of local economic development. However, the effectiveness of policy implementation still reveals several limitations, such as unequal access to resources among people; small-scale production; weak market linkages; underdeveloped and unsynchronized infrastructure in some areas; and shortcomings in policy implementation capacity at the grassroots level.

In addition, up to now, there has not been any comprehensive and systematic study on policies supporting ethnic minority people in economic development in Son La province from the perspective of

economic management and public policy implementation. Therefore, the study entitled “Policies to Support Ethnic Minority People in Economic Development in Son La Province” is of both theoretical and practical significance.

2. Literature Review

Issues related to ethnicity and policies supporting ethnic minority people in socio-economic development have attracted the attention of many scholars, research institutions, and domestic and international organizations from various perspectives. Foreign studies mainly focus on analyzing the role of ethnic policies, preferential policies, and economic development support policies for ethnic minorities in the process of national development, social equity assurance, and political stability. Many studies have indicated that the effective implementation of economic development support policies plays an important role in improving the material and spiritual lives of ethnic minority people, reducing development disparities among regions, and contributing to strengthening national solidarity and sustainable development.

In Vietnam, numerous studies have been conducted on ethnic affairs, ethnic policies, and the implementation of policies supporting ethnic minority socio-economic development. These studies mainly focus on clarifying the theoretical and practical foundations of ethnic policies; evaluating the implementation outcomes of poverty reduction programs, livelihood support, preferential credit, vocational training, infrastructure investment, and production development for ethnic minority and mountainous areas. Some studies have approached the issue at the local level, analyzing the implementation status of support policies for ethnic minorities in provinces such as Gia Lai, Dak Lak, An Giang, Tuyen Quang, Lai Chau, and Ba Ria–Vung Tau. These studies have identified achievements,

limitations, shortcomings, and proposed numerous solutions to improve the effectiveness of ethnic policy implementation in the current period.

However, a review of existing studies reveals that there has not yet been any systematic, comprehensive, and in-depth research on policies supporting ethnic minority economic development in Son La province from the perspective of economic management and policy implementation. In particular, there remains a lack of studies comprehensively evaluating the effectiveness of policy groups related to resource access support, production support, product consumption support, and socio-economic infrastructure development support for ethnic minority people under the specific conditions of Son La province. Therefore, the dissertation entitled “Policies to Support Ethnic Minority People in Economic Development in Son La Province” selectively inherits previous research results while focusing on analyzing the current situation, clarifying limitations and causes, and proposing solutions to improve the effectiveness of policy implementation in the coming period.

3. Research Objectives and Tasks

3.1. Research Objectives

Based on systematizing and clarifying theoretical and practical issues related to policies supporting ethnic minority economic development, the dissertation focuses on analyzing and evaluating the implementation of such policies in Son La province during the 2015–2024 period; clarifying achievements, limitations, shortcomings, and causes. On that basis, the dissertation proposes orientations and solutions to improve the effectiveness of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority economic development in Son La province in the coming period.

3.2. Research Tasks

To achieve the above objectives, the dissertation focuses on the

following major tasks:

- Reviewing domestic and international studies related to policies supporting ethnic minority economic development; identifying achieved results, research gaps, and issues to be addressed in the dissertation.
- Systematizing, analyzing, and clarifying the theoretical basis of policies supporting ethnic minority economic development, including concepts, characteristics, roles, policy contents, influencing factors, and requirements for policy implementation at the provincial level; simultaneously studying practical experiences from localities with similar conditions to draw lessons for Son La province.
- Analyzing natural conditions, socio-economic conditions, and characteristics of ethnic minority communities in Son La province that affect the implementation of economic development support policies.
- Analyzing and evaluating the implementation of policies supporting ethnic minority economic development in Son La province during the 2015–2024 period in major aspects such as support for access to resources, production development support, product consumption support, and socio-economic infrastructure development support.
- Analyzing development contexts, orientations, and factors affecting the implementation of policies supporting ethnic minority economic development in Son La province in the coming period.
- Proposing orientations and a system of solutions to improve the effectiveness of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority economic development in Son La province during the 2025–2030 period and subsequent years.

4. Research Subjects and Scope

4.1. Research Subjects

The research subject of the dissertation is policies supporting ethnic

minority economic development and the process of implementing these policies in Son La province from the perspective of economic management.

4.2. Research Scope

• Content Scope:

(1) Policies supporting ethnic minorities in accessing economic development resources, including land, preferential credit, vocational training, science and technology, and other supporting resources;

(2) Policies supporting production development and production organization for ethnic minorities;

(3) Policies supporting product consumption, market development, and production linkages for ethnic minorities;

(4) Policies supporting investment in socio-economic infrastructure serving economic development in ethnic minority areas.

• Spatial Scope:

The dissertation is conducted in Son La province, with field surveys and investigations concentrated in areas with large ethnic minority populations such as Song Ma, Sop Cop, Quynh Nhai, and Muong La districts.

• Time Scope:

Data and documents used for evaluating the current situation are mainly collected and analyzed during the 2015–2024 period. Proposed solutions and recommendations are intended for the 2025–2030 period and subsequent years.

• Subject Scope:

The dissertation mainly studies ethnic minority beneficiaries in Son La province while also examining the roles of state management agencies, local authorities, and relevant organizations in the process of implementing

policies supporting ethnic minority economic development.

5. Theoretical Basis and Research Methods

5.1. Theoretical Basis

5.2. Research Methods

- Research approach method
- Information and data collection methods
- Survey and investigation methods
- Expert consultation method
- Information analysis and processing methods

6. Scientific and Practical Significance of the Research

6.1. Scientific Significance

The dissertation contributes to systematizing and further clarifying the theoretical basis of policies supporting ethnic minority economic development from the perspective of economic management and public policy implementation at the local level. Based on inheriting previous studies, the dissertation supplements and clarifies issues related to the concepts, characteristics, roles, and contents of policies supporting ethnic minority economic development, while also analyzing factors affecting policy implementation effectiveness under the specific conditions of ethnic minority and mountainous areas.

The dissertation also contributes scientific arguments for studying and evaluating the effectiveness of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority economic development at the provincial level, especially in mountainous localities facing socio-economic difficulties such as Son La province. The research findings may serve as reference materials for research, teaching, and learning in the fields of economic management, public policy, ethnic affairs, and socio-economic development in ethnic minority areas.

6.2. *Practical Significance*

Based on analyzing and evaluating the implementation of policies supporting ethnic minority economic development in Son La province during the 2015–2024 period, the dissertation identifies achievements, limitations, shortcomings, and causes arising during policy implementation. This provides an important practical basis for state management agencies in Son La province and localities with similar conditions to consult in the process of formulating, improving, and implementing policies supporting ethnic minority economic development.

The solutions and recommendations proposed in the dissertation are valuable references for policy-making and policy-implementing agencies at both central and local levels to improve the effectiveness of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority economic development, thereby contributing to sustainable poverty reduction, improving the material and spiritual lives of ethnic minority people, narrowing regional development gaps, and ensuring socio-political stability in Son La province in particular and mountainous and ethnic minority regions in general.

In addition, the dissertation's findings may also serve as reference materials for management, training, and capacity building for officials engaged in ethnic affairs and research on socio-economic development policies for ethnic minority areas in the current period.

7. 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. RESEARCH STUDIES ON POLICIES SUPPORTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE COUNTRY 16

1.3. 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 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

SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF IMPLEMENTING POLICIES SUPPORTING ETHNIC MINORITY PEOPLE IN 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. The Context of Reforming Local Government Organization and Implementing the Two-Tier Local Government Model

4.1.2. The Context of Transforming the Economic Development Model and International Integration

4.1.3. The Context of Digital Transformation and Digital Economic Development

4.1.4. The Context of Climate Change and the Requirements for Sustainable Development

4.1.5. The Context of Ensuring National Defense, Security, and Social Stability in Ethnic Minority Areas

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. Group of Solutions to Improve Policies Supporting Ethnic Minority People in Accessing Economic Development Resources

4.3.1.1. Improving Mechanisms for Supporting Access to Credit and Production Resources

4.3.1.2. Innovating Vocational Training and Science and Technology Transfer

4.3.2. Group of Solutions to Improve Policies Supporting Production Development and Production Organization

4.3.2.1. Shifting Strongly from Direct Support to Sustainable Livelihood Development Support

4.3.2.2. Developing Production Associated with the Specific Advantages of Son La Province

4.3.3. Group of Solutions to Improve Policies Supporting Product Consumption and Market Development

4.3.3.1. Strengthening Linkages between Production and Product Consumption

4.3.3.2. *Promoting Trade Promotion and Digital Transformation in Product Consumption*

4.3.4. Group of Solutions to Improve Policies Supporting the Development of Socio-Economic Infrastructure

4.3.4.1. *Prioritizing Infrastructure Investment in Extremely Disadvantaged Areas*

4.3.4.2. *Enhancing the Effectiveness of Infrastructure Management and Utilization*

4.3.5. Group of Solutions for Innovating Policy Implementation Organization under the Two-Tier Local Government Model

4.3.5.1. *Enhancing Capacity for Policy Management and Implementation*

4.3.5.2. *Innovating Policy Inspection, Supervision, and Evaluation*

4.3.5.3. *Promoting the Central Role of Ethnic Minority People in Policy Implementation*

4.4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.4.1. Recommendations to the Government

4.4.2. Recommendations to the Ministry of Ethnic and Religious Affairs

4.4.3. Recommendations to the Ministry of Finance

4.4.4. Recommendations to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment

4.4.5. Recommendations to the Ministry of Industry and Trade

4.4.6. Recommendations to the Ministry of Science and Technology

4.4.7. Recommendations to Son La Province

CONCLUSION

Policies supporting ethnic minority people in economic development play a particularly important role in achieving the goals of sustainable development, poverty reduction, narrowing development gaps among regions, ensuring social security, strengthening the great national solidarity bloc, and maintaining socio-political stability in mountainous and ethnic minority areas. For Son La province — a mountainous border province with a high proportion of ethnic minority people and many socio-economic difficulties — improving the effectiveness of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority economic development is of great significance in terms of economy, society, national defense, and security.

Based on inheriting and further developing relevant studies, the dissertation has established a theoretical framework for policies supporting ethnic minority economic development from the perspective of public management and public policy implementation. Accordingly, the dissertation identifies four major groups of support policies, including: (1) Policies supporting access to economic development resources; (2) Policies supporting production development and production organization; (3) Policies supporting product consumption and market development; and (4) Policies supporting the development of socio-economic infrastructure. At the same time, the dissertation has developed a system of criteria for evaluating policy implementation effectiveness in terms of economic, social, and organizational aspects, while identifying objective and subjective factors affecting the effectiveness of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority economic development.

Based on the established theoretical framework and research methodology, the dissertation has analyzed and evaluated the current situation of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority economic development in Son La province in recent years. The research results show that the implementation of support policies has achieved many positive

outcomes, such as improving ethnic minority people's access to development resources; gradually developing commodity production; improving socio-economic infrastructure conditions; and contributing to poverty reduction, income enhancement, and improvements in the living standards of people in ethnic minority areas.

However, the dissertation also points out that the effectiveness of policy implementation still faces several limitations, including unequal access to resources among local people; insufficient sustainability of production development support; limited market linkages and product consumption; inadequate and unsynchronized infrastructure in many areas; and shortcomings in grassroots-level policy implementation capacity. These limitations stem from both objective causes, such as mountainous terrain conditions, low levels of economic development, climate change, and the impacts of the market economy, and subjective causes, including unsynchronized policy mechanisms, limited implementation capacity, ineffective coordination, and the failure to fully promote the central role of ethnic minority people.

In the context of implementing the two-tier local government model, national digital transformation, sustainable development requirements, and international economic integration, the dissertation has identified orientations for improving policies supporting ethnic minority economic development in Son La province toward enhancing local proactiveness, developing sustainable livelihoods, strengthening market participation capacity, and innovating local governance. On that basis, the dissertation proposes a relatively comprehensive system of solutions associated with the four major groups of support policies and the requirement for innovating policy implementation organization under the two-tier local government model. At the same time, the dissertation also puts forward recommendations to the Government, central ministries and sectors, Son La province, and relevant agencies in order to address objective factors and create favorable conditions for improving the effectiveness of

implementing policies supporting ethnic minority economic development in the coming period.

The findings of the dissertation contribute to supplementing and further clarifying the theoretical and practical foundations of policies supporting ethnic minority economic development from the perspective of public management and public policy implementation. They also provide scientific and practical arguments for Son La province and other mountainous localities in the process of improving and enhancing the effectiveness of implementing policies supporting ethnic minority economic development at present.

Besides the achieved results, the dissertation still has certain limitations. First, the research scope mainly focuses on Son La province; therefore, the possibility of generalizing the findings to all ethnic minority and mountainous localities remains limited. Second, due to limitations in research time and resources, surveys and practical data collection in some remote and isolated areas were not fully comprehensive. Third, the implementation context of the two-tier local government model is still in the process of completion; therefore, some issues related to the impacts of this model on the implementation of policies supporting ethnic minority economic development require further in-depth research and evaluation in the future. Fourth, the dissertation mainly approaches the issue from the perspective of public management and policy implementation organization and has not deeply analyzed the long-term impacts of policies on social structural transformation, cultural change, and human resource development in ethnic minority areas.

These limitations also represent directions for future research, which may continue to be supplemented and developed in order to further improve the theoretical and practical foundations of policies supporting ethnic minority economic development in the current new context.

**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).