Reviewer's report

Title: The cost of tobacco farming for cultivators in Vietnam: health risks, health inequalities and questionable economic gain

Version: 1 Date: 15 May 2008

Reviewer: Rajnarayan Tiwari

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Minor essential revisions
1. How the two non-farming communes were selected? Whether they were matched for certain criteria.
2. Any specific reasons for low input costs and high revenue gains for the tobacco-farming communes of South as compared to that of North.
3. In measurement section it is mentioned that "in the cases …… expenditure". How many such respondents were there, as too many such estimates will result in skewed results.

Discretionary Revisions
The investigators mention in the discussion section that “The poor are …… Harmful effects of tobacco growing” The criteria used is totally on economic based. However other factors like culture, educational status, family size do play a role in occurrence of disease in poor communes. Thus attributing the economic poverty for the vulnerability to harmful effect of tobacco or any other factor may be mentioned cautiously.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests'