Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 29 July 2008

Reviewer: Kazuhito Yokoyama

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Substantial revision in English grammars is necessary. Please consult a scientific editor whose mother language is English.
2. Authors must refer to studies on the relationships of tobacco cultivations to health and economy conducted by other researchers, and compare their findings with those of others. This is necessary for the authors to show the originality of their paper.
3. Cite more references. For example, add references to ref 7 & 8 regarding the health effects of pesticides.
4. Results and Discussion must be separated. Do not include interpretation or comments into Results section.
5. I cannot understand “the logistic and linear regression analyses” which Authors had done; please explain the methods, especially about “linear regression,” more in detail. Some variables such as age, income and (probably) education should be used as continuous variables in the linear regression analysis. Table 5 should show standardized partial regression coefficients with multiple correlation coefficient.
6. The methods for obtaining socio-demographic variables from subjects are unclear. Please provide questionnaire items.
7. Again, Discussion section should include the comparison of Authors’ findings with those of other researchers. “The first study in Vietnam” is important but not enough.
8. Page 15 - Citations are limited to references regarding GTS. Authors should cite sufficient and adequate references.
9. Page 16, L3-4 – Reports upon this issue are legion.

Minor Essential Revisions
10. The abstract should not exceed 350 words.
11. Statistical significance must be examined for differences in demographic variables listed Table 1 between the communes.
12. Ranges and median values should be given to Table 2. Statistical significance in the differences must be examined.
13. Number of subjects with each symptoms must be shown in Table 3 in addition to %.

Discretionary Revisions

14. Table 2 is difficult to understand. Please exchange the rows and columns; differences between the expenditure and revenue should be shown.
15. Do not repeat the figures in Tables in the text (redundant!).
16. As 95% CI is shown, * is unnecessary in Tables 4 and 5 (however, Authors should show standardized partial regression coefficients with multiple correlation coefficient, and their levels of statistical significance, in Table 5).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.