

Conference on Forests and Common Lands  
Rights, Conflicts, FRA and PESA

**Collective Forest Tenure Reform  
under Village Democracy  
Overview and Preliminary Analysis**

Jintao Xu, Peking University  
Dec 18, 2012, New Delhi, India  
SPWD, RRI

# Significance of the Reform

- A step toward completion of rural land reform
  - 120 million ha of registered agricultural land
  - But, 167 million ha of registered forestland owned collectively (62% nat'l total)
  - Reform affected 147 million ha forestland
  - Livelihood of ~70 million rural households
- Closure to China's New Countryside Initiatives
  - Ag land reform
  - Free election of adm village government
  - Financial transfer
  - Collective forest reform

# Potential Impacts

- Forest Management
  - Incentives for farmer and private sector investment
  - Better protection
  - Higher productivity
  - Forest policy reform
  - International supply chain
- Farmer Livelihood
  - Income and income structure
  - Labor allocation
  - Capacity for investment
- Social and Political Stability
  - Equity
  - Relationship between farmers and government
  - Village governance

# Policy and Research Questions

How the reforms were conducted at County\Township\Village Level

- Are farmer forest tenure stronger?
- Reform conducted with due process?
- Stakeholder attitude?

What are the impacts?

- Do farmers harvest them all?
- Do farmers plant?
- Are farmers better off directly?
- Impacts on farmer labor allocation?
- Impact on forestland market?
- Impact on farmer social organization?
- Impact on State Forest Reform?

Needs for future policy and regulatory adjustment/reform?

- Forest regulation reform? Logging quota?
- Regulation on forestland transfer/market.
- Regulation on farmer association.
- Policy on farmer financing

# Forest Tenure in China

- Two ownership types
  - State
    - ~42% forest area and 68% volume;

Managed by state forest enterprises and farms
  - Collective
    - 58% area and 32% volume
    - Growing share of timber production
    - Diversified management schemes

# Two Rounds of Tenure Reform in Collective Forests

- First Round: 1981-1986
  - A fluctuating process
  - Different level of progresses among provinces
  - Tenure remains controversial Issue
- Second Round: 2000-,
  - 2003-2007, 14 provinces announced new reform policy
  - In July 2008, Central Government Reform Policy was declared, conclusion of the policy change process
  - By 2010, 20 provinces with reform policies

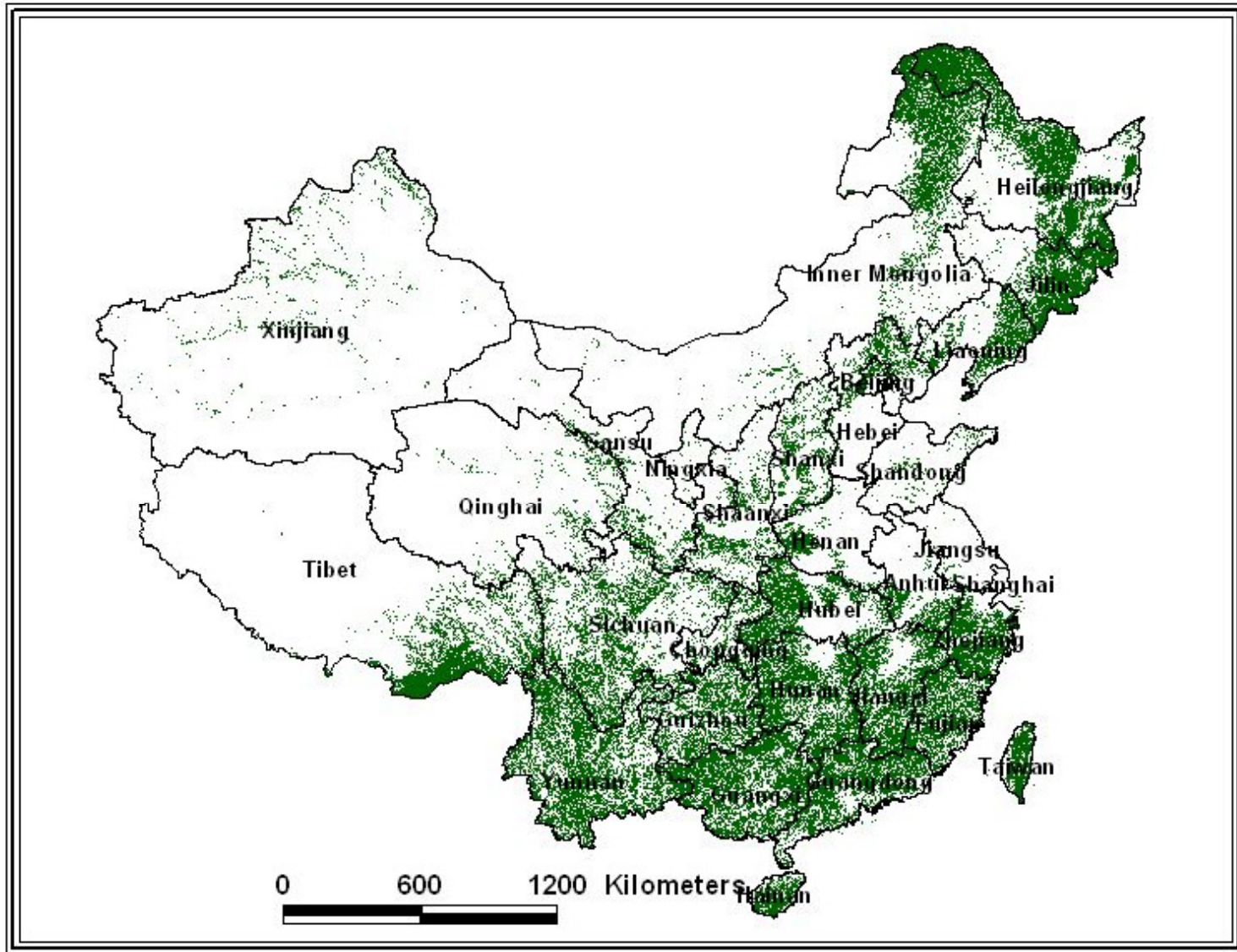
# What's New

- Fujian
- Local Initiatives to National Consolidation
- “Village Autonomy”
- Longer contract
- Rich rights
- Forest Certificates

## Two Rounds of Repeated Surveys

时间 Time	省份 Province	县 County	乡 Town	村 Village	农户 HH
2006. 3-4	福建 Fujian	12	36	72	720
2006. 5	江西 Jiangxi	5	15	30	300
2006. 10-11	浙江 Zhejiang	6	18	36	360
2007. 4	安徽 Anhui	5	15	30	300
2007. 4	湖南 Hunan	5	15	30	300
2007. 5-6	辽宁 Liaoning	5	15	30	300
2007. 5-6	山东 Shandong	5	15	30	300
2007. 8	云南 Yunnan	6	12	30	600
	总数 Total	49	141	288	3180

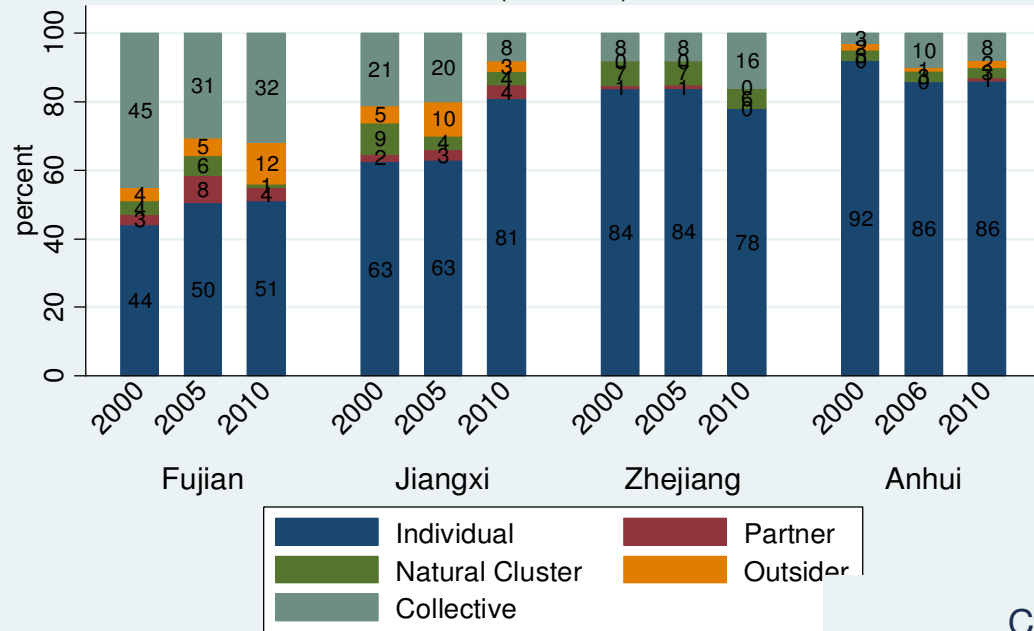




Forest Distribution in China



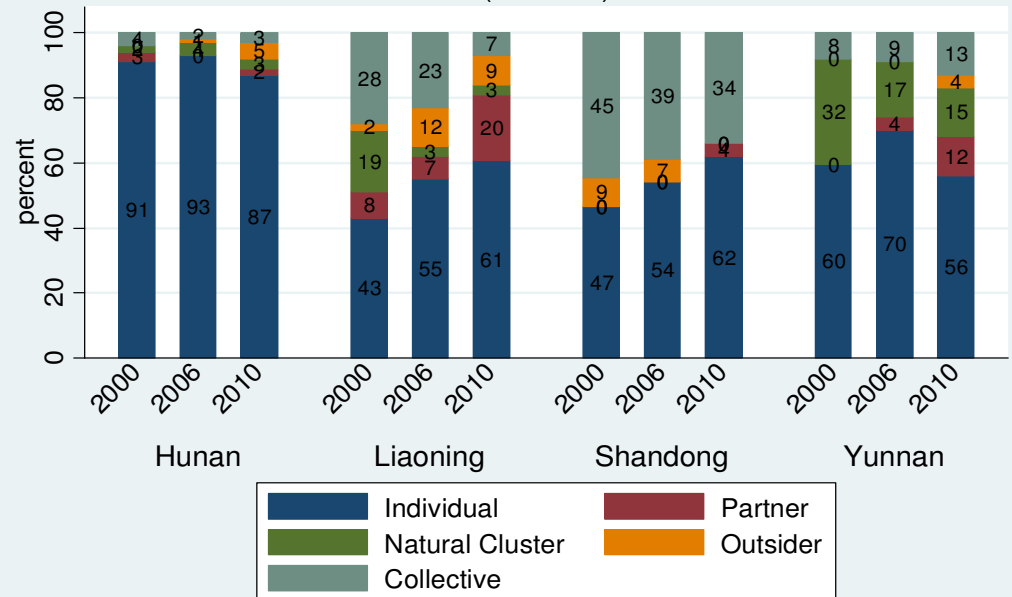
Changes in Share of Each Forest Tenure Type  
(Units: %)



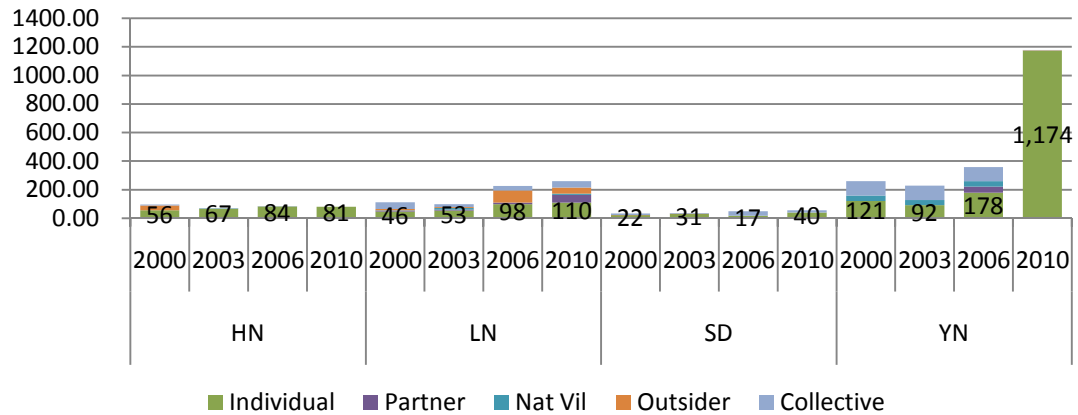
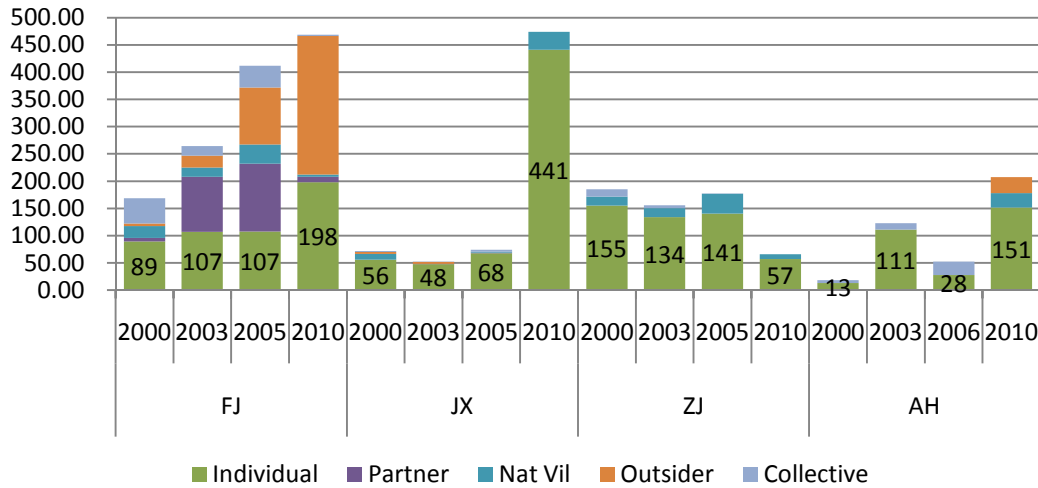
# Progress of Reform

## Tenure Share Change 2000-2010

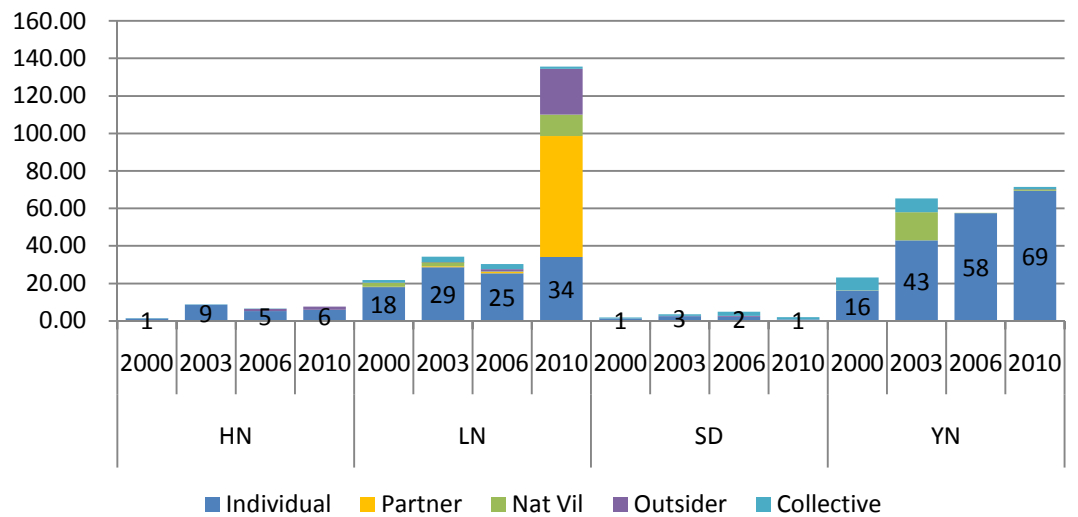
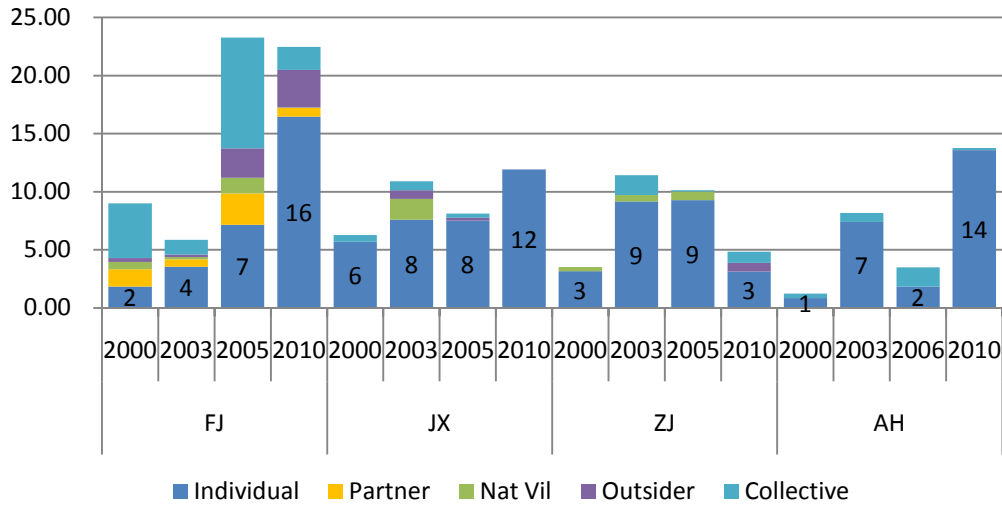
Changes in Share of Each Forest Tenure Type  
(Units: %)



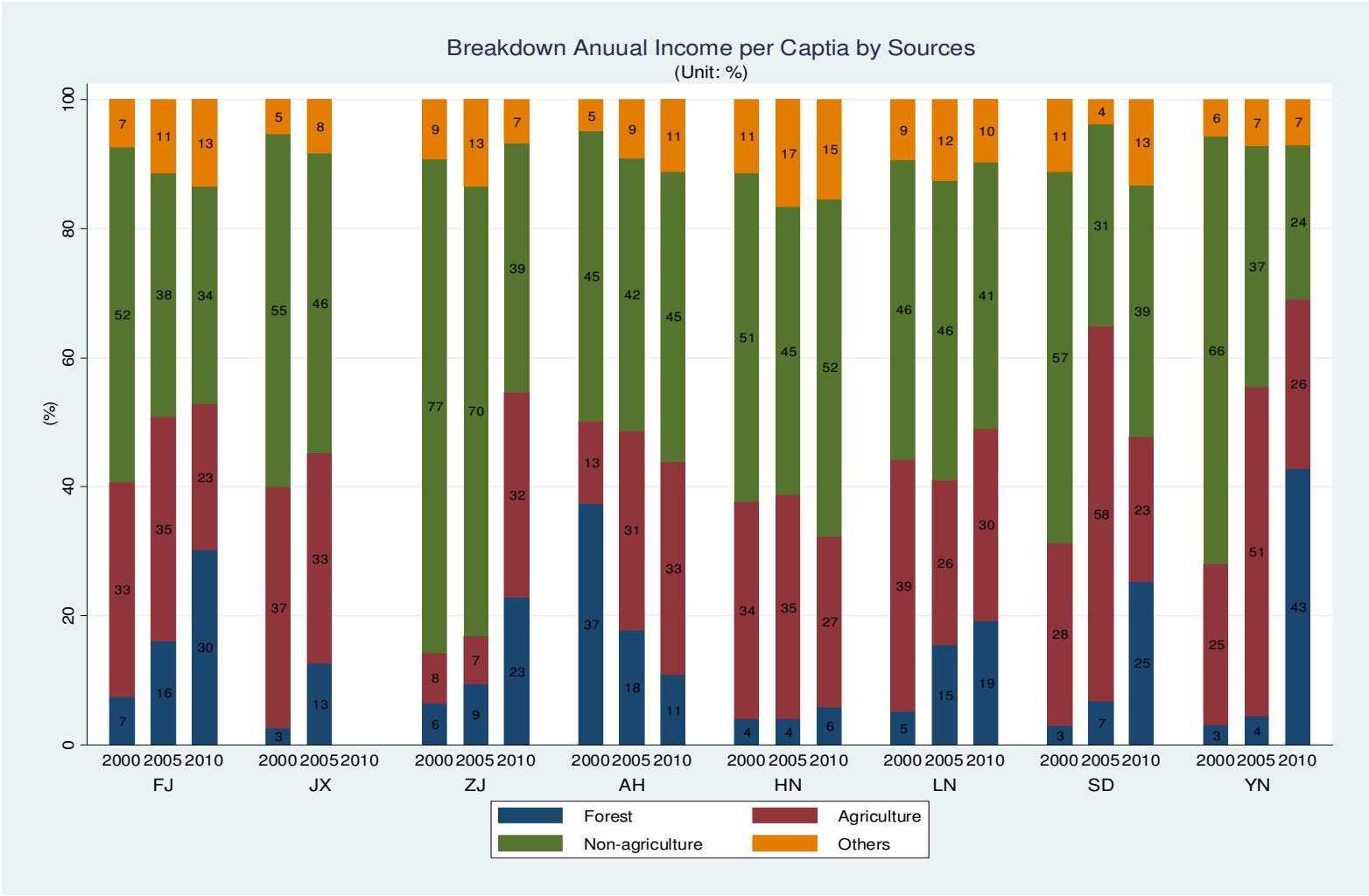
# Annual Harvest by Villages (m3)



# Annual Forestation by Villages (ha)



# Income Structure Change 2000-2010



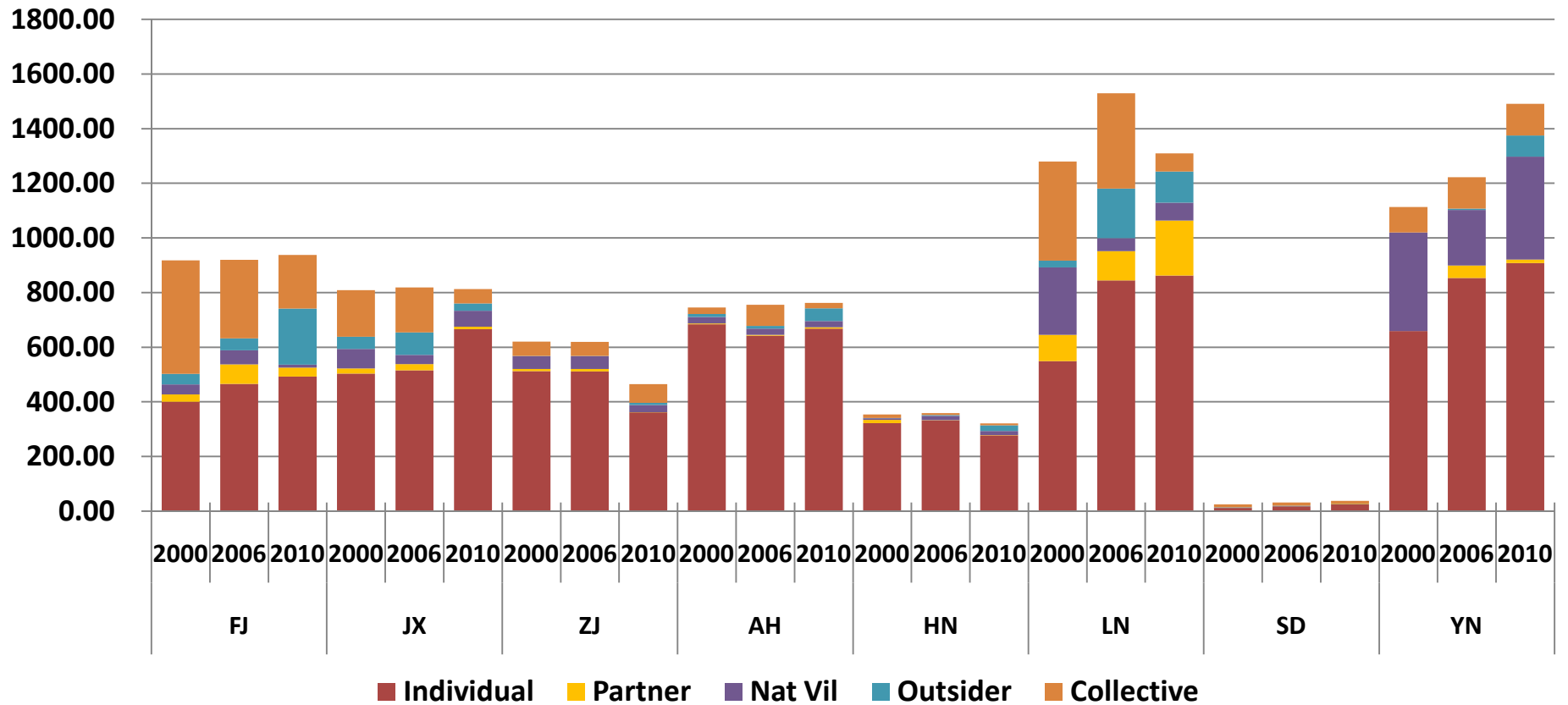
# Results from Preliminary Analyses

- Tenure Choice
  - Dominated by rural governance structure
- Afforestation
  - Reform increased forestation area by 8%
- Labor Allocation
  - Safety net effect for better educated farmers
  - Labor tying effect for ordinary farmers
  - Enhance self-employment

Thanks !



# Tenure Share Change (2000-2010) (village average, ha)



# Rural p.c. Income Change 2000-2010

