

I. INTRODUCTION

Situated in Southwest China, the Himalayas and the Hengduan mountains are characterized by unique geo-ecological conditions, are sparsely populated, largely inaccessible, and generally underdeveloped.

In this area the pattern of land utilization depends chiefly upon the natural resources and the geo-ecological environment. The regional differences of the physical condition are reflected in the structure of land utilization. As a whole, the study area may be divided into three zones: the agro-pasture zone on the northern side of the Himalayas; the agro-forest zone on the southern side of the Himalayas and the southern section of the Hengduan mountains; and the agro-forest-pasture zone in the middle and northern sections of the Hengduan mountains.

With economic development, social progress and improvement of communications, horticulture has been developed on a large scale since the 1950s. To develop horticulture is one of the strategies for rational utilization of renewable natural resources of mountainous areas.

In order to exchange experiences, recognize existing problems and future prospects, horticulture development in the study areas, including fruit, walnut, tea, potato and vegetables etc. are dealt with in the present paper.