



What is MEDOW?

- **Monitoring Social and Economic Development of the Western Regions of China**
- **A large survey**
- **A breeding ground for institution and network building**
- **A Policy instrument**
- **A wealth of material for academic research**

Who did it?

- NRCSTD, soon changing name to Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED)
- Fafu, Institute for Applied International Studies
- Supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Assistance from: MOST, Chinese MFA, State Council leading group of poverty alleviation and development; Office of the leading group for Western Region Development of the State council, local governments
- Yunnan Institute of Nankai University and Lanzhou University, and about 20 other universities of the Western provinces
- In total about 2,000 people were involved



Fafu AIS



中國科技促進發展研究中心



A large survey

- 44,000 households in
- 11 provinces
- 128 districts
- 805 counties
- 2,772 locations all over Western China
- Field work from June 2004 to January 2005
- A long questionnaire with many topics:
 - Population, Health, labor, education
 - Environment, infrastructure, amenities
 - Household economy, sources of income, agriculture
 - Network and social resources
 - Community data



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An institution and network building exercise

- Cooperation between NRCSTD and Fafo since 1994
- In order to carry out MEDOW, links to universities in 11 regions were established.
- Regional offices were established in Yunnan and Gansu
- MEDOW involved a large amount of training for students and staff of the universities in modern research methods
- Provincial and local government supported
- NRCSTD are establishing regional research centers in several provinces together with the universities



Policy instrument

- **People**
 - Have resources (health, education, income)
 - Use them on arenas (labor market, local communities, organizations etc)
 - According to their particular goals and values
- **Policy relates to creating an enabling environment**
 - Providing resources
 - Organizing arenas
 - Influencing values
- **A living conditions survey is designed to**
 - Describe what resources people have
 - Describe access to arenas
 - Depict values
 - In general terms and in relation to particular policies
 - In order to stimulate policy debate and formulation
 - Already used by provincial governments, line ministries, leading groups

Material for academic research and teaching

- MEDOW is becoming a standard baseline for social research in the Western Regions
- Data are already used by researchers and students
- The fact that there are 4,000 households in the sample from each region makes region-specific analysis and teaching possible
- The sample frame is designed so that smaller samples can be easily drawn for follow up surveys



How reliable is it?

- The reliability of a survey depends on the
 - Design
 - Qualitative preparatory fieldwork
 - Questionnaires
 - Sampling
 - Fieldwork organization
 - Interviewing
 - Supervision and quality control
 - Data entry and verification
 - Analysis

The MEDOW Survey design

- **Relatively standard modern household survey:**
 - Stratified
 - Clustered (multi-stage, but performs as two stage)
 - Allocated equally to each province (4000 households)
- **Different from many household surveys in China by being much more spread out geographically**
- **Clusters are geographic areas**
 - Residence committees
 - Villages
 - Or segments of such units
- **All persons within an area were attempted to be covered by the survey**
 - If they were resident
 - If they were migrants
 - Even if they did not have a dwelling

Response and non-response

- 2,772 survey clusters selected – 30 turned out not to exist
- 44,738 households selected – 91.5 percent interviewed
- But refusals only 407 households (0.96 percent)
- Most common reason for non-completion was that the household could not be contacted (1,689 households, 3.8 percent)

Thank you

