

CURRENT SITUATION OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN TUYEN QUANG PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT: The article examines the current state of agricultural economic development in Tuyen Quang province from 2019 to 2022. Through qualitative and quantitative assessments, the article systematically analyzes the local agricultural economy, including its achievements and limitations. Based on this analysis, the article proposes solutions for future economic development, with a focus on directing and managing activities and promoting critical areas for agricultural growth. These solutions are scientifically sound, feasible, and tailored to the specific circumstances of Tuyen Quang province in the current context.

Keywords: economy, agriculture, development, Tuyen Quang

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the past few years, the agricultural sector in Tuyen Quang province has undergone significant developments and achieved notable accomplishments. Its agricultural production has played a key role in enhancing the livelihoods of rural communities, boosting incomes, and contributing significantly to the province's overall socio-economic stability and progress. The shift from traditional to commodity-oriented agricultural production and the adoption of cutting-edge scientific and technological innovations have resulted in large-scale agricultural commodity production zones that produce high-quality, branded, and economically valuable products. However, despite these achievements, the province's agricultural sector still needs to overcome certain constraints that are impeding its ongoing progress toward a more prosperous and sustainable future.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The National Agency for Science and Technology Information of Vietnam (2019), "Overview of July 2019: Sustainable Agricultural Development Policies of Some Countries and Recommendations for Vietnam in the New Context," analyzed sustainable agricultural development policies in China, Thailand, Israel, and Poland. The article emphasized that these countries have been positively implementing supportive procedures for agriculture and rural areas. Based on this, the report drew some lessons and experiences for agricultural development in Vietnam.

In his book "International Experience in Agriculture, Rural Areas, and Farmers in the Process of Industrialization," Dang Kim Son (2008) analyzed and clarified the issues related to agriculture, farmers, and rural areas in the process of industrialization and modernization in many countries worldwide. He also explored their relevance to the specific conditions in Vietnam, identifying international experiences and lessons about policies for agriculture, farmers, and rural areas in Vietnam. Additionally, Son proposed several solutions to promote the development of agriculture, farmers, and rural areas in the process of industrialization and modernization.

In another book "Agriculture, Farmers, and Rural Areas in Vietnam: Today and Tomorrow" (2008), Dang Kim Son highlighted the current situation of agriculture, farmers, and rural areas, including both achievements and remaining challenges over the more than 20 years of renovation (1986-2007). He also proposed orientations and policy recommendations to promote the development of agriculture, farmers, and rural areas, meeting the requirements of the new period."

Tran Thi Hong Viet (2016) has structured the theoretical and practical issues of eco-agriculture in her

doctoral thesis titled "Main Economic Solutions for Eco-Agricultural Restructuring of Suburban Agriculture in Hanoi." She conducted an analysis and evaluation of the current state of eco-agricultural restructuring in the suburban areas of Hanoi and put forward various perspectives, directions, and economic solutions to shift towards eco-agriculture.

In his doctoral thesis on agriculture titled "Research on Eco-Urban Agriculture Development in Haiphong City," Tran Trong Phuong (2012) evaluated the types of agricultural land use in Haiphong based on three different zones (urban, suburban, and peri-urban). He analyzed the current status of agricultural development, assessed the economic, social, and environmental effects of different land use types using typical production models, and proposed orientations and solutions for eco-urban agriculture land use in Haiphong for each zone (urban, suburban, and peri-urban).

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data collection method: The research collected secondary data from various reports and statistics published by state management agencies in Tuyen Quang province, including the Department of Planning and Investment, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Department of Industry and Trade, and the Department of Finance. Furthermore, the research also obtained data from studies conducted on agriculture, rural development, and the rural population in Tuyen Quang province by research institutions, universities, and academies across Vietnam.

Data processing method: The project used statistical methods to compare and analyze data across different periods. Based on the perspectives and policies of the Party on agriculture, farmers, rural areas, and socialist-oriented market economy, the project employed a combination of historical and logical methods to investigate agricultural economic activities in a specific region.

IV. FINDINGS

4.1. The current status of agricultural economic development in Tuyen Quang province

Over the past few years, the agricultural sector of Tuyen Quang province has made remarkable progress and achieved many achievements. Agricultural production has contributed to increasing incomes, improving the material and spiritual life of rural people, and making significant contributions to the stability and socio-economic development of the province. Agricultural production has shifted strongly from traditional production to commodity production, applying advanced scientific and technological progress, forming some concentrated large-scale agricultural commodity production areas, and creating some key products with high quality, brand, and economic value. Tuyen Quang province identified 9 key agricultural products of the province (Decision No. 1676/QD-UBND dated June 18, 2021) including tea, rice, vegetables and fruits, pork, chicken and eggs, freshwater fish, wood and wood products, cinnamon, and medicinal plants. Tea is identified as one of the province's key crops.

Tuyen Quang has focused on exploiting its potential and advantages in the land, labor and mobilizing investment resources to carry out agricultural restructuring towards shifting to high-yielding, high-quality, and high-value crops and livestock. Advanced scientific and technological advances have been applied to production, including GAP standards, organic farming, and food safety. Many new technological advances in breeding, feed, animal health, and new farming methods have been applied to production. The quality of livestock and poultry has been improved, with many new high-yielding and high-quality breeds introduced to the province. Large-scale pig, poultry, and aquatic farms have been established. Industrial and semi-industrial farming methods are being expanded, providing both employment for agricultural workers and high efficiency for producers.

Agricultural production has shifted significantly from traditional to commodity production, applying advanced scientific and technological advancements, forming several large-scale commodity agricultural production regions, and creating some key products with high quality, branding, and economic value. In particular, on June 18, 2021, the Provincial People's Committee issued Decision No. 1676/QD-UBND, identifying 9 key agricultural products (tea, rice, vegetables and fruits, pork, chicken and eggs, freshwater fish, wood and wood products, cinnamon, medicinal plants), aiming to focus resources and apply policies to encourage enterprises to invest in agriculture and rural areas to develop advantageous products. Some examples of the province's advantageous products can be taken to illustrate this development.

Tea is identified as an excellent agricultural product of the province and an essential national product that requires concentrated investment in development. According to agricultural statistics, by 2022, the total tea-growing area in the region reached 22,396 hectares, producing 244,502 tons of tea. The province's tea processing output in 2022 reached 48,900 tons, with a production value of VND 5,580 billion at current prices, accounting for 44.3% of the total value of the crop production. The average weight of tea products per hectare reached VND 270 million [8]. Along with restructuring tea varieties, localities have focused on promoting the application of advanced science and technology in the safe and organic production and processing of tea,

enhancing the quality of the product. The area of tea production applying safe production processes has increased rapidly, and many scientific and technological advances have been applied. The brand "Tuyen Quang Tea" has created a reputation in the domestic market and internationally.

In the livestock sector, poultry farming also shows an increasing trend both in quantity and quality. The value structure of poultry meat products accounts for the highest proportion of the total value of livestock production, of which chicken products have an advantage. In 2022, the total number of chickens in the province was 13 million, an increase of 35.1% compared to 2019. The chicken meat output reached 45,300 tons, accounting for 98.5% of the total poultry meat output, an increase of 52.2% compared to 2019; the production of chicken eggs advanced by 405 million units. The value of chicken products reached 4,578.3 billion VND. In some localities, poultry farming has shifted towards large-scale commodity production on farms

4.2. Evaluation of Tuyen Quang Province's Agriculture and Economy

• Achievements

By implementing the Agricultural Restructuring Plan towards enhancing value-added and sustainable development in Tuyen Quang province until 2022, the area has identified key products including rice, tea, vegetables, fruit trees, cattle, poultry, and large timber trees. Additionally, the province has issued many programs and policies to support localities and people in transforming crop and livestock structures (suitable with planning and orientation), changing production methods towards investing in intensive farming, and improving productivity, quality, and efficiency.

To date, the province has formed several high-value commodity production areas, such as tea, rice, vegetables, flowers, fruit trees, poultry farming, aquaculture, and large timber plantations. Notably, tea cultivation covers an area of over 22,400 hectares, with a production volume of 245,000 tons, of which the proportion of new varieties reaches nearly 80%. The certified VietGap and organic tea cultivation area is 2,600 hectares. The average product value per hectare of tea ranges from 370 to 475 million VND (especially, some specialty tea areas can earn up to 600 million VND/ha). Tuyen Quang tea has won many international awards, affirming its "First-Class Tea Brand" position.

The implementation of the agricultural restructuring project towards increasing value-added and sustainable development in Tuyen Quang province until 2022 has contributed significantly to maintaining the industry's growth rate, averaging 4.5% per year during the period of 2016-2022. The value of products obtained per hectare of cultivated land has increased by 16% per year, estimated to reach 103 million VND/ha by the end of 2022. In the future, the industry's restructuring will change to meet the increasing demands of the domestic and export markets. Specifically, Tuyen Quang will focus on six key products: tea, fruit trees, pork, chicken and eggs, cinnamon, and wood. The targets by 2025 include a total tea growing area of 23.5 thousand hectares; a fruit growing area consisting of significant crops such as jackfruit (1,530 ha), longan (over 2,300 ha), and pomelo (about 2,370 ha); a total of 750,000 pigs, over 15 million chickens; a large-scale forest area certified by FSC accounting for 10% of the total planted forest area; and a cinnamon growing area of 6.5 thousand hectares.

Over the past ten years of implementing the National Target Program on New Rural Development, Tuyen Quang has achieved remarkable success. As of August 2022, the province had 103 communes meeting the NTM standards, with 03 districts completing the NTM construction task. The province's average number of criteria per commune is 17.23, higher than the national average of 16.2 criteria per commune. The central government has recognized Tuyen Quang as the leading province among 14 northern mountainous provinces in implementing the emulation movement "Nationwide Emulation in Building New Rural Areas" from 2010 - 2022.

• Limitations

- The global Covid-19 pandemic rapidly spread with unpredictable developments and an unprecedented level of danger, which has strongly and comprehensively impacted all aspects of socio-economic life, including a significant impact on the agricultural sector of Vietnam in general and Tuyen Quang province in particular.

- In addition to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, agriculture production in Tuyen Quang province has also faced difficulties due to unfavorable factors such as weather, climate, natural disasters, and diseases. In 2022, livestock activities in the province encountered many difficulties due to the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease and hoof-and-mouth disease in cattle and buffalo herds. The African swine fever and bird flu outbreaks in some neighboring provinces have also affected the psychology of livestock farmers.

- The internal economic structure of the agricultural sector has undergone a transformation, but the pace of this transformation could be faster. The scale of production still needs to be bigger, mainly in the form of household farming, with few large-scale agricultural production models and a lack of concentrated areas for large-scale production of goods. The quality of agricultural products is still low, and the competitiveness in the market could be higher. The diversification of crops could be faster.

- The production technology still needs to be updated, and the application level of technical and mechanization advancements is limited. Adopting scientific and technological innovations is slow, and efficient production models have yet to be widely replicated. The issue of preserving and processing agricultural

products, especially fruit processing, has not been focused on for development, resulting in seasonal price fluctuations and decreased production efficiency that has not been addressed.

- There are still limitations in the development of the province's competitive products. The province lacks orientation, solutions, and policy mechanisms to support the development of certain key products. Prioritized resources are still limited to the development of key products. The province has yet to attract enterprises with investment capacity in agriculture and rural areas, especially in producing, processing, and consuming key agricultural products.

- In recent years, the construction and issuance of mechanisms and policies to encourage and support the development of agriculture and rural areas have been given attention. Still, the instruments and procedures are generally scattered and need to be more focused on the province's potential agricultural products and strengths (except for tea products). According to the Central government's regulations, some investment promotion policies in agriculture and rural areas are not suitable for the actual conditions of Tuyen Quang province.

4.4. Proposed solutions for the development of the agricultural economy in Tuyen Quang province

- *We are strengthening the leadership and guidance of the Party committees and authorities at all levels regarding agriculture, farmers, and rural areas.*

The party committees at all levels need to focus on summarizing practical experience, making the shift in restructuring agriculture and rural areas, and taking care of people's lives as the annual central task. The government, the Fatherland Front, and the political-social organizations, especially the farmer's association at all levels, need to enhance their roles and responsibilities and effectively implement and organize agricultural development policies to build new rural areas and improve farmers' lives.

- *Strengthen propaganda activities, and enhance awareness of agriculture, farmers, and rural areas among officials, party members, and all people.*

Close coordination and strong collaboration among departments and levels are needed to promote propaganda and raise awareness of agriculture, farmers, and rural areas among officials, party members, and everyone. It is necessary to implement tasks, policies, mechanisms, and strategies to develop agriculture and rural areas of the Central Government and the province; strengthen linkages, apply advanced science and technology in production, promote trade and support the consumption of agricultural products, allocate resources to invest in agriculture and rural areas. Diversify forms of propaganda and make the content rich by updating new policies and guidelines of the Party on agriculture, farmers, and rural areas; timely reflect outstanding examples, good people, and good deeds in the movement to build new rural areas to replicate throughout the province.

- *Intensify restructuring and comprehensive development of the agricultural sector towards modernization and transformation of the rural economic structure.*

Promote the transformation of crop and livestock structures to meet market demands, adapt to climate change, and apply science and technology, exceptionally high technology, in production, processing, and product preservation to quickly increase productivity, quality, and value while contributing to limiting environmental pollution. Implement the restructuring of the agricultural sector towards increasing value-added and sustainable development. Focus on the development of large-scale livestock breeding in good areas.

- *Implement the construction of new rural areas linked with urbanization.*

Continuing to promote the movement "Tuyen Quang together builds new rural areas" and enhancing the leadership of Party committees at all levels, improving the effectiveness of management and administration of the government at all levels in implementing the program, allocating resources to invest in agriculture and rural development. Accelerating the implementation of the National Target Program on building new rural areas in all communes in Tuyen Quang province. Increasing investment resources for making new rural areas in the direction of high-quality and model-oriented planning. Prioritizing resources for product development, ensuring livelihoods for people, and developing synchronized economic and social infrastructure to meet the requirements of modernization and sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas.

- *We are renewing and developing forms of agricultural production organization.*

Build and implement measures to expand cooperative models, effective cooperatives, and collaborative groups in localities throughout Tuyen Quang province. Develop strong forms of cooperation, joint ventures, linkages, and support for farmers in production, preservation, processing, and product consumption. Create mechanisms to encourage and facilitate favorable conditions for businesses to invest in agriculture and rural areas, promoting the development of household economies, farm economies, and livestock farms. Focus on effectively implementing the Resolution of the Provincial Party Committee on developing commodity agriculture, particularly for the province's major crop groups (rice, oranges, pomelos, tea, peanuts, lacquer, sugarcane...). Restructure production areas to improve the economic efficiency of commodity-producing regions.

- *We are improving the quality of human resources for rural areas.*

They effectively implemented vocational training programs for rural labor in conjunction with the National Target Program for New Rural Development. Vocational training must be based on the labor demand of enterprises and society while being compatible with the local economic and social development plan, production planning, and new rural development planning. The content, program, process, and method of training for rural labor also need innovation towards combining theory with practice and diversifying training methods and models, promoting cooperative training through programs, projects, and efficient agricultural production models in the locality production-consumption linked contracts with farmers via enterprises. Prioritizing vocational training for rural youth, direct agricultural producers, poor households, near-poor households, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, female workers, policy beneficiaries, and laborers in urbanized areas.

- *Strengthen research, technology transfer, and application of science and technology in agricultural production.*

Intensify and strengthen the scientific and technological workforce to effectively absorb, master, and apply scientific and technological advancements to production and life; apply advanced quality management systems to some competitive products. Promote the formation of scientific and technological business forces. Research and collaborate with crop research institutes and universities to develop and expand production facilities for high-yielding and high-quality plant and animal breeds to serve the agricultural and forestry development of the province and localities in the region. Strongly apply technical and scientific advances to production, especially the application of Industry 4.0 and digital technology in agriculture and rural areas. Agricultural extension officers should promote a sense of responsibility, guide farmers in applying new high-yield, high-quality varieties and advanced techniques to production, and use scientific advances in processing and preservation to increase productivity and value-added products.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusion

Over the past few years, agriculture in Tuyen Quang province has witnessed strong development in terms of productivity, quality, variety of products, and production value. The structure has shifted in the right direction, and the advantages of each local area in the province have been effectively utilized. In recent years, the objectives, viewpoints, directions, and solutions for agricultural development have contributed to the successful implementation of the agricultural and rural modernization and industrialization program. They have also contributed significantly to changing the face of rural areas and improving farmers' income and living standards. Tuyen Quang is a province with many potentials and advantages in developing the agriculture sector. In the context of international economic integration and the difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, promoting agricultural development is extremely important for the development of Tuyen Quang province and the country as a whole.

5.2. Recommendations

- **To the Government**
 - Strengthen investment, support funding, resources, and mechanisms to accelerate the process of restructuring the agricultural and rural economy in Tuyen Quang province.
 - Organize investment promotion conferences on agriculture and agricultural products to help Tuyen Quang province leverage resources from businesses.
 - Promote international cooperation and expand the market for agricultural products of Tuyen Quang province.
- **To the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**
 - Issue guidance documents to specify the regulations of the law on agricultural development.
 - Strengthen technical support for local agricultural development.

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