

FACTORS AFFECTING THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE IN THE CURRENT PERIOD

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ABSTRACT

Quang Ngai is a coastal province located in the South Central region with many favorable conditions and difficulties in agricultural development. At present, agricultural development in the province is affected by many factors. In this paper, the author explores the factors affecting agricultural development in Quang Ngai province in the current period: natural, economic, cultural - social conditions of the province; guidelines and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Party Committee and government of Quang Ngai province on agricultural development.

Key Words: Quang Ngai, the affecting factors, agriculture, current.

1. INTRODUCTION

Quang Ngai has many conditions for agricultural development: there are many plains; soil is diversified, relatively fertile; the river system provides alluvium and irrigation water for agriculture; humid tropical monsoon climate; farmers have experiences in production; the attention of the Party Committee, the government, and the consensus of the people... Besides, the agricultural development in Quang Ngai is also adversely affected by many factors. This affects productivity, output, quality of agricultural products and agricultural development orientation of the province.

Understanding the importance, potentials, and advantages of the province in agricultural development, over the years, the Party Committee, government and people of Quang Ngai have strived to develop a comprehensive, sustainable agriculture and achieved many remarkable results. However, the province's agriculture has still been moving slowly, the production scale has been small, the growth has been low, not commensurate with the potential, and the sustainability has been not high. Therefore, in order to bring Quang Ngai agriculture to sustainable development, it is very necessary to study the factors affecting agricultural development in the province in the current period.

2. CONTENTS

2.1. Natural, economic, cultural and social conditions in Quang Ngai province

2.1.1. Natural condition

Quang Ngai is located in the South Central Coast of Vietnam. The North and Northwest border Quang Nam province; the South borders Binh Dinh province; the West and Southwest border Kon Tum and Gia Lai provinces; the East borders the East Sea. There is National Highway 1A, and North-South railway running through; there is National Highway 24A connecting Quang Ngai with the Central Highlands, Laos and Northeast Thailand, near Chu Lai airport.

Currently, Quang Ngai has 13 administrative units: Quang Ngai city, Duc Pho town and 11 districts are Tu Nghia, Ba To, Binh Son, Minh Long, Mo Duc, Nghia Hanh, Son Ha, Son Tinh, Tra Bong, Son Tay, Ly Son, with an natural area of 5,131.5km², equal to 1.7% of the natural area of the country (Tran Nghia, Phan Ngoc Lien, 2008, p. 31).

The terrain is relatively complex, divided into 4 regions: forests, midlands, plains and coastal sand. Large mountainous areas, many narrow plains, valleys, steep segmented terrain...cause difficulties for agricultural development. However, if knowing how to exploit the advantages of each region well, it will promote agricultural development.

In terms of soil, according to the results of survey and construction of soil map in Quang Ngai province (1998) by Hanoi University of Agriculture I, Quang Ngai has 9 main soil groups:

+ *Coastal sandy soil group*: With 6,290 ha, accounting for 1.22% of the total natural land area of the province, distributed in coastal and island districts. This soil is poor in nutrients, suitable for growing crops.

+ *Saline soil group*: With 1,573.1 ha (0.30%), interspersed with alluvial soil in estuary areas. This land is suitable for aquaculture and salt production.

+ *Alluvial soil group*: With 97,157.5 ha (18.93%), distributed in plain, Quang Ngai city and along rivers and streams. This land is suitable for growing rice, cassava, sugarcane, beans, vegetables, fruits.

+ *Clay soil group*: With 2,052.4 hectares (0.39%), distributed in low-lying areas in delta districts. This soil is acidic, suitable for growing wet rice but needs lime to improve.

+ *Gray soil group*: With 376,547.2 ha (73.42%), distributed all over the province but focused on mountainous districts. This soil is poor in nutrients, suitable for forestry. In addition, it can be improved to grow sugarcane, cassava, and cinnamon.

+ *Red soil group*: With 8,142.4 ha (1.58%), distributed mainly in Binh Son and Son Tinh districts. This soil is suitable for growing perennial industrial crops.

+ *Black soil group*: With 2,328.4 ha (0.45%), widely distributed in Binh Son, Son Tinh, Ly Son. This soil is suitable for growing corn, onion, garlic, watermelon, rubber, cashew.

+ *Cracked soil group*: With 634 ha (0.12%), distributed in Binh Son, the mechanical composition is rich soil and clay. If the issue of water can be overcome, industrial crops can be grown: tea, cashew...

+ *Group of strongly eroded soil with the inerting gravel*: With 9,696 ha (1.89%), distributed in most districts in the province. This soil is suitable for forest trees (Tran Nghia, Phan Ngoc Lien, 2008, p. 100 – 103).

The data shows that most of land in Quang Ngai is of medium quality. Of the total cultivated land area of the province, there are 376,547.2 ha of mountainous land (accounting for 73.42%) capable of forestry development, suitable for industrial crops, specialty plants, medicinal herbs

and cattle breeding, and 99,209.9 hectares of alluvial land, accounting for more than 19.36% of the province's natural land area, suitable for growing rice, short-term industrial crops, vegetables and beans... Therefore, forestry development is one of the province's advantages.

Quang Ngai has a humid tropical monsoon climate with two distinct sunny and rainy seasons. Temperature background is high, and has little fluctuation, average 25 - 26,9 °C. Rich light mode, humidity, relatively large rainfall, fairly evenly distributed by territory. However, the difference in temperature and rain regimes among regions; "Every year, there are two to three storms that hit directly and many tropical depressions" (Tran Nghia, Phan Ngoc Lien, 2008, p. 303)...adversely affects the growth of crops, livestock and farmer's production process.

Rivers in Quang Ngai are relatively abundant, evenly distributed throughout the territory, with 4 main rivers: Tra Bong, Tra Khuc, Tra Cau and Ve river. In addition, there are a number of small rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, man-made reservoirs. Rivers originate in the West and empty into the sea; rivers are short and steep. In the dry season, most of them are dry. In the rainy season, floods often occur; natural ponds and lakes are sparse, often alluvial, dry; man-made reservoirs are mostly distributed in midland and mountainous areas. Rivers and streams provide water, alluvial and aquatic products, and also cause some difficulties for agricultural production.

Quang Ngai has rich forest resources. According to the results of the forestry survey in Quang Ngai province for the period 2005 - 2015 by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Quang Ngai, the province has 344,536 hectares of forestry land, accounting for 67.1% of the province's natural land area. The forest has many rare animals and plants. In 2021, the forest-cover rate in Quang Ngai is 51.3% (Quang Ngai Provincial People's Committee, 2021). However, in general, forest resources have had low economic value, unevenly distributed, mostly concentrated in 6 mountainous districts. If knowing how to exploit it, it will bring economic efficiency and contribute to the balance of the ecosystem.

Quang Ngai has a coastline of nearly 130 km, many fishing ports and anchorages for ships: Tinh Ky, Tinh Hoa, My A, Sa Huynh, Ly Son..., help ships get in and out relatively smoothly. "Quang Ngai fishing ground covers an area of about 11,000 km²" (Tran Nghia, Phan Ngoc Lien, 2008, p. 369), floating fish resources are the strength of Quang Ngai waters. Along the shores of Ly Son island, there are many rocky reefs and coral reefs that have formed a rather unique marine ecosystem and rich aquatic resources. "The salinity of seawater in Quang Ngai is quite high from 32-34%" (Tran Nghia, Phan Ngoc Lien, 2008, p. 359), there is Sa Huynh saltwater lagoon area, which is exploited to make salt. The basin adjacent to the estuaries is the habitat and breeding ground of many aquatic species. The coastal flat area is being invested to renovate into aquaculture areas. With the above potential, developing the marine economy, especially fishing, is one of the province's advantages. However, the sea does not have many airtight bays, some small estuaries in the dry season are often filled with sand, so anchoring the boats and aquaculture face many difficulties; the density of plankton is relatively low, the reserve of aquatic resources is not large.

2.1.2. Economic conditions

Quang Ngai is located in the Central key economic region. At present, the province's economy is developing towards industrialization and modernization. In 2019, GDP reached VND 55,102 billion, the growth rate reached 6.7%. In terms of economic structure, in 2019, industry -

construction accounted for 53.64%, services accounted for 29.17%, agriculture, forestry and fishery accounted for 17.19% (Quang Ngai Provincial Statistics Office, 2019). In 2020, 2021, the province's economy was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, the growth rate was reduced. In 2021, GDP reached VND 53,501 billion, the growth rate reached 6% (People's Committee of Quang Ngai Province, 2021).

In terms of agriculture, in recent years, the agricultural sector has grown relatively steadily. In 5 years (2015 - 2020), the production value of agriculture, forestry and fishery reached 4.22%/year, which was higher than the national average (Quang Ngai Provincial Party Committee, 2020, p 20). In 2021, the production value reached 17,605 billion dong, up 3.02% (People's Committee of Quang Ngai Province, 2021). The agricultural structure is shifting towards increasing the proportion of livestock sector, reducing the cultivation sector. In cultivation, rice and wheat are the main crops. In animal husbandry, cows, buffaloes, pigs, chickens and ducks become the main production industries. In forestry, economic value comes mainly from the exploitation of acacia forests and a little from natural forests; In fisheries, it is mainly from fishing. Marine and coastal economic sectors: sea tourism, fishing, aquaculture, seafood processing... have developed. Many scientific and technical applications are put into production. The output of forestry and fishery is constantly increasing; food not only meets the needs of the province but also sells to the external market. Many agricultural products are highly competitive and have their own characteristics such as Song Tra Goby, Ly Son Garlic, Tra Bong Cinnamon... However, agriculture is still spontaneous, production in the direction of goods is not much, the shifting structure is slow, the growth rate is not high and not sustainable. In agriculture, cultivation holds a unique position. Productivity, output and quality of agricultural products are not high. Fishery infrastructure and logistics services have not yet met demand; aquaculture scale is small. The application of science and technology in production and branding is not much. There are few links in production, processing and consumption of agricultural products. Agricultural production has a negative impact on the environment.

In terms of industry, current industrial development is one of the breakthrough tasks, becoming the mainstay of the province's economic growth, contributing to the promotion of agriculture. Many economic zones, industrial parks and industrial clusters are formed and expanded. In 2019, production value of industry - construction reached VND 29,162.9 billion, up 7.3%; in 2021, this value reached VND 120,553 billion, up 14% (People's Committee of Quang Ngai Province, 2021).

Trade - services are expanded and developed. The market system is invested and upgraded; a number of supermarkets and trade centers have been invested and put into operation to better meet the needs of buying, selling and exchanging agricultural products. Seaport services initially meet the needs, facilitate the exchange of goods and develop seafood. However, the development of trade - services has not been commensurate with the potential; planning is not consistent. Sea transport services are not modern; the competitiveness of goods through the port is low. In 2019, the production value of the trade - service industry reached VND 16,948.8 billion, up 7.3%; In 2021, under the influence of the Covid-19 pandemic, the service industry faced many difficulties, growing by 0.7% (People's Committee of Quang Ngai Province, 2021).

In terms of infrastructure for transportation, urban areas, for production, etc., it is relatively synchronous and developed, contributing to promoting socio-economic development. In terms of infrastructure for agricultural and rural production, by 2020, in Quang Ngai province, there have been more than 400 irrigation works, 48% of the length of canals has been solidified; There have been 98.3% of provincial roads, 77.2% of district roads, 68.2% of commune roads; 41.6% of rural roads have been asphalted and hardened; 100% of communes has been covered by the national electricity grid (Standing Board of Quang Ngai Provincial Party Committee, 2020, p. 26 - 27). The number of ships with large capacity continues to increase. Fishery infrastructure is invested and upgraded.

In terms of the domestic and foreign markets, as of April 1, 2019, the population of Quang Ngai province was 1,231,697 people (People's Committee of Quang Ngai Province, 2021), this was the local consumption market for agricultural products. In addition, many agricultural products are also exported to many other provinces at home and abroad: China, Korea, Singapore.... Expanded market promotes production and diversification of agricultural products. However, the competitiveness of the agricultural product market is still limited, and fluctuations in the export market have adversely affected the development of some crops and livestock.

Besides the achieved results, Quang Ngai's economy has still underdeveloped, compared to many provinces in the region and the whole country. Agriculture has not kept up with the requirements of industrialization and modernization. Industry has not really made a breakthrough. Service is limited. The ability to attract foreign investment is still low, especially in the agricultural sector. The infrastructure has not been synchronized and has not kept up with the requirements of socio-economic development.

2.1.3. Socio-cultural conditions

Quang Ngai is a land with a long history and revolutionary tradition. The people are patriotic, united, industrious and creative. According to the General Statistics Office of Vietnam, as of April 1, 2019, the population of Quang Ngai province has been 1,231,697 people, the population density has been 237 people/km². At the end of 2019, the proportion of employees in the agricultural sector accounted for 46%; the rate of trained workers accounted for 59.9% (Quang Ngai Province People's Committee, 2021). Untrained labor is concentrated mainly in rural areas, mountainous areas and islands, and the main occupation is agriculture. Therefore, training and fostering human resources are a matter of concern in Quang Ngai in order to create a team of qualified leaders and managers and a qualified, skilled and experienced workforce, contributing to the province's socio-economic development, including agriculture.

From the natural, economic, cultural and social conditions of Quang Ngai, it has been creating certain advantages and disadvantages for the agricultural development process of the province:

+ *Advantages:* The geographical position located between the two ends of the country, bordering many provinces and the East Sea is a good condition for Quang Ngai to establish and develop relationships with the northern and southern provinces and countries around the world through main roads. The diverse terrain, soil, and tropical monsoon climate allow the development of a tropical agriculture with many typical agricultural products. The potential of forests and sea

is relatively rich, so economic development in forestry and fishing are the advantages of the province. Located in the central key economic region, with relatively synchronous and developed infrastructure, this is a condition to attract investment and create potentials for socio-economic development. Quang Ngai is a land with cultural and revolutionary traditions; The abundant, industrious, industrious and creative labor force in agriculture is the adhesive factor to unite the people to successfully implement the cause of industrialization and modernization of agriculture and rural areas.

+ *Difficulties*: Short, sloping terrain; complicated climate change; less fertile land; narrow plain; alluvial rivers and water shortages in the dry season will adversely affect the growth of crops and livestock, causing difficulties in agricultural production. Currently, the agricultural economy is still spontaneous, the growth rate is not high and it is not sustainable; infrastructure, services and ancillary economic sectors serving the agricultural sector have not yet been developed and have not met the requirements; There is a low percentage of trained and qualified workforce; Farmers do agricultural economy mainly by experience. Those are major obstacles in the way of developing a modern and sustainable commodity agriculture.

2.2. Policy of the Communist Party of Vietnam on agricultural development in the current period

Understanding the role of agriculture and the practical conditions of the country, during the innovation period, the Communist Party of Vietnam set out a central task in the early transition period to “take agriculture as the leading front”, focusing on developing productive forces, bringing science and technology into production, on that basis, gradually adjusting production relations accordingly.

Inheriting the guidelines of previous congresses, to develop comprehensively and sustainably agriculture, contributing to turning Vietnam into a high-income developed country with socialist orientation by 2045, the 13th Party Congress (2021) has set out the policy:

+ To continue to restructure the agricultural sector in the direction of modern and concentrated commodities. Developing hi-tech agriculture, organic agriculture and ecological agriculture. Connecting agriculture with a processing industry, markets, exports, global value chains. Ensuring food security; changing crop structure in line with market advantages and demands; improving resilience and adaptation to climate change. Developing high-tech application of livestock, high-efficiency and environmentally-friendly farming and ranching.

+ To develop aquaculture in the direction of industry, extensive farming, ecology; to improve the efficiency of offshore fishing. To protect and develop aquatic resources.

+ To manage, protect and restore natural forests in association with biodiversity conservation and ecological environment protection. Developing planted forests to meet the basic needs of forest products in Viet Nam and export.

+ To promote cooperation in the production and consumption of agricultural products. Supporting and encouraging the development of farm economy, agricultural cooperatives and cooperative groups. Strengthening international integration capacity; assisting businesses on legal

issues in commercial dispute resolution. Promoting research, application and transfer of science and technology in agriculture. Improving the quality of human resources (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, p. 103).

The above policy marked a renewal in the Party's awareness on agricultural development, promptly adjusted unreasonable contents, removed difficulties and obstacles, especially in terms of policies and mechanisms, and created favorable conditions for agricultural development in a comprehensive and sustainable direction.

2.3. Guidelines and policies of the Party Committee and the government of Quang Ngai province on agricultural development in current period

Re-established in 1989, Quang Ngai is located in the central coastal region, with many conditions for agricultural development. During the innovation period, under the leadership of the Party, the Party Committee, the government and the people of Quang Ngai, they creatively applied the Party's guidelines to agricultural development and achieved many achievements. However, the province's agricultural development has not been commensurate with its potential; sustainability has not been high.

In order to develop agriculture in a sustainable way, implement the Party's line and closely follow the local reality, the 20th Quang Ngai Provincial Party Congress (2020) has set goals, tasks and solutions. It's a: The agricultural sector strives for an average growth rate of 4-5%/year. Promoting the restructuring of the agricultural sector in the direction of developing key products, enhancing added value, and linking along the value chain. Encouraging and developing organic agriculture, applying high technology and biotechnology. Adopting policies to support and attract investment in agriculture and rural areas, and to develop the farm economy. Developing sustainable forestry; increasing the economic value of planted forests. Improving the capacity and efficiency of offshore fishing. Encouraging the cultivation of aquatic species of high economic value. Investing in the development of seafood preservation and processing establishments. Investing in and upgrading fisheries logistics infrastructure, serving agriculture and adapting to climate change (Quang Ngai Provincial Party Committee, 2020, p. 71 - 72). The above policy has timely thoroughly grasped and implemented the Party's three-farm policy. At the same time, creating a breakthrough for the province's agriculture to develop and improve the lives of farmers.

To implement the Resolution of the 20th Quang Ngai Provincial Party Congress, the People's Committees at all relevant levels, departments, agencies and branches have issued the following documents: Decision No. 692/QD-UBND dated May 17, 2021 "[On the approval of the Plan for prevention of a number of dangerous diseases on farmed aquatic products, period 2021 - 2030 in Quang Ngai province](#)", Decision No. 677/QD-UBND dated May 14, 2021 on "[Approving the Project on supporting forest management and protection in Quang Ngai province, period 2021 - 2025](#)", Decision No. 719/QD-UBND dated 20/5/2021 "[On the approval of the agricultural extension plan of Quang Ngai province in 2021](#)" of the People's Committee of Quang Ngai Province; Decision No. 536/QD-SNNPTNT dated September 22, 2022 on "Promulgating the Action Plan to implement the Plan to Restructure the Livestock Sector in Quang Ngai Province to 2025", Report No. 2161/TTr-SNNPTNT-TTBVTV dated June 29, 2022 "On the approval of the implementation plan of the project on marine aquaculture development to 2030, with a vision to 2045 in Quang Ngai province" of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Quang

Ngai,... Approving the Resolution of the 20th Quang Ngai Provincial Party Congress and documents of the People's Committees at all levels, departments, branches..., Quang Ngai Party Committee and government have set out many guidelines and policies to bring the province's agriculture to sustainable development.

3. CONCLUSION

Currently, Quang Ngai is developing the agricultural industry in a sustainable way. During development, the province's agricultural sector is affected by many factors: natural, economic, cultural - social conditions; guidelines and policies of the Party and Party Committee and government of Quang Ngai province on agricultural development. The above factors have created certain advantages and disadvantages for agricultural development. Understanding this, the Party Committee, authorities and farmers in the province need to promote and exploit the potentials, advantages and positivity of these factors; at the same time, limit and overcome negative impacts to bring the province's agriculture to a higher and more sustainable development.

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