

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE
MEKONG DELTA REGION LEADING
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
IN THE CURRENT PERIOD**

SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL THESIS

MAJOR: BUILDING UP THE PARTY AND STATE GOVERNMENT

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INTRODUCTION

1. Urgency of the Research Topic

Vietnam is a country with a long-standing agricultural tradition, in which agriculture has long served as a critical “pillar” of the national economy. More than 60% of the population resides in rural areas, and approximately 60% of the labor force is engaged in agricultural activities. In leading the process of national construction and development, the Communist Party of Vietnam has consistently placed strong emphasis on agricultural development and has promulgated guidelines and policies to promote the growth of the agricultural sector.

In the context of international integration, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and climate change, urgent demands have emerged for sustainable agricultural development. Fully cognizant of these challenges, the Party and the State have issued major resolutions, strategies, and large-scale programs, providing close and effective leadership to guide and promote agricultural development in a sustainable direction. The Project on Agricultural Restructuring toward Enhancing Added Value and Sustainable Development, as ratified by Decision No. 899/QĐ-TTg dated June 10, 2013, affirms that sustainable development is both a process and a goal of the agricultural sector. Resolution No. 19-NQ/TW dated June 16, 2022, clearly sets out the overall objective to 2030: “Agriculture develops rapidly, sustainably, and efficiently; firmly ensures national food security; agricultural commodity production expands in scale; the ecological environment is protected; and agriculture adapts to climate change...”.

Implementing the Party's strategic guidelines, local Party committees have reinforced and modernized their leadership frameworks, driving significant progress in the agricultural sector. This progress is evidenced by sustained growth rates and substantial improvements in output quality and economic efficiency. Notably, Vietnam's evolution from food insecurity to a leading global agricultural exporter underscores the efficacy of these political directives.

However, the new developmental context requires even more robust leadership to steer the sector toward sustainability. This involves ensuring the correct alignment of economic restructuring, enhancing provincial coordination, and leveraging digital transformation and technological advancements. Practical demands now mandate an innovation in leadership methods, requiring Party committees to enhance their capacity in both policy design and the systematic implementation of sustainable development strategies at the local level.

The Mekong Delta region possesses significant potential and advantages for agricultural development and is the country's largest production and export area for food, foodstuffs, aquatic products, and fruits. The Party has set the goal that by 2030: “The Mekong Delta will become an ecological, civilized, and sustainable region imbued with the distinctive culture of riverine life; a national, regional, and global center of sustainable, dynamic, and highly efficient agricultural economy, based on the development of a system of agricultural hubs...”.

To promote its role as the national agricultural center in the context of increasingly complex climate change, provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region have proactively led sustainable agricultural development and achieved positive results. Leadership content and methods have been renewed through sustainability-oriented planning, the promotion of digital transformation in agriculture, the integration of agricultural development with environmental protection, social issue resolution, and livelihood improvement, along with strengthened communication, mobilization, and enhanced inspection and supervision in implementation.

Nevertheless, the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region in sustainable agricultural development still has notable limitations. In some localities, leadership content and methods lack specificity and depth, solutions remain general, the roles of Party organizations and members in communication are insufficiently promoted, inspection and supervision are irregular, and limited practical review has led to a shortage of leadership models suited to the region, hindering truly sustainable agricultural development.

To implement the strategy for sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region, provincial Party committees need to further strengthen their leadership in promoting sustainable, climate-adaptive agricultural development. Researching and assessing the current situation and identifying feasible solutions to capitalize on strengths and overcome limitations—especially in the context of organizational restructuring, the implementation of a two-tier local government model, and ongoing digital transformation—is therefore an issue of great importance and urgency.

In order to contribute to addressing these issues, the doctoral candidate has chosen the topic ***“Provincial Party Committees in the Mekong Delta Region Leading Sustainable Agricultural Development in the Current Period”*** as a doctoral thesis in the major of Party Building and State Governance.

2. Purpose and Tasks of the Thesis

2.1. Purpose of the Thesis

Based on clarifying the theoretical and practical issues concerning the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region in sustainable agricultural development in the current period, the thesis proposes major orientations and solutions to strengthen the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region over sustainable agricultural development through 2035.

2.2. Tasks of the Thesis

First, to review domestic and international scientific studies related to the thesis topic, identify the achieved results, and point out the issues that require further research in the thesis.

Second, to clarify the theoretical and practical issues concerning the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region in sustainable agricultural development in the current period.

Third, to survey and assess the current situation of the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region in sustainable agricultural development from 2015 to the present; identify strengths, limitations, causes, and lessons learned.

Fourth, to propose orientations and key solutions to strengthen the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region over sustainable agricultural development through 2035, taking into account local characteristics after organizational restructuring, the implementation of the two-tier local government model, and the context of digital transformation.

3. Object and Scope of the Thesis

3.1. Object of the Thesis

The thesis examines the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region in sustainable agricultural development in the current period.

3.2. Scope of the Research

In terms of research content, the thesis studies the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region in sustainable agricultural development, with a focus on clarifying the leadership content and leadership methods through which provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region lead sustainable agricultural development.

In terms of research space, the thesis concentrates on research and field surveys conducted in the Mekong Delta provinces, including 12 provinces: An Giang, Dong Thap, Long An, Tien Giang, Vinh Long, Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang, Hau Giang, Bac Lieu, Ca Mau, and Kien Giang. Following the administrative mergers effective from July 1, 2025, the provinces include Dong Thap, An Giang, Ca Mau, and Vinh Long.

In terms of research time, the study is conducted from 2015 to before July 2025. The orientations and solutions for strengthening the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region in sustainable agricultural development are proposed with a horizon to 2035.

4. Theoretical and Practical Foundations and Research Methods of the Thesis

4.1. Theoretical Foundations

The thesis is conducted on the basis of the viewpoints of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, theories on the renovation line, and the viewpoints and guidelines of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, as well as State policies on leadership in socio-economic fields, including agricultural development and sustainable agricultural development.

4.2. Practical Foundations

The practical foundation of the thesis is the leadership activities of Party committees at all levels, particularly provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region, in sustainable agricultural development. The thesis focuses on studying resolutions and action programs of provincial Party committees on sustainable agricultural development, as well as preliminary and final review reports of provincial Party committees and provincial People's Committees on sustainable agricultural development from 2015 to before July 2025.

4.3. Research Methods

The thesis employs various research methods, including analysis and synthesis; the historical method combined with the logical method; the deductive method

combined with the inductive method; and sociological investigation, with particular emphasis on survey and practical review methods. Specifically:

- Marxist-Leninist methodology: The research is conducted on the basis of dialectical materialism, examining phenomena objectively and comprehensively, in connection with specific historical contexts and within universal relationships as well as processes of movement and development.

- Historical-logical method: The study examines the guidelines, policies, and leadership of the Party and of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region regarding sustainable agricultural development in different periods. On that basis, it systematizes and generalizes the relationships among economic growth, environmental protection, and social security in sustainable agricultural development, draws leadership lessons, and proposes solutions to strengthen the leadership of provincial Party committees in sustainable agricultural development in the coming period.

- Analysis and synthesis method: The thesis exploits a system of documents, including reports of provincial Party committees, relevant research works, and statistical data, which are then analyzed and synthesized to select information and generalize it into arguments closely linked to the thesis topic.

- Survey and practical review method: This is a characteristic method of Party building and state governance science. It is based on practical outcomes of sustainable agricultural development in provinces of the Mekong Delta region to compare and contrast with the Party's viewpoints and the State's policies and laws on sustainable agricultural development, thereby assessing strengths and weaknesses, identifying causes, and drawing lessons from the leadership of provincial Party committees in sustainable agricultural development.

- Sociological investigation method: This method is used to capture perceptions, levels of understanding, consensus, and gaps between awareness and action among cadres, Party members, and the people; to collect data on the organization and implementation of provincial Party committee guidelines; and on the actual implementation of leadership content, methods, and influencing factors affecting the leadership of sustainable agricultural development by provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region. On that basis, solutions are proposed to strengthen the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region over sustainable agricultural development.

The doctoral candidate distributed survey questionnaires in 12 provinces of the Mekong Delta region, with a total of 600 questionnaires, 50 questionnaires per province, in order to ensure relative representativeness among localities across the region, meet minimum sample size requirements for statistical analysis, and remain appropriate to practical conditions and access capacity. The survey subjects were provincial-level leaders and managers working in Party agencies, government bodies, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations. The questionnaires were designed in a semi-structured format to both collect quantitative data for statistical analysis and elicit evaluative opinions and practical insights from the leadership and management experience of respondents. The collected data were processed and analyzed using SPSS statistical software.

5. New Scientific Contributions of the Thesis

- Establishing the concept of “provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region leading sustainable agricultural development,” thereby contributing to shaping managerial thinking and leadership modalities of provincial Party committees in the new context, in line with the specific characteristics of the Mekong Delta region.

- Providing vivid practical evidence clarifying the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region in sustainable agricultural development from 2015 to before July 2025; elucidating the Party’s leadership in the new period and contributing to answering the question of how the Party leads a key economic sector in the context of a socialist-oriented market economy; and clarifying how the Party’s leadership methods should be renewed to suit the Mekong Delta region as the country’s key agricultural economic region.

- Analyzing and identifying factors influencing the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region in sustainable agricultural development, such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution, international integration, advantages and challenges arising from the streamlining and enhancement of effectiveness and efficiency of the political system’s organizational apparatus, provincial mergers and consolidations, the abolition of the district level, and the implementation of a two-tier local government model.

- Analyzing the current situation and proposing orientations and groups of solutions to strengthen the leadership of provincial Party committees in sustainable agricultural development through new leadership approaches compatible with digital transformation, digital data, institutional building, electronic environments, and leadership that enhances democracy, thereby creating motivation for enterprises, cooperatives, and the people to participate in sustainable agricultural development.

6. Theoretical and Practical Significance of the Thesis

First, the thesis contributes to providing data sources and vivid practical evidence to clarify theoretical issues concerning the leadership of provincial Party committees in sustainable agricultural development in a key agricultural economic region, thereby contributing to the development of theory on the Party’s leadership and ruling capacity in the current period.

Second, the thesis provides scientific arguments for the Party to study and renew, and to further improve, guidelines, mechanisms, and measures of leadership and direction, while suggesting models and specific solutions for leading sustainable agricultural development in the coming period.

Third, the research findings of the thesis may serve as reference materials for provincial Party committees and Party committees at all levels in renewing and enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of leadership in sustainable agricultural development at the local level. The findings may also be used as reference materials for research, teaching, and learning in Party Building courses at provincial and municipal political schools nationwide.

7. Structure of the Thesis

Apart from the introduction, conclusion, list of references, and appendices, the thesis is structured into 4 chapters with a total of 9 sections.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH WORKS RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC

1.1. FOREIGN STUDIES RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC

The thesis reviews groups of research works by foreign authors related to agriculture, farmers, rural areas, and Party leadership and governance, including works by Xin Xón Phun Bun Si (2011), Mark Redwood (2012), Zhang Hongzhou (2012), P.W. Heringa, C.M. van der Heide, and W.J.M. Heijman (2013), Dinesh Kumar, Sivamohan, and Nitin Bassi (2013), Julian M. Alston (2014), Serey Mardy (2014), Kim Etingoff (2016), Rahul Katiyar, Arun Kumar Pal, and Brij Mohan (2017), Angelika Hilbeck and Bernadette Oehen (2018), Dong Lien Truong, (2010), Hoang Van Ho, (2014), and Ly Luong Dong (2020). These studies put forward concepts of sustainable agriculture, examine the economic and social dimensions of agricultural sustainability, and address environmental protection issues in countries such as the United States, China, the Netherlands, and India; draw lessons applicable under different regional and international conditions; discuss governing capacity, social reform, and grassroots Party building in China; analyze factors ensuring scientific governance; and explore the Party's leadership and governance methods.

1.2. DOMESTIC STUDIES RELATED TO THE THESIS TOPIC

Domestic research works can be broadly categorized into three main strands. *First*, studies related to agriculture, farmers, and rural areas focus on clarifying theoretical and practical issues concerning agriculture, farmers, and rural development in general and in the Mekong Delta in particular (Nguyen Quang Thai, Vo Thi Kim Sa, Le Minh Hoan, Do Huong, Nguyen Thi Anh, among others). *Second*, studies on the Party's leadership over various spheres of social life (Bui Dinh Bon, Doan Minh Huan, Thien Ly - Ly Lan, among others). *Third*, studies specifically addressing the Party's leadership in agriculture, farmers, and rural areas (Nguyen Thi To Uyen, Ngo Thi Lan Huong, Bui Van Nghiem, Bui Thanh Xuan, among others). These works support the thesis in three respects: providing a theoretical foundation; supplementing practical evidence and regional experience; and identifying difficulties and challenges while suggesting solutions in leadership and governance.

1.3. OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH FINDINGS OF RELATED SCIENTIFIC WORKS AND ISSUES FOR FURTHER STUDY IN THE THESIS

1.3.1. Overview of research findings of scientific works related to the thesis topic

First, scholars have examined and analyzed the Party's leadership in several countries, such as the Communist Party of China and the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, and clarified policies and experiences in sustainable agricultural development in a number of countries worldwide, including the United States, Denmark, India, Cambodia, Thailand, and Israel.

Second, scientific works on the Party's leadership over various spheres of social life have proposed concepts, contents, and methods of Party leadership, and suggested solutions to strengthen the Party's leadership in specific social sectors. The findings of these studies provide important reference value for fulfilling the objectives and tasks of the thesis.

Third, scientific works related to the Party's leadership in agricultural, farmer, and rural development have conducted relatively comprehensive research on guidelines and policies for agricultural development, new rural construction, and sustainable agricultural development within the Party's and the State's socio-economic development strategies. These works address strategic issues in agricultural and rural development, such as land use and production linkages, and propose solutions for promoting commodity-based agricultural production, accelerating industrialization and modernization in agriculture and rural areas, and developing sustainable agriculture. These contents constitute valuable reference materials for the author in pursuing the objectives and tasks of the thesis.

Overall, these studies have contributed additional reference evidence for the implementation of the thesis. They provide a comprehensive perspective, from theory to practice, on issues related to agricultural and rural development and sustainable agriculture in provinces, localities, and regions, including the Mekong Delta. However, to date, there has been no study that systematically and comprehensively examines both the theoretical and practical dimensions of Party committee leadership-particularly at the provincial level-over sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region in the current period.

1.3.2. Issues requiring further research in the thesis

First, to clarify the concepts and contents of sustainable development; the concepts, contents, and roles of sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region; and to analyze and elucidate the concepts, contents, methods, and roles of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region in leading sustainable agricultural development.

Second, based on theoretical frameworks concerning the leadership content and methods of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region over sustainable agricultural development, the thesis conducts surveys and assesses the current situation of such leadership in recent years, identifies the causes of achievements as well as limitations and shortcomings in the leadership process, and synthesizes leadership experiences of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region in sustainable agricultural development.

Third, to forecast favorable conditions and difficulties affecting provincial Party committee leadership, and to propose feasible major solutions to strengthen the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region over sustainable agricultural development in the coming period.

Chapter 2

PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION LEADING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT - THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES

2.1. OVERVIEW OF PROVINCES, PROVINCIAL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS, AND PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION AT PRESENT

2.1.1. Overview of the Situation of Provinces in the Mekong Delta Region

2.1.1.1. Geographical Location and Natural Conditions

The Mekong Delta (MD) covers an area of 39,734 km², accounting for 12.2% of the country's total area. It is located in the southwestern part of the nation and holds a strategically important geo-political position in terms of national defense, security, economic development, and external relations. With flat terrain, a dense river network, a coastline of 750 km, and vast maritime areas, the region is highly favorable for agricultural production, fisheries, marine economy development, and international trade. The Mekong Delta borders Cambodia, creating opportunities for cooperation and exchanges with countries in the Mekong sub-region. Consequently, the region has become one of the areas attracting considerable attention from both domestic and foreign investors.

Prior to July 2025, the Mekong Delta consisted of 12 provinces and centrally governed cities. Following the provincial-level administrative mergers effective from July 1, 2025, the region comprises five provincial-level administrative units: Can Tho City (formed by the merger of Can Tho City, Soc Trang Province, and Hau Giang Province); Vinh Long Province (formed by the merger of Ben Tre Province, Vinh Long Province, and Tra Vinh Province); Dong Thap Province (formed by the merger of Tien Giang Province and Dong Thap Province); Ca Mau Province (formed by the merger of Bac Lieu Province and Ca Mau Province); and An Giang Province (formed by the merger of An Giang Province and Kien Giang Province).

The Mekong Delta is ecologically diverse, featuring fertile alluvial plains, mountains, forests, coastal areas, and an intricate system of rivers and canals supplied by major rivers such as the Hau River, Tien River, Vam Co Dong River, Vam Co Tay River, Co Chien River, and others. Wetlands also play a vital role in water supply for rice-growing areas. This natural system constitutes one of the key factors underpinning agricultural development in the Mekong Delta.

2.1.1.2. Socio-economic Conditions of Provinces and Cities in the Mekong Delta

The economic structure of provinces and cities in the Mekong Delta has evolved toward an agriculture-industry-services orientation, with an increasing share of industry and services and a gradual decline in the proportion of agriculture.

According to data from the General Statistics Office, the average population of the Mekong Delta in 2024 exceeded 17.4 million people, accounting for

approximately 23% of the national population. Of this, 82% resided in rural areas and 18% in urban areas. Population density in 2023 was about 427 persons per km². After the administrative mergers, the population of the five provincial-level units in the region exceeded 20.3 million people.

The Mekong Delta is home to multiple ethnic groups, with four main groups being Kinh, Hoa, Khmer, and Cham, distinguishing the region from other parts of Vietnam.

The region is also characterized by religious diversity, with six major religions: Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Hoa Hao Buddhism, Cao Dai, and Islam.

2.1.1.3. Characteristics, Position, and Role of Agriculture in the Mekong Delta

As a major agricultural center, the Mekong Delta is the largest producer of food and agricultural products in the country, particularly rice, aquatic products, and fruits. Production methods are transitioning from traditional to modern approaches, with increased mechanization, application of high technologies, smart farming practices, and circular agriculture. Large-scale commodity production has become increasingly prevalent through models such as large-field schemes and new-type cooperatives, along with strengthened linkages among farmers, enterprises, and distribution units along value chains.

The Mekong Delta is a key agricultural economic region, contributing over 33% of national agricultural GDP and approximately 30% of the region's GDP. Rice cultivation areas reached 3,802.7 thousand hectares in 2022; 3,838.7 thousand hectares in 2023; and 3,858.5 thousand hectares in 2024. The region leads the country in rice, aquatic product, and fruit output. Agriculture remains the backbone of the regional economy, with outputs of 24.2 million tons of rice (accounting for 55.4% of national output), 4.3 million tons of fruits, and 4.79 million tons of aquatic products; pangasius and shrimp account for 60% of total aquatic export turnover.

According to the Department of Crop Production under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in 2023, the proportion of aromatic and high-quality rice varieties increased to meet the requirements of rice export markets. Fruit production in the Mekong Delta in 2023 was estimated at 5.335 million tons, an increase of more than 1 million tons compared to 2022.

2.1.2. Provincial Party organizations and provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region

2.1.2.1. Provincial Party organizations in the Mekong Delta region

Before the administrative merger, the Mekong Delta region comprised 12 provinces and 01 centrally governed city. After the merger, the region has 05 provincial-level administrative units, including 04 provinces and 01 centrally governed city, corresponding to 05 provincial-level Party organizations and 05 standing committees of provincial and municipal Party committees.

Across the region, there are 518 Party organizations subordinate to provincial-level Party committees. Among them, Vinh Long Provincial Party Organization has the largest number of subordinate organizations, with 128 units, while Ca Mau Provincial Party Organization has the smallest scale, with only 68 units. As of October 2025, the total number of Party members in the 05 provincial-level Party organizations is approximately 672,473 members; Vinh Long alone has the largest number, with more than 152,000 Party members.

2.1.2.2. Provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region - functions, tasks, roles, and characteristics

First, functions of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region

Provincial and municipal Party committees in the Mekong Delta region are the leading bodies between two congresses of provincial and municipal Party organizations elected by the congresses. They lead the implementation of resolutions of provincial and municipal Party congresses, the Party's guidelines, resolutions, directives, and conclusions, as well as the State's policies and laws; and propose and recommend to the Politburo and the Secretariat issues related to the Party's leadership over localities.

According to Regulation No. 305-QĐ/TW, provincial and municipal Party committees in the Mekong Delta region perform the function of directly and comprehensively leading and directing provincial and municipal Party organizations; leading and directing agencies and organizations within the provincial and municipal political systems, as well as subordinate Party committees and Party organizations, in accordance with the Party Charter and Central regulations and guidelines; leading Party organizations to correctly implement the Party's guidelines and orientations, the State's policies and laws, and resolutions of provincial and municipal Party congresses; and proposing and recommending to the Party Central Committee, the Politburo, and the Secretariat matters related to the Central leadership and direction over localities.

Second, tasks of provincial Party committees

In accordance with the Party Charter and Regulation No. 305-QĐ/TW.

Third, roles of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region

First, provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region ensure the successful implementation of the renovation process in each province; promote socio-economic development and improve the living standards of the people in their localities.

Second, provincial Party committees play an important role in ensuring the consistency and smooth transmission of guidelines and orientations on socio-economic development between the Central level and Party committees at all levels.

Third, provincial Party committees lead socio-economic development, continuously care for the material and spiritual life of the people, and bear the highest responsibility for damages caused by factors affecting production and business

activities that impact people's livelihoods and social order and safety in their localities.

Fourth, provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region demonstrate their role in Party building, strengthening Party organizations, and educating Party members to meet the requirements of socio-economic development.

Fourth, characteristics of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region

First, characteristics regarding the organizational structure of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region.

Second, characteristics regarding the quality of members of provincial Party committees.

Third, characteristics regarding leadership content.

Fourth, characteristics regarding leadership methods.

2.2. PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION LEADING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT - CONCEPTS, CONTENT, METHODS, AND ROLES

2.2.1. Concepts of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region leading sustainable agricultural development

2.2.1.1. Concept of sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region

Sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region is the close, rational, and harmonious combination of agricultural economic growth with the effective resolution of the region's specific social issues, the protection of land and water resources, ecosystems, and the environment; at the same time, proactively adapting to climate change in order to ensure sustainable livelihoods for local people and maintain national food security.

Content of sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region

First, sustainable development in economic terms. This refers to maintaining the efficiency and profitability of the agricultural sector over time, meeting the increasingly diverse and growing demands of society for agricultural products.

Second, sustainable development in social terms. This is reflected in the positive impacts of the agricultural system on the community in aspects such as job creation, income improvement, promotion of equality, development of culture, education, and healthcare, and the maintenance of socio-political stability for farmers and rural residents.

Third, sustainable development in environmental terms. Environmentally sustainable agricultural development is the process of ensuring stable economic growth without sacrificing natural resources or the quality of the living environment.

2.2.1.2. Concept of Party leadership

Leadership is the process by which the leadership subject formulates guidelines, orientations, and decisions on a particular issue, determines the objectives to be achieved; organizes implementation; and conducts inspection and supervision in order to successfully realize the issued guidelines, orientations, and decisions, and gradually achieve the identified objectives.

2.2.1.3. Provincial Party Committees in the Mekong Delta Region Leading Sustainable Agricultural Development - Concept, Subjects, Objects, and Objectives

Based on the concept of leadership and the concept of sustainable agricultural development in the provinces of the Mekong Delta region, it can be defined that the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region over sustainable agricultural development constitutes the entirety of activities undertaken by provincial Party committees to thoroughly grasp and implement the Party's guidelines, orientations, and policies on sustainable agricultural development; to formulate, promulgate, and organize the implementation of provincial Party committee decisions on sustainable agricultural development; and to conduct inspection and supervision over the implementation by subordinate Party committees and Party organizations, with the aim of achieving sustainable agricultural development in economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

Regarding the subjects of leadership over sustainable agricultural development

In this dissertation, the subject of leadership over sustainable agricultural development in the provinces of the Mekong Delta region is the provincial Party committee, with the Standing Committee of the provincial Party committee playing the central and regular role.

Regarding the objects of leadership in implementing sustainable agricultural development

The objects of leadership over sustainable agricultural development in the provinces of the Mekong Delta region include subordinate Party committees and Party organizations; government authorities; the Viet Nam Fatherland Front; socio-political organizations within the provincial political system; the armed forces; public service units; state-owned enterprises of the province; and the agricultural sector. In addition, the objects of leadership also encompass social organizations, socio-professional organizations, other relevant organizations and forces, and the people.

Regarding the objectives of provincial Party committees' leadership over sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region

The leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region over sustainable agricultural development aims to ensure the effective implementation of the Party's guidelines and orientations on agricultural development; to promote the proactiveness and dynamism of Party committees, local authorities, and the people in carrying out effective and sustainable agricultural development; to protect the environment; and to proactively adapt to climate change in the Mekong Delta region.

2.2.2. Contents of the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region over sustainable agricultural development

First, leading the formulation of agricultural development planning in a sustainable orientation.

Second, leading agricultural development in association with environmental protection and climate change adaptation.

Third, leading agricultural development in conjunction with addressing social issues and improving people's income.

Fourth, leading coordination among state agencies and the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, enterprises, economic sectors, social organizations, and the people in participating in sustainable agricultural development.

Fifth, leading the work of training, capacity building, and attracting and developing agricultural human resources.

Sixth, leading regional linkages and international integration to effectively implement the objectives and solutions for sustainable agricultural development.

2.2.3. Modes of leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region over sustainable agricultural development

First, leading through the formulation and promulgation of resolutions and programs on orientations, objectives, and solutions for sustainable agricultural development.

Second, leading through communication, persuasion, and mobilization.

Third, leading through organizational and personnel work.

Fourth, leading through Party organizations and promoting the exemplary role and model actions of cadres and Party members in state agencies, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations.

Fifth, leading through promoting the role of government in concretizing and institutionalizing the Party's guidelines, the State's policies and laws, and resolutions of provincial Party committees into programs, plans, and working schemes of government authorities on sustainable agricultural development.

Sixth, leading through inspection and supervision, as well as preliminary and final reviews of the implementation of sustainable agricultural development.

2.2.4. The leadership role of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region over sustainable agricultural development

First, provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region ensure the successful implementation of the renovation process in each province; promote socio-economic development; advance sustainable agricultural development; and ensure national defense and security within their localities.

Second, provincial Party committees play an important role in ensuring the consistency and smooth linkage of guidelines and orientations on sustainable agricultural development between the Central level and Party committees at all levels.

Third, provincial Party committees lead sustainable agricultural development while continuously caring for the material and spiritual life of the people, and bear the highest responsibility for damages affecting people's livelihoods and public order and security within the province.

Fourth, provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region demonstrate their role in Party building, consolidating Party organizations, and educating Party members to meet the requirements of sustainable agricultural development.

Conclusion of chapter 2

Chapter 2 clarifies the theoretical and practical foundations of the leadership of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region over sustainable agricultural development. The Mekong Delta region is a key agricultural development area of Viet Nam, with distinctive geographical characteristics and favorable climatic conditions, yet it also frequently faces serious challenges posed by climate change. In this context, provincial Party committees play a core role in directing, formulating, and implementing guidelines and policies toward sustainable agricultural development and climate change adaptation.

The leadership role of provincial Party committees is reflected not only in the issuance of leadership and orientation documents but is also concretized through the organization of implementation, inspection, and supervision, aiming to achieve harmonious development objectives in economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

The comprehensive identification of concepts, leadership contents, and modes of leadership constitutes an important theoretical foundation. This serves as the basis for the dissertation to conduct surveys and assess the current situation of provincial Party committees' leadership over sustainable agricultural development in Chapter 3.

Chapter 3

PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION LEADING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT - CURRENT SITUATION, CAUSES, AND EXPERIENCE

3.1. CURRENT SITUATION OF PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION IN LEADING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

3.1.1. Regarding the content of leadership over sustainable agricultural development

3.1.1.1. Advantages

First, provincial Party committees have led the formulation of agricultural development planning toward sustainability in line with the characteristics and strengths of each province.

Second, they have led agricultural development in association with environmental protection and adaptation to climate change.

Third, they have led agricultural development in connection with addressing social issues and improving people's incomes.

Fourth, they have led coordination activities between state agencies and the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, enterprises, economic

sectors, social organizations, and the people in effectively implementing the objectives and solutions for sustainable agricultural development.

Fifth, they have led the training, fostering, and attraction of human resources for the agricultural sector.

Sixth, provincial Party committees have paid attention to leading regional linkages and international integration to effectively achieve the objectives and solutions for sustainable agricultural development.

3.1.1.2. Limitations

First, in some provinces, the determination of orientations, planning, and the development of projects for sustainable agricultural development has not been timely, and the quality has remained limited.

Second, the leadership of agricultural development associated with environmental protection and adaptation to climate change in the Mekong Delta region has not been effective; in some cases and in some localities, it has remained formalistic.

Third, the leadership in improving the quality of cadres working in the agricultural sector remains limited.

Fourth, the leadership of some provincial Party committees and Party committees of agencies and sectors in coordinating activities between provincial and district authorities with the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, public service units, and economic sectors in implementing provincial Party committee resolutions and guidelines on sustainable agricultural development has been confused, passive, and insufficiently close.

Fifth, the leadership of provincial Party committees in implementing regional linkages and cooperation with international organizations to contribute to achieving the objectives and solutions for sustainable agricultural development remains limited.

3.1.2. Regarding leadership methods

3.1.2.1. Advantages

First, provincial Party committees have exercised leadership through the formulation and promulgation of resolutions, programs, and plans on sustainable agricultural development.

Second, provincial Party committees have led the implementation of guidelines and resolutions on sustainable agricultural development through propaganda, persuasion, and mobilization of Party members and the people.

Third, provincial Party committees have exercised leadership through organizational and personnel work, paying attention to building a contingent of cadres in the agricultural sector.

Fourth, provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region have led sustainable agricultural development through Party committees of agencies and sectors, promoting the pioneering and exemplary role of cadres and Party members.

Fifth, provincial Party committees have led the implementation of guidelines, tasks, and solutions for sustainable agricultural development by promoting the role of local authorities, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and the people.

Sixth, provincial Party committees have exercised leadership through inspection and supervision of the implementation of guidelines and resolutions on sustainable agricultural development.

3.1.2.2. Limitations

First, the quality of some resolutions, guidelines, and orientations of provincial Party committees on sustainable agricultural development remains limited, especially in terms of forecasting capacity and breakthrough solutions.

Second, propaganda, mobilization, and persuasion of the people to implement provincial Party committee resolutions on sustainable agricultural development in some provinces have not been carried out regularly and remain formalistic.

Third, organizational and personnel work in the agricultural sector still shows weaknesses and shortcomings, adversely affecting the effectiveness of provincial Party committees' leadership over agricultural development.

Fourth, the roles and responsibilities of Party organizations and Party members in implementing provincial Party committee resolutions and decisions on sustainable agricultural development have not been strongly promoted; the role of local authorities in organizing the implementation of provincial Party committee guidelines and resolutions on sustainable agricultural development has not been effective.

Fifth, the role of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations, social organizations, economic sectors, and enterprises in agricultural and rural development has, at times and in some localities, not been given due attention or fully promoted.

Sixth, inspection and supervision of the implementation of provincial Party committee resolutions and decisions on sustainable agricultural development remain limited and have not been conducted regularly.

3.2. CAUSES AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BY PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION

3.2.1. Causes

3.2.1.1. Causes of strengths

First, the Party has promulgated appropriate guidelines and policies on agriculture, farmers, and rural areas, especially on sustainable agricultural development; along with the attention and support of ministries, sectors, and central agencies for agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region.

Second, provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region have correctly perceived, implemented, and creatively applied the Party's and the State's viewpoints and lines on sustainable agricultural development.

Third, the proactiveness, flexibility, and creativity of Party committees at all levels, local authorities, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations in deploying and organizing the implementation of provincial Party committee resolutions and programs on sustainable and modern agricultural and rural development.

Fourth, farmers in the Mekong Delta region have made efforts to promote their role as key actors in agricultural and rural development toward sustainability and modernization.

Fifth, provinces in the Mekong Delta region have proactively promoted regional linkages and mobilized resources for sustainable agricultural development.

3.2.1.2. Causes of limitations and weaknesses

First, the awareness, capacity, and sense of responsibility of some provincial Party committee members, cadres, and Party members in sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region remain limited.

Second, the organizational apparatus, personnel, and operational quality of advisory and assisting agencies to provincial Party committees and local authorities in sustainable agricultural development remain inadequate and have not met practical task requirements.

Third, leadership, direction, and organization of implementation by Party committees and local authorities in some localities remain limited.

Fourth, capacity to organize and mobilize resources for sustainable agricultural development remains limited.

Fifth, regional linkages and value-chain linkages are not yet sustainable.

Sixth, climate change has evolved in complex, unpredictable, and hard-to-forecast ways, affecting the quality of Party committee leadership over sustainable agricultural development.

3.2.2. Initial lessons learned in the leadership of sustainable agricultural development by provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region

First, promoting the role of the entire political system and the people is decisive for achieving results in sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region.

Second, provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region pay attention to leading the building of contingents of cadres at all levels, especially grassroots-level cadres with sufficient capacity to effectively implement the Party's guidelines and resolutions and the State's policies on sustainable agricultural development.

Third, provincial Party committees promote responsibility, proactiveness, and creativity in formulating guidelines and measures for sustainable agricultural development suitable to the specific conditions of localities in the Mekong Delta region.

Fourth, strengthening propaganda and mobilization of the people in combination with effective implementation of sustainable agricultural economic models in the Mekong Delta region.

Fifth, developing agriculture in the Mekong Delta region toward high-tech and sustainable directions associated with linkages among provinces and cities in the region.

Conclusion of chapter 3

In recent years, provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region have paid attention to leading and directing sustainable agricultural development and have initially achieved many positive results. The guidelines and resolutions of provincial Party organizations have gradually specified objectives for sustainable agricultural development, climate change adaptation, food security assurance, and improvement of farmers' livelihoods. However, leadership by provincial Party committees still shows several limitations, such as inconsistent institutionalization of guidelines, limited capacity in organizing implementation, weak regional linkages, and constrained capacity to organize and mobilize resources for sustainable agricultural development. The causes of these limitations stem from both objective and subjective factors. From practice, several important lessons can be drawn: promoting the role of the entire political system and the people in implementing sustainable agricultural development; promoting the pioneering and exemplary role of cadres and Party members; strengthening propaganda and mobilization of the people in combination with effective implementation of sustainable agricultural economic models. These causes and lessons serve as the foundation for proposing orientations and solutions in Chapter 4.

Chapter 4

ORIENTATIONS AND KEY SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE LEADERSHIP OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BY PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION TO 2035

4.1. FACTORS AFFECTING AND ORIENTATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE LEADERSHIP OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BY PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION TO 2035

4.1.1. Factors affecting the leadership of sustainable agricultural development by provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region

First, the close, resolute leadership and direction of the Party and the State in promoting sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region; numerous mechanisms and policies for investment in sustainable agriculture have been strongly implemented.

Second, strengthening international cooperation and integration in agriculture creates favorable conditions for Viet Nam and provinces in the Mekong Delta region to lead sustainable agricultural development.

Third, the reorganization of the political system apparatus in the spirit of streamlining, effectiveness, and efficiency; the consolidation and merger of several provinces and cities in the Mekong Delta region, and the reorganization of local government according to the two-level governance model.

Fourth, the Fourth Industrial Revolution has profoundly impacted the leadership of sustainable agricultural development by provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region.

Fifth, the correct leadership of the Party, together with the achievements of 40 years of renovation, has laid a foundation for sustainable development; increasing the confidence of the business community and the people in the Party's and the State's guidelines and policies on agricultural development, thereby facilitating the strengthening of provincial Party committees' leadership in sustainable agricultural development.

Sixth, climate change has become increasingly complex and unpredictable; extreme weather and epidemics negatively affect strategic planning and the implementation of guidelines and policies for sustainable agricultural development.

Seventh, awareness of sustainable agricultural development among provincial Party committee members, leaders, and local communities in the Mekong Delta region remains limited, especially in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and digital transformation.

Eighth, the development of agriculture in a sustainable manner within regional linkages requires large-scale and long-term investment resources.

4.1.2. Orientations for strengthening the leadership of sustainable agricultural development by provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region

First, provincial Party committees should strengthen leadership in improving the quality of formulating and promulgating resolutions, programs, and plans for sustainable agricultural development that are suited to local and regional characteristics and advantages, and adaptive to current climate change conditions.

Second, continue to innovate leadership and direction methods of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region in sustainable agricultural development.

Third, promote the role of the entire political system in organizing the implementation of sustainable agricultural development.

Fourth, provincial Party committees should lead regional cooperation and integration, international integration, and strengthen cooperation with countries and international organizations through regional and bilateral cooperation initiatives.

Fifth, provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region should enhance the quality of leadership to achieve effective and sustainable agricultural development in economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

4.2. MAJOR SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE LEADERSHIP OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BY PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN THE MEKONG DELTA REGION TO 2035

4.2.1. Strengthening the unity of awareness among cadres, Party members, and the people regarding the role and responsibility of provincial Party committees in leading sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region, with priority given to provincial Party committee members and cadres of advisory bodies

First, renewing the dissemination, communication, and implementation of the Party's lines and resolutions, as well as provincial Party committee programs and resolutions on sustainable agricultural development.

Second, promoting communication efforts to unify awareness and enhance the sense of responsibility of provincial Party committee members, commune-level Party committees, and cadres and Party members.

Third, diversifying communication forms and methods in line with practical conditions in order to effectively raise awareness among cadres about sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region.

Fourth, provincial Party committees should strengthen leadership and direction over press and media agencies in renewing the content and methods of communication on sustainable agricultural development.

Fifth, provincial Party committees need to intensify research and formulate, promulgate clear and detailed regulations on the responsibilities of Party committees, Party organizations, cadres, and Party members.

4.2.2. Strengthening innovation in the leadership content of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region regarding sustainable agricultural development

4.2.2.1. Provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region leading planning work and the implementation of agricultural development planning toward sustainability

4.2.2.2. Provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region leading the promotion of resource mobilization and exploitation, and strengthening investment in sustainable agricultural development

4.2.2.3. Provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region leading coordination among state agencies, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations

4.2.3. Strengthening innovation in leadership methods of provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region regarding sustainable agricultural development

4.2.3.1. Innovating leadership methods of provincial Party committees in organization and personnel work in the context of current organizational streamlining and restructuring

First, reviewing and improving functions, tasks, organizational structures, and working relationships of agencies and units related to the agricultural sector.

Second, focusing on building and consolidating a streamlined, professional agricultural cadre contingent with deep professional expertise to meet the requirements of sustainable agricultural development.

Third, strengthening the rotation of leadership and management cadres in association with practical requirements, especially the rotation of cadres to the commune level.

4.2.3.2. Innovating leadership methods of provincial Party committees in sustainable agricultural development in line with digital government building and scientific and technological development

First, provincial Party committees should focus on leading and directing the formulation and implementation of resolutions and action programs on sustainable agricultural development associated with digital transformation, science and technology, and climate change adaptation.

Second, strengthening the application of digital technology and digital data in leadership, direction, and administration.

Third, enhancing inter-provincial and inter-sectoral coordination in leadership, direction, and organization of the implementation of sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region.

4.2.4. Improving the quality of provincial Party committees and their advisory and assisting bodies in the Mekong Delta region to meet the requirements of strengthening leadership over sustainable agricultural development

Improving the quality of provincial Party committees:

First, specifying standards for provincial Party committee members, Standing Committee members, and provincial Party Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries in each locality.

Second, comprehensively renewing and improving the quality of planning for provincial Party committees, Standing Committees, and key leadership positions, especially the Provincial Party Secretary.

Third, improving the quality of training, fostering, and rotation of cadres within the planning pool for provincial Party committee members and Standing Committee members.

Fourth, formulating and strictly implementing the working regulations of the provincial Party committee immediately after the conclusion of the Provincial Party Congress.

Improving the quality of advisory and assisting bodies of provincial Party committees to meet the requirements of leading sustainable agricultural development:

First, clearly understanding the Party's regulations on functions, tasks, and the pivotal position of advisory and assisting bodies of provincial Party committees within the Party organizational system.

Second, based on the Party's regulations on functions and tasks of advisory and assisting bodies, reviewing and concretizing the tasks and powers of each body.

Third, formulating and strictly implementing the working regulations of each advisory and assisting body of the provincial Party committee.

4.2.5. Strengthening leadership to promote the roles of local governments, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations in the Mekong Delta region in sustainable agricultural development

4.2.5.1. Leadership to promote the roles of provincial- and commune-level governments in implementing tasks and solutions for sustainable agricultural development

First, arranging and improving the organizational structure and apparatus of the two-tier local government system should be carried out in accordance with the spirit of the Central Committee's resolutions.

Second, provincial Party committees need to decisively direct administrative reform in order to enhance the effectiveness of state management in the agricultural sector.

Third, strengthening inspection and supervision in state management of agriculture to ensure administrative discipline and order.

Fourth, continuing to promote comprehensive administrative reform across all fields, especially in building e-government, promoting the application of information technology, and advancing digital transformation in state management activities.

4.2.5.2. Leadership to promote the roles of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations of provinces in the Mekong Delta region in sustainable agricultural development

First, strongly promoting the role of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front together with socio-political and socio-professional organizations in rural areas in communication and mobilization activities.

Second, continuing to improve and enhance the effectiveness of operations of the Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in rural areas toward closer engagement with grassroots levels, proximity to the people, and better service to the people.

Third, renewing the content and methods of operation of the Front and mass organizations to meet the requirements of organizing movements for sustainable agricultural development at the local level.

4.2.6. Strengthening inspection and supervision of Party committees and Party organizations at all levels; leading the review and summarization of the implementation of provincial Party committee resolutions on sustainable agricultural development

First, provincial Party committees need to strengthen inspection and supervision of leadership and direction by subordinate Party committees, especially commune- and ward-level Party committees and Party committees within agencies and units related to the agricultural sector.

Second, provincial Party committees should intensify direction and supervision over commune-level Party committee members and Party organizations in agencies and units related to agriculture.

Third, provincial Party committees need to strengthen direction for administrative agencies to effectively implement inspection, examination, and audit work in state management related to sustainable agricultural development at the commune level.

Fourth, attention should be paid to promoting coordination between provincial Party committee inspection commissions and advisory and assisting bodies of provincial Party committees in the process of carrying out inspection and supervision tasks.

Fifth, provincial Party committees should intensify preliminary reviews and final summaries of practical experience in order to draw lessons for leadership in sustainable agricultural development.

Conclusion of chapter 4

Chapter 4 has deeply analyzed the factors affecting-both favorable and unfavorable-the leadership of sustainable agricultural development by provincial Party committees in the Mekong Delta region to 2035. To meet the requirements of sustainable agricultural development in the current period, it is necessary to clearly identify strategic orientations and develop agriculture toward an ecological approach that adapts to climate change. In addition, major solutions-such as strengthening unified awareness among cadres, Party members, and the people regarding the role and responsibility of provincial Party committees in leading sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region, with priority given to provincial Party committee members and cadres of advisory bodies; strengthening innovation in the leadership content of provincial Party committees in the region regarding sustainable agricultural development; strengthening innovation in leadership methods of provincial Party committees in the region regarding sustainable agricultural development; improving the quality of provincial Party committees and their advisory and assisting bodies to meet the requirements of strengthening leadership in sustainable agricultural development; strengthening leadership to promote the roles of local governments, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, and socio-political organizations in the Mekong Delta region in sustainable

agricultural development; and strengthening inspection and supervision of Party committees and Party organizations at all levels, as well as leading the review and summarization of the implementation of provincial Party committee resolutions on sustainable agricultural development-will serve as an important foundation for enhancing the effectiveness of provincial Party committee leadership in sustainable agricultural development in the coming period.

CONCLUSION

The Mekong Delta region holds particularly important significance in promoting sustainable agricultural development in the current context. With geographical characteristics and natural conditions that are both advantages and sources of potential challenges due to the increasingly complex impacts of climate change, the consistent and timely orientation and direction of provincial Party committees have created a foundation for transforming the agricultural growth model toward an ecological, modern, efficient, and sustainable approach.

The leadership role of provincial Party committees is reflected in multiple aspects, ranging from the formulation of plans and the issuance of guidelines and resolutions on sustainable agricultural development to directing their concretization through programs and action plans closely linked to the practical conditions of each locality. However, leadership in sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region still reveals several limitations, such as insufficiently synchronized institutionalization of policies, uneven capacity for implementation among localities, and weak regional linkages. The causes of these shortcomings stem from both objective and subjective factors, notably limitations in awareness and development capacity that have not kept pace with transformation requirements, irrational allocation of resources, and inadequate, loosely coordinated intersectoral mechanisms.

On that basis, the dissertation draws several lessons of reference value for the leadership of sustainable agricultural development by provincial Party committees in the coming period. To strengthen leadership in sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region, provincial Party committees need to continue strongly renewing the content and methods of leadership in a more scientific, practical, and flexible manner in order to adapt to environmental and socio-economic changes. In this process, enhancing awareness and political responsibility among cadres and Party members; strengthening communication and the organization of policy implementation; and intensifying inspection and supervision are fundamental solutions. The synchronized implementation of these solutions will make an important contribution to improving the effectiveness of provincial Party committee leadership in sustainable agricultural development in the Mekong Delta region toward a modern, efficient, and sustainable direction.

LIST OF THE AUTHOR'S PUBLISHED WORKS RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION

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