

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NAM DINH PROVINCIAL PARTY
COMMITTEE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNIST
PARTY'S GUIDELINES ON NEW RURAL DEVELOPMENT
FROM 2008 TO 2020**

**SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION
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INTRODUCTION

1. The urgency of the topic

Agriculture, farmers, and rural areas have always been strategic issues because they are closely linked to the majority of Vietnam's population. Recognizing the position and role of agriculture and farmers, President Ho Chi Minh affirmed: *“Vietnam is an agricultural country. Our economy takes agriculture as its foundation. In the cause of nation-building, the Government places its hopes largely on farmers and relies heavily on agriculture. When our farmers are prosperous, our country is prosperous; when our agriculture thrives, our country thrives.”*

Building new rural areas is a major policy with long-term strategic significance of the Party and the State, aimed at developing agriculture, farmers, and rural areas in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. Since the 10th National Congress of the Party (2006), especially from the 7th Plenum of the 10th Central Committee (May–August 2008), the Party issued Resolution No. 26-NQ/TW (10th tenure) in 2008 on agriculture, farmers, and rural areas. The New Rural Development Program has become a broad political–social movement, exerting profound impacts on many aspects of rural life in Vietnam, with the aim of comprehensively improving the material and spiritual lives of rural residents and strengthening their trust in the Party's leadership in the period of renovation and integration. Resolution No. 26-NQ/TW was the first to place agriculture, farmers, and rural areas in a strategic position within the entire cause of industrialization and modernization of the country, considering them as “strategic, fundamental, and long-term” issues. It marked the direct starting point for the construction of new rural areas in Vietnam. It serves both as a theoretical foundation and a practical driving force, helping agriculture, farmers, and rural areas undergo strong transformations in the new stage.

Nam Dinh Province—a locality with a strong revolutionary tradition, a dense population, and agriculture playing a leading role—under the direct leadership of the Provincial Party Committee, achieved many remarkable accomplishments in the New Rural Development Program during the period 2008–2020. Notably, Nam Dinh became the first province in the country to complete the target of 100% of communes meeting the new rural standards in 2019.

Alongside the achievements attained, the practical implementation of the Party's policy on building new rural areas has revealed numerous difficulties and challenges in leadership, direction, mobilization of resources, and sustaining achieved results. In particular, as the Party continues to implement the New Rural Development Program

for the 2021–2025 period with higher requirements, practical experience from Nam Dinh needs to be carefully reviewed and summarized on a sound scientific and practical basis. However, systematic, comprehensive, and scientific research on the process by which the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee led the implementation of the Party’s policy on building new rural areas during the 2008–2020 period remains limited, especially in terms of evaluating experience and identifying successful factors that can be inherited and further developed in subsequent stages.

Therefore, selecting the topic **“The leadership of the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee in the implementation of the Communist Party’s guidelines on new rural development from 2008 to 2020”** as a doctoral dissertation in History, majoring in the History of the Communist Party of Vietnam, is an urgent requirement. This study contributes to summarizing practical experience, supplementing scientific arguments for the Party’s leadership and direction at the local level, and helping to clarify the role and leadership methods of the provincial-level Party organization in implementing a strategic Party policy during the period of renovation and integration.

2. Research objectives and tasks

2.1. Research objectives

To clarify the process by which the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee led and directed the implementation of the Party’s policy on building new rural areas in Nam Dinh Province from 2008 to 2020; to assess strengths and weaknesses in leadership and direction; and thereby to draw key lessons that contribute to improving the effectiveness of new rural development in Nam Dinh Province in the subsequent period.

2.2. Research tasks

- To analyze and clarify the factors influencing the process of leadership and direction in implementing the Party’s policy on new rural development by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee from 2008 to 2020.
- To systematize the Party’s viewpoints and policies on new rural development during the 2008–2020 period.
- To analyze the process of leadership and direction in implementing the Party’s policy on new rural development by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee from 2008 to 2020 through two phases: 2008–2015 and 2015–2020.

- To assess the strengths and limitations in the process of leadership and direction in implementing the Party's policy on new rural development from 2008 to 2020 by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee.
- To draw key lessons from the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee's leadership and direction in implementing the Party's policy on new rural development from 2008 to 2020.

3. Research objects and scope

3.1. Research object

The research object is the Party's policy and the process of leadership and direction in implementing the Party's policy on new rural development by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee from 2008 to 2020.

3.2. Research scope

- **In terms of content:** The dissertation examines the Party's policy on new rural development and the process of leadership and direction in implementing this policy by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee, focusing on groups of issues corresponding to the 19 criteria in the 2008–2015 period and the fundamental issue groups in the 2015–2020 period. In addition to the common 19 criteria, Nam Dinh Province supplemented a set of criteria for advanced new rural communes in the province during the 2018–2020 period.
- **In terms of space:** The dissertation studies new rural development in Nam Dinh Province, including Nam Dinh City and nine districts.
- **In terms of time:** The dissertation examines new rural development over a 12-year period (2008–2020). (The starting point of 2008 was chosen because Resolution No. 26-NQ/TW, dated August 5, 2008, of the Central Committee (10th tenure) on “agriculture, farmers, and rural areas” set forth the objective of: “Building new rural areas with modern socio-economic infrastructure; a rational economic structure and forms of production organization, linking agriculture with rapid development of industry, services, and urban areas in accordance with planning; a stable rural society rich in national cultural identity; improved educational standards; and a protected ecological environment” [54, p. 126]. Subsequently, the Government issued Resolution No. 24/2008/NQ-CP dated October 28, 2008, defining the “National Target Program on New Rural Development.” The year 2020 was chosen as the

endpoint of the dissertation's research period because it marked the end of the term of the 19th Nam Dinh Provincial Party Congress (2015–2020), allowing for an assessment of the Provincial Party Committee's leadership and direction across multiple fields, including new rural development, in preparation for the next phase of new rural construction). However, to ensure a systematic approach to the research topic, the dissertation also addresses certain related issues before and after the above-mentioned 12-year period.

4. Theoretical foundation, research methods, and sources

4.1. Theoretical foundation

The dissertation is based on the theoretical foundations of Marxism–Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Thought, and the viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam on new rural development.

4.2. Research methods

The dissertation primarily employs historical and logical methods. In addition, it uses methods of analysis, synthesis, comparison, cross-referencing, statistics, and interpretation in studying specific contents of the dissertation.

4.3. Sources

The main sources include: directives, resolutions, and decisions of the Party; programs and plans of the Government on new rural development; conclusions and summary reports of steering committees at various levels; books and newspapers on new rural development in Nam Dinh Province; resolutions and reports of the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee, the Provincial People's Committee, and the Vietnam Fatherland Front of Nam Dinh Province; and research works on Nam Dinh and on new rural development in Nam Dinh.

5. New contributions of the dissertation

- Providing materials, especially local-level sources, on the leadership in implementing new rural development by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee, including the implementation of advanced and model new rural development in Nam Dinh Province.

- Contributing to clarifying the soundness and creativity in applying the Party's and the State's lines and policies on new rural development by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee.

- Contributing to the review and assessment of the leadership and direction in implementing the Party's policy on new rural development by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee, thereby drawing lessons with both theoretical and practical value for the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee and authorities to continue formulating policies and orientations for advanced and model new rural development in the subsequent period.

- Clarifying the Party's leadership role in the new context, thereby contributing to enhancing the leadership capacity and fighting strength of local Party organizations in the current development of agriculture and rural areas.

6. Scientific and practical significance of the dissertation

*** Scientific significance**

- The dissertation helps further clarify the policies and viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam on new rural development in the period of renovation and international integration. On that basis, it supplements and refines the theoretical foundation regarding the leadership role of provincial-level Party committees in implementing major central policies, and contributes scientific arguments for the Party to continue formulating appropriate new rural development policies in the new context.

- The dissertation contributes to summarizing the implementation of the Party's policy on new rural development under the leadership and direction of the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee; assessing strengths and limitations in leadership and direction; and distilling key experiences in leading and directing the implementation of the Party's policy on new rural development by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee from 2008 to 2020.

- The research results of the dissertation further provide a scientific basis for the continued strengthening and renewal of leadership in new rural development by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee, especially in the construction of advanced and model new rural areas.

Practical significance

- Based on a study of the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee's leadership in implementing the Party's policy on new rural development—an exemplary and pioneering locality in the new rural development movement—the dissertation provides scientific arguments that help more clearly identify the methods,

content, and effectiveness of local Party leadership in carrying out a key political task.

- The research results contribute to a vivid summary of practical experience, creating a foundation for subsequent studies on Party building and the building of local government at the provincial level under conditions of renewing the Party's leadership methods.
- The dissertation provides practical outcomes as a basis for the Party to summarize experiences across localities and to formulate appropriate policies and orientations for new rural development in line with regional conditions.
- The dissertation offers a systematic and comprehensive perspective on the process by which the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee led the implementation of new rural development, thereby drawing lessons of profound practical value for other localities in organizing and implementing the National Target Program on New Rural Development in the subsequent period.
- The research findings can be used as reference materials for teaching, learning, and research in political schools, academies, and training institutions in political theory and public administration.
- The dissertation contributes to raising awareness of the importance of the Party's leadership in the process of socio-economic development in rural areas. At the same time, drawing from practical experience in leading the implementation of the Party's policy on new rural development, it helps the provincial Party Committee propose orientations and solutions to continue promoting the role of the provincial-level Party organization in the comprehensive renovation of rural areas, serving the goal of building advanced and model new rural areas.

7. Structure of the dissertation

In addition to the introduction, conclusion, references, and appendices, the dissertation consists of 4 chapters comprising 10 sections.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH SITUATION

1.1. Research works related to the dissertation topic

1.1.1. Studies on agriculture, rural areas, farmers, and new rural development in some countries around the world

The book by Nguyen Dien, *“Industrialization of Agriculture and Rural Areas in Asian Countries and Vietnam.”* The Rural Development Center, MISPA Project (2006) with the topic *“Theory and Practice of Building Socialist New Rural Areas,”* translated by Cu Ngoc Huong [137]. The book *“Some Issues on Agriculture, Farmers, and Rural Areas in Other Countries and Vietnam”* by Benedict J. Tria Kerkvliet and James Scott, translated by Nguyen Ngoc and Do Duc Dinh. Do Tien Sam’s book *“The ‘Three Rural Issues’ in China: Reality and Solutions.”* Dang Kim Son’s book *“International Experience in Agriculture, Rural Areas, and Farmers in the Process of Industrialization and Modernization.”* Tran Ngoc Ngoan’s book *“Sustainable Rural Development: Theoretical Issues and Global Experience.”* The results of the Fourth Theoretical Seminar between the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Communist Party of China on *“Agriculture, Farmers, and Rural Areas: Vietnam’s Experience, China’s Experience.”* Nguyen Xuan Cuong’s book *“The Process of Socio-Economic Development in Rural China.”*

In addition, there are a number of journal articles, such as Trinh Cuong’s article *“Experience in Building New Rural Areas in Some Countries Around the World,”* presented at the conference *“New Rural Development – Theoretical and Practical Issues,”* organized by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee in coordination with the Communist Review and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, which discussed certain experiences in building new rural areas in Thailand.

Also noteworthy are Le The Cuong’s article *“The Practice of Modernizing Agriculture with Chinese Characteristics and Lessons for Vietnam,”* and Dao The Tuan’s article *“New Rural, Farmer, and Agricultural Policies in China.”*

Several specialized conferences have also contributed to further clarifying issues related to new rural development, notably the results of the Fourth Conference between the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Communist Party of China on *“Agriculture, Farmers, and Rural Areas: Vietnam’s Experience, China’s Experience.”* The

conference organized by *Communist Review* in coordination with the Ha Nam Provincial Party Committee on “*Industrialization – Modernization – Breakthroughs in Sustainable Agricultural Development and New Rural Construction, Linked with Improving the Quality of Operations of the Political System – Lessons from Ha Nam in Practice.*”

1.1.2. Research works on the Party’s policies regarding agriculture, farmers, and new rural development in Vietnam

There are many books studying various aspects of new rural development in Vietnam. Typical works include: Vo Chi Cong’s book “*Fundamental Issues in Reforming the Economic Management Mechanism in Our Country.*” Chu Huu Quy’s book “*Comprehensive Development of Vietnam’s Rural Economy and Society.*” Pham Xuan Nam’s work “*Rural Development.*” Dang Kim Son’s book “*Industrialization from Agriculture – Theory, Practice, and Prospects for Application in Vietnam.*” Nguyen Van Bich’s book “*Vietnamese Agriculture and Rural Areas after Twenty Years of Renovation – Past and Present.*” Pham Ngoc Dung’s book “*Industrialization and Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Areas: From Theory to Practice in Contemporary Vietnam.*” The Central Theoretical Council’s book “*Building Ecological Agriculture, Modern Rural Areas, and Civilized Farmers.*” Nguyen Ngoc Ha’s book “*The Communist Party of Vietnam’s Line on Agricultural Economic Development during the Renovation Period (1986–2011).*” Nguyen Thi To Quyen’s book “*Agriculture, Farmers, and Rural Areas in the New Economic Growth Model, 2011–2020.*” Le Quoc Ly’s book “*Industrialization and Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Areas – Issues and Solutions.*” Vu Van Phuc’s book “*Building New Rural Areas: Theoretical and Practical Issues.*”

In addition, there are a number of journal articles, such as Ho Xuan Hung’s article “*Building New Rural Areas Is a Long-Term Revolutionary Cause of the Party and Our People.*” The article by Phan Xuan Son and Nguyen Canh, “*Building the New Rural Model in Our Country Today.*” On the website <http://htu.edu.vn>, there is an article titled “*The Party’s Viewpoint on Building New Rural Areas.*” Doan Pham Ha Trang authored the article “*Building New Rural Areas: Issues of Planning and Mobilizing Financial Resources.*” Pham Quoc Trung and Tuong Manh Dung with the article “*Regional Economic Development in Agricultural Restructuring toward High-Tech Agriculture in Vietnam Today.*” Hoang Thi Bich Loan, in the book “*The Fourth Industrial Revolution: Opportunities and Challenges for Vietnam,*” contributed the article “*Solutions for Applying the Achievements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution*

to *Agricultural Development in Vietnam*.” Le Van Loi with the article “*Some Issues in the Development of Agriculture, Farmers, and Rural Areas in Our Country Today*.”

Dang Kim Oanh with the article “*The Process of the Party’s Development of Thinking on Agriculture, Farmers, and Rural Areas over 35 Years of Renovation (1986–2021)*.” Nguyen Ngoc Ha with the article “*The Position and Role of Agriculture, Farmers, and Rural Areas in the New Development Period of the Country*.” Doan Minh Huan with the article “*Renewing Development Thinking on Agriculture, Farmers, and Rural Areas – From the Perspective of the Party’s Leadership, the Role of the Political System, and the Promotion of Democracy in Rural Areas*.”

1.1.3. Studies on the process by which the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee led the implementation of the Party’s policies on agriculture, rural areas, farmers, and new rural development

Books include: publications of the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee such as “*History of the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee (1930–1975)*,” “*Outstanding Achievements of the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee during the Five-Year Period 2011–2015*,” and “*History of the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee (1975–2005)*.”

Also noteworthy is the book edited by Hoang Dinh Trung, Vu Ngoc Hoang, and Hoang Thi Chau Yen, “*Achievements and Experience from Ten Years of Implementing the Platform for National Construction during the Transitional Period to Socialism (Supplemented and Developed in 2011) in Nam Dinh Province*.”

In addition, there are several journal articles, notably Pham Gia Tuc’s article “*Prominent Imprints in New Rural Development in Nam Dinh Province: Results, Lessons, and Orientations for the New Period*.” The conference jointly organized by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee and *Communist Review* and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on “*New Rural Development – Theoretical and Practical Issues*.” The Nam Dinh Provincial People’s Committee’s “*Comprehensive Report on the Nam Dinh Provincial Master Plan for the Period 2021–2030, with a Vision to 2050*.”

In addition, there are several dissertations that study related issues, such as: The doctoral dissertation by Duong Van Khoa, “*Agriculture in Nam Dinh Province (1884–1945)*.”

The doctoral dissertation by Tran Thi Thai, “*The Nam Dinh Provincial Party*

Committee's Leadership in Economic Restructuring toward Industrialization and Modernization from 1997 to 2005."

1.2. Research results of scientific works related to the dissertation topic and the issues the dissertation focuses on

1.2.1. Overview of research results of scientific works related to the dissertation topic

First, among general studies, the works present fairly comprehensive and systematic analyses, with statistical data across historical periods, on the construction and development of Vietnam's agricultural economy under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Second, a number of works have summarized the situation of agricultural production, farmers' livelihoods, and the socio-economic characteristics of rural Vietnam in recent times.

Third, some works have initially summarized theoretical and practical issues related to management mechanisms and land policies, providing valuable data for authors to identify development directions and key issues facing rural Vietnam today.

Fourth, several works have distilled experiences in the industrialization and modernization of agriculture and rural areas in Vietnam—an important factor contributing to the identification of new rural development.

Fifth, some studies directly address the issue of new rural development. Although not many, they discuss aspects such as the concept and characteristics of new rural areas; experiences in building new rural areas in some Asian countries; experiences in implementing new rural development in certain provinces in recent years; achievements, limitations, and difficulties encountered in meeting new rural criteria in some localities. These are useful reference materials for analyzing the theoretical and practical foundations of new rural development.

1.2.2. Issues the dissertation focuses on

First, clarifying the factors affecting the process by which the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee led the implementation of the Party's policy on new rural development, such as: natural conditions; the socio-economic characteristics of Nam Dinh Province; the Party's and the State's policies on new rural development; and the situation of agriculture and rural areas under the leadership of the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee prior to 2008.

Second, analyzing the leadership in implementing the Party's policy on new rural development by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee from 2008 to 2020. On that basis, assessing the development in awareness and policy orientations of the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee in new rural development during the 2015–2020 period compared with the 2008–2015 period.

Third, analyzing the process of directing the implementation of the Party's policy on new rural development by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee across two phases, 2008–2015 and 2015–2020, focusing on fundamental issues such as: building mechanisms and policies; developing agricultural and rural infrastructure; promoting rural socio-economic development; and developing agricultural production, etc.

Fourth, drawing from practical leadership in implementing the Party's policy on new rural development (2008–2020) by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee, offering assessments of strengths and limitations in leadership and direction; analyzing the causes of these strengths and limitations; and distilling lessons to improve the quality and effectiveness of new rural development in the next phase, striving to build advanced and model new rural areas, so as to develop Nam Dinh Province to be prosperous, beautiful, civilized, and to ensure sustainable and harmonious rural development.

From the perspective of the discipline of Party History, there has not yet been a scientific work that systematically addresses the issue of **“The Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee's Leadership in Implementing the Party's Policy on New Rural Development from 2008 to 2020.”** On the basis of inheriting available sources, research works, topics, and dissertations, this dissertation focuses on summarizing theoretical and practical issues regarding the process by which the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee led the implementation of the Party's policy, formulated orientations, and organized and directed the implementation of new rural development in Nam Dinh Province from 2008 to 2020.

Chapter 2

THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE NAM DINH PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE LED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARTY'S POLICY ON NEW RURAL DEVELOPMENT FROM 2008 TO 2015

2.1. The Party's guidelines and the State's policies on new rural development

2.1.1. Historical context

International and regional context. Prior to 2010, peace, cooperation, and development were major trends in the world. The global and regional economies continued to recover and grow, but still contained potential uncertainties and unpredictability.

Domestic context. The achievements of five years of implementing the Resolution of the 9th National Party Congress (2001–2005) significantly enhanced the country's overall strength and position compared with the past. In particular, after 20 years of implementing the renovation line, with the determined efforts of the entire Party, people, and armed forces, the renovation cause in Vietnam achieved great accomplishments of historical significance.

2.1.2. The Party's guidelines and the State's policies on new rural development

Concept of rural areas

Concept of new rural areas

Concept of building new rural areas: Practical development around the world demonstrates that there can be no industrial country if agriculture and rural areas remain poor and backward, and if rural residents have low material and spiritual living standards. The history of the formation of human communities in all countries began in rural areas. The cultural core of villages and countryside constitutes the national cultural identity—diverse yet bearing each nation's unique characteristics. This is precisely the cultural function of rural areas. If the process of building new rural areas undermines this function, it would run counter to the people's aspirations and erode national cultural traditions.

The role of rural areas in national development. The 7th Plenum of the 10th Central Committee issued Resolution No. 26-NQ/TW (August 5, 2008) on “*agriculture, farmers, and rural areas.*” This is a very important resolution in the process of accelerating industrialization and modernization in the country and in addressing agriculture, farmers, and rural areas issues. The Resolution concretized the documents of the 10th National Party Congress regarding new rural development with the objective of: “*Building new rural areas with modern socio-economic infrastructure; a rational economic structure and appropriate forms of production organization; closely linking agriculture with the rapid development of industry, services, and urban areas in accordance with planning; ensuring a stable rural society rich in national cultural identity; improving educational standards; protecting the ecological environment; and strengthening the rural political system under the leadership of the Party.*”

Regarding specific targets, by 2015: 20% of communes were to meet new rural standards; and by 2020: 50% of communes were to meet new rural standards (according to the 19 criteria specified by the Prime Minister in Decision No. 491/QĐ-TTg dated April 16, 2009), out of a total of 9,121 communes nationwide.

On the basis of the Party’s guidelines, the Government concretized them by issuing Resolution No. 24/2008/NQ-CP (October 28, 2008). The Government’s Action Program was promulgated to implement the Resolution of the 7th Plenum (10th tenure) of the Party on agriculture, farmers, and rural areas. Decision No. 491/QĐ-TTg (April 16, 2009) of the Prime Minister promulgated the National Criteria for New Rural Areas. Accordingly, a new rural commune must meet 19 criteria across the economic, political, cultural, and social fields in rural areas and in all aspects of farmers’ lives. These criteria can be grouped into five categories: planning; socio-economic infrastructure; economy and production organization; culture–society–environment; and the political system.

The Party’s guidelines and the State’s policies on new rural development

Before the Renovation period, the Party paid attention to researching the issue of new rural development because agriculture, rural areas, and farmers were three important factors contributing to helping the country overcome the socio-economic crisis of the 1980s.

Entering the Renovation period, the 6th National Congress of the Party (December 1986) marked the beginning of a comprehensive national renewal. On the basis of

clearly identifying agriculture as the leading front in the first stage of the transition to socialism.

During the Renovation process, the Party issued many documents and resolutions on issues related to farmers, agriculture, and rural areas, notably the Resolution of the 5th Plenum of the 7th Central Committee (June 10, 1993) *“On Continuing Renovation and Socio-Economic Development in Rural Areas,”* and the Resolution of the 5th Plenum of the 9th Central Committee *“On Accelerating the Industrialization and Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Areas in the 2001–2010 Period.”*

2.2. Factors affecting the process by which the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee led the implementation of the Party’s policy on new rural development

2.2.1. Natural, economic, cultural, and social characteristics of Nam Dinh Province

Natural characteristics

Nam Dinh Province is located in the southeastern coastal area of the Red River Delta. To the east it borders Thai Binh Province; to the west, Ninh Binh Province; to the north, Ha Nam Province; and to the south and southeast, the East Sea. Three districts lie along the coast: Nghia Hung, Hai Hau, and Giao Thuy.

Climate, hydrology, and soils

Economic, cultural, and social characteristics

Cultural and social aspects

2.2.2. The situation of new rural development in Nam Dinh before 2008

Rural economy

Rural society

2.3. The process by which the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee led the implementation of the Party’s policy on new rural development

2.3.1. The Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee’s application of the Party’s line and formulation of guidelines for new rural development

The Party’s line on new rural development was implemented quite early in Nam Dinh and received greater attention from the 17th Provincial Party Congress, especially from 2008 with Resolution No. 26-NQ/TW dated August 5, 2008 on agriculture, farmers, and rural areas issued by the Party. The 18th Provincial Party Congress of Nam Dinh (held from September 22 to September 25, 2010).

2.3.2. The Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee’s direction of new rural development

2.3.2.1. Planning for new rural development

In implementing the Resolution of the 18th Provincial Party Congress and the full-term work program of the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee, the Provincial

People's Committee issued Plan No. 36/KH-UBND (dated November 12, 2010) on *"Implementing the New Rural Development Program in Nam Dinh Province for the 2010–2015 Period."* The plan clearly specified the contents of planning, management, and implementation of planning, including *"directing a focused review and supplementation of agricultural development planning and new rural construction planning toward 2020, with a vision to 2030."*

2.3.2.2. Building agricultural–rural socio-economic infrastructure

2.3.2.3. Developing agricultural production on the basis of promoting local strengths

2.3.2.4. Building the political system and strengthening national defense and security

Summary of Chapter 2

Building new rural areas is an objective requirement in the development process of Nam Dinh Province in order to overcome limitations in agriculture, farmers, and rural areas prior to 2008. Thoroughly grasping and resolutely implementing the Party's guidelines from 2008 to 2015, the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee set forth appropriate orientations: improving the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the political system; mobilizing and effectively using resources; emphasizing the promotion of cultural and educational internal strengths and advantages in industrial, agricultural, and marine economic development to create new, rapid, strong, and sustainable socio-economic growth.

The province promoted industrialization and modernization, with a focus on agricultural industrialization and modernization and new rural development. Economic development was pursued in harmony with cultural and social development and environmental protection; democracy and social equity were implemented; greater attention was paid to improving people's livelihoods; national defense potential was strengthened; political security and social order and safety were maintained. The combined strength of the Party organization, the people, and the armed forces was promoted, proactively grasping and creating opportunities, and providing resolute and timely leadership and direction across various fields: communication and mobilization; planning formulation, management, and implementation; development of socio-economic infrastructure; promotion of forms of production organization; building cultural and social life; environmental protection; and building a strong and comprehensive socio-political system in rural areas.

Chapter 3

THE NAM DINH PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE'S LEADERSHIP IN PROMOTING NEW RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARTY'S GUIDELINES FROM 2015 TO 2020

3.1. New requirements for the process of leading new rural development by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee

3.1.1. New factors affecting the implementation of the Party's guidelines on new rural development

The global situation

The domestic situation

3.1.2. Requirements set forth

In the course of the Party's revolutionary leadership, agriculture, farmers, and rural areas have always been regarded as strategic issues. In recent years, the Party and the State have promulgated many guidelines and policies aimed at developing agriculture, building new rural areas, and improving farmers' living standards.

However, many challenges still remain for agriculture and rural areas. In summary, during the 2015–2020 period, Nam Dinh was required to implement new rural development in accordance with the 19 criteria set out in the National Criteria for New Rural Communes for the 2016–2020 period, promulgated by the Prime Minister (Decision No. 1980/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister).

3.2. The Party's guidelines and the State's policies on new rural development

The 12th National Congress of the Party (2016) set forth the overall objectives and tasks for national development through 2020.

The Congress identified and implemented 12 key tasks aimed at mobilizing all resources and drivers to comprehensively and synchronously promote the renovation process, rapid and sustainable national development. At the same time, continuing to implement new rural development in the period of renovation.

3.3. Promoting the implementation of the Party's policy on new rural development under the leadership of the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee

3.3.1. The Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee's guidelines on new rural development

The Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee continued to put forward new, accurate, and effective guidelines to lead the development of advanced and model new rural areas, worthy of being one of the first two provinces in the country to complete new rural development. The 19th Provincial Party Congress (term 2015–2020) continued to set the objective of accelerating industrialization and modernization, comprehensively implementing the project on restructuring the agricultural sector in association with the new rural development program. This was identified as a fundamental and long-term development orientation of the province, striving to achieve the criterion of a “new rural province” by 2020.

3.3.2. The Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee's direction in promoting new rural development

In implementing the line of the 12th National Party Congress and the new rural development guidelines of the 19th and 20th Provincial Party Congresses, the Provincial People's Council issued 16 resolutions directly related to new rural development. These included Resolution No. 16/2016/NQ-HDND (dated July 21, 2016) *“On regulations on levels of investment support and reward levels from the provincial budget for communes and districts building new rural areas during the 2016–2020 period.”*

In 2020, the Provincial People's Council issued resolutions such as: Resolution No. 03/2020/NQ-HDND dated April 17, 2020, *“On regulations on mechanisms to support the construction of advanced new rural areas and model new rural areas in Nam Dinh Province during the 2020–2025 period”*; and Resolution No. 28/2020/NQ-HDND dated July 10, 2020, *“On the allocation of development investment capital for the National Target Program on New Rural Development in 2020.”*...

3.3.2.1. Concentrating resources and investment to build agricultural–rural socio-economic infrastructure in accordance with new rural criteria

3.3.2.2. Directing research and application of science and technology; developing agricultural production toward high-tech orientation

3.3.2.3. Building and strengthening national defense and security; maintaining social order and safety

3.3.2.4. Promoting comprehensive development of culture, education, healthcare, and social welfare

3.3.2.5. Building the Party and the political system to meet the requirements of new rural development

Summary of Chapter 3

The process of building new rural areas under the leadership of the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee during the 2015–2020 period shows that Party committees and authorities at all levels, from the provincial level to the grassroots, clearly recognized the Party's and the State's guidelines on new rural development, and promptly issued directives, resolutions, and action programs that were appropriate to local characteristics and conditions.

In directing and organizing the implementation of new rural development, Party committees and authorities in Nam Dinh Province introduced many initiatives that received broad support from the people. The tasks and objectives set for new rural development during the 2015–2020 period were successfully fulfilled. By December 2018, the entire province had achieved the target of **100% of communes meeting all 19/19 new rural criteria**, in accordance with Decision No. 1980/QĐ-TTg dated October 17, 2016 of the Prime Minister.

Chapter 4

ASSESSMENTS AND SOME EXPERIENCES

4.1. Assessments

4.1.1. Strengths

4.1.1.1. Strengths in formulating guidelines for new rural development by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee

First, the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee effectively applied the Party's line on agricultural economic development and new rural development to formulate timely, appropriate, and well-grounded guidelines.

Second, it regularly renewed the issuance of resolutions in the implementation of new rural development.

4.1.1.2. Strengths in directing the implementation of the Party's guidelines on new rural development by the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee

First, it promoted the core role of grassroots rural Party cells in implementing the resolutions of the Nam Dinh Provincial Party Committee on new rural development.

Second, it improved the quality of inspection and supervision in carrying out tasks related to new rural development.

Third, it promoted the role of the political system in renewing leadership methods of the provincial Party Committee during the process of new rural development.

Specific outcomes

First, the agricultural economy continued to develop, with structural transformation in a positive direction; industry, trade, services, and rural occupations continued to develop rapidly and diversely.

Second, rural infrastructure was renovated and upgraded in a relatively synchronous manner.

Third, the people were placed at the center; the role of the people was promoted, relying on the people's strength.

Fourth, the rural landscape became more vibrant; the material and spiritual lives of the people were improved.

Fifth, Party building and the building of the political system were strengthened, maintaining political security and social order and safety in rural areas.

Sixth, many breakthroughs in new rural development were successfully achieved.

Causes of the strengths

The achievements attained were primarily due to the regular attention, leadership, and direction of the Party, the National Assembly, and the Government; the support of

central committees, ministries, sectors, and mass organizations; and the cooperation of provinces and cities across the country.

4.1.2. Limitations

First, awareness of agriculture, farmers, rural areas, and the New Rural Development Program among some Party committees and authorities has not been comprehensive.

Second, the implementation of grassroots democracy regulations in new rural development in some localities remains limited.

Third, propaganda and mass mobilization to encourage public participation in new rural development still reveal shortcomings.

Fourth, the effectiveness of organizing efforts to overcome existing limitations remains low.

Causes of the limitations

First, some policy mechanisms and legal documents issued by central ministries and sectors have not been fully synchronized or unified.

Second, Party committees and authorities in some localities have not focused sufficiently on thoroughly grasping and implementing the Program.

Third, the contingent of propaganda and communication personnel has not fully fulfilled its role and responsibilities; therefore, communication on new rural development in some localities has not been continuous or extensive.

4.2. Major experiences

4.2.1. Creatively applying the Party's line and guidelines and the State's policies in a manner appropriate to the practical conditions of new rural development in the province

4.2.2. Combining efforts to attract investment and support from the central level with mobilizing internal resources as the main force; closely integrating economic development with social equity; and maintaining political security and social order and safety

4.2.3. Taking the people as the foundation; strongly promoting the people's right to mastery; strengthening national unity in new rural development

4.2.4. Building a clean, strong Party in terms of politics, ideology, and organization so that the Party organization truly becomes the core leading force of the new rural development movement

Summary of Chapter 4

As a predominantly agricultural province, Nam Dinh thoroughly grasped the Party's guidelines, brought into full play the achieved results and accomplishments, and effectively applied experiences and approaches in new rural development during the period 2008–2020. The province continued to comprehensively and extensively promote the movement *“Joining Hands to Build New Rural Areas.”* Nam Dinh achieved new rural standards with highly commendable accomplishments: by October 2019, Nam Dinh Province was recognized by the Prime Minister as having completed the task of new rural development, becoming one of the first two provinces nationwide to lead the new rural development movement. It was awarded the Third-Class Independence Order by the President of the State for its achievements in new rural development. The new rural development endeavor in Nam Dinh left behind many valuable lessons and experiences. After localities across the province met new rural standards and the province completed the new rural development mission, Nam Dinh shifted its focus to building advanced new rural areas and model new rural areas, aiming to further develop the province to become increasingly prosperous, beautiful, and civilized, with rural Nam Dinh flourishing and developing sustainably.

CONCLUDE

During the period **2008–2020**, the world experienced profound fluctuations characterized by rapid, complex, and unpredictable changes, interweaving both challenges and opportunities, in which challenges outweighed opportunities. The strong development of science and technology and their application in practical production significantly contributed to improving labor productivity across various sectors and fields.

In this context, **Vietnam** stood before major opportunities to promote economic development and narrow the development gap with countries in the region and the world, while simultaneously facing considerable challenges if it failed to keep pace with the times. From the initial stages of renewal, the **Communist Party of Vietnam** formulated and promoted the policy of accelerating **industrialization and modernization** of the country. To realize this objective, **Resolution No. 26-NQ/TW**, dated August 5, 2008, of the **Party Central Committee (10th tenure)** on *“Agriculture, farmers, and rural areas”* set out the goal of *“building new rural areas with modern socio-economic infrastructure; a rational economic structure and appropriate forms of production organization; closely linking agriculture with the rapid development of industry and services according to planning; ensuring stable rural society, preserving and promoting national cultural identity; improving people’s livelihoods; protecting the ecological environment; and strengthening the rural political system under the leadership of the Party.”* The **11th and 12th National Party Congresses** continued to promulgate guidelines and policies on new rural development consistent with specific historical conditions.

Nam Định Province, located in the **Red River Delta**, possesses favorable geographical and natural conditions and a long-standing agricultural tradition. In the context of renewal, especially during the period from **2008 to 2020**, by thoroughly grasping the Party’s guidelines and the State’s policies, the Party Committee of Nam Định Province effectively exercised leadership, promoted advantages, overcame difficulties, relied on the people, and demonstrated creativity in implementation, thereby achieving notable results in new rural development. These achievements include enhanced awareness among Party committees, authorities at all levels, and society as a whole regarding the role and importance of new rural construction; the mobilization of strong participation from political organizations, socio-political organizations, and social forces. However, the process of new rural construction in Nam Định still reveals certain limitations.

From 2008 to 2015, in implementing the Party’s guidelines, with agriculture as the predominant economic structure, Nam Dinh actively directed the implementation of Resolution No. 26-NQ/TW dated August 5, 2008, of the 10th Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam on agriculture, farmers, and rural areas, and Decision No. 800/QĐ-TTg dated June 4, 2010, of the Prime Minister approving the *National*

Target Program on New Rural Development for the period 2010–2020. The Provincial Party Committee issued many directives and resolutions on new rural development, especially thematic directives and resolutions, such as: Directive No. 01-CT/TU dated November 8, 2010, of the Standing Committee of the Provincial Party Committee on “New Rural Development for the period 2010–2015”; Resolution No. 05-NQ/TU dated July 25, 2011, on “Improving the quality of commune-, ward-, and township-level cadres for the period 2011–2015 and subsequent years”; Resolution No. 06-NQ/TU dated July 25, 2011, on “Developing industry, handicrafts, and craft villages in rural areas”; Resolution No. 07-NQ/TU dated July 25, 2011, on “Developing the farm and ranch economy away from concentrated residential areas”; Resolution No. 08-NQ/TU dated July 25, 2011, on “Developing rural transportation.” On September 22, 2011, the Provincial Party Executive Committee issued Conclusion No. 15-KL/TU on continuing the implementation of Resolution No. 08-NQ/TU of the 17th Provincial Party Committee on “Building the contingent of leadership and management cadres from 2007 onward 2015 and the subsequent years,” together with many resolutions, directives, and notices issued by the Provincial People’s Council (HĐND) and the Provincial People’s Committee (UBND)

During the period 2015–2020, thoroughly grasping the viewpoint on new rural development as set out at the 12th National Congress of the Party and the resolutions of the 19th and 20th Provincial Party Congresses of Nam Dinh, the Provincial Party Executive Committee issued numerous directives and resolutions, especially five thematic resolutions to implement new rural development, namely: Resolution No. 04-NQ/TU dated April 20, 2016, on new rural development for the period 2016–2020; Resolution No. 05-NQ/TU dated June 9, 2016, on accelerating administrative reform, improving competitiveness, promoting and attracting investment, and focusing on directing the creation of a favorable environment for enterprise development; Resolution No. 06-NQ/TU dated June 9, 2016, on focusing on the construction and development of Nam Dinh City; Resolution No. 07-NQ/TU dated June 9, 2016, on building a healthy cultural environment to promote socio-economic development in Nam Dinh Province; Resolution No. 09-NQ/TU dated October 20, 2016, on personnel work to improve the quality of leadership and management cadres at all levels for the period 2016–2020 and subsequent years, together with many resolutions, directives, and notices issued by the Provincial People’s Council and the Provincial People’s Committee in service of new rural development, especially advanced new rural development and model new rural development.

Over 12 years under the leadership of the Provincial Party Committee, Nam Dinh established a system of direction and management and improved mechanisms and policies for new rural development. Among these, raising awareness of this work throughout the political system and among all strata of the people has been one of the fundamental successes, serving as the basis for the Provincial Party Committee of Nam Dinh to continue implementing new rural development in the subsequent period.

However, the leadership process of new rural development by the Provincial Party Committee of Nam Dinh still had certain limitations, such as: the results of new rural development were uneven among localities; some criteria were not truly sustainable. In some localities, the direction to integrate the implementation of agricultural sector restructuring with new rural development was not sufficiently emphasized; production development and rural industries and trades were not given due attention in some places; the organization of agricultural commodity production remained slow; etc. These shortcomings affected the results and progress of implementing the province's new rural development program.

From the process by which the Provincial Party Committee of Nam Dinh led the implementation of the Party's guidelines on new rural development during the years 2008–2020, several key lessons can be drawn:

First, creatively applying the Party's line and guidelines and the State's policies in a manner appropriate to the practical conditions of new rural development in the province.

Second, combining efforts to attract investment and support from the central level with mobilizing internal resources as the main driving force; closely integrating economic development with social equity; and maintaining political security, social order, and safety.

Third, taking the people as the foundation; strongly promoting the people's right to mastery; and strengthening great national unity in new rural development.

Fourth, building a clean and strong Party in terms of politics, ideology, and organization so that the Party organization truly becomes the core leading force of the new rural development movement.

With the achieved results and the experiences distilled from the leadership process of new rural development during the period 2008–2020, Nam Dinh's Provincial Party Committee has a solid foundation and favorable conditions to successfully carry out new rural development in the coming years, effectively serving the task of building advanced and model new rural areas in the subsequent period.

LIST OF PUBLISHED WORKS RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION TOPIC

1. Nguyen Thi Minh (2019), "Building New Rural Areas in Nam Dinh Province (2008-2018)", Journal of Party History, (344), pp. 98-102.
2. Nguyen Thi Minh (2021), "Advanced and Model New Rural Areas in Nam Dinh (2016-2020)", Journal of Party History, (366), pp. 97-103.
3. Nguyen Thi Minh (2023), "Building New Rural Culture in Nam Dinh Province (2010-2020)", Journal of Party History, (389), pp. 102-106.
4. Nguyen Thi Minh (2024), "Fundamental and Comprehensive Innovation in Education and Training in Nam Dinh Province (2011-2020)", Journal of Party History, (400), pp. 95-100.
5. Nguyen Thi Minh (2024), "The Party Committee of Nam Dinh Province Leading the Construction of New Rural Areas (2010-2020) - Results and Experiences", Journal of Party History, (408), pp. 102-107.