

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**THE AN GIANG PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE'S
LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT FROM 2010 TO 2020**

**SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION
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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the Study

The agricultural economy (AE) is an important component of the national economy, encompassing all activities of production, distribution, exchange, and consumption of products in the agricultural sector, including crop cultivation, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry, and service, processing, and consumption activities associated with agricultural production. AE also reflects the economic relations among actors participating in the organization of production, resource exploitation, application of science and technology, market development, and enhancement of the added value of agricultural products. In the context of climate change, resource degradation, the increasingly urgent requirement to ensure food security, and the implementation of sustainable development goals, AE not only serves to meet essential human needs but also contributes significantly to economic growth, job creation, poverty reduction, social stability, and the preservation of cultural values and indigenous knowledge. Therefore, developing AE is not merely an objective necessity but also a crucial issue in the development strategy of every country.

For Vietnam, AE is not only a traditional production sector but also a foundational component of the national economy. The Communist Party of Vietnam identifies AE as a field of particularly important strategic position in the national economy, playing a foundational role in ensuring food security, maintaining socio-economic stability, improving farmers' living standards, and creating a solid premise for the country's industrialization and modernization (I&M). Over 40 years of leading the renovation process, the Party has gradually supplemented, developed, and perfected its system of viewpoints, guidelines, and policies on AE development, in order to promote the potential and advantages of Vietnamese agriculture and advance AE in a modern, efficient, and sustainable direction.

An Giang is a border province in the Mekong Delta (MD), holding a strategic position in national defense and security for both the region and the country. With the advantage of being located upstream and possessing a dense system of rivers and canals, An Giang is one of the localities that plays an important role in rice production as well as aquaculture and aquatic product processing in the region and nationwide. During the renovation process, An Giang's agriculture underwent many positive changes, making important contributions to food security, agricultural exports, job creation, improvement of people's living standards, and political and social stability in the southwestern border area. In the years 2010-2020, under the leadership of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee, AE continued to achieve a number of notable results, and the material and spiritual life of rural residents was gradually improved. However, the Provincial Party Committee's leadership over AE development still revealed limitations and had not yet achieved high effectiveness. Therefore, scientifically and objectively studying, summarizing, and evaluating the process by which the An Giang Provincial Party Committee led

AE development in the years 2010-2020, with a view to clarifying achievements, limitations, causes, and drawing several lessons, is necessary and has profound theoretical and practical significance. The lessons distilled from the dissertation provide an important reference for the Provincial Party Committee's leadership and direction in the new period, as An Giang and Kien Giang have completed their merger, thereby opening up a new development space.

For the above reasons, studying and summarizing the process by which the An Giang Provincial Party Committee led AE development is highly necessary and has profound theoretical and practical significance. With that significance in mind, the doctoral candidate selected the topic "*The An Giang Provincial Party Committee's Leadership in Agricultural Economic Development from 2010 to 2020*" as a doctoral dissertation in history, majoring in the History of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

2. Research Aim and Tasks

2.1. Research Aim

The dissertation analyzes and clarifies the guidelines and leadership process of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee regarding AE development from 2010 to 2020, thereby assessing its strengths, identifying limitations and their causes. On that basis, the dissertation distills several lessons of practical value that may be applied to further improve the leadership methods and policy orientation of the Provincial Party Committee in directing AE development in the subsequent period.

2.2. Research Tasks

- To review the research situation related to the dissertation topic.
- To study and interpret the factors affecting the process by which the An Giang Provincial Party Committee led AE development from 2010 to 2020.
- To systematize, analyze, and clarify the guidelines and direction of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee on AE development through two stages: 2010-2015 and 2015-2020.
- To comment on strengths and limitations, identify their main causes, and distill several lessons from the practical leadership of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee in AE development from 2010 to 2020.

3. Research Object and Scope

3.1. Research Object

The leadership activities of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee in AE development from 2010 to 2020.

3.2. Research Scope

In terms of content: The dissertation focuses on studying the guidelines and direction of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee regarding AE in the following areas: (1) restructuring the agricultural sector toward I&M; (2) planning and building concentrated commodity agricultural production areas; (3) developing forms of production organization and linkage models in agriculture;

(4) investing in the construction of infrastructure and technical facilities for AE development; and (5) researching, transferring, and applying science and technology in association with the development of high-tech agriculture.

In terms of space: The territory of An Giang Province prior to the merger, including 2 cities, Long Xuyen and Chau Doc; 2 towns, Tan Chau, Tinh Bien; and 7 districts: An Phu, Phu Tan, Cho Moi, Thoai Son, Chau Thanh, Chau Phu, Tri Ton.

In terms of time: From 2010 to 2020, corresponding to the ninth and tenth congress terms of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee. To ensure systematicity, the dissertation also considers certain issues related to AE before 2010 and after 2020.

4. Theoretical Basis, Research Methods, and Sources

4.1. Theoretical Basis

The dissertation is grounded in the theoretical foundations of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought; and in the Party's lines and viewpoints on "agriculture, farmers, and rural areas" in general and AE in particular during the period of I&M and international integration.

4.2. Research Methods

On the basis of the methodology of dialectical materialism and historical materialism, as well as the system of Marxist historiographical methodology, the dissertation mainly employs specific research methods such as historical method, logical method, analysis, synthesis, statistics, comparison, and sociological investigation.

4.3. Sources

The sources include documents of the Party and the State on AE; documents of Provincial Party Congresses; resolutions, action programs, plans, and conclusions of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee on AE; several resolutions of the Provincial People's Council; decisions, plans, and reports of the Provincial People's Committee and related departments, committees, and sectors of An Giang Province concerning AE. They also include published scientific works (books, proceedings, dissertations, articles, and journals) related to the dissertation topic, as well as materials from field surveys conducted in the locality.

5. New Contributions of the Dissertation

The dissertation provides a rich, updated, and reliable system of materials related to the process by which the An Giang Provincial Party Committee led AE development from 2010 to 2020. It contributes to objectively, truthfully, and systematically reconstructing the process of the Provincial Party Committee's leadership over AE development in An Giang during the years 2010-2020.

It offers assessments of strengths, limitations, and the causes of both; and distills several lessons from the practical leadership of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee in AE development from 2010 to 2020.

6. Scientific and Practical Significance

The dissertation systematizes and comprehensively summarizes the process by which the An Giang Provincial Party Committee led AE development in the 2010-2020 period, thereby contributing to supplementing the scientific basis for Party history research on the field of “agriculture, farmers, and rural areas” during the period of renovation and agricultural and rural I&M.

The research results provide an important practical basis for the An Giang Provincial Party Committee to continue perfecting its guidelines and formulating policies for leading AE development in the coming period, especially in the context of provincial merger, expanded development space, and new advantages.

The research results may also be used as reference material for research and teaching on the history of the local Party Committee.

7. Structure of the Dissertation

The dissertation consists of an Introduction; the main content (four chapters and eight sections); the Conclusion; a list of the author’s published scientific works related to the dissertation topic; a list of references; and appendices.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH SITUATION RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION TOPIC

1.1. Research Works Related to the Dissertation Topic

1.1.1. Research Works by Foreign Authors

A review of works by foreign scholars shows an increasingly clear and systematic interest in the issues of agriculture, farmers, and rural areas in Vietnam in the context of transition and international integration. Many works not only analyze the current situation but also provide feasible policy suggestions, including shifting the focus from increasing output to enhancing value and sustainability, improving land governance and protecting smallholder farmers, strengthening policy formulation, and promoting governance suited to regional characteristics. These studies help provide scientific arguments for adjusting Vietnam’s policies on “agriculture, farmers, and rural areas” in a more effective and inclusive direction.

1.1.2. Research Works by Domestic Authors

1.1.2.1. General Research Works on AE and the Party’s Leadership over AE in Vietnam

Research works have approached the issue of “agriculture, farmers, and rural areas” from many angles, contributing to clarifying the theoretical and practical foundations of the process of agricultural and rural I&M in Vietnam. Research results affirm the strategic role of AE, analyze the current situation in depth, clearly identify the challenges facing “agriculture, farmers, and rural areas” in the context of integration, and compare international experiences in order to draw appropriate lessons for Vietnam. At the same time, in a number of studies, authors have also put

forward recommendations and proposed orientations, tasks, and solutions for implementing AE development policies more effectively in the coming period.

1.1.2.2. Research Works on AE and the Leadership of Party Committees over AE in Several Regions and Localities

These works have comprehensively analyzed the current situation, achievements, and lessons in leading AE development in several local Party Committees, while also proposing systems of solutions and orientations for AE development in the subsequent period. Studying these works provides the author with a general and systematic view of the issue, helps determine the approach and research content regarding AE, and thereby creates a scientific basis for conducting in-depth research for the dissertation topic.

1.1.2.3. Research Works on AE of An Giang Province and the Provincial Party Committee's Leadership over AE

The research works have provided the author with a systematic view of the practice of leading and developing AE and rural areas in An Giang Province in recent years. They also clearly indicate the important role and contributions of AE to the province's socio-economic development. These research results are important scientific materials and constitute a basis for the author to select, inherit, and further develop during the process of implementing the dissertation.

1.2. Research Results of the Reviewed Works and Issues on Which the Dissertation Focuses

1.2.1. Research Results of the Reviewed Works

Regarding materials: The materials and documents related to the dissertation topic include the system of Party documents, legal normative documents of the State, documents of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee, resolutions of the Provincial People's Council, and plans, programs, projects, reports, and other documents of the Provincial People's Committee and provincial departments, committees, and sectors.

Regarding approaches and research methods: The studies approach the issue from many angles across different disciplines, such as philosophy, economics, political science, Party building, and Party history, both from theory and through practical summation. They use methods such as analysis, synthesis, comparison, historical method, and logical method.

Regarding research content: First, although the research works adopt different approaches, they highlight basic issues related to the theory of AE development. Second, they provide an overall picture of AE development in many countries around the world. Third, many research works address the leadership of the Party as well as several local Party Committees in AE development during certain periods. Fourth, they provide basic issues related to the process of AE development in An Giang Province during the renovation period.

The research results of these works provide important scientific evidence for the doctoral candidate to inherit in the process of writing the dissertation. However, studies on An Giang Province have so far addressed the issue of AE development only in a general manner. To date, no work has independently, profoundly, and systematically studied and assessed the process by which the An Giang Provincial Party Committee led AE development from 2010 to 2020.

1.2.2. Issues on Which the Dissertation Focuses

First, the factors affecting the leadership of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee in AE development. *Second*, the guidelines and direction of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee regarding AE development from 2010 to 2020. *Third*, assessments of strengths and limitations and several lessons drawn from the process by which the An Giang Provincial Party Committee led AE development (2010-2020).

Concluding Remarks of Chapter 1

Research works on Vietnam's "agriculture, farmers, and rural areas" in general and AE in particular by domestic and foreign scholars are fairly comprehensive and specialized in content, approached from many disciplinary angles, and characterized by diverse and rich research methods. Through analyzing and evaluating the research works reviewed in relation to the dissertation topic, the doctoral candidate identifies research results and contents that may be referenced and inherited in writing the dissertation. On that basis, the dissertation detects gaps and new issues requiring further focus, thereby contributing to improving the quality and effectiveness of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee's leadership and direction over AE development in the coming period.

Chapter 2

GUIDELINES AND DIRECTION OF THE AN GIANG PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM 2010 TO 2015

2.1. Factors Affecting and Guidelines of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee on Agricultural Economic Development

2.1.1. Factors Affecting the Leadership of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee in Agricultural Economic Development

2.1.1.1. World and Domestic Situation

World situation: In the years 2010-2015, the world situation developed in a complex manner, posing many challenges to the socio-economic development of countries, including Vietnam. Nevertheless, peace, cooperation, and development remained the general trend. The rapid development of science and technology became a key factor promoting transformation and enhancing the effectiveness of AE. *Domestic situation:* In implementing the Socio-Economic Development Strategy (2001-2010), Vietnam achieved many important accomplishments,

including in AE. However, the country's socio-economic situation still faced many difficulties and challenges.

2.1.1.2. The Party's Guidelines and the State's Policies on Agricultural Economic Development in the Years 2010-2015

The Party's guidelines: The Eleventh National Congress determined that in the coming years the orientation would be to comprehensively develop agriculture, forestry, and fisheries toward I&M in association with effectively addressing issues concerning farmers and rural areas. The target set for 2015 was to strive for an average agricultural value-added growth rate of 2.6-3% per year over five years. The proportion of agricultural labor in 2015 was expected to account for 40-41% of the social labor force. Rural residents' income was to increase by 1.8-2 times compared with 2010. The identified tasks and solutions included restructuring crops and livestock and developing forms of agricultural production organization; promoting research and the application of modern science and technology in agricultural production; and continuing to build technical infrastructure for agriculture and rural areas.

Several State policies: Resolution No. 26/2012/QH13 on continuing to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of implementing policies and laws on public investment for agriculture, farmers, and rural areas; Decision No. 124/QD-TTg approving the Master Plan for Agricultural Production Development to 2020, with a vision to 2030; Decision No. 899/QD-TTg approving the Project on Agricultural Restructuring toward Increasing Added Value and Sustainable Development; Decision No. 801/QD-TTg dated 27 June 2012 approving the Master Plan for Socio-Economic Development of An Giang Province to 2020; and others.

2.1.1.3. Natural Conditions and Socio-Economic Characteristics of An Giang Province

Natural conditions: An Giang is a province in the MD, geographically located from 104°47'20" to 105°35'10" east longitude and from 10°20'07" to 10°34'23" north latitude. Its total natural area is 3,536 km², more than 80% of which is agricultural land. An Giang's terrain has two main forms: plains and mountains. The province has a stable tropical monsoon climate and is not affected by storms. It possesses abundant freshwater resources from the two main rivers, the Tien and the Hau, together with an extensive canal system and large areas of alluvial soil, creating favorable conditions for AE development and making it one of the country's key agricultural production areas. *Socio-economic conditions:* During the years 2000-2010, the province's economy continued to grow and show many positive changes. By 2010, per capita income reached VND 21.183 million, and the province's total export turnover exceeded USD 3 billion. An Giang is the most populous province in the MD, with 29 ethnic groups living together, mainly the Kinh, Khmer, Cham, and Hoa. It is also the cradle of many indigenous religions, such as Bửu Sơn Kỳ Hương, Tứ Ân Hiếu Nghĩa, and Hòa Hảo Buddhism.

Thus, the geographical location, natural conditions, socio-economic characteristics, and traditional culture described above had multifaceted impacts on the leadership process of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee in AE development.

2.1.1.4. The Situation of An Giang Province's AE before 2010

In the 2006-2010 period, the province's AE continued to develop and gradually shifted toward commodity production linked to market demand. The province promoted research, the application of high-yield crop and livestock varieties, and the use of science and technology in production. Many advanced farming programs and models, production according to GlobalGAP and VietGAP standards, and biosecure livestock husbandry were widely implemented, contributing to higher productivity, improved agricultural product quality, and environmental protection. Livestock husbandry developed toward farm-based production, while aquaculture grew rapidly. At the same time, the province promoted mechanization, expanded the irrigation system, strengthened technical training for farmers, emphasized vocational training, and invested in rural infrastructure, thereby helping to improve the living conditions of rural residents. The average growth rate reached 3.77% per year.

However, the province's AE development still had many limitations: the growth rate was not stable; production costs were high, so the competitiveness of agricultural products remained low; internal sectoral restructuring was slow; production still depended heavily on rice, while the potential of vegetables, subsidiary crops, and fruit trees had not been effectively exploited; rural infrastructure, especially transport and irrigation, was not synchronized; irrigation investment remained concentrated on rice production; the application of science and technology and technical transfer were uneven across fields; and many cooperatives were small in scale, with limited management capacity and production linkages, resulting in low operational effectiveness.

2.1.2. Guidelines of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee on Agricultural Economic Development (2010-2015)

The Ninth Congress of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee set forth the viewpoint that agricultural and rural I&M should serve as the foundation for sustainable socio-economic development; services and industries serving agriculture should be strongly developed; and industries serving consumption, tourism, and exports should be promoted. Development investment was to be intensified but with focus and priority. Priority was given to developing technical infrastructure, first of all transport infrastructure and infrastructure serving agriculture and rural areas. Specific AE targets for 2015 included an average GDP growth rate in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sector of 3.2%; the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sector accounting for 25.24% of the province's economic structure; and forest coverage reaching 22.4%. The Congress identified the following tasks and solutions: developing agriculture toward large-scale and

comprehensive production in the direction of I&M; formulating and completing land-use planning and agricultural development planning suited to the strengths of each region and locality; promptly reorganizing production through appropriate forms of linkage along value chains; promoting investment in mechanization, electrification, and irrigation while strengthening the application of science and technology; effectively implementing the vocational training project for rural labor in order to restructure labor; and focusing on building and gradually completing rural socio-economic infrastructure.

In the process of leading AE development, the Provincial Party Committee continued to affirm its viewpoints and supplemented new understandings through Resolution No. 05-NQ/TU dated 15 September 2011 “On New Rural Development”; Resolution No. 09-NQ/TU dated 27 June 2012 “On the Development of High-Tech Agriculture in An Giang Province for the 2012-2020 Period, with a Vision to 2030”; Report No. 146-BC/TU dated 17 September 2013; and other documents. In particular, in Resolution No. 09-NQ/TU, the Provincial Party Committee identified the promotion of high-tech application as a “breakthrough” in the province’s AE development.

The guidelines of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee demonstrated initiative and creativity in concretizing central-level guidelines, helping to bring into play the locality’s potential and advantages and creating a foundation for AE development in the years 2010-2015.

2.2. The An Giang Provincial Party Committee’s Direction of Agricultural Economic Development (2010-2015)

2.2.1. Direction of Agricultural Sectoral Restructuring toward I&M

The Provincial Party Committee directed that the focus should be on reducing the share of purely agricultural production and increasing the share of sectors with high added value, such as agricultural product processing and high-tech agriculture. It gradually transformed the crop structure, reduced the area of inefficient rice cultivation, and expanded the cultivation of vegetables, subsidiary crops, and fruit trees suited to soil conditions and market demand.

Under the direction of the Provincial Party Committee, the Provincial People’s Committee issued Decision No. 01/QD-UBND dated 4 January 2011 and Decision No. 1404/QD-UBND dated 18 August 2011, setting the target of average AE growth at 3.2% per year and focusing on the application and transfer of scientific and technological advances to improve productivity, quality, and AE efficiency. As a result, the province’s internal agricultural structure shifted positively toward gradually reducing the share of crop cultivation and increasing the share of livestock and fisheries. The share of crop cultivation decreased from 68% in 2010 to 63.2% in 2015, while production value reached VND 129 million per hectare, an increase of 51.5%. The rice area reached 644,000 hectares with productivity of more than 6.4 tons per hectare, and the area of vegetables and

subsidiary crops reached 63,000 hectares. The fisheries sector developed strongly, with aquaculture area reaching 2,480 hectares, output of 326,565 tons, and production value of VND 9,037 billion.

2.2.2. Direction of Planning and Building Concentrated Commodity Agricultural Production Areas

The Provincial Party Committee directed that land-use planning and agricultural development planning be formulated and completed in accordance with the strengths of each region and locality and the diversity of land resources, thereby forming specialized production areas for the province's strategic products.

The Provincial People's Committee issued Decision No. 2163/QD-UBND dated 29 November 2012 promulgating the "Plan for the Development of High-Tech Agriculture in An Giang Province for the 2012-2020 Period and Vision to 2030"; Decision No. 1351/QD-UBND dated 25 August 2014 approving the "Detailed Plan for the Development of Specialized Commodity Production Areas (Rice, Vegetables and Subsidiary Crops, and Fisheries) in An Giang Province to 2020, with Orientation to 2030"; and other documents. These decisions led to the formation of planned concentrated production areas, such as intensive high-quality rice and specialty rice areas; specialized areas for vegetables and subsidiary crops; fruit-tree areas; flower and ornamental plant areas; edible and medicinal mushroom areas; areas for the conservation and development of medicinal herbs; livestock and poultry areas; and high-tech aquaculture areas. For key products, high-quality commodity rice production areas were concentrated in Thoai Son, Chau Phu, Chau Thanh, and Phu Tan. Aquaculture areas were concentrated in Long Xuyen, Chau Thanh, Chau Phu, Cho Moi, Phu Tan, and Thoai Son. Specialized vegetable and subsidiary crop areas were concentrated in Cho Moi, Chau Phu, An Phu, and Tan Chau.

2.2.3. Direction of Developing Forms of Production Organization in Agriculture

The Provincial Party Committee directed the "strong development of farms, household farms, cooperatives, joint ventures, and cooperative linkages, especially linkages between producers and enterprises"; and the "promotion of production reorganization in agriculture; consolidation and renewal of the operations of existing cooperatives and cooperative organizations; and encouragement of the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in agriculture in rural areas." Along with production organization, the Provincial Party Committee required attention to promoting production-consumption linkages along value chains, particularly the "four-house" linkage model.

The Provincial People's Council issued Resolution No. 04/2014/NQ-HDND dated 8 July 2014 with preferential policies on land, investment in physical facilities, human resource training, market development, and application of science and technology. The Provincial People's Committee issued Decision No. 1639/QD-UBND dated 22 September 2014 promulgating the "Criteria for Large-Scale Rice

and Glutinous Rice Fields in An Giang Province”; Decision No. 37/2014/QD-UBND dated 10 October 2014 promulgating the “Regulations on Policies to Encourage Enterprises to Invest in Agriculture and Rural Areas in An Giang Province”; and other documents. The province implemented linkage policies in building “large-scale fields” under Decision No. 62/2013/QD-TTg dated 25 October 2013 of the Prime Minister. Thanks to the synchronized implementation of policies for developing production organizations and expanding linkages, the province achieved many important results. By 2015, the whole province had 105 agricultural cooperatives, with average revenue of VND 1.4 billion per year; 880 production and agricultural service cooperative groups; and 697 farms. Linkage incentive policies increased the area of “large-scale fields” to 40,615 hectares.

2.2.4. Direction of Investment in Infrastructure and Technical Facilities for Agricultural Economic Development

The Provincial Party Committee directed all levels and sectors to complete the system of infrastructure serving agricultural production in conformity with advanced production processes, to promote investment in mechanization, electrification, and irrigation, and to focus on building and gradually completing rural socio-economic infrastructure.

The Provincial People’s Committee issued Decision No. 1636/QD-UBND dated 16 September 2011, clearly stating the viewpoint of promoting development investment with focus and priority. Priority was given to investing in technical infrastructure, first of all transport infrastructure and infrastructure serving AE development and new rural development. In addition, the Provincial People’s Committee promulgated many implementing documents: Decision No. 649/QD-UBND dated 7 March 2010 issuing the “Project on Developing Industry and Handicrafts Serving Agriculture and Rural Areas in An Giang Province to 2020”; Decision No. 581/QD-UBND dated 13 April 2012 approving the “List of Priority Projects under the Program to Support Climate Change Response in An Giang Province”; Decision No. 1848/QD-UBND dated 27 August 2013 approving the “Detailed Action Plan of Sectors and Fields for Climate Change Response in An Giang Province under the National Target Program”; and other documents. By 2015, the province had invested VND 16,476 billion from the state budget to develop rural infrastructure. Many transport works were upgraded and expanded, with 2,432 km of roads and 477 new bridges constructed. The irrigation system was improved through dredging and widening 878 canals, upgrading 1,367 km of dikes, and building 418 electric pumping stations. Rural electricity was also developed with 14,834 km of power lines and 55 transformer stations. As a result, production mechanization reached a high level, contributing to improved AE productivity and efficiency.

2.2.5. Direction of Research, Transfer, and Application of Science and Technology to Production in Association with High-Tech Agricultural Development

The Provincial Party Committee directed the promotion of research, application, and transfer of scientific and technological advances to serve socio-economic development, especially in biotechnology, preservation technology, and the processing of agricultural and aquatic products. The Provincial People's Committee issued Decision No. 538/QD-UBND dated 31 March 2011 promulgating the "Program to Support Applied Research, Technological Innovation, and Transfer of Scientific and Technological Advances in An Giang Province for the 2011-2015 Period"; Decision No. 396/QD-UBND dated 1 March 2013 promulgating the "Plan for High-Tech Agricultural Development from Now to 2015"; Decision No. 2048/QD-UBND dated 19 November 2012 promulgating the "Regulations on Several Support Policies for Applying Good Agricultural Practice Processes in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries in An Giang Province"; and other documents.

The Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development took the lead, in coordination with specialized sectors, in testing, selecting, and introducing new high-yield and high-quality varieties. In crop cultivation, the focus was placed on developing high-quality rice and specialty rice and organizing production on large-scale fields for export. Vegetables and subsidiary crops were planned in six localities with many key crops such as mustard greens, melons, gourds, squash, onions, and sweet potatoes, in association with VietGAP-standard production models, biological pest management, and safety processes. At the same time, mushroom cultivation was developed industrially with valuable edible and medicinal mushrooms, combined with training and the conversion of mixed gardens into high-tech mushroom farms. In livestock husbandry, priority was given to varieties with competitive advantages, the implementation of closed-loop models, linkages from breeding stock to processing and consumption, the application of modern waste treatment, and the use of agricultural by-products as feed. In fisheries, the focus was placed on pangasius, with selective breeding to increase growth rates, improve fillet quality, and complete standard-compliant processes. Technical training for farmers was promoted in order to diversify cultured species, enhance efficiency, and improve quality to meet market demand.

Concluding Remarks of Chapter 2

In the years 2010-2015, the An Giang Provincial Party Committee thoroughly assessed the impacts of the world and domestic situations; the province's natural and socio-economic conditions; and the situation of AE development before 2010. From this basis, the Provincial Party Committee set forth guidelines to continue developing the province's AE comprehensively toward commodity production and identified the objectives, tasks, and solutions for implementation. The Provincial Party Committee and Provincial People's Committee promptly directed all levels, sectors, and localities to effectively implement planning and build concentrated commodity production areas;

efficiently transform crop and livestock structures in order to restructure the internal sector toward I&M; renew forms of production organization, issue linkage policies, and attract inputs into AE; research and apply science and technology to production, especially high technology; and build technical infrastructure serving AE development. As a result, the province's AE achieved many positive results. However, the implementation process still had certain limitations. This created new requirements, demanding that the An Giang Provincial Party Committee continue to adjust, supplement, and perfect objectives, tasks, and solutions in order to lead AE development more effectively in the next stage.

Chapter 3

THE AN GIANG PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE'S LEADERSHIP IN PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM 2015 TO 2020

3.1. New Affecting Factors and Guidelines of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee on Promoting Agricultural Economic Development

3.1.1. New Factors Affecting the Leadership of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee in Promoting Agricultural Economic Development

3.1.1.1. World and Domestic Situation

World situation: In the years 2010-2020, new factors emerged in the world situation. The major trend remained “peace, national independence, democracy, cooperation, and development,” but developments became more complex and less predictable. The global political and security landscape changed rapidly, complexly, and unpredictably. The US-China trade war, climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic, and other factors affected AE development. *Domestic situation:* After 30 years of renovation, the country's overall strength increased and its international prestige continued to improve, yet many difficulties and challenges remained. AE achieved many positive results, with added value increasing by an average of 3% per year; it focused on agricultural restructuring, crop and livestock diversification, the construction of large-scale commodity production areas, and numerous linkage models. However, AE still faced many challenges.

3.1.1.2. Requirements for Socio-Economic Development of An Giang Province in the New Period

The province belongs to the key economic region of the MD and benefits from many development mechanisms, policies, and important transport infrastructure investments, contributing to regional linkages and economic growth. With its location bordering Cambodia and its diverse system of border gates, the province has advantages for developing border trade and international exchange. At the same time, the province has great potential for AE, especially rice and pangasius production. However, it faces many difficulties, such as slowing growth, unsynchronized infrastructure, high migration, and the impacts of climate change. The new factors in the world situation, the domestic situation, and An Giang

Province involve interwoven advantages, opportunities, difficulties, and challenges, thereby posing new requirements and tasks for AE development.

3.1.1.3. The Party's Guidelines and the State's Policies on AE Development in the Years 2015-2020

The Party's guidelines: The Twelfth National Congress of the Party identified one of six key tasks as: “Promoting national I&M, with emphasis on agricultural and rural I&M in association with new rural development.” On that basis, the Congress identified tasks and solutions for AE development in the five years 2016-2020, including promoting agricultural restructuring toward building high-tech, large-scale commodity agriculture; strengthening the application of scientific and technological advances; improving quality, efficiency, and competitiveness; ensuring sustainable development, national food security, and food safety. It also emphasized reorganizing production and strengthening value-chain linkages; and connecting production with the processing and consumption of agricultural products on the basis of developing diverse forms of cooperation and linkage. On 7 August 2019, the Politburo issued Conclusion No. 54-KL/TW on continuing to implement the Seventh Resolution of the Tenth Party Central Committee “On Agriculture, Farmers, and Rural Areas,” affirming that “agriculture, farmers, and rural areas hold a long-term strategic position and are a top-priority task in our country’s socio-economic development.”

Several State policies: The National Assembly issued Resolution No. 24/2016/QH14 dated 8 November 2016 “On the Economic Restructuring Plan for the 2016-2020 Period,” which identified the strong restructuring of the agricultural sector in association with effective new rural development, improved quality and added value, and adaptation to climate change. On 23 November 2016, Resolution No. 32/2016/QH14 “On Continuing to Improve the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Implementing the National Target Program on New Rural Development in Association with Agricultural Sector Restructuring” was issued, among others.

The Government issued many important documents to orient and implement these policies, such as Decision No. 1684/QD-TTg dated 30 September 2015 approving the “Strategy for International Economic Integration of the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector to 2030”; Directive No. 26/CT-TTg dated 6 October 2015 on “Promoting the Implementation of the Project on Agricultural Restructuring toward Increasing Added Value and Sustainable Development”; Decision No. 923/QD-TTg dated 28 June 2017 approving the “Target Program on AE Restructuring and Disaster Prevention, Mitigation, and Stabilization of People’s Livelihoods”; Decision No. 1819/QD-TTg dated 16 November 2017 approving the “Plan for Agricultural Sector Restructuring in the 2017-2020 Period”; and other documents.

3.1.2. Guidelines of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee on Promoting AE Development (2015-2020)

The Tenth Congress of the Provincial Party Committee for the 2015-2020 term affirmed that An Giang is an agricultural province with strengths in trade; therefore, investment resources for economic development were prioritized in the following order: agriculture, trade and services, and industry and construction. In particular, “investment in and strong application of science and technology to renew the economic growth model, with a focus on agriculture and processing industry,” was identified as one of the three breakthroughs of the term. The Congress proposed basic solutions for renewing the growth model and improving productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness in association with agricultural restructuring, while accelerating the pace of new rural development.

During the term, the Provincial Party Committee issued guidelines related to AE development, such as Action Program No. 04-CTr/TU dated 18 July 2016 “Implementing the National Target Program on New Rural Development for the 2016-2020 Period”; Action Program No. 08-CTr/TU dated 11 November 2016 “On Agricultural Development in the 2016-2020 Period and Orientation to 2025”; Action Program No. 12-CTr/TU dated 10 February 2017 “On Several Major Guidelines and Policies to Continue Renewing the Growth Model, Improving Growth Quality, Labor Productivity, and Competitiveness of the An Giang Provincial Economy in the 2016-2020 Period”; and others. In particular, in Action Program No. 08-CTr/TU, the Provincial Party Committee clearly stated the viewpoint: “Agricultural development must be placed within the overall economy and synchronized with the development of industry, trade, and services. Production development must proceed in depth, increasing value per unit of production land; production must be linked to market demand and must increase farmers’ income.”

Thus, in the 2015-2020 period, the guidelines of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee on AE development developed further, inheriting, supplementing, and advancing previous orientations to suit new requirements, tasks, and local realities.

3.2. The An Giang Provincial Party Committee’s Direction of Promoting Agricultural Economic Development (2015-2020)

3.2.1. Direction of Agricultural Sectoral Restructuring toward Modernity in Association with Agricultural Restructuring

The Provincial Party Committee directed: “Focus on the province’s three strategic product groups, namely rice, fish, and vegetables and subsidiary crops, in which rice and fish are to be restructured to adapt to the market”; and “gradually shift the growth model from breadth to depth; maintain reasonable annual agricultural growth during the 2016-2020 period, thereby creating momentum for higher growth in the next stage.”

The Provincial People’s Council issued Resolution No. 08/2015/NQ-HDND dated 10 December 2015, clearly stating the implementation of agricultural restructuring in association with new rural development; accelerating linkage processes and expanding the production area under the large-scale field

model; proactively building brands for products, with priority focused on five restructured products. The Provincial People’s Committee issued Decision No. 929/QD-UBND dated 2 June 2015 approving the “Project on Agricultural Sector Restructuring in An Giang Province to 2020”; Decision No. 1004/QD-UBND dated 11 April 2016 approving the “Program for Research on Crop and Livestock Structure Transformation and Sustainable Agricultural Development in An Giang Province for the 2016-2020 Period”; Decision No. 1469/QD-UBND dated 15 May 2017 on the “Plan to Convert from Rice Cultivation to Maize Cultivation under Decision No. 915/QD-TTg dated 27 May 2016 of the Prime Minister”; Decision No. 3410/QD-UBND dated 14 November 2017 on the “Plan to Transform Crop Structures from Rice Land to Vegetables, Subsidiary Crops, and Fruit Trees in the 2017-2020 Period”; and other documents.

By 2020, the share of crop cultivation had decreased to 65.55%, while fisheries increased to 22.27%. A total of 25,599 hectares of inefficient rice land was converted to vegetables, subsidiary crops, and fruit trees, bringing higher economic value. Average production value reached VND 221.7 million per hectare; the rice area was 637,000 hectares and output reached 4 million tons, making An Giang the second-ranking province nationwide in rice area and output. In addition, the province gradually promoted the linkage of AE development with the tourism economy as an appropriate direction given its riverine and orchard conditions and its economic transformation toward multiple values.

3.2.2. Direction of Developing Concentrated Commodity Agricultural Production Areas

The Provincial Party Committee directed the continued review, adjustment, and supplementation of sectoral plans and plans for high-tech agriculture; and the effective exploitation of the pilot regulation on socio-economic development linkages in the MD region for the 2016-2020 period. It also directed the development of distinctive agricultural OCOP models in association with brand building and promotion, while combining tourism potential exploitation with product distribution through supermarket systems inside and outside the country.

The Provincial People’s Committee issued Decision No. 945/QD-UBND dated 5 April 2016 approving the “Plan for Building Large-Scale Rice and Glutinous Rice Fields in An Giang Province for the 2016-2025 Period”; Decision No. 2440/QD-UBND dated 11 August 2017 approving the research topic “Studying the Construction of a Large-Scale Field Model according to the 4H Approach”; Decision No. 2281/QD-UBND dated 28 July 2017 approving the “Detailed Plan for Pangasius Farming and Processing in An Giang Province to 2020 and Orientation to 2030”; Decision No. 2607/QD-UBND dated 30 August 2017 approving the “Project on Developing High-Tech Poultry Husbandry while Ensuring Environmental Hygiene in An Giang Province for the 2017-2020 Period”; Decision No. 3115/QD-UBND dated 20 October 2017 approving the

“Plan for Sustainable Fisheries Development in An Giang Province from Now to 2020, with Orientation to 2025”; and other documents.

As a result, in the years 2015-2020, the province formed and further developed many large-scale specialized production areas in various forms for key products, in addition to specialized areas in localities.

3.2.3. Direction of Promoting the Development of Forms of Production Organization in Association with Linkages for Agricultural Product Consumption

The Provincial Party Committee directed the “encouragement of the establishment of agricultural enterprises, farms, forms of cooperative economy, and high-tech agriculture-industry-service cooperative groups”; and the “completion and development of production linkage models along value chains (both vertical and horizontal) to create sustainable linkages.” At the same time, it emphasized the need to “effectively apply central and provincial investment-support policies in line with practical needs; and review and propose specific mechanisms to the central level in order to strongly attract enterprises to invest.”

The Provincial People’s Committee issued policies to create supportive conditions for developing the collective economy and linkage chains: Decision No. 1145/QD-UBND dated 24 June 2015 approving the “Five-Year Plan for Collective Economic Development in An Giang Province for the 2016-2020 Period”; Action Program No. 251/CTr-UBND dated 27 May 2016 on “Implementing the Pilot Project to Complete and Replicate the New-Type Cooperative Model in the MD in An Giang for the 2016-2020 Period”; Decision No. 12/2016/QD-UBND dated 2 March 2016 on “Regulations on Support Expenditure Levels for Policies Encouraging Development, Cooperation, and Linkages Associated with Agricultural Production and Consumption and the Building of Large-Scale Fields”; Decision No. 30/2019/QD-UBND dated 22 July 2019 on “Regulations for Implementing Support Policies for Production Linkages and Agricultural Product Consumption in An Giang Province”; and other documents.

3.2.4. Direction of Strengthening Investment in Infrastructure and Technical Facilities for Agricultural Economic Development

The Provincial Party Committee directed the mobilization of resources to build agricultural production infrastructure according to planning; investment in transport infrastructure with focus and synchronization for interregional, interlocal, border, and disadvantaged areas; and the combination of new rural development with the construction of agricultural production infrastructure serving restructuring, high-tech application, and climate change adaptation.

On the basis of the Provincial Party Committee’s direction, the Provincial People’s Committee issued Decision No. 1011/QD-UBND dated 10 June 2015 approving the “List of Projects Calling for Investment in Agriculture and Rural Areas for the 2015-2020 Period under Government Decree No. 210/2013/ND-CP”; Project No. 426/DA-UBND dated 19 July 2017 on “Socialization of

Investment in the Construction of Rural Bridges in An Giang Province for the 2016-2020 Period”; Decision No. 186/QD-UBND dated 26 January 2018 approving the “Project to Support Mechanization and Automation in Fisheries Production in An Giang Province for the 2018-2020 Period”; Decision No. 44/2018/QD-UBND dated 14 November 2018 promulgating the “Regulations on the Management, Exploitation, and Protection of Irrigation Works in An Giang Province”; and other documents.

Accordingly, in the years 2015-2020, the province concentrated on attracting and calling for investment in many key projects to promote AE development and new rural development. Notable projects included a high-tech aquaculture area in Chau Phu; centralized slaughtering facilities in Chau Doc, Tri Ton, Tinh Bien, and Thoi Son; high-tech livestock farms in Tri Ton and Tinh Bien; and others. Irrigation infrastructure basically helped control floods, improve farmers’ livelihoods, diversify production models, and increase productivity and climate change adaptation. In agricultural mechanization, land preparation reached 100%; 98% of cultivated area was irrigated and drained by powered machinery; 98% of the harvested area was served by machinery; and 75% of rice output was dried by drying kilns.

3.2.5. Direction of Promoting Research, Transfer, and Application of Science and Technology to Production in Association with High-Tech Agricultural Development

The Provincial Party Committee determined: “Prioritize the application of biotechnology, preservation technology, and post-harvest processing technology. Increase the scientific and technological content of the province’s key products, creating many new products and products with high added value”; and “continue to improve the effectiveness of research, application, and transfer of scientific and technical advances into production in order to increase the contribution of total factor productivity to agricultural growth.”

Implementing the direction of the Provincial Party Committee, the Provincial People’s Committee issued Decision No. 110/QD-UBND dated 20 January 2015 approving the “Project to Promote Socialization and Develop Agricultural and Fisheries Extension Activities to Serve High-Tech Agricultural Development”; Decision No. 282/QD-UBND dated 1 February 2016 promulgating the “Science and Technology Program on Biotechnology Development in An Giang Province for the 2016-2020 Period”; Decision No. 567/QD-UBND dated 10 March 2016 promulgating the “Program to Support the Application and Transfer of Scientific and Technological Advances in An Giang Province for the 2016-2020 Period”; Decision No. 71/2019/QD-UBND dated 23 December 2019 promulgating the “Regulations on Support for Promoting Technology Transfer, Application, and Innovation in An Giang Province”; and other documents.

As a result, the promotion of science and technology application, especially biotechnology and high technology, created clear changes in the

province's AE during the years 2015-2020. Many new crop and livestock varieties and processes were researched, such as the Móng Chim, AS-R05, and AS-R06 rice varieties, with yields of about 3.5 tons per hectare and good pest resistance. Biofloc technology enabled tilapia and red tilapia farming to reach yields of 20 tons per hectare. At the same time, many advanced production models and standards were widely applied, expanding certified production areas and improving the quality and value of local agricultural products.

Concluding Remarks of Chapter 3

In the years 2015-2020, on the basis of previously achieved accomplishments and in response to new requirements in the domestic, regional, and international context, the An Giang Provincial Party Committee oriented AE development in association with sectoral restructuring and the new rural development program, focusing on improving the productivity, quality, and competitiveness of agricultural products. The province emphasized planning and adjusting concentrated production areas, prioritized the development of three key products - rice, vegetables and subsidiary crops, and pangasius - and two potential products, cattle and mushrooms; while also promoting high-tech application, renewing production organization, developing value-chain linkages, and investing in infrastructure serving agriculture and rural areas. As a result, the province's AE achieved many positive outcomes. Nevertheless, production remained fragmented; value-chain linkages and agricultural product branding were not yet strong; and the application of science and technology and infrastructure investment remained limited, requiring the Provincial Party Committee to continue adopting more sustainable development solutions.

Chapter 4

ASSESSMENTS AND SEVERAL LESSONS

4.1. Assessment of the Leadership of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee in Agricultural Economic Development from 2010 to 2020

4.1.1. Strengths and Causes

4.1.1.1. Strengths

First, the An Giang Provincial Party Committee identified AE as holding a crucial position in the province's socio-economic development; accordingly, it formulated appropriate guidelines to promote advantages, effectively exploit resources, and advance AE toward sustainable development. *Second*, the Provincial Party Committee focused on directing synchronized and planned implementation, prioritizing locally advantageous products such as rice, fisheries, and vegetables and subsidiary crops. *Third*, under the leadership of the Provincial Party Committee, AE achieved many important accomplishments and gradually developed strongly and comprehensively in a sustainable direction.

4.1.1.2. Causes of the Strengths

First, the Party's guidelines and the State's policies on "agriculture, farmers, and rural areas" during the period of renovation and integration were correct, increasingly supplemented and perfected, and more closely aligned with practice. *Second*, the Provincial Party Committee creatively applied the Party's line on AE development in formulating leadership guidelines for AE development suited to local practical conditions. *Third*, synchronized coordination among Party committees, authorities, departments, committees, and sectors, together with the consensus and active support of all strata of the people in the province, created combined strength for promoting AE development and new rural development. *Fourth*, the dynamism and creativity of An Giang farmers were also key factors driving AE development.

4.1.2. Limitations and Causes

4.1.2.1. Limitations

First, the promulgation of guidelines and policies for AE development was at some points slow and failed to keep pace with practical requirements and national development trends. *Second*, some aspects of directing AE development remained limited, so the province's full potential and strengths were not brought into play. *Third*, in directing the handling of certain specific issues, the response at times did not keep pace with practical requirements.

4.1.2.2. Causes of the Limitations

First, the process by which the Provincial Party Committee led AE development was strongly affected by many objective domestic and international factors. *Second*, limitations in the awareness and actions of a number of Party committees, authorities, and citizens continued to impede the effectiveness of AE development. *Third*, central-level mechanisms and policies for mobilizing resources for agriculture and rural areas, especially high-tech agriculture, still contained institutional "bottlenecks."

4.2. Several Lessons from the An Giang Provincial Party Committee's Leadership in Agricultural Economic Development from 2010 to 2020

4.2.1. Thoroughly Grasping Central Guidelines and Direction, Firmly Understanding Practice, and Flexibly and Proactively Formulating AE Development Guidelines Suited to Local Advantages

The Provincial Party Committee always thoroughly grasped the Party's and State's guidelines and policies, accurately assessed the province's overall potential and strengths, and from that basis formulated appropriate leadership guidelines for AE development. Thanks to correct orientations, the province effectively exploited its potential and formed large-scale specialized production areas associated with three key products: rice, fisheries, and vegetables and subsidiary crops. The "large-scale field" model was implemented effectively, contributing to

the promotion of commodity agricultural production while strengthening public confidence in the leadership of the Provincial Party Committee.

To continue promoting this lesson in leading AE development in the coming period, the Provincial Party Committee needs to promptly grasp and effectively implement central-level guidelines and policies. Party committees and authorities at all levels need to quickly concretize them through resolutions, programs, and action plans suited to local realities, while strengthening supervision and inspection to remove difficulties and adjust solutions in a timely manner. In addition, attention should be paid to developing breakthrough mechanisms and policies and strengthening communication and mobilization work.

The implementation of resolutions of the Central Committee and the National Assembly on the merger of An Giang and Kien Giang provinces opens a new development space with a geostrategic position combining plains, border areas, and sea-island areas. With its large area and population and with the entire Long Xuyen Quadrangle under its management, the province has conditions to develop large-scale commodity AE, form modern agricultural value chains linked to processing, logistics, and exports, and move toward sustainable development and integration.

4.2.2. Paying Attention to and Prioritizing the Focused Resolution of Investment Issues, the Construction of Technical and Physical Facilities and Infrastructure, and the Sensitive Reception of Scientific and Technological Advances into Agricultural Production

The practice of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee's leadership in AE development during the years 2010-2020 shows that the Provincial Party Committee focused on leading and directing the mobilization of resources to invest in technical and physical facilities and infrastructure with focus and priority, prioritizing works directly serving production and daily life, such as irrigation systems, rural roads, electricity for production, and facilities for processing and preserving agricultural products, while avoiding scattered and inefficient investment. At the same time, infrastructure investment was linked to the implementation of the National Target Program on New Rural Development, gradually improving the living conditions of rural residents. In addition, the province proactively received and applied new varieties, advanced farming processes, mechanization, and scientific and technological achievements suited to local practical conditions, contributing to improved productivity, quality, and efficiency in AE production.

In applying this lesson in the coming period, the Provincial Party Committee should continue to lead and direct synchronized investment in technical and physical facilities and the modernization of infrastructure serving AE, focusing on rural transport, irrigation, electricity, warehouse systems, post-harvest preservation, and logistics services. Infrastructure investment should be implemented with focus and priority, in association with the planning of concentrated commodity production areas and raw-material areas serving processing and export. The province should

implement the building and completion of agricultural sector databases, land databases, and market information systems; apply artificial intelligence and digital technologies in production management, crop forecasting, disease monitoring, traceability, and decision support for enterprises, cooperatives, cooperative groups, and farmers. It should also direct the effective implementation of programs to support enterprises, cooperatives, and cooperative groups in technological innovation and in applying digital solutions to production management, e-commerce, market connection, and compliance with export market standards.

4.2.3. Strongly Promoting the Role of Economic Sectors and Forms of Linkage in Agricultural Production

The practice of the An Giang Provincial Party Committee's leadership in AE development during the years 2010-2020 shows that the Provincial Party Committee paid attention to leading the development of cooperative forms and production linkages in agriculture along value chains in order to transform the mode of production from small-scale and fragmented production to concentrated commodity production, thereby increasing the value and competitiveness of agricultural products. At the same time, the province issued mechanisms encouraging enterprises to invest in high-tech agriculture, attracting many large projects in the fields of aquatic seed production, aquaculture, and agricultural product processing. In addition, cooperatives and cooperative groups were consolidated and developed, becoming important forces in organizing production, promoting AE restructuring, contributing to new rural development, and improving farmers' livelihoods.

In applying this lesson in the coming period, the Provincial Party Committee should effectively implement central-level guidelines and perfect preferential mechanisms and policies on land, credit, and taxation to encourage enterprises and cooperatives to invest in the production, processing, and consumption of agricultural products. At the same time, it should improve the management capacity of cooperatives, promote digital transformation, apply science and technology, implement traceability, and build product brands. Human resource development, strengthened state management, and the promotion of regional linkages will contribute to expanding agricultural value chains, improving competitiveness, and developing AE in a sustainable direction.

4.2.4. Agricultural Economic Development Must Be Closely Linked to Agricultural Restructuring, New Rural Development, and Improvement of Farmers' Living Standards

The practical process by which the An Giang Provincial Party Committee led AE development during the years 2010-2020 shows that the Provincial Party Committee focused on directing the construction and completion of agricultural development planning and implementing sectoral restructuring in association with the National Target Program on New Rural Development. The focus was on

developing strategic products such as rice, fisheries, and vegetables and subsidiary crops, while adjusting the production structure to adapt to climate change and meet market demand. Agricultural restructuring contributed to increasing production value and improving the income and living standards of rural residents. By 2020, the province's GRDP reached VND 89,362 billion, per capita income reached VND 46.8 million, and the poverty rate decreased to 1.93%. The new rural development program achieved many positive results, with 67 communes meeting the standards and three district-level units completing their tasks, contributing to changes in the rural appearance and promoting sustainable socio-economic development.

In applying this lesson in the coming period, the Provincial Party Committee should continue to direct the effective implementation of the agricultural sector restructuring project in association with the new rural development program in the context of completed administrative-unit merger and reorganization of the management apparatus. On the basis of a comprehensive review of new rural criteria, the province needs to build a development roadmap for 2026-2030 that shifts thinking from traditional agricultural production to a modern AE based on innovation, high-tech application, and climate change adaptation. The focus should be on completing sectoral planning linked to ecological advantages, promoting digital transformation in agricultural value chains, building brands for key agricultural products, and developing agricultural and ecological tourism. At the same time, attention should be paid to human resource development, increased mobilization of social resources, and improved management effectiveness in order to build modern, sustainable, and integrated new rural areas.

Concluding Remarks of Chapter 4

In the years 2010-2020, in the face of the international and regional context as well as the local socio-economic situation, the An Giang Provincial Party Committee thoroughly grasped central-level guidelines on developing "agriculture, farmers, and rural areas," and from that basis formulated and issued many guidelines and policies for AE development suited to practical conditions. On that basis, the Provincial Party Committee directed the Provincial People's Committee and provincial departments, committees, and sectors to implement tasks and solutions in a synchronized manner, in order to effectively exploit local potential and advantages and promote AE development toward sustainability.

Thanks to resolute leadership and direction, the province's AE achieved many important results, shifting toward large-scale commodity production, contributing to improved living standards for the people and a better rural appearance. However, the implementation process still had several limitations, such as the fact that concretizing guidelines was sometimes not timely and some targets were not achieved. From that practice, several important lessons can be drawn to continue perfecting guidelines and improving the effectiveness of leadership over AE development in the province in the new period.

CONCLUSION

1. The agricultural economy plays an important role in Vietnam's socio-economic development strategy, especially in the context of promoting industrialization and modernization and ensuring food security. After more than 40 years of renovation, AE has gradually shifted to a growth model based on productivity, quality, and market linkage.

2. An Giang is a typical agricultural province of the MD and the country as a whole. In the years 2010-2020, the Provincial Party Committee creatively applied central-level guidelines and focused on directing the development of specialized production areas for rice, pangasius, and vegetables and subsidiary crops; promoted sectoral restructuring, the application of science and technology, renewal of forms of production organization and linkage models; and emphasized the construction of infrastructure serving AE development and new rural development in the province.

3. During the implementation process, the Provincial Party Committee concentrated its direction and brought into play the roles and responsibilities of Party committees, authorities, departments, sectors, and especially the solidarity, diligence, and creativity of farmers in implementing programs, plans, schemes, and projects. As a result, AE of An Giang Province developed fairly comprehensively, the sectoral structure shifted positively, and productivity and production value increased. Large-scale field models, value-chain linkages, and high-tech agriculture were implemented, contributing to improved farmers' living standards and changes in the rural appearance.

4. From that practice, the dissertation draws four important lessons: (1) thoroughly grasp central guidelines and direction, firmly understand practice, and flexibly and proactively formulate AE development guidelines suited to local advantages; (2) pay attention to and prioritize the focused resolution of issues related to investment, the construction of technical and physical facilities and infrastructure, and sensitivity in receiving scientific and technological advances into agricultural production; (3) strongly promote the role of economic sectors and forms of linkage in agricultural production; and (4) closely link AE development with agricultural restructuring and new rural development.

5. These lessons have important scientific and practical significance for orienting the development of An Giang Province's AE in the coming period. Their flexible application will contribute to promoting agricultural restructuring, developing value chains, improving farmers' living standards, and building sustainable new rural areas, thereby helping An Giang become a rice, fisheries, and medicinal-herb center of the MD and the whole country.

**LIST OF THE AUTHOR’S PUBLISHED SCIENTIFIC WORKS
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