

MEASURES TO CHANGE THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN KON TUM IN 2003-2010

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In recent years, although the share of agriculture in the Kon Tum gross output has fallen slightly, the agricultural production has been commercialized strongly, provided jobs for 75% of the local working population, and contributed some 60% of the provincial budget income and 75% of the export value. The agriculture is still very important because some 70% of the provincial population live in rural areas and 80% of the working population is employed by this sector. It also ensures the supply of food for local use and raw materials for processing factories. That is why the industrialization and modernization of agriculture and rural areas is central to the provincial plan for socioeconomic development up to 2010. Development based on the agriculture, however, requires concerted effort from the provincial government and local residents, and a well-devised master plan.

I. RECENT CHANGES IN THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

1. Achievements

With a policy to develop the agricultural production in order to ensure food safety, promote export of farm products and change the face of rural areas, the provincial government has paid full attention to such tasks as increasing the area of perennials, providing technical assistance and new techniques, supplying high-productivity strains, and has helped develop the commercial farming in recent years.

The structure of farm products has also changed: the share of crop farming in the total agricultural output rose from 73.9% to 88.7% in 2001, the sea farming from 0.4% to 0.9% while the forestry decreased from 25.7% to 10.3%.

The crop planting tended to rise against the animal husbandry: shares of those two businesses

changed from 67.6% and 26.3% respectively in 1995 to 83.2% and 12.0% in 2001 because the area of perennial, specially on hills increased quickly while the area of meadow contracted.

In the crop planting business, the planting of perennial rose at the expense of the rice output: the share of rice in the whole crop planting output fell from 37.5% in 1995 to 14.5% in 2001 while the share of perennial for industrial use rose from 30.5% to 57.2% and fruit from 2.8% to 4.0%.

Diversification of the animal husbandry took place slowly. Its output rose unsteadily because of poor disease control, lack of a master plan for development and decrease in the area of meadow. In the past two years when prices of many farm products fell, local resident stopped raising cattle and turned to fish breeding instead.

The forestry has become more reasonable and more attention was paid to afforestation instead of exploitation of wood and other forest products. Value from forest planting business rose from 13.3% in 1995 to 37.1% in 2001 while the value from exploitation of natural forest fell from 80.3% to 56.7%.

In the sea farming business, the building of the Yaly Lake has helped increase the share of sea farming in the fishing output from 4.5% in 1995 to 34.6% in 2001.

In most villages, non-agricultural occupations have started to develop and provide local residents with subsidiary incomes. Many government-run programs to develop the infrastructure, create jobs and supply soft loans to poor peasants have helped reduce the proportion of poor family to 22% in 2002. In short, diversification of agricultural production has improved the living standard in rural areas and income from the agriculture has increased faster than income from other occupation in recent years.

The government, of course, has played an important role in these developments by carrying out many programs that affect directly changes in the agricultural production.

a. In crop farming business, many high-yield strains of plants suitable to local climate conditions have been introduced, such as rice strains LC 88-66, IR 35366 and VND 95-20 whose yield may reach 0.9 tonne per hectare. Many strains of hybrid corn that could yield some 0.7 tonne per hectare, such as LVN1, LVN2, LVN10, LVN12, DK999 and DK888 have replaced the local ones. Other

Table 1: Share of agriculture in the gross output

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Share of the agriculture (%)	50.8	48.4	49.0	50.6	48.3	45.3	43.2

strains of manioc and sugarcane have been also introduced to peasants.

b. Some projects to introduce new strains of cow, goat, chicken and goose have been carried out with a view to replacing poor-productivity ones developed locally.

c. In the forestry, the most remarkable change is the transition from the state strict control over forests to the mechanism for granting pieces of forest to individual rangers in which the ranger is responsible for protecting and caring for the forest and enjoys legal income from the area assigned.

d. A program to raise fish in hydroelectric dams has been launched

planting business. The animal husbandry business is only in its first stages of development in conveniently situated communes. Application of scientific advances to agricultural mechanization and farm product processing is very limited. Results of many researches haven't been disseminated among peasants.

- The market isn't developed enough to stimulate the production of farm products. Peasants are badly affected by changes in prices that lead to lower income and living standard.

- The processing industry hasn't developed: most processing factories are obsolete and could only process a small quantity of products. Generally, processing and post-harvest

- Unemployment rate in rural areas is still high because of lack of skills and training while trained workers and intellectuals don't want to work in rural areas.

II. MEASURES TO CHANGE THE RURAL ECONOMY UP TO 2010

1. Changes in the agricultural structure must aim at increasing shares of animal husbandry and service at the expense of crop farming. This goal could be achieved by:

- Zoning more areas for growing perennials and fruits in order to ensure raw materials for the processing industry.

- Carrying out various studies before mass-producing youngling of lo-



and a plan to grow crops on half-flooded areas and raise fish in the Yaly Lake is worked out. These are two efforts to develop the fishery on highlands.

e. Provincial government has carried out programs to zone and develop areas for perennials and cattle farms, and to improve rural infrastructure. At present, only four out of 82 communes have no feeder road connected to provincial roads; and 24 out of 82 communes have no power supply.

2. Shortcomings

- Changes in the rural economy progress slowly. The animal husbandry business fails to play the important role it deserves. Cottage industry didn't develop. Relations between cities and rural areas aren't close enough to facilitate the industrialization in rural areas. All communes in depressed areas still live on crop farming.

- Most government-run agricultural programs focus on the crop

technologies fails to cope with developments of production and improve the product quality. That is why most farm products are exported from Kon Tum as raw materials.

- Infrastructure in rural areas are very poor. Services supporting the agricultural production aren't developed enough. Facilities for health care, education and recreation are still lacking. Low public investment leads to slow improvements in the rural infrastructure. Irrigation system is of poor quality and fail to supply enough water to rice fields and plantations. Poor communications make it difficult for producers to market their produce. The proportion of power used for production is small because of low mechanization. Manual labor is still widespread in all production stages.

- Most peasants are badly in need of capital. Most of their products are for the domestic market only, except for some handicrafts that could be exported. Generally, their goods are of poor quality, design and package.

cal plants of high value for industrial use.

- Applying biotechnological advances to enhance productivity and protect the environment.

- Changing the structure of the animal husbandry business by increasing the share of domestic animal husbandry.

- Changing the structure of forestry by promoting tasks of planting and caring for forests.

- Changing the structure of fishery by increasing the share of fish raising business.

2. In the rural economy, shares of the manufacturing and service sectors could be increased by:

- Introducing more and more machines (rice thresher, water pumping machines, insecticide atomizers, etc.) to the crop planting business with a view to mechanizing the agriculture by degrees.

- Mechanizing all stages of crop planting business (ground breaking, caring and harvesting), introducing

techniques and machines for growing crops on slopes, and applying post-harvest techniques with a view to reducing losses.

- Studying and applying step by step equipment for storing and processing coffee and fresh fruits and vegetables at small scale.

- Studying and applying equipment for pumping and watering crops of high-value.

- Studying and applying techniques of reducing post-harvest losses; enhancing storing techniques and increasing the proportion of processed farm products, especially rice, coffee and sugarcane.

- Studying and applying techniques of processing by-products, especially from sugarcane.

- Improving the management of strains of animals and plants; evalu-

- Building model communes suitable to the industrialization and modernization process as directed by Directive 49/2001/CT-BNN/CS issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on April 27, 2001

- Carrying out on a larger scale projects to develop cattle husbandry to make the best use of meadows, develop the apiculture in districts Đăkglei, Sa Thầy and Kon Plong, and raise fish in the Yaly Lake.

3. Developing the processing industry near sources of raw materials is also a good measure. Kon Tum can develop the following processing factories:

- Sugar: The sugarcane output in Kon Tum is expected to reach 334,500 tonnes by 2005; 459,300 tonnes

- + A factory with capacity of 6,000 tonnes could be situated in Đăk Tô to process coffee from Districts Đăk Tô and Ngọc Hồi.

- + A factory with a capacity of 5,000 tonnes in Đăkglei is needed for processing coffee produced in this district.

In the years 2006-2010, there must be 120 threshers more, one more coffee processing factory with a capacity of 5,000 tonnes in Kon Tum Town and new machines for the factory in Đăk Tô to raise its capacity from 5,000 to 7,500 tonnes.

- Rubber latex: In the years 2002-2005, Kon Tum Town along with Districts Đăk Hà, Đăk Tô, Kon Plong and Sa Thầy could have 24,700 tonnes of latex (or 7,500 tonnes of dry latex) to process every year. It's planned that one latex processing factory with a capacity of 6,000 tonnes of dry latex will be built in Ya Chim and another one with a capacity of 1,500 tonnes in Thanh Trung.

A factory with a capacity of 10,000 tonnes of dry latex (or 3,000 tonnes of dry one) will be built in Ngọc Hồi to process some 8,110 tonnes of latex a year from Ngọc Hồi and south Đăkglei.

In the years 2006-2010, the area of rubber in Kon Tum is expected to reach 37,000 hectares and divided into six zones: Ngọc Hồi - South Đăkglei (6,700 hectares); Đăk Tô - West Đăk Hà (8,000 hectares); (South Sa Thầy (4,000 hectares) North Kon Tum Town-East Đăk Hà-Southwest Kon Plong (9,300 hectares); South Kon Tum Town (5,200 hectares) and North Sa Thầy (4,000 hectares). To process all rubber latex from these zones, a lot of tasks must be completed.

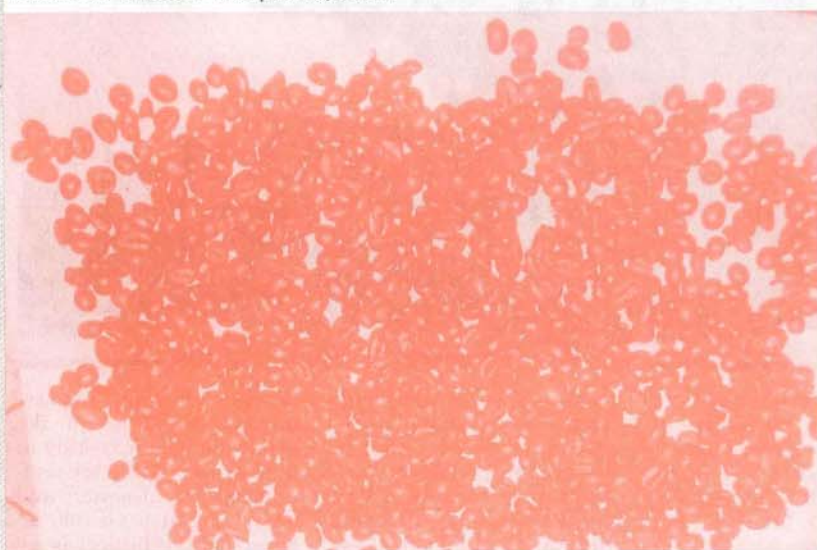
- Others:

- + Two mills processing flour from manioc in Sa Thầy and Đăk Tô must be completed and soon brought into operation.

- + A factory to make condensed fruit juice could be built in Sa Thầy by 2005 using pineapple and other fruits produced locally.

- + A factory to make canned fruits can be built here. The necessary capacity is estimated at 1,500 tonnes a year by 2005 and 3,000 tonnes by 2010.

The measures to change the agricultural production in Kon Tum we present above are based on comparative advantages and potentials of the province along with its shortcomings and weaknesses. We hope that they are useful to the provincial government in its development planning for the next decade. ■



ating and testing strictly as required by official regulations new strains before supplying them to peasants.

- Improving performance of research centers specialized in producing new strains, extending the agricultural production, transferring technologies in order to apply biotechnology, intensive farming techniques, disease control and transfer technologies needed for the industrialization and modernization of rural economy.

- Organizing the agricultural extension services down to commune level according to Project 06 and Directive 13 set forth by the provincial government.

- When the provincial government is carrying out projects that affect development of production of raw materials, the task of zoning and planning must be done carefully in order to avoid disputes over land.

nes by 2010; 642,700 tonnes by 2015 and 784,500 tonnes by 2020. By 2005, the sugar processing industry must consume some 2,000 tonnes of sugarcane a day.

- Coffee: The coffee output is expected to reach 34,200 tonnes by 2005; 39,310 tonnes by 2010; 46,490 tonnes by 2015 and 54,950 tonnes by 2020. In the years 2002-05, there must be 2,880 threshers (one thresher for five hectares) and six coffee processing factories consuming from 25,000 to 30,000 tonnes of coffee bean a year.

- + In District Đăk Hà: Three factories with installed capacity of 5,000 tonnes a year each could be built.

- + A factory with capacity of 5,000 tonnes could be built in Kon Tum Town for coffee from this provincial town and Districts Sa Thầy and Kon Plong.