

DOCTORAL THESIS IN BRIEF

HOÀNG SỸ KIM. Innovating state management over Vietnamese agriculture before the demand of international economic integration.*Field: economic management**Code: 62.34.01.01*

After 20 years of economic reform, Vietnam's agriculture has attained great achievements, especially in solving the problem of food supply. However, Vietnamese agriculture is still considered a slow-developing industry with low productivity, quality, efficiency, and competitive capacity. Meanwhile, agriculture is viewed as a sensitive area in world trade. International economic integration in terms of agriculture means that Vietnam's produces can be sold in many countries in the world, abiding to the common play rules; however, Vietnam's territory is to become a marketplace for produces which come from many countries and other member countries. Among these produces, quite a few are of the same kind as Vietnam's but produced by countries with far more advanced agricultural industries and far greater state budget potentials than Vietnam.

Therefore, having just moved to commodity production with 13.5 millions subjects who are low-capacity farming households, Vietnamese agriculture is currently facing new challenges. Overcoming weaknesses and limitations

of Vietnamese agriculture is not simple, especially in the context of present international economic integration, hence the rise of new problems in state management over agriculture.

With those above reasons, research student Hoang Sy Kim has chosen the topic "*Innovating state management over Vietnamese agriculture before the demand of international economic integration*" as the research matter for his doctoral dissertation.

Apart from the introduction, conclusion, references, appendices and list of author's research titles, the dissertation is composed of three chapters and nine sections.

On the basis of using the study methods of dialectical materialism and historical materialism – the world outlook of Marxism and Leninism, our Party's viewpoints as demonstrated in Resolutions on state management renovation over agriculture, meanwhile using other research methods such as analyzing system principles, scientific theories of economic management, administrative science, methods of statistics analysis and economic activity analysis, etc., the dissertation step by step clarifies the theoretical awareness of state management over Vietnamese agriculture in the context of international economic integration; the present state of state

management over Vietnamese agriculture in the country's renewal process; and recommendations to innovate state agricultural management before the need of international integration.

Chapter I, *theoretical and practical grounds for state management over agriculture in the context of international economic integration*, puts forward the need for innovating state management over agriculture in the context of international economic integration, explaining that developing a diversified and sustainable agricultural commodity production is the key to improving living standards of those living on agriculture, with state management over agriculture being the deciding factor.

In the researcher's view, state management over agriculture involves arranging the organization, commanding, managing, directing, and inspecting of central-to-local state agencies over agricultural production basing on the role, position and economic-technical and specialized features of agriculture, aiming at exploiting and using domestic and foreign resources to achieve the pre-set goals with best results.

It is made clear that agriculture plays an important role in the socio-economic development of a country in general, of Vietnam in particular. This role is manifested by the fact that agriculture 1/ provides food and foodstuff, with no other industry up to today being able to substitute; 2/ provides inputs for other industries; 3/ is a potential market for

industrial products and services; 4/ is a source of foreign currency gathering via exporting produces and of foreign currency sparing via producing commodities in place of imported ones; 5/ contributes to solving social issues; and 6/ crucially preserves natural resources and the ecology.

The writer emphasizes that it is crucial that state management over agriculture be innovated to achieve the goals of enhancing the role of agriculture in the national economic development, with the transference of factors of agricultural production being associated with the transference of economic structure; increasing agricultural productivity and output to meet the increasing demand for agricultural produces; ensuring food security and gradually diversifying the production and exportation of agricultural produces; creating job opportunities, raising incomes, improving and increasing farmers' living standards; developing an advanced agriculture on the basis of bringing into play natural, economic and social advantages and applying scientific-technological advances for creating produces of high quality and capacity to compete and occupy domestic and foreign markets, thus benefiting the country in the current context of international economic integration.

Chapter II focuses on the analysis and evaluation of the *reality of state management over agriculture during the years of innovation* (Doi Moi).

In the first place (section 2.1), the writer *outlines the development of agriculture during the years of innovation*. He points out that in twenty years of innovation (1986-2005), the government has had many policies to assist the stable development of agricultural production. However, current difficulties of agriculture in the context of integration that need to be handled by the government are: the slow and irrational transference of agricultural production structure; tattered agricultural land; a mainly extensive agricultural development; low quality, efficiency and competitive capacity of quite a lot of agricultural produces; unstable agricultural development; low income of people working in the agricultural sector; expanding income gaps among population groups in rural areas and between the urban and the rural areas; low ability to accumulate wealth; abundant agricultural laborers; etc.

Then (in section 2.2), the researcher reveals the *reality of state management over agriculture in the years of innovation* by analyzing strategies of agricultural development in relations with strategies of socio-economic development in each period; fundamental strategies of agricultural development during years of innovation; land policy and its effects on agriculture; the innovations of investment policy in agriculture, of credit policy, of agricultural co-operative management, of the policy of state-owned enterprise management, and of the policy of agricultural produce market management in the process of integration; etc. Basing

on these analyses, the researcher points out *weaknesses in state management over agriculture* (section 2.3), namely, 1/ existing inappropriate regulations in some policies like policies on investment, land, development of agricultural produce processing industry, loan or capital to farms; 2/ continuing manifestations of administrative bureaucracy and simplification in actual direction of plans like the sugar cane program, the dairy cow program, the rubber tree development program in some northern provinces; 3/ failure to perform statutory functions and tasks of some state-management agencies, and abuse of power of a group of civil servants and state employees in many localities infringing the law and land policies; 4/ low capacity to occupy market shares, low levels of science, technology, agricultural infrastructure, especially irrigation and transportation systems, as well as the low competence of agricultural business persons which, in the near future, may undergo a sudden mutation due to financial problems, and even worse, cannot be improved within a few year's time despite the investment it may receive; 5/ the incomprehensiveness, deficiency, and failure to meet the requirements of integration of the Vietnamese legal system in general, of state management over agriculture in particular.

In chapter III, the writer puts forward *proposals to innovate state management over agriculture to meet the demands of international economic integration* (section 3.3) which are drawn from his predictions of the development trends of

Vietnamese agriculture up to the year 2020 and from the Party's view and goal of the innovation of state management over agriculture in the context of international economic integration, including:

Firstly, the government should innovate the formation of strategies, schemes, and plans for developing market-associated agriculture on the grounds of comparative advantages of each region and of the whole country.

Secondly, the government should perfect the system of policies and laws to provide a favorable business environment for agricultural business persons, as well as to establish macro-scale management tools so that the government has economic and legal grounds to intervene in the operations of agricultural business persons, the subjects of state management over agriculture.

Thirdly, the government should mobilize and use domestic and foreign resources to invest into developing infrastructure, science and technology to meet the demands of agricultural development in the context of integration.

Fourthly, the government should take the initiative in promoting international cooperation in agriculture, thereby

establishing a favorable international cooperative environment for Vietnamese agricultural business persons to cooperative with foreign counterparts.

Fifthly, the government should regulate the national economy and support investments to enhance business capacity of agricultural business persons.

Sixthly, the government should implement a protection policy in a rational way to enhance competitive capacity of agriculture in the context of integration.

Seventhly, the government should define and carry out strategies to train and develop a competent human resource, especially the state staff who manage enterprises and a force of highly-skilled workers to satisfy the demands of international economic integration.

The dissertation was successfully defended in front of the examination board of state-level dissertations, met at the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics and Public Administration in September 2007.

Introduced by

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