

RESTORING AND CONSERVING TRADITIONAL RURAL LANDSCAPE: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS FOR VIETNAM

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Abstract: *The landscape question has never been as pressing in the historical development of the rural as today. Landscape loss, traditional landscape conflicts with urbanization, new countryside construction and lack of vision for plans to restore and conserve rural landscapes have become increasingly frequent problems over the past two decades. The problems around the keeping or changing landscape have contributed to larger economic, social, and environmental problems affecting the rural areas and new countryside construction, primarily space and soil for production and residential land, social differentiation, poverty, deforestation, lost green space, water surface and environmental degradation... At the same time, they have been due to a combination of multiple causes.*

The strong impact of the urbanization process has made the face of the traditional rural landscape has undergone many major changes, the process of village hardening has disrupted the spatial structure and landscape, negatively affecting the cultural values of the village, as well as the goal of sustainable rural development in Vietnam. This paper highlights the experiences in restoring and conserving traditional landscape of some countries around the world and lessons for Vietnam.

Keywords: *New rural construction, international experience, restoring and conserving traditional rural landscape*

1. INTRODUCTION

Viet Nam is a country developed from rice civilization, agriculture has always played an important role of the national economy. Rural areas still account for a larger proportion than urban areas in terms of land (about 90% of the country's land area) in which about 10% of the land area belongs to urban administrative boundaries, the urban area accounts for only about 4.4%, the population accounts for over 60% [1].

Agriculture, farmers and rural areas have strategic positions in the cause of industrialization, modernization, construction and protection of the Country, is an important

basis and force for sustainable socio-economic development, maintaining political stability, ensuring security and defense; preserving and promoting the national cultural identity and protect the ecological environment of the Country... In the immediate period, quickly overcome pressing problems in rural areas, first of all, those related to land acquisition. Implementation of the "New Rural Construction" infrastructure construction in one step ahead [2][3].

"Landscape" is a noun referring to beautiful scenery or a part of the land with geographical features that distinguish it from surrounding land (Nguyen Lan), or the totality of a part of

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the Earth's surface with different features of topography, climate, soil, and hydrology, distinguished from other parts (according to the Vietnamese Dictionary). For example, one might refer to a rainforest landscape or the landscape of the Central Highlands region. People use the term "landscape," as well as "natural landscape," "rural landscape transformation," and "protected landscape," when referring to a region or area, garden, park, or forest. But what does the term "landscape" actually mean? According to the definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary, "landscape" is a noun that refers to a large area of land, especially its appearance or all the visible features of an area of countryside or land, often considered in terms of their aesthetic appeal. "Landscape" can also be used as a verb to describe the act of making a garden, park, or other area of land more attractive by adding different features, plants, etc. Vietnam's rural has experienced a history of development along with the wet rice civilization, the residence of farmers, associated with livelihoods in cultivation and animal husbandry. Vietnam's rural landscape with banyan trees, water piers, village communal house/village temple ...

Natural space, artificial space, and the unity of these two ecological elements with architecture blend to create the traditions and culture of Vietnamese people. Ecologically, a landscape is a population of habitats in which a collection of organisms and animals reside, reproduce, move, survive, and die. In terms of landscape architecture, it is a complex of constructions and tangible cultural values created by humans in a specific space and geographical environment. In other words, the rural landscape is the gathering of natural and architectural values in a unified spatial complex, forming a sustainable ecological

and humanistic environment in the countryside. Rural landscape can be classified into natural landscape and artificial landscape: Natural landscape includes trees, rivers, canals, ponds, fields, etc. Artificial landscape includes architectural designs of public works (temples, pagodas, churches, markets, cultural houses, graves, cemeteries, roads, village gates...), production areas (agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries). For restoration: In the context of terminology related to restoration, given the flurry of interest, concepts, and definitions being touted, there is a need for: a set of widely accepted definitions (such as those of SERI) to be used more systematically and rigorously; efforts and resources to be more focussed on the "doing" than on the "defining"; greater exchanges, debates, and sharing of experiences in order to disseminate the accepted concepts and the positive experiences; and the accepted definitions in the restoration field to be shared with other relevant expert groups, such as development workers, foresters, extension officers, etc.

Landscape includes dynamic and static, different from pure landscape or architecture. Therefore, conservation of landscape must consider these features. As the urban landscape, rural landscape also has natural and artificial elements, but the level of artificiality is less [4]. Static characteristics inclined to ecological orientation, originality, nature, and dynamic are movement, inheritance and elimination. In recent years, New Rural Construction has become a movement with great spread, the face of rural Vietnam has changed markedly. Invest in building synchronous and modern rural infrastructure, bright, green, clean, beautiful, civilized rural landscape, rich in traditional cultural identity [3]. Improving environmental quality, strengthening clean

water supply system in rural areas; building bright – green – clean – beautiful and safe rural landscapes; preserving and restoring the image and traditional landscape of the countryside [5]. After many years of efforts to build the country towards industrialization and modernization, farmers gradually move out of the countryside to urban areas to experience life, a new residential space with a variety of services. Urbanization is an objective inevitable process with the birth of large cities. This means that the appearance and rural space will be reduced, many farmers will become urbanites with a civilized and modern lifestyle [6].

The rural area is a spacious category and is opposite the urban area. It contains the residential area, the private and public architectural buildings (houses, yards, gardens, functional areas), the infrastructure such as road, green park, square, electricity, water supply, waste water drainage, solid waste collection point, centre for public services such as school, infirmary, club, sport place, the place for religious services (temple, church, cemetery, ...) and the place for economic activities (market, ...), the area for outdoor recreation, landscape, ... The Vietnamese rural area has a long tradition and its own character (especially very Vietnamese). Until now, besides other functions, the function of agricultural production belongs to the first rank and it must be developed in any way. Especially in the situation of integration and globalization, based on the low KAP (knowledge, attitude and practice) of farmers, the weak management of the local government, and the not complete and weak legal system ... the rural area is heavily “polluted” [7].

To conserve a rural traditional landscape, for many years, landscape protection in Vietnam has been mentioned in a number of Laws and

documents under the Law, mainly focusing on documents such as: Law on Biodiversity (2008, 2018), Law on Urban Planning (2009, 2022), Law on Minerals (2010), Law on Cultural Heritage (2013), Law on Environmental Protection (2014, 2020), Law on Forestry (2017), Law on Planning (2017)... However, the landscape in general and the traditional rural landscape of Vietnam in particular are disappearing day by day because the lack of regulations, guidelines that can identify the concept (terms) of landscape, which comprehensively represent the landscape content in accordance with science and practice and have appropriate approaches and solutions. In order to bring perspectives from the experience of countries around the world in preserving and restoring traditional rural landscapes. From there, the author compares with the context of new rural construction, urbanization, industrialization, modernization and the impacts that transform the traditional rural landscape in Vietnam. On that basis, the article has found the approaches and solutions to deploy “Building a pilot model at the village level on conserving and restoring the traditional landscape of rural Vietnam”, suitable to the culture, customs and natural conditions of each region (02 regions, 07 ecological areas).

2. RESTORING AND CONSERVING RURAL LANDSCAPES BASED ON INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

The context of rural transition and urban development in Europe and many developed countries in Asia is closely linked to the processes of conquest, land occupation, urbanization, and industrial revolution. When urbanization occurs too rapidly, pressure on human resources, natural resources, and employment becomes a burden on society, and the solution is to move large

concentrations out of urban areas to larger rural areas for development. This movement has strengthened rural areas in terms of socio-economic development, but also has consequences and disruptions in rural life. Primitive landscapes such as forests are greatly affected by the demand for raw materials for production, as well as natural disasters such as forest fires, landslides, and snowfalls. The rural landscape was previously known for only one function, which was “the function of production” through the provision of food, agricultural and fishing products.

The process of restoring and conserving landscape creates balance for the agricultural industry with other economic sectors. Although agriculture is still considered an important sector for supplying food and raw materials for processing and manufacturing industries, it must also perform new tasks, which include preserving and conserving natural resources for life as well as improving the cultural landscapes for living spaces, economic spaces, recreational spaces...

In developed countries around the world, there is a special emphasis on ecosystems, because humans and ecosystems need each other to maintain life and develop together. Therefore, countries such as the United Kingdom, United State, Germany, Japan... mainly focus on protecting and restoring ecosystems, which currently can only exist in rural areas with large natural land areas. Ecosystems in rural areas will be particularly emphasized through institutions and government support policies to promote people's restoration of traditional rural areas, building the economy right on their own land through light industry or growing vegetables, fruits and utilizing what is available for

tourism. Because only when the economy develops stably and society is balanced, then the subsequent factors can develop sustainably. This is also a very common view in conserving and sustainably developing traditional factors in rural areas of countries around the world. Some experiences in restoring and conserving rural landscapes will be summarized below.

2.1. Planning and rural development according to the rural model in urban areas in European countries (Germany, France)

In the European community, 90% of the total land area in the country is used for agricultural production, forestry and water space. Therefore, the rural landscape in European countries is more dominant than in urban areas. In the new trend, it has been proven that a space culture with agricultural production characteristics is effective in creating and increasing employment and promoting the value-creation process.

In France, since the 1960s, the government has had a policy of planning and developing urban areas based on the rural model. This policy is considered a great success because it meets the needs and desires of the people and improves the quality of life of urban residents. It is about how people can enjoy nature while still ensuring their urban service needs. The policies and urban development projects of France are successful due to their implementation in this direction. Urban planning and development policies focus largely on promoting the greenery of rural areas around residential areas. The greenery includes fields of wheat, grapes, lavender, sunflowers, tulips...



Figure 1: Traditional rural landscape in France (Source: About-France.com)

This is both a place of production for farmers and a green space for the city. These two factors are closely related and support each other. People can consume their products in their own

city without transportation costs and storage. Meanwhile, the rural landscape becomes greener and more beautiful, creating attractive tourist destinations for visitors.



Figure 2: Traditional rural space is being conserved in the North of Germany (Source: Sciencedirect.com)

In Germany, in recent years, there has been a focus on building rural development programs for the future. This includes encouraging the development of new models for rural

development. The federal government, state governments, and the European Union have allocated funds to implement this program. Its main objective is to enhance the competitive

position of rural areas in the labor supply market and for agricultural, food processing and production businesses, while preserving the natural and cultural landscape. This aims to promote closer cooperation and collaboration between the agriculture, natural resource conservation, and irrigation sectors. There is a focus on protecting natural resources, preserving species diversity and habitat space for plants and animals. The next objective is to improve the quality of life in rural areas as well as support sustainable development of rural regions, implement the framework decree on water resources, and projects using renewable biomass energy. The goal is to stimulate the development of regional areas [9].

2.2. Traditional rural landscape restoration and conservation combined with the development of high-tech agricultural production in Japan

Japan is known as a country with harsh natural conditions and regularly faces natural disasters. Despite having a small land area and an aging population, the country has achieved remarkable development, became a strong economy, and ranked third in the world for modern agriculture. Currently, only about 3% of Japan's population works in agriculture, but it can provide high-quality food for over 127 million people and export agricultural products thanks to its high-tech agriculture with efficient value chains. Traditional rural society in Japan is on the verge of disappearing, as the rural population has significantly decreased and the rural landscape is rapidly changing due to strong industrialization. Furthermore, many rural residents are migrating to urban areas, widening the gap between rural and urban areas [10]. To effectively restore and conserve traditional rural landscapes, the Japanese government has implemented several methods, including industrializing agriculture and attracting labor to live in the countryside.

Japanese peripheral rural communities have been undergoing a dramatic demographic and socio-economic decline, with many facing the concrete threat of disappearing over the next decades. This condition is the outcome of decades of out-migration, lack of local employment opportunities and cuts in essential public services, a situation similar to that of marginal or remote rural areas in other post-industrial countries [11]. To counter these issues, small towns and municipalities across Japan have been engaging in revitalization projects, many of which focus on attracting new residents or encouraging former outmigrants to return. Hope is being placed on in-migrants from urban areas, considered vital for bringing much-needed population and human resources back to declining small towns and villages. In parallel, Japan has seen an increase in people moving from urban to rural areas seeking lifestyle change and more meaningful ways of living, driven by disillusionment with a stagnating economy and growing social and economic precarity [12].

The Japanese government has launched the "Rural Revitalization" program, focusing on increasing the value of farmers. Policies on land, investment, credit... have been issued, large-scale machinery has been introduced for farming, and people are encouraged to participate in cooperatives to learn about preservation, processing, and trading of their agricultural products, thus increasing the value of agricultural products. Developing a unique product for each village, thereby increasing the value of agricultural products. In terms of improving the living environment, Japan has set the goal of "building rural areas as comfortable living spaces with attraction" to raise awareness of the protection of the natural environment in rural areas [13].

Moreover, Japanese farmers are encouraged to use the rural landscape where they work for entertainment purposes such as long-distance

hiking, camping, fishing... These activities attract many tourists from urban areas. Through these efforts, the Japanese government has encouraged people to stay in agriculture, plant crops, and restore damaged terraced fields or orchards to restore the landscape in their living

areas [14]. Not only for production, some places in Japan also utilize traditional crafts, scenic resources to develop tourism and eco-tourism, such as Mount Fuji, Kyushu, Fukuoka, Asanoya...



Figure 3: Ogimachi Village, Japan (Source: japan-guide.com)

2.3. Rural tourism development to conserve and protect the landscape in Taiwan

Rural tourism has many positive impacts on the development of agriculture, income of farmers, and living standards in rural areas. Integrated with natural landscapes, other tourist attractions, and local culture, implementing rural tourism uses entertainment services to achieve agricultural development, conserve and protect landscapes.

Rural tourism has become a type of agricultural management in Taiwan. Currently, there are two different development models. One is for

government projects supported by the central government in terms of finance and management methods for rural tourism. The other model is a commercial project supported by the budgets of organizations/companies. This type usually takes the form of a recreational farm.

Rural tourism ensures benefits for farmers, helps farmers bond with their land, where they live, preserves landscapes, and community tourism not only focuses on nature and the environment, but also needs to focus on customers and strive to provide the best services and experiences for visitors [15].



Figure 4: A new corner of rural landscape in Taiwan (Source: nongnghiep.vn)

2.4. Festival tourism development in the countryside, natural landscape experience and introduction of OCOP products in Thailand

Thailand is known as a leading country in the world for rice exports, with a long-standing agriculture sector, climate, and soil conditions like Vietnam. The rural population accounts for about 80% of the country's total population, which has promoted the sustainable development of the agriculture sector. In addition to implementing strategies to create a foundation for sustainable agriculture development, the Thai government has promoted policies and provided guidance to encourage people to

appreciate the achievements that sustainable agriculture can bring, encouraging people to stay in agriculture, increase production, and restore traditional rural landscapes [16]. Local authorities and non-governmental organizations closely cooperate to develop festival tourism in rural villages such as organic agriculture festivals, harvest festivals, silk festivals... These festivals all carry the traditional cultural characteristics of the local area. Tourists can also experience many interesting activities such as planting rice, collecting tea leaves, weaving, and enjoying the living environment and landscapes of Thailand's rural areas, as well as locally produced One Commune One Product (OCOP) products.



Figure 5: The New Rural Program changes the face of Thailand's rural landscape

(Source: <https://www.mpi.gov.vn/>)

2.5. Preservation and development of craft village, traditional rural landscape preservation combined with ancient village tourism in China

China's rural areas are widely distributed and numerous, and the rural population occupies about half of the total population of the country. 2020, the household population of villages in the country is about 777 million, the number of administrative villages is 690,000, and the number of natural villages is about 2,633,000. The perennial inflow of the rural population to the towns accelerates the population loss in rural areas. The long-term urban-rural development asymmetry leads to a low level of economic development, backward infrastructure conditions, scarce employment resources in rural areas, and a wide gap in urban development [17].

China is vast, and different topography and climate have created different regional cultures. Regional culture lays down the cultural heritage and injects development momentum for both

urban and rural areas and is an indispensable and important element for the integrated development of urban and rural areas. Rural space is a spiritual and cultural space shared by villagers, carrying and transmitting a humanistic spirit, but the regional characteristics are not fully reflected in the current rural construction, and rural areas are facing the embarrassing situation of "a thousand villages" to different degrees.

Rural spatial planning should pay attention to the development of rural culture, strengthen the protection of rural culture, and promote the inheritance and development of rural culture [18]. However, in practice, there is an imbalance between material transformation and spiritual satisfaction, and the focus of attention is more on how to improve rural economic development, often neglecting the needs of rural spiritual and cultural development, which is not conducive to the inheritance and development of Chinese vernacular culture and spirit. Some places ignore local culture and

characteristics in village construction and farmhouse design, fail to incorporate local traditional habits and customs into the planning and design, change the distinctive national characteristics and lose the excellent cultural traditions [19].

Rural areas are an important part of a country.

With the economic and social development, the disparity between urban and rural areas has caused a large number of rural people to flow into the cities to earn a living, and the problems of hollowing out, ageing and low vitality have emerged in rural areas in different degrees in China [17].



Figure 6: New Rural Landscape in China (Source: <http://tapchimattran.vn>)

China is undergoing rural revitalization with the "Agriculture-Rural-Farmers" policy, aiming to change the face of rural areas and improve the quality of life for people in rural areas.

For rural areas with traditional industries that need to be conserved and developed, restructuring and planning are carried out with the spirit of conserving traditional production values while modernizing rural areas. Each village is planned in a coordinated manner. In addition to typical house designs that consider traditional production factors, there is also planning for public spaces to honor, promote and advertise these values. Ancestral craft temples are created, and large cultural

playgrounds are planned in the overall village planning. Images, models, and traditional handicrafts are fully preserved in a regional museum [20].

In China, the ancient village is a combination of material cultural heritage and intangible cultural heritage, a lively carrier of the unique rural features of the countryside, a time projection of rural construction and development, and a traditional cultural space carrying ancient culture. Tourism in ancient villages is the main way for tourists to understand historical culture and experience live folk culture. Since urbanization, it has been the focus of attention in the development of tourism. However, with the continuous

advancement of urbanization and the development of rural tourism, rural space has been reshaped, especially through the commercialization of tourism in the ancient village cultural space, which is in sharp conflict with the residents' imagination of a good life. To make the ancient village cultural space a sustainable tourism resource, and transform the top-down tourism management concept, it is necessary for residents to become the main body of the cultural space display, with the development of tourism and the imagination of the residents' good life developed in parallel, to seek harmony between the cultural space and the residents' symbiosis is very necessary [21]. China is also aiming to improve the quality of life in rural areas that is not inferior to urban areas, even better than new urban areas due to low construction density and a healthy environment.

The model of restoring the space of ancient villages and traditional craft villages is also being implemented in India. The community of craft villages combines practical activities with a wax model to recreate the production and living scene of the villagers. Tourists hear stories about the formation and development of the village, describing traditional production techniques and the unique characteristics of local products. For villages and places that no longer produce traditional handicrafts, these models serve as a dynamic treasure trove of materials to preserve history for future generations of India.

2.6. Forest Restoration in Landscapes by WWF's (World Wildlife Fund)

WWF's vision for the forests of the world, forest loss and degradation are a particularly important element in this worldwide problem and is one of the largest and most complex challenges of the 21st century. WWF has implemented and resulted in a target for forest restoration of 20 landscapes of outstanding

importance within priority ecoregions to regain ecological integrity and enhance human well-being [22]. Process and lessons learned in Forest Restoration in Landscapes by WWF in longtime same as (i) Identifying and Using Reference Landscapes for Restoration, (ii) Mapping and Modelling as Tools to Set Targets, Identify Opportunities, and Measure Progress, (iii) Policy Interventions for Landscape Restoration, (iv) Local Participation, Livelihood Needs, and Institutional Arrangements: Three Keys to Sustainable Rehabilitation of Degraded Tropical Forest Lands, (v) Negotiations and Conflict Management, (vi) Monitoring forest restoration projects in the Context of an Adaptive Management Cycle (AMC), and (vii) Monitoring and Evaluating Forest Restoration Success...WWF show that the basic problem is that what is perceived as "degraded" by one interest group may be perceived as desirable by another group. Foresters consider land degraded if it does not support a crop of commercially valuable trees. Ecologists consider a forest degraded if it does not have multiple layers of vegetation and a reasonable number of dead or decaying trees as a habitat for birds and invertebrates. Amenity groups do not like dense forests; they want mosaics of woodland and open land with extensive views. The list is endless. The basic lesson is that there can never be a single vision of an "endpoint" for restoration that will automatically meet with the approval of all interested parties [22]. These lessons help us to choose solutions and organize the implementation to harmonize the interests of the parties in restoring and preserving the landscape.

2.7. Experiential lesson from Korea's "New Village Movement"

The rural/community renewal movement "Seamaulundong" or New Village is one of the most important legacies of the history of rural development in Korea. In the context of

similarities in culture, value system, lifestyle between Vietnam and Korea and the similarities in the rural development program between the two countries, the movement has shown Vietnam and many countries around the world many valuable lessons: (i) the implementation of the project shall be based on a determination of the need for local people and communities. The project must exploit and promote local strengths, have long-term impact, spread, especially feasible in term of finance, human resources and time; (ii) The respect of link between communes in the process of project implementation to be able to connect resources and create high efficiency, and (iii) The respect of link between rural and urban areas, increasing the value of agricultural products, promoting production development in rural areas. The government encouraged villagers to upgrade their farming industry and advocated for them to develop new types of agriculture such as agritourism [17].

During the later stages of the New Village Movement, the government paid more attention to the villagers' wishes and formed an interactive model of villagers' participation led by the government "The Spirit of Saemaul" has determined the success of the movement, which is considered by the Korean people as the "Spiritual nucleus" in building an advanced society and a prosperous nation which starts in the rural areas. The movement's characteristic is not simply as an action plan, but "a campaigning for consciousness reform" along with "advocacy to take action". The reform of people's consciousness is based on the spiritual slogans: "Once done, it can be done", "All can be done" and "Must do". The awareness and initiative of villagers' autonomous participation have been significantly enhanced, and they actively participate in the development process and figure out the development path that suits them [17]. With the achieved results from the starting point, farmers have regained their

confidence, excitedly embarked on building their village more spacious and better life [18][19][23].

2.8. International experiential lesson from failure in restoring and conserving rural landscapes

A broadly shared understanding and acceptance by all stakeholders is fundamental to the success of any restoration project. There are countless examples of attempts at restoration failing because one person's "restoration" is often another person's degradation. Here are some examples: (i) Attempts by the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry to "restore" Imperata grasslands by planting trees failed because local people had no use for the trees (they belonged to the foresters), but they made extensive use of the grasslands. The grasslands provided fodder for their cattle and grass for roofing. (ii) Attempts to plant spruce forests to restore the degraded moorlands of northern England and Scotland were opposed by amenity and conservation groups because the moorland scenery had come to be accepted as "natural" and "beautiful" and it was the habitat of rare birds. (iii) Government attempts to restore tree cover on the uplands of Vietnam were opposed by local people because the types of trees planted by the government were not the ones that local people needed or could use. (iv) Government-sponsored tree-planting schemes in China have denied local people access to medicinal plants and have damaged the habitats of rare plants and animals in the dry mountainous areas of southwestern and western China. (v) Attempts to restore pristine nature in degraded areas in the United States are opposed by some conservationists who consider that such artificially restored areas can never have the value of a pristine landscape.

3. THE LESSONS CAN BE USED FOR RESTORING AND CONSERVING TRADITIONAL RURAL LANDSCAPES

IN VIET NAM

Lessons learned for successful steps in restoring and conserving international landscapes: The first task in any broad-scale restoration initiative, therefore, is to find out what everyone would ideally like to see as an outcome and then to negotiate compromises between what will inevitably be a collection of different viewpoints and attempt to come up with a scenario that is acceptable to all. It is unwise to assume that once an endpoint has been negotiated that the “visioning thing” is done. As landscapes change so the perceptions and needs of interest groups will evolve. Restoration is often a moving target. Markets, recreational needs, conservation priorities... all change with time, and what people want today will not necessarily be what they will want tomorrow.

To ensure successful restoration and maintenance of international landscapes, it is crucial to address several key questions: What should be restored? For whom? And why? Unfortunately, these questions are often overlooked in restoration projects, but they should be answered by the real stakeholders - local people, conservation organizations, and others who will be affected by the project. It is important to avoid expert-driven programs and instead involve all stakeholders in the planning process.. To implement landscape restoration effectively, several tools can be used, including (i) working with scenarios, visions, and stakeholder processes; (ii) understanding development trajectories; (iii) using monitoring and evaluation as a management tool; (iv) being realistic about designer landscapes; (v) initiating and facilitating projects/programs within landscapes of high restoration priority; building local capacity to plan and implement landscape restoration interventions; developing suitable monitoring tools and techniques to measure progress; and documenting, exchanging, and disseminating lessons learned and experiences. While the above

considerations may suggest the need for heavy planning processes, it is best to start with a few experimental restoration activities based on the outcomes of initial stakeholder discussions. These trials will establish credibility and permit learning, which will enrich ongoing stakeholder negotiations. The goal should be to build a community of interest groups that can experiment and learn together, fine-tune their objectives, and adapt their programs as they advance. In Vietnam, a suitable approach for the period of 2021-2025 would be to build a pilot model at the village level for conserving and restoring the traditional landscape of rural areas. Each region has different cultural and ecological characteristics, so it is essential to start small, provide outside inputs gradually, and avoid setting up bureaucracies. By learning and adapting as the project progresses, it will be possible to achieve remarkable restoration achievements and set and update goals and endpoints effectively.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In fact, not only in Vietnam, the development process of many countries around the world, the situation of “New and Old”, “Modernization”, “Europeanization” make many spaces and landscapes in many rural areas disappear, in some places, completely lost by the “forced” replacement of people, or the pressure of population and housing in the process of urbanization. According to international organization “If we wait until tomorrow to restore landscape, it will be too late. If too little is left, it will take longer, will be more difficult, and will cost much more to begin restoring a rural tradition landscape and it may also be too late”[17].

An important key issue in conservation and preservation of traditional rural landscape needs to start from the planning step and form the connection models to create spaces that both

inherit the traditional village model and bring comfort elements with urban living quality. Deploying solutions in order to improve the existing space for the villages to develop more beautiful in the trend of urbanization, but still preserving traditional culture values, making up the core of Vietnamese village.

Developing and implementing the solutions to encourage the community to protect the village space, use traditional materials in the construction of works, etc. to create its own inherent identity.

The model that domestic and foreign experts come up with to help harmonize urban and rural landscape architecture in Vietnam is “agri-town”. Professor, PhD, Architect Hoang Dao Kinh explains: “Agriculture is a community institution that combines the economy of farming and animal husbandry with convenience and quality of urban life. The agri-town have a town structure with a technical

infrastructure system that reaches the urban level, while maintaining a low construction density. Each household unit maintains a house-garden structure, which partially meets the demand for food and housing architecture with low-rise building types. This model has been successfully applied in France, Germany, Japan, or United States. Accordingly, right in the heart of the city, there is still a need for green spaces, not just parks or lakes, even agricultural production areas right in the heart of the city.

In addition, the State needs to accelerate the amendment, supplement, and completion of the system of legal documents related to agriculture, farmers and rural areas to create conditions for businesses to invest in agricultural and rural production, but still have to pay attention to planning and land issues and orientate socio – economic development while preserving the rural landscape.

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