

Credit Growth Associated with Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy: A Case Study in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam

Dr. Trinh Bui Van¹, Dr. Tri Pham Minh²

Abstract

The Mekong Delta is the country's largest agricultural production region, contributing to ensuring national food security and export. The promotion of agriculture for sustainable development is an urgent task today, approached in many different ways but mainly to change the behavior of producers according to the principle of sustainability by applying many policies, including credit policy. Credit policy support actively economic, social development, and environmental protection, but the relationship between credit growth and the Sustainable Agriculture Development Strategy is still far away and unparallel. This study mainly focuses on credit activities' analysis and their relationship in six provinces in the Mekong Delta (An Giang, Dong Thap, Vinh Long, Hau Giang, Kien Giang, and Ca Mau). Based on the analysis results, the authors propose policy implications to promote credit growth and support agriculture in this region for sustainable development.

Keywords: Credit growth; Environmental protection; Sustainable development; Mekong Delta, Vietnam.

1. INTRODUCTION

In Vietnam, agricultural production has achieved many successes in recent years but still faces numerous challenges and lacks sustainability (Son Nguyen Hong and Minh Ngo Duc, 2022). These challenges include depleted resources, environmental degradation, climate change, and market fluctuations. The Mekong Delta, in particular, is highly vulnerable to climate change, with issues like rising sea levels, saline intrusion, and drought (Chi Nguyen Thi Minh, 2018).

Sustainable agricultural development is a government priority as outlined in the Agriculture Restructuring Plan for 2021-2025, with a vision for 2050. The focus is on transitioning to a modern, sustainable, and environmentally friendly agricultural model, involving large-scale operations, advanced technology, and value chain integration (Dung Pham Ngoc and Men Bui Thi, 2022; Hoan Nguyen Van, 2020). Successful agricultural restructuring requires substantial capital investment and supportive credit policies. Financial institutions have shown interest in credit investments in this sector, emphasizing environmentally friendly practices, risk mitigation, and sustainable development through preferential interest rate packages (Dung Pham Ngoc and Men Bui Thi, 2022; Hoan Nguyen Van, 2020).

¹ Mekong University, Vietnam, bvtrinh@ctu.edu.vn

² School of Economics and Law – Tra Vinh University, Vietnam, minhtri0101@gmail.com

However, a common challenge in accessing bank credit is that most borrowers are small-scale farmers and micro-enterprises with limited capital and assets. Additionally, lending in the agricultural sector often focuses on short-term and seasonal needs, lacking long-term sustainability investments. Although agricultural value chains have developed in various regions, coordination among stakeholders remains insufficient, making credit risk management complex (Chi Nguyen Thi Minh, 2018). As a result, agricultural credit growth has been slow.

To provide a clear picture of banking credit activities in the Mekong Delta, this research analyzes the current state of credit activities and their relationship with the Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy. Based on this analysis, policy implications will be proposed to encourage credit investment and support sustainable agricultural development in the region.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

2.1 Overview of Agricultural Credit Growth

Credit growth involves financial institutions employing appropriate methods to increase capital mobilization, utilizing those funds for credit activities, discounting, and investing in entities such as economic organizations or individuals with borrowing needs, gradually enhancing profitability, market share, and brand recognition in the market (Hoang Tran Huy, 2009). Credit growth doesn't only focus on increasing revenue for banks but also plays a role in supporting economic and social development while protecting the environment. Agricultural credit debt consistently holds a significant proportion within the various economic sectors.

Agricultural credit exhibits several distinctive characteristics concerning customer base (diverse and multi-faceted) and potential risks. Notably, agricultural production often involves small-scale operations, is seasonal in nature, and increases the cost of lending. Consequently, lending in the agricultural sector may appear less attractive to financial institutions when compared to commercial or industrial sectors. In Vietnam, the growth of agricultural credit primarily relies on the State's policies and measures aimed at encouraging financial institutions to invest credit capital in this sector, facilitating the transition in agricultural structure, developing infrastructure, eradicating hunger, and reducing poverty.

2.2 Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy

Sustainable Agricultural Development (SAD) is the process of managing and maintaining organizational, technical, and institutional changes in agriculture to meet the increasing human demand for agricultural products and services. This development process must be closely tied to the responsible utilization of natural resources, production organization, technological applications, and the establishment of suitable institutions, ensuring a harmonious balance between economic, social, and environmental goals. The aim is not only to satisfy current agricultural needs but also to safeguard the potential for future development (FAO, 2013; Chung Do Kim and Dung Kim Thi, 2013; Dong Vu Van and Nghia Ngo Tuan, 2019).

The strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Development can be directed from various perspectives, such as focusing on technology utilization to reduce reliance on non-renewable resources or minimizing environmentally harmful inputs. Sustainable agriculture can also be viewed in terms of resilience and the capacity for long-term sustainability. Therefore, the strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Development concerns not only the environment but also economic and social aspects. Achieving a balance among these three dimensions is a significant challenge. Various typical approaches to Sustainable Agricultural Development include organic agriculture, appropriate site

selection, input reduction, climate change adaptation, value chain approaches, and more (DFID, 2004; Binh Vu Trong, 2013).

2.3 The Relationship Between Credit Growth and Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy

The relationship between credit growth and the Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy is reflected through domestic agricultural development support policies. These policies consist of a system of principles, tools, and appropriate measures that the government applies to regulate agricultural activities to achieve sustainable agricultural development. The key focus is on improving productivity, enhancing quality and competitiveness, developing infrastructure, improving the livelihoods of rural populations, and increasing international integration within the sector (Phuong Nguyen Thi Minh, 2019).

Several sustainable agricultural development policies have garnered attention, such as policies on the application of science and technology, agricultural restructuring, and credit policies. Regarding agricultural credit policies, some countries set limits on the floor credit amount. Financial institutions tend to fulfill these responsibilities reluctantly, seeking ways to circumvent them by providing loans to businesses engaged in trading agricultural products or processing agricultural products. Consequently, small-scale agricultural production, especially at the household level in rural areas, may encounter difficulties accessing formal capital. To address this issue, some countries have allowed the establishment of specialized rural agricultural banks to support customers in accessing credit at low-interest rates (Dung Pham Ngoc and Men Bui Thi, 2022).

In Vietnam, credit policies aimed at supporting agricultural and rural development focus on credit capital investment in seven priority areas, which include: (1) lending for operating expenses related to production and business; (2) lending for industrial, commercial, and service production in rural areas; (3) lending for seed production (crops, livestock, aquaculture), afforestation, and the supply of agricultural production-related products and services; (4) lending for the development of industries in rural areas; (5) lending for the National Target Program on New Rural Development; (6) lending for the daily needs of rural residents; (7) lending for government economic programs related to agriculture and rural areas.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

The research utilizes a synthetic analysis method based on annual reports data from the State Bank of Vietnam's (SBV) six branches in the Mekong Delta region (including upstream provinces like An Giang and Dong Thap, midland provinces like Vinh Long and Hau Giang, and coastal provinces like Kien Giang and Bac Lieu) for the period from 2018 to 2022, legal policies available on the Government's official portal, and specialized journals to analyze agricultural credit activities and sustainable agricultural development policies in the region. Based on this data, agricultural credit operations and sustainable agricultural development policies in the Mekong Delta are evaluated using detailed, comparative, and interpretative analysis methods to provide a basis for proposing policy implications aimed at promoting credit growth and supporting sustainable agricultural development in the region.

4. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Research Findings

4.1.1 Policies Supporting Sustainable Agricultural Development

Agriculture has been identified as one of the priority sectors for capital investment in recent years. SBV has directed financial institutions to vigorously implement Government Decrees concerning credit policies for agricultural and rural development. Many preferential policies have been applied to businesses that organize models linking farmers from production to product consumption, applying advanced technology to increase the value of products. Notably, the scope of eligible borrowers without collateral has doubled, allowing clients to use assets formed from project loan capital and high-tech production methods as collateral. Additionally, SBV has issued various policies to encourage credit investment in agriculture and rural areas, including interest rate caps for short-term loans in Vietnamese dong, which are 1-2% lower than those for other conventional sectors. Currently, the applied interest rate for priority sectors is 4.5% per year. SBV also has policies to support credit capital for agriculture and rural areas, such as recapitalization and reducing required reserve ratios.

Financial institutions have enhanced the implementation of specialized credit programs and policies, including: credit encouragement for high-tech agriculture and clean agriculture; credit support with interest rate subsidies to reduce losses in agriculture; credit for purchasing agricultural products for export; credit for shrimp and catfish farming; credit support for offshore fishing (Dung Pham Ngoc and Men Bui Thi, 2022).

4.1.2 The Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy in the Region

The Mekong Delta has great potential for diversified agriculture to meet market demand both domestically and internationally. Currently, with over 2.4 million hectares of agricultural land and nearly 700,000 hectares of aquaculture, many specialized areas for key agricultural products have been formed, concentrating production on a large scale, integrating processing technology, and marketing through agricultural value chains. It is also shifting towards sustainable agricultural restructuring, while intensifying research and the application of science and technology (Anh Nguyen Hoang, 2021). However, the Mekong Delta is also greatly affected by climate change, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and other factors. Spontaneous and small-scale production practices are still common. The economic restructuring from rice monoculture to aquaculture, exploitation, fishing, processing, and export of aquatic products is still limited (Luan Nguyen Minh, 2016).

To support sustainable agricultural development, the Party and the State have issued various guidelines and policies. The goal by 2030 is to develop the Mekong Delta into a dynamic, sustainable, and highly efficient agricultural economic center of the nation, the region, and the world. This will be achieved by developing a system of agricultural centers that can adapt to climate change.

An important aspect to note is the efforts led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Mekong Delta provinces to reduce at least 30% of total greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to the 2020 level in farming and livestock activities. Some activities have been implemented, such as An Giang applying models of floating rice production (rotating 1-2 rice crops with lotus, combined with natural fish harvesting) and blue-legged shrimp farming in upstream flooded areas. Dong Thap is implementing climate change-adaptive agricultural production models linked to building agricultural value chains (SRP standard-linked rice production-consumption model, and 1P5G standard-linked rice production model) (Luan Nguyen Minh, 2016).

4.1.3 The current situation of agricultural credit activities in the Mekong Delta

In recent times, credit policies for the development of agriculture and rural areas have contributed positively to promoting production, business, and economic restructuring in the region. With provisions for interest rate caps on short-term loans in VND lower than other sectors by 1% - 2%, tailored credit packages appropriate for different sectors and industries, various forms, and strong support solutions for lending have been introduced. Financial institutions have proactively balanced their capital sources to meet the timely and full credit demand within the region. They have also implemented several specialized credit programs to support businesses and individuals investing in key agricultural products in the region.

It is through the coordinated implementation of various measures and support policies for businesses and individuals in the agricultural sector and credit investment in agriculture that significant results have been achieved in recent years. From 2018 to 2022, the average credit growth in the 6 surveyed provinces was 11.72%, with an average outstanding debt of 60,250 billion VND. Statistics indicate (Figure 1) that credit for the development of agriculture and rural areas in the region has seen an average growth of 10.66%, corresponding to an average outstanding debt of 27,185 billion VND, accounting for 44.67% of the total average outstanding debt. Among these provinces, Hậu Giang and An Giang have the highest proportion of loans in the agricultural and rural sectors, at 62.05% and 60.62%, respectively. In 2021, there was the highest agricultural and rural credit growth at 16.56%, equivalent to an increase of 6,769 billion VND compared to 2020.

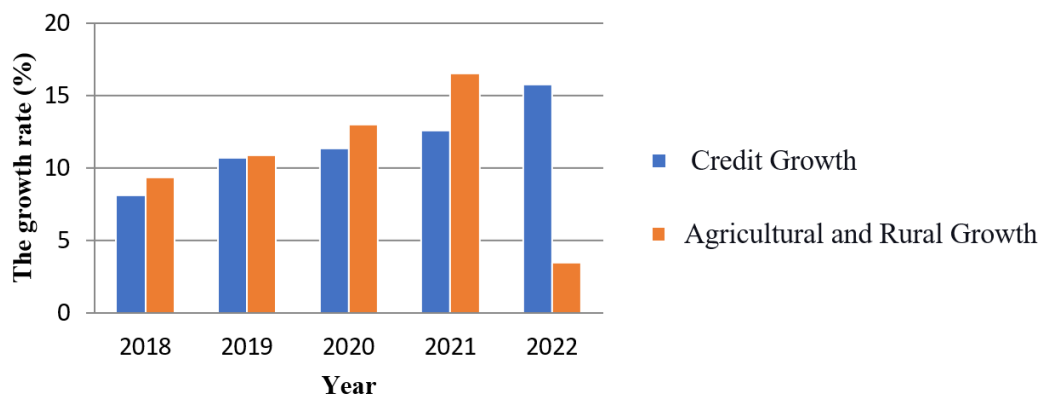


Figure 1: Growth of agricultural and rural credit outstanding balance 2018 – 2022

Source: Reports from the branches of the SBV in the Mekong Delta region, period 2018 - 2022

4.1.4 The current situation of credit activities supporting the sustainable agricultural development strategy in the region

When considering the credit structure divided by economic sectors, credit debt for the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries sector consistently accounts for a higher proportion compared to the Industrial and Construction sector, as well as the Trade and Services sector, averaging around 50.50% of the total credit debt during the period of 2018 – 2022 (Figure 2). However, a majority of bank loans taken by agricultural businesses and farmers in the local area are short-term loans, while medium and long-term loans make up an average of only about 34.49%. The debt structure for medium and long-term loans has been gradually improving over the years. In 2018, the average proportion of medium and long-term loans accounted for 28.46%, but by the end of 2022, it had increased to 36.84%, with medium and long-term loans making up 48%. Financial institutions have been increasing their credit support for investments in medium and long-term agricultural

projects, primarily for the acquisition of machinery and equipment to support agricultural production and reduce agricultural losses.

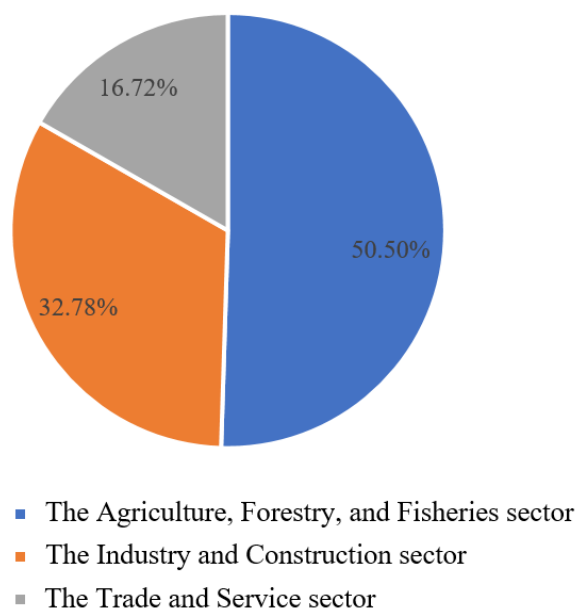


Figure 2: Credit debt breakdown by Economic sector in 2022

Source: Reports from SBV Branches, 2022

In addition, the debt for restructuring agricultural sector within the region remains very low, accounting for only 0.61% of the total debt in the agricultural and rural sector in 2022, equivalent to 2,928 billion VND. This indicates that credit activities still face many challenges, despite the banking sector's efforts to reduce interest rates, increase credit limits, streamline the loan application process, and focus on funding for sustainable agriculture projects, technology integration into farming, and environmentally-friendly business initiatives.

Another drawback in the lending activities of financial institutions is that the collateral requirements are still too strict, especially concerning asset-backed loans. The evaluation of asset value to secure loans is often low, which doesn't encourage businesses and farmers to invest in large-scale production.

Regarding the credit debt in support of the National Target Program on New Rural Development within the region, although there has been growth over the years, the scale of credit is still very low compared to the total credit debt. As of the end of 2022, the debt for the National Target Program on New Rural Development only accounted for 2.76% of the total credit debt, equivalent to 12,398 billion VND. The Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam (Agribank) is still the leading bank in this sector, primarily focusing on environmentally-friendly business support, sustainable livestock and crop value chains, support for international standard rice production, and high-tech applications. Interest rates for these loans have decreased by 0.5% to 1.5% compared to regular loan rates.

Although the value of credit debt for the National Target Program on New Rural Development has increased over the years, it still represents a very small proportion of the total credit debt. This reflects the challenges of investing credit in sustainable agriculture: the need for large, long-term capital; uncertain product markets; limited technical knowledge among farmers; and products that don't meet standards. These challenges can lead to the discontinuation of some sustainable agriculture projects, and banks may face difficulties in recovering loans.

4.2 Discussion

Through the analysis of credit capital sources invested in the agricultural sector, the relationship between credit growth and the National Target Program on New Rural Development has highlighted several issues that require attention from regional management agencies and even the banking sector.

First and foremost, the Mekong Delta region still lacks a comprehensive regional development strategy and framework to promote inter-regional connectivity. Many key economic sectors and the region's primary products with competitive advantages are not well-integrated, and there is even competition among provinces within the region. The decentralization of decision-making in public investment has empowered localities to exercise creativity, but it has also led to competition between provinces, resulting in suboptimal investment decisions. Sustainable agricultural development should aim for a harmonious balance between economic, social, and environmental aspects, even within the region.

As a consequence, there is overlap and dispersion in investments, making the credit capital from banks fragmented. There are very few credit investments in large enterprises capable of leading the market. Despite positive efforts to restructure agriculture towards high-value and environmentally sustainable practices in various regions, these models have not yet become widespread.

Additionally, the mechanisms to promote effective collaboration between the state, investors, farmers, scientists, and banks along the value chain in agricultural production are not well-suited. Currently, the primary participation comes from farmers and the state, while the roles of scientists remain unclear, and banks encounter various barriers when assisting farmers in terms of mechanisms and policies. These limitations are primarily attributed to a lack of planning and coordination among relevant stakeholders in agricultural production. On the other hand, many households lack the resources needed to transition to new production models and apply scientific and technical knowledge.

In the current context, businesses are recognized as the nucleus and driving force to propel agricultural production towards commodity-oriented, large-scale operations, and the application of science and technology. They are essential for improving product quality, boosting agricultural exports, and adapting to climate change. However, there is still a scarcity of large enterprises actively participating in the agriculture sector to lead the market. The organization of production into value chain linkages, with businesses as the core drivers, remains underdeveloped, and the application of advanced technology in production and supply chain management, source tracking, and sustainability is limited.

This unsustainable development has created difficulties for banks when investing credit capital. Furthermore, despite the agricultural and rural credit debt always having a high proportion of short-term loans, particularly the credit capital allocated for restructuring agricultural production in the region remains relatively low. Specifically, during the period from 2018 to 2022, there has been a noticeable trend of increasing and efficiently utilizing medium and long-term credit for rural agriculture. Many banks have proactively introduced preferential credit programs for individual and business customers, with a focus on green and environmentally friendly sectors, offering favorable interest rates.

However, to effectively invest credit capital in the agricultural sector within the region, there is a need for greater alignment between banking credit and the regional agricultural restructuring strategy. Credit activities that support the strategic development of agriculture in the region towards sustainability continue to face several challenges. Farmers still encounter difficulties in accessing bank credit, and there are risks associated with investing in this sector.

Agricultural production inherently carries various risks, such as those related to natural disasters, disease outbreaks, shifts in consumer preferences, and unstable consumption

markets. However, mechanisms for risk management and prevention, such as agricultural insurance, have not been widely implemented. This situation significantly affects the financial capacity and loan repayment ability of borrowers when they encounter risks in production and business.

Moreover, the agricultural product consumption market lacks stability, and there is limited value addition in the sector. Inadequate organization and development of value chains result in low added value within the sector. The limited number of effective value chain partnerships creates difficulties in managing cash flows after disbursement.

In conclusion, the analysis and evaluation indicate that despite the agricultural and rural credit debt having a high proportion of short-term loans, particularly the credit capital allocated for restructuring agricultural production in the region remains relatively low. There has been a clear upward trend in the medium and long-term credit for rural agriculture, even for credit capital supporting the transition to a more structured agricultural sector. Many banks have been proactive in launching preferential credit programs for business and individual customers, focusing on green and environmentally friendly sectors, offering advantageous interest rates.

However, to make efficient investments in credit capital, there must be synchronization between banking credit activities and the regional agricultural restructuring strategy. Challenges persist in credit activities supporting the sustainable development of agriculture in the region. Access to bank credit remains challenging for farmers, and investing in this sector carries inherent risks. Agricultural production is always exposed to various risks, including those related to natural disasters, disease outbreaks, shifts in consumer preferences, and unstable consumption markets. Nevertheless, mechanisms for risk management and prevention, such as agricultural insurance, have not been extensively implemented. Consequently, this situation significantly affects the financial capacity and loan repayment ability of borrowers when they encounter risks in production and business.

Additionally, the agricultural product consumption market lacks stability, and there is limited value addition in the sector. The insufficient organization and development of value chains result in low added value within the sector. The limited number of effective value chain partnerships creates difficulties in managing cash flows after disbursement.

5. CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Sustainable agriculture is an inevitable trend, bringing many benefits in the present and long term, always converging on three aspects: economic, social, and environmental. The Mekong Delta region has strengths in agriculture with many implemented agricultural support policies. Building and implementing policies require a long-term, region-wide master plan, taking into account opportunities, challenges, and external factors such as market price fluctuations and climate change. To develop agriculture sustainably, it is necessary to comprehensively implement policies, including credit policies that play a crucial role in promoting the effective implementation of the region's agricultural development strategy. However, in the coming time, the Mekong Delta region needs significant efforts, establishing links among stakeholders, improving production models to efficiently exploit the advantages of the region's key agricultural products

5.2 Policy Implications for Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Credit Growth in the Mekong Delta

In the process of implementing the Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy, the roles of state organizations, stakeholders, and the awareness and production capacity of farmers are crucial. Managers need specialized policies and mechanisms to support

sustainable agriculture, covering the supply of input factors, production processes, and market development for stability. Specifically, there needs to be a specific banking credit policy for supporting agricultural development in the region. This is considered an essential condition to encourage and promote the development of high-tech agriculture towards sustainability. Here are some key policy implications to consider:

(1) Regarding policy mechanisms and regional planning in the Mekong Delta

The Mekong Delta region needs to review and improve its policy mechanisms, considering the piloting of specific policies for the region, such as land policies, investment attraction policies, credit policies, and trade policies, to create strong incentives for investment and encourage businesses to invest in agriculture. This includes the application of sustainable agricultural models that adapt to climate change. The region should continue to promote policies that support the establishment of agricultural value chain linkages, create mechanisms for dispute resolution in agricultural contracts, and move towards a mechanism for sharing prices among actors in the agricultural value chain to ensure the interests of all participants. As a result, banking credit activities along the agricultural value chain will have more advantages in the approval of loans along the chain, moving towards providing a comprehensive range of new financial services for large-scale and long-term access to credit for farmers, farms, cooperatives, and agricultural enterprises.

Regional planning also needs to be reviewed and adjusted to align with sustainable livelihood transformation and adaptation to climate change. It is essential to proactively study the market to determine the direction of adjusting the planning of strategic sectors towards expanding the cultivation of aquaculture, fruit trees, and increasing livestock production. In specialized cultivation areas, planning should focus on developing clusters of storage, preservation, processing facilities, and direct support activities for production. Special attention should be given to implementing the Mekong Delta regional planning for the period 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050. The key focus is on promoting high-value and high-efficiency agricultural development, developing value chains for key agricultural products, and concentrating on developing eight agricultural product centers in the region (An Giang and Dong Thap for freshwater aquaculture, fruit trees, and rice; Ca Mau and Kien Giang for aquaculture, etc.).

(2) Regarding policies to promote research and the application of science and technology in production and processing

The Coordination Council for the Mekong Delta region should prioritize resources for research with high applicability in key technology sectors that serve the region's key industries. These may include applying biological technology to select and create various crop and livestock varieties and developing processes for cultivation, preservation, processing, and improving the productivity, quality, and efficiency of production, as well as enhancing resilience. Research and development should focus on developing crop and livestock varieties that are well-suited to the region's climate, weather, and ecology. Research should also aim to improve techniques and apply high technology to produce closed-loop, disease-resistant, environmentally friendly agriculture, and promote organic farming in ecological cropping systems. Developing agricultural research institutes (rice, fruit trees, and aquaculture) in the region to international standards and increasing joint ventures with enterprises and foreign institutes are essential.

To effectively apply science and technology in production and processing, avoiding the current inefficiencies, such as investing capital in applying science and technology to agricultural production under small and fragmented land conditions, the transition from small-scale farming to large-scale farming with the participation of enterprises or cooperatives is needed. The introduction of new technologies into various stages of production, from mechanization to planting schedules, processing, and harvesting, is essential. In current agricultural production, excessive use of chemicals has led to

environmental pollution and the depletion of natural resources. Virtually all stages of the production process involve various types of chemicals, from seed preparation to harvest. Excessive chemical use is causing pollution and depleting natural resources. Therefore, to limit these negative effects and ensure sustainable agricultural development, it is necessary to reduce the use of chemicals in agriculture and apply organic and environmentally friendly fertilizers, including agricultural by-products, to enrich the soil and provide beneficial nutrients to crops.

(3) Regarding agricultural insurance policies

Climate change is posing significant challenges to the Mekong Delta region. In such circumstances, agricultural insurance becomes a crucial pillar and a financial tool closely tied to agricultural production and agribusiness, serving to protect and share risks among farmers. The most significant difficulties in implementing agricultural insurance are the inadequate and incomplete understanding of farmers regarding the role and benefits of agricultural insurance, the high cost of insurance relative to their ability to pay, and insurance companies' concerns about risks and potential losses. Therefore, to solve the agricultural insurance puzzle and transform agricultural insurance into an effective tool for promoting sustainable agriculture and ensuring farmers' income, the government needs to establish a clear, transparent legal framework, creating a legal corridor for the development of the agricultural insurance market. This should be applied to the region's key agricultural products, gradually linking insurance and credit along the value chain. Agricultural insurance formats should also be diversified according to specific target groups, with mandatory insurance for farm assets (machinery, agricultural production equipment, buildings, etc.) and voluntary insurance for crops and livestock. This differentiation should be distinct from the state's support policies in cases affected by natural disasters and epidemics.

(4) Regarding specialized credit policies for the Mekong Delta region

To attract more credit capital for the agricultural sector in the region, the banking sector should continue to vigorously implement measures to promote credit investment in production linkages and high-tech applications through value chains and market nodes. Most importantly, specialized credit policies tailored to the region should be established, with long-term investments in large-scale production models, leading market intermediaries, and key agricultural products within the region. Credit policies need to be synchronized with the region's Agricultural Restructuring Strategy, closely integrated with other state policies related to agriculture and rural areas (such as agricultural promotion and publicity policies), contributing to ensuring the stable and sustainable development of agriculture.

(5) Regarding information and propaganda work

Raising awareness and promoting sustainable development thinking will help people better understand the role of science, technology, and innovative solutions in building a society. Based on this foundation, the implementation of credit growth orientation programs linked to the Agricultural Restructuring Strategy will harness the potential of natural ecosystems, social capital, and provide younger generations with tools to actively engage in combining resources from the business community with government leadership at all levels. Information and propaganda efforts should emphasize the benefits of implementing the Agricultural Restructuring Strategy, environmental protection, and the importance of sustainable development, enhancing the awareness of citizens, agencies, and organizations about the significance and trends of sustainable development

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