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Agricultural extension ideology and policies in the process of economic development in Vietnam

Truong Cong Bac

Faculty of Commerce, Van Lang University Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Corresponding Author: **Truong Cong Bac**

Abstract

Agricultural extension ideologies and policies play a core role in agriculture, an important sector in the Vietnamese economy. Throughout history, with different fluctuations in different periods, ideologies and policies on agricultural extension have corresponding changes, contributing to shaping the development of the agricultural sector. However, studies on economic ideologies in general and agricultural extension ideologies and policies in particular in Vietnam are still very modest. Therefore, to partially complement the

general research picture and provide an overview of agricultural extension ideologies and policies in Vietnam, this study goes into systematizing historical periods, thereby analyzing and evaluating agricultural extension ideologies based on implemented policies and results from these policies. In addition, the study also contributes to helping policymakers gain insight into changes in the agricultural sector and be able to make appropriate policies for the next stages of development.

Keywords:

1. Introduction

The year 2020 is considered a year full of great difficulties and challenges for the world economy. The Covid-19 epidemic has complicated developments, disrupting socio-economic activities, while the trade war between the world's two largest economies, the US and China, continues to make the world economy worse. Most countries' economies witnessed a sharp decline that has not been seen in many decades. Not outside the spiral of impacts above, with the degree of economic integration later, Vietnam's economy is also strongly affected, but this is also a time showing the remarkable resilience of this developing country. GDP growth is estimated at 2.9% in 2020, making Vietnam one of the few countries in the world with positive economic growth in a challenging context. In addition, the economy is forecast to grow 6.6% in 2021 ^[1], higher than the average growth rate of 6.3% over the past ten years. In particular, the agricultural sector has become the "support" of the economy in the face of unpredictable fluctuations in the global economy. In 1986, the export turnover of the agriculture sector only reached 486.2 million USD. By 2019, this number has reached 41.25 billion USD with a trade surplus of 9.5-10 billion USD. Especially, despite facing difficulties in 2020, the GDP of the whole agricultural sector still increased by 2.65% ^[2]. Currently, Vietnam's rice yield is the highest in Southeast Asia, reaching 5.6 tons/ha, nearly twice that of Thailand and 1.5 times that of India, becoming a country with a higher food security sustainability index than most developing countries in Asia (MARD, 2020). In order to achieve the above successes, the role of the government's economic management cannot be denied. Therefore, Vietnam's agricultural extension ideology and policies are attracting the attention of researchers as well as policymakers in different countries around the world, especially developing countries that have contemporary characteristics similar to Vietnam.

In addition, agricultural extension ideologies and policies also play an important role in economic science, contributing to laying the foundation and basis for the study of economic theories as well as making decisions and suitable plans for the economic development of the country for specific periods, avoiding repeating mistakes from the lessons of the past. Despite holding such an important role, research on Vietnam's agricultural extension ideologies and policies in recent years is still very modest, especially studies on analyzing the application of agricultural policies and evaluating their performance results over historical periods. Therefore, this study was conducted to contribute to filling the above research gap. The results obtained will provide an overview of both the development and replacement of agricultural extension ideologies and policies throughout Vietnam's history.

¹ Data from <https://www.worldbank.org/>

² Data from <https://www.gso.gov.vn>

This study has the following structure: Section 2 provides theoretical foundations, section 3 includes research methods and data. Research results and discussions are presented in section 4. Section 5 is the conclusion.

2. Literature review

Economic ideology is distinguished from economic theory in that it is normative rather than simply explaining phenomena. Economic ideology represents a view of how an economy should work and its ultimate goal, while economic theories aim to create precise explanatory models to describe how an economy is currently operating. However, the two are closely related, as the underlying economic ideology influences the methodology and theory used in the analysis ("Economic ideology," 2021). Along with the socio-economic development, economic ideas appeared very early. However, new economic ideology really flourished when economic science was born in the eighteenth century (Hai *et al.*, 2009). The development of economic ideology has always been accompanied by the birth of economic theories. Over the past 200 years alone, hundreds of economic thinkers have written thousands of books on economic theory. Therefore, the historian of economic ideology must have some selective principles, and his works can only present some of the most critical thoughts of the most important thinkers. As in their "History of economic thought," Hunt and Lautzenheiser (2015)^[5] present different groups of economic ideology from the pre-Adam Smith period to contemporary economic ideology with revival and development of labor theory of value. Or as the work "New perspectives on political economy and its history" by Marcuzzo *et al.* (2020)^[96] mentioned economic ideologies that have great influence and are considered "giants" like Smith, Ricardo, J.S. Mill, Marx, Walras, Marshall, Schumpeter, Keynes. A recent study has empirically determined that in the development of the history of economic ideology over the past 20 years, there have been three trends: 1. a kind of "stepping off the shoulders of giants," specifically a move towards studies of "lesser-known" figures and economists in the recent past; 2. the proliferation of research into unpublished works and correspondence; 3. investigations are less theoretical, linking characters and events' (Marcuzzo and Zacchia, 2016)^[7].

In addition, many scholars describe economic ideology and cultural ideology as two dimensions of popular political ideology. Economic ideology deals with the redistribution, regulation, and social insurance issues, while cultural (or 'social') ideology deals with issues of national borders and traditional morality (Johnston & Ollerenshaw, 2020)^[8]. In general, Appleby (1978)^[4] argues that ideology refers to a system of meanings shared by members of society. Inflected into all social behavior, the system of shared meanings provides information, gives direction, and provides reasons for behavior. Ideology forms the bridge between the individual and society. Meanwhile, Hai *et al.* (2009) argue that economic ideology is always the cognitive outcome of an individual, a class, or a social class at a particular period. It also has a strong impact on a country's policies and people. Typically, the Japanese economists represented by Arisawa Hiromi, Nakayama Ichiro, and Tobata Seiichi are from the generation who were educated before World War II, playing a very important role in the policy-making of the Japanese government. These economists helped Japan set an urgent agenda, set the direction of future economic development, and built a theoretical framework for Japan's industrial policy

in the face of international pressures and domestic instability from the 1930s to the 1960s (Gao, 2002). Both Keynes and Hayek argue that the impact of economic ideas on public policy is profound (White, 2012). In his work "The intellectuals and socialism," Hayek wrote:

"The views of the intellectuals influence the politics of tomorrow. . . . What to the contemporary observer appears as the battle of conflicting interests has indeed often been decided long before in a clash of ideas confined to narrow circles".

In Keynes's famous book "The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money," there is a passage:

"The ideas of economists and political philosophers, both when they are right and when they are wrong, are more powerful than is commonly understood. Indeed the world is ruled by little else. Practical men, who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influence, are usually the slaves of some defunct economist. Madmen in authority, who hear voices in the air, are distilling their frenzy from some academic scribbler of a few years back".

However, other economists have rejected Hayek and Keynes' hypothesis. The great Italian economist Vilfredo Pareto (1935) offered a completely opposite point of view in his book *Mind and Society*. In Pareto's view, the politically dominant interests in society, calculating what best serves their interests in the socio-political environment, determining both the economic policies that political government of their choice and the economic theories that its mainstream scholars apply. Academic theories are just decorative windows with no impact on selected policies. Although there exist differing views in determining the economic ideologies of scholars or the economic policies of politicians, which comes first and which governs which, it is clear that these views are clear. The above contradictions show the fact that ideology and policy are two subjects that have a close relationship and are bound to each other. At the same time, these opposing views have not yet addressed the case that policymakers are also scholars of certain economic theories. In terms of research, economic ideology appears in many related documents, such as those on the history of the theories mentioned above. Besides, there are also other empirical approaches to the process of interchangeability of economic ideology in specific countries such as Japan (Gao, 2002)^[10], the USA, Russia, and China (Ralston *et al.*, 1997), the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary (Evans and Whitefield, 1995) or even the Byzantine Empire (Laiou, 2002)^[9]. . . More specifically, agricultural extension ideologies and policies, in particular, have also been extensively studied (Lupanga, 2000; Rao, 2005; Press *et al.*, 2014)^[16, 17].

3. Methodology and data

3.1 Methodology

With the complex interrelationship between economic, political, and social ideology, it is very complicated to determine the contents of agricultural extension ideology and policies over time in a country. According to Hai *et al.* (2009), the criteria based on which to determine economic ideology include: Firstly, legal documents and economic policies of the state and of the ruling class in each country in

a specific period. The second is the personal ideology and views of the influential figures in those periods. The third is the ideas, experiences, and concepts handed down in folklore on issues related to socio-economic life. And finally, the reality of the country's development through the ups and downs and development of history. From the above suggestions, this study uses a combination of historical method and logical method through studying the changing process of ideologies according to a continuous sequence of historical periods in combination with different scientific arguments to consider, study, generalize and explain such changes. From here, an assessment, comment, and point out the nature of agricultural extension ideologies and policies in specific periods.

3.2 Data

The data used in this study is also disaggregated by historical period. For data related to archaeological sites, legal records, documents, or data on Vietnam's economic and social situation from before 1975 are referenced from the historical documents or in previous studies. For the period after the country's reunification in 1975, legal documents, state policies, and congress documents were extracted from national text data, information on indicators of the agricultural sector are obtained from the General Statistics Office and World Bank data source.

4. Results and discussion

Although humans appeared in Vietnam about 500,000 years ago ^[3] and have undergone the development and transformation of agricultural activities, however, when considering agricultural extension ideology and policy, it refers to the beginning of the state's appearance with the organization and promulgation of general regulations and rules. Therefore, this study begins to analyze the period when the first state appeared, Van Lang.

The founding period of Hong Bang - An Duong Vuong (2879 BC - 179 BC)

The Hong Bang era is a historical period belonging to the ancient era of Vietnamese history. This era was heavily based on legends and stories in works such as *Linh Nam Chich Quai* and was legitimized as a historical period through Dai Viet's history book, the book that brought Hong Bang as the first century. However, this is still considered a questionable stage. This question is based on the fact that ancient history did not write about Hong Bang's life: "Đại Việt sử ký toàn thư" in 1272 by Le Van HUU does not record anything about Hong Bang's life but started from the reign of Trieu Vu Vuong. Le Tac's *Annamese*, written in China around 1335, also does not write anything about Hong Bang's life, although it is said that Annam has been in contact with China since the time of Yao Shun. It was not until about 1377, in *Dai Viet History*, a book of the unknown author, that there was a brief mention of the Hong Bang Dynasty ("Hong Bang," 2021). At this stage, there is no concrete evidence.

Contrary to the Hong Bang era, the reign of An Duong Vuong is recognized through different records. Old history, such as *Dai Viet Su Ky Toan Thu*, *Kham Dinh Viet Su Thong Cuong Muc*, said that his time as king of Au Lac lasted 50 years,

from 257 BC to 208 BC. Modern historians based on the historical record of Sima Thien, which is the document closest to Au Lac's era that An Duong Vuong and Au Lac's state existed from about 208 BC to 179 BC, i.e., nearly 30 years (Le *et al.*, 1991). During this period, economic ideology was diversified, developing many different economic activities in which agriculture was still focused on development. This ideology bears the typical image of a country in the initial steps of national construction and is expressed through the historical site of Co Loa, which was the capital of Au Lac state under An Duong Vuong with the characteristics of the rich delta region is located connecting the waterway network of the Red River with the waterway network of the Thai Binh River, indicating that this is an area suitable for subsistence by wet-rice farming, fishing, and handicrafts.

Anti-North colonial period (179 BC - 938 AD)

During this time, Vietnam was placed under the rule of the North's dynasties such as: the North belonged to the first time (179 BC or 111 BC - 39 years) under the Trieu Dynasty, the Han Dynasty. The North belonged to the second time (43 - 541) under the Eastern Han, Eastern Wu, Cao Wei, Jin, Qi, and Liang dynasties. The North belonged to the third time (602 - 905) under the Sui and Tang dynasties. During the Autonomous Period from 905-938, there was a time when Vietnam fell into the hands of the Southern Han ("Bắc thuộc," 2021) ^[21].

During this period, the Northern court tried to make Vietnam a part of China, but this was not easy to do so. The Northern court still restrained the development by limiting certain economic activities. For agriculture, the Northern court promoted agricultural development by applying measures to improve agricultural productivity, such as teaching the native Vietnamese to cast iron plow tools for building construction. Irrigation such as river and sea dykes embankment is carried out next to several canals dug for agriculture, intensive farming to increase productivity. However, these agricultural development ideologies and policies are mainly for exploitation and exploitation through the form of tribute to the Northern court. According to Chinese history books, the proof is that the prefect of the Cuu Chan district of the Han Dynasty, Nham Dien, was instrumental in teaching the native Vietnamese to cast iron plow tools. Iron Age development helps to increase crop productivity quickly, and life is relatively full. During the second Northern period and tools, irrigation works such as embankment of river and sea dykes were also carried out. Some canals were dug for agriculture, and the Vietnamese began to apply intensive farming to increase productivity. Experiencing the process of increasing the crop and changing the crop, the Vietnamese knew how to grow two seasons of rice in a year very early, so the agricultural output is quite high. Breeding is mainly chicken, duck, cow, dog, pig. The fishing pond is just a side job. Up to the Third Era of the Northern Domination period, agriculture is still mainly rice cultivation and cash crops. In addition, there are fiber fruit trees, molasses trees, and silkworm farming. Livestock production also developed ("Kinh tế Việt Nam thời Bắc thuộc lần thứ hai," 2021).

³ <https://sites.google.com/site/dautichnguoinguythuyvietnam/loi-dung>

The period of construction and flourishing of national feudalism (938 - late 15th century)

With the characteristics of this period, the country at that time got rid of the domination of the Northern court, gained independence and self-control, creating favorable conditions for agricultural production to develop. During this period, the ideology and policy of agricultural extension played a key role, reflected in the economic policy of "farming from the village," that is, taking agriculture as the basic production industry. Measures were taken through different dynasties: During the Tran and Later Le dynasties, the state encouraged nobles and princes to spend money to recruit people to reclaim land and establish estates. During the Ly-Tran period, the dyke systems and irrigation works were formed, and in the Later Le period, more construction was added. The Dinh, Tien Le, and Ly kings annually held a ceremony to plow the land to encourage people to produce. During the early Le dynasty, the division of communal land among the peasants was divided... The feudal state also paid attention to the policy of rent and tax to encourage agricultural production (Hai and Luan, 2005) ^[23]. The results of the agricultural extension ideology and policy during this period, in general, helped the agricultural sector to achieve outstanding achievements such as the Late Le Dynasty with the policy of reclamation of plantations until 1480, the whole country had 45 plantations (Hai and Luan, 2005) ^[23]. The appearance of waterworks such as sea dyke against saltwater built in the Hong Duc era is called Hong Duc dyke nearly 25 km long, and there are still traces in the north of Hai Hau district (Institute of History, 2007).

Crisis and decline of national feudalism (16th century - 1858)

This period can be divided into two phases. The first stage was from the beginning of the 16th century when the early Le dynasty fell into a crisis of weakness, feudal forces rose to compete for power, and people's struggle movements exploded in many places. This has seriously affected agriculture. Agricultural extension ideologies and policies at this stage were not focused, mainly focusing on appropriating land to landlords and mandarins. The specific manifestation is abandoned land, continuous crop failure due to drought, dyke breakage, and floods occurring continuously (Hai and Luan, 2005) ^[23].

The second stage was when the dynasties and feudal forces became stable. In certain areas, "Inside, outside," or when the country was unified under the Nguyen Dynasty, the ideology and policy of agricultural extension were newly focused on development. Under the Tay Son dynasty, King Quang Trung had active policies to restore, stabilize and develop agriculture, such as the "agricultural extension card" issued in 1789, calling on the displaced people to return to their homeland to cultivate upland fields. Agricultural production to stabilize life, economic recovery has stalled (Institute of History, 2007). In the South, Nguyen Anh also introduced a policy of focusing on agricultural production on the basis of a large amount of fertile land, but a lot of it was abandoned, such as military exemptions, productivity bonuses, loans, etc. (Son Nam, 2009) ^[29].

In general, during this period, agricultural ideology and policy were focused, considering agriculture as a decisive or even extreme role. A clear expression of the ideology and policy of agricultural extension in this period is shown that farmers have 65 varieties of plain rice and 27 varieties of

sticky rice. There are short-term varieties of only 3-4 months, even rice varieties only 40 days. Some new crops were imported from abroad such as pepper, coffee, grape peas...(Quynh, 2004), the agricultural area under the Minh Mang dynasty (in 1820 the whole country had 3,076,000 acres, in 1840 was 4,063,892 acres, in 1847 was 4,278,013 acres) (Hai and Luan, 2005) ^[23].

French colonial rule (1858 - 1945)

During this period, under the establishment of French colonial rule, the French government implemented the policies in this period in Vietnam. At this stage, the ideology and policy of agricultural extension were focused on the purpose of plundering the country's wealth. France considered Vietnam as a supplier of raw materials, agricultural products, and cheap labor for the French colonialists, turning Vietnam into the "agricultural tail" of the domestic industry (Hai *et al.*, 2009). In 1897, the French forced the Nguyen Dynasty to sign a treaty "to cede" the right to "reclaim wasteland" to them. Soon after, France increased land grabs, establishing large plantations to grow rubber, an industrial crop that France valued at that time ("Pháp thuộc," 2021). The ideology and policy of agricultural extension of the French colonialists were expressed through the efforts of the government to control water in the North, such as the Duong River blocking dam in 1892, the Vinh Yen spillway in 1895, the continuous embankment of dykes from 1918 to 1944, and the dam. Bottom 1937 (Vietnam Agricultural Newspaper, 2014). In Cochinchina, by 1936, France had dug 1360 km of main canals and 2,500 km of auxiliary canals with a cost of about 54 to 58 million francs (Loi, 2007). The canal system was implemented for about 80 years in Cochinchina, which has completely changed the face of agriculture in the Mekong Delta, making the arable land area expanded, rice production increasing day by day, forming an agricultural commodity market. Transport also promotes efficiency through the waterway system. The French promoted the reclamation of melaleuca forests, grasslands, and lowlands in Cochinchina, such as Long Xuyen, Chau Doc, and Dong Thap Muoi (Nam, 2014). In half a century (1880-1937), the area under rice cultivation increased by 420% (522,000 acres in 1880; 2.2 million acres in 1937), the number of rice exports increased by 545% (284,000 tons in 1880; 1.5 million tons in 1937), the population increased by 260% from 1.7 million in 1880 to 4.5 million in 1937 (Anh, 1970).

Besides the agricultural extension ideology and policy of the French colonial government, during this period, Vietnam also appeared the ideas of reformers and patriotic intellectuals such as Pham Phu Thu, Nguyen Lo Trach, Nguyen Truong To. ...all consider agriculture as the root and need to take advantage of agriculture to develop.

The period of resistance against the French colonialists (1945 - 1954)

This period was when the Vietnamese revolution had to both fight resistance and built a country after independence. Ideology and agricultural extension policies in this period are especially focused, considered as the most urgent. Specific policy ways show this, such as: Launching the movement "increasing production," implementing the slogan "an inch of soil is an inch of gold." The Government has gradually implemented policies on land, rent reduction, and income reduction. In 1949, the decree to reduce rents and incomes was issued, and at the same time temporarily granting land

acquired by the French colonialists and landowners who fled to the enemy's temporarily occupied areas and divided among poor farmers ("Kinh tế Việt Nam Dân chủ Cộng hòa," 2021). In addition, the Government also took measures to overcome irrigation works, expand farming areas, set up the "Agricultural Extension Department" to take care of agricultural production. Public land is divided according to the principle of equality between men and women (Hai *et al.*, 2009). On November 13, 1945, the State issued a circular to reduce 25% of the land rent for tenant farmers, transplinters, and renters. On November 28, 1946, the Government again issued a circular reiterating the 25% reduction of land rent for those who took up farming. On July 14, 1949, the State issued Decree 78/SL to reduce land rent by 25% (Phong, 2002) [36]. These agricultural extension ideologies and policies of the Vietnamese Government have brought many achievements. Food production in 1954 reached nearly 3 million tons, an increase of 13.7% compared to 1946, the growth rate of agricultural output value in the North during the nine years of war reached 10%/year ("Kinh tế Việt Nam Dân chủ Cộng hòa," 2021).

For the temporarily occupied areas, the French colonialists also carried out extreme agricultural extension policies aimed at "fully exploiting them".

The period of building socialism in the North (1954 - 1975)

After 1954, implementing the Geneva Agreement, the country was temporarily divided into two regions, with the 17th parallel as the demarcation line. With the distinct characteristics of the two regions, the ideology and policy of agricultural extension in the two regions are different:

For the North, this period represents the idea of upholding the position and role of agricultural development. However, unlike the previous periods, agriculture in this period serves as a basis for developing other industries and is no longer oriented as a focus industry (with resources concentrated) for development. Specifically, the ideology and policies implemented include Resolution of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers' Party stating the importance of agricultural restoration and development: "The restoration and development of agricultural production is a key issue, the basis of improving people's lives, ensuring food for the people, economic prosperity, and expanding goods circulation" (Phong, 2005) [37]. In the Economic Development Plan (1955-1957), the Party and the Government also emphasized that restoring agriculture is a crucial issue for the national economy, creating conditions for other industries to develop. In particular, in May 1955, the Government issued eight policies to encourage agricultural production, including Guarantee of land ownership, protection of farmers' assets; The State encourages the reclamation and restoration, whereby the reclaimed land is exempt from tax for five years, the restored area is exempt from tax for three years, after paying agricultural tax, the state's ownership is recognized; Encourage farmers to improve techniques and increase crop production; Guarantee the freedom to hire workers and borrow money in the countryside; Encourage farmers to cooperate and help each other in production; Encourage the restoration of the family occupation; Encourage farmers to get rich, reward laborers; Protecting the rights of farmers won in the struggle, strictly forbidden to sabotage production (Hai *et al.*, 2009). The achievements of these policies are shown as follows: After three years of economic recovery (1955-

1957), the cultivated area increased by 23.5%, rice yield increased by 30.8%, and food production increased by 57%, food per capita increased by 43.6%, buffalo herd increased 44.2%, cow herd increased 39%, pig herd increased 20%. After three years of economic recovery (1955-1957), the cultivated area increased by 23.5%, rice yield increased by 30.8%, food production increased by 57%, food per capita in 1957 reached 303 kg. The output of paddy food from 3.76 million tons in 1955 increased to 5.49 million tons in 1975; pig herd from 2.45 million heads to 6.75 million heads. Correspondingly, food per capita increased by 43.6%, buffalo herd by 44.2%, cow herd by 39%, and pig herd by 20% compared to 1939 (Government, 2011). Food production in 1970, the whole North reached 5,278,900 tons, an increase of more than half a million tons in 1969. The whole year rice yield is 43.11 quintals per hectare of two-crop fields. Thai Binh province and Hanoi city achieve an average yield of over 5 tons of paddy/ha. Thirty districts, 2,265 cooperatives achieved an average yield of 5 tons of paddy/ha. The per capita income of the family members of agricultural cooperatives increased by 20% compared to 1965. In 1974, two rice crops were harvested. Rice production for the whole year reached 5,468,800 tons (in 1973, it reached 4,468,000 tons). The average yield of a rice crop is 24.18 quintals/ha. In 1974, there were nine provinces, 107 districts, and 4,226 cooperatives with a yield of 5 tons of paddy/ha for two rice crops. Thai Binh province, the leading rice yield in the North, reaches over 7 tons of paddy/ha. The irrigation system was restored and upgraded (Government, 2011).

For the South, the ideology and policy of agricultural extension in this period were focused and focused. Still, the role of agriculture was not clearly shown when simultaneously developing many other sectors. The overall goal is to develop the economy in a spread-out manner. In addition, the ideologies and policies of this period can be considered to serve more political factors and have a copy with the policies of the North. Implementation policies include The policy of "reform of land fields," stipulated in the three edicts of Ngo Dinh Diem (Edict No. 2, No. 7, and No. 57). The Saigon government also applied several measures to develop agriculture, such as a credit card (August 31, 1955), the establishment of a "farm trustee" organization, a decree on the establishment of a cooperative, invitations United Nations researchers to the South to investigate and plan for agricultural development... (Hai *et al.*, 2009). On October 2, 1967, and October 30, 1968, the Saigon government issued two decrees No. 38 and No. 47 stipulating tax exemption for 12 years for farmers who bought expropriated land. On March 26, 1970, the Saigon puppet authority officially promulgated the law "Plowers have fields." In July 1967, the Agricultural Bank was established as an alternative to "Farmers credit" to lend loans to farmers. The Saigon government also encouraged farmers to organize "Farmers Associations" to set up "Tenant Unions" to bring new machinery and techniques to the countryside through these organizations (Hai *et al.*, 2009). The results achieved by applying these policies include: Rice production was increased, but still poor: in 1955-1956 reached 2,726,000 tons, in 1956-1957 reached 3,277,000 tons, in 1957- 1958 reached 3,229,000 tons, in 1959-1960 reached 3,100,000 tons. From 1968 to 1974, the South imported about 186,000 agricultural machineries of all kinds, the amount of fertilizer imported from abroad for agriculture also increased (1965 was 179,080 tons, 1967 was 206,300 tons, 1969 was 393,123

tons). New varieties of rice such as IR5, IR8, IR20, and imported varieties are increasingly widely cultivated in the southern countryside (Hai *et al.*, 2009).

The period of building socialism in Vietnam (1975 - 1986).

During this period, ideologies and policies on agricultural extension were given special attention. Unlike the previous period when agriculture was considered a "key" sector but not a focus and priority sector, this period has returned to the top priority position. The guidelines and policies are expressed in detail in the document of the Party Congress. From the policy of prioritizing the development of heavy industry set out at the Third Party Congress to the Fourth Party Congress, a highly concentrated task is set: "The most important task is to highly concentrate all our forces to bring agriculture to develop comprehensively, strongly and firmly" (The Fourth Party Congress, 1976). At the Fifth Congress, the Party advocated continuing to promote agricultural cooperation in the South, gradually promoting the effect of cooperation on bringing agriculture to socialist mass production and new rural construction. Learning from the cooperative movement in previous years that brought the scale of agricultural cooperatives up too large in some localities, in this policy, the Party emphasized stabilizing the cooperative scale and production groups, and well organize the adjustment of scale in necessary cases (Luan, 2009) ^[39]. On January 31, 1981, the Secretariat issued Directive No. 100-CT/TW on the improvement of contracting work, expanding the "contracting of products to labor groups and workers" in agricultural cooperatives, thereby recognizing the autonomy of farmers (cooperative members have autonomy in 3 stages: planting, tending and harvesting) in order to promote agricultural development. As a result of these policies, agriculture grew at an average annual rate of 4.9% compared with 1.9% annually for the period 1976-1980. Food production has had a significant development, the yearly average from 13.4 million tons in the period 1976-1980 has increased to 17 million tons in the period 1981-1985. Industrial production grew at an average annual rate of 9.5% compared with 0.6% annually in the period 1976-1980. National income increased on average 6.4% annually compared to 0.4% in the previous five years (The Sixth Party Congress, 1987).

Doi Moi period (1986 - 1991).

For this period, agricultural extension ideology and policies continue to be focused and play a leading role. This was shown in detail at The Sixth Party Congress. In the section: "Basic directions of economic and social policies" of the Political Report of The Fifth Party Central Committee submitted to The Sixth National Congress of the Party, clearly stated: "Urgent demand for food, foodstuffs, raw materials for the production of consumer goods, for exports determines the leading position of agriculture. Agriculture must take a step forward in the direction of large production, with the main requirement of rapidly increasing the volume and ratio of agricultural commodities. Priority must be given to agriculture to meet the needs of investment in building material and technical foundations, materials and technical labor; Those investments must be used effectively." (The Sixth Party Congress, 1987). The results of these policies include: In terms of food, food, from a constant shortage of food (in 1988, the year we had to import more than 450,000 tons of rice), to 1990, we rose to meet the needs domestic

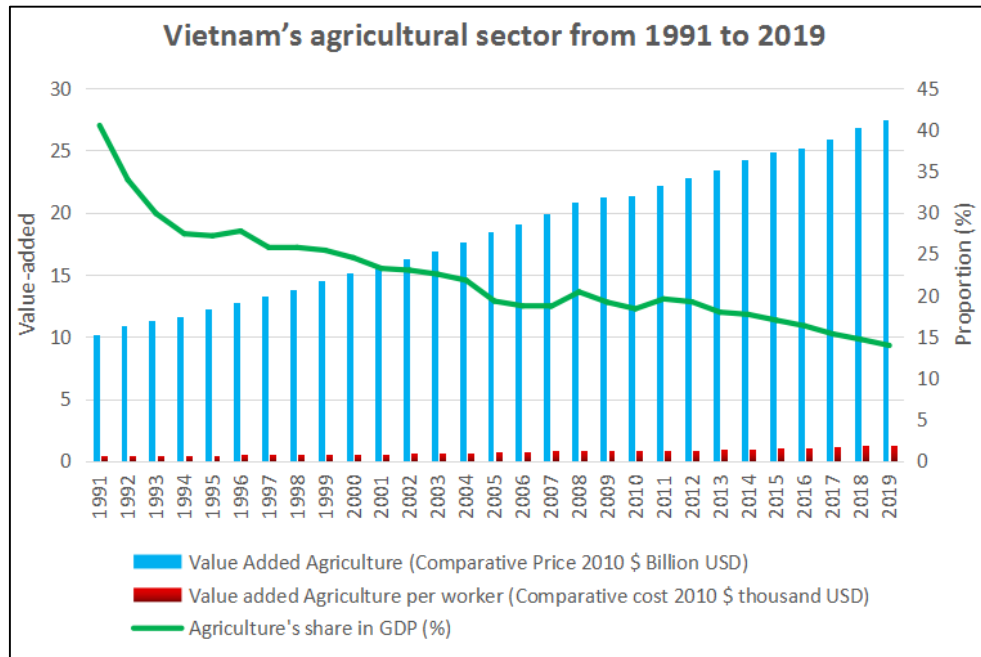
demand, with reserves and exports, making an important contribution to stabilizing people's lives and changing the balance of export - import. It is the combined result of production development, implementation of contracting policies in agriculture, elimination of subsidies, freedom of circulation and regulation of food supply and demand on a national scale. Food production in 1988 reached 19.50 million tons (more than 2 million tons in 1987) and in 1989 reached 21.40 million tons (Quynh *et al.*, 2003) ^[42].

Post-Doi Moi period (1991 - present)

Since the Doi Moi period, Vietnam's agricultural extension ideologies and policies have continued to be maintained, but the central role of the agricultural sector has been shifted to industry. This movement is shown in detail in The Seventh Party Congress on major orientations in specific economic policies: "Economic growth is associated with the process of building material-technical foundations, transforming economic structure in the direction of step-by-step industrialization, getting rid of the agricultural backwardness" (the Seventh Party Congress, 1991). Since then, the Party congresses have emphasized the critical goal of strongly transforming the economic structure and labor structure towards industrialization and modernization. However, agricultural extension policies are still interested. In 1991, Bac Thai established the Agricultural Extension Center, then Thai Nguyen Agricultural Extension Organization (formerly Bac Thai Agricultural Extension Center) was established on December 13, 1991, by the decision of the Provincial People's Committee. This was the first agricultural extension organization in the country (Before the Government's Decree No. 13 on agricultural extension); it was established to serve the agricultural development programs of the province. With the operating mechanism: Taking the countryside as the area – Farmers as the object – The professions in agriculture are the fields of development – The farmer is identified as the center ("Vietnam Agricultural Promotion," 2021). In 1992, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development established the Agricultural Extension Coordination Committee. On March 1, 1993, the Government issued Decree No. 13/ND-CP on Agricultural Extension, the agricultural extension system was officially formed and developed (Government, 1993). In 2005, the Government issued Decree No. 56/2005/ND-CP on Agricultural and Fishery Extension. At the national level: The National Agricultural Extension Center was established (separated from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Extension) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Rural Development; The Fisheries Extension Center is under the Ministry of Fisheries (Government, 2005), and these policies are constantly being updated from time to time. On June 28, 2010, the Government issued Decree No. 02/2010/ND-CP (Government, 2010) on Agricultural Extension, replacing Decree No. 56/2005/ND-CP and later replaced by Decree No. 83/2018/ND-CP dated 24/05/2018. This Decree general regulates agricultural extension with three objectives: "Improve production and business efficiency of producers to increase income, escape poverty, and enrich through information. Through training activities of farmers in knowledge, skills, and service provision activities to support farmers in high-efficiency production and business, adapting to ecological, climatic, and market conditions. Contributing to the restructuring of the agricultural economy in the

direction of developing commodity production, improving productivity, quality, food safety, and hygiene to meet domestic and export demand; promoting the process of industrialization, modernize agriculture and rural areas, build new rural areas, ensure national food security, stabilize socio-

economic conditions, and protect the environment. Mobilizing resources from domestic and foreign organizations and individuals to participate in agricultural extension." (Government, 2018).



Source: World Bank

Fig 1: Changes in Vietnam's Agriculture sector from 1991 to 2019

With the ideology and agricultural extension policies mentioned, the agricultural characteristics of this period have changed markedly. Although the proportion of Agriculture in GDP structure has continuously decreased over the years, it shows the country's economic restructuring towards industrialization and modernization. If the proportion of the agriculture sector accounted for 40.49% in 1991, by 2019, this figure has decreased to 13.96%. However, the added value of the entire agriculture sector and the average added value per employee have continuously increased over the years. This shows that labor productivity in agriculture is increasingly focused, focusing on developing in the direction of deep growth and representing the state's agricultural extension ideology and policy during this period. The added value of the whole agriculture industry increased 2.68 times from 10.22 billion USD in 1991 to 27.43 billion USD in 2019 at constant prices in 2010. Along with that, the added value of the agriculture sector per worker increased three times from \$433 in 1991 to \$1,313 in 2019 at 2010 constant prices.

5. Conclusion

It can be seen that although there have been changes in different periods, the agricultural sector, as well as the ideologies and policies of Vietnamese agricultural extension, still play an essential role in the development process of the country. In general, the ideology and policy of agricultural extension in Vietnam can be classified into two categories corresponding to the periods. For the periods when the Vietnamese did not have self-control and independence, the ideologies and policies of the agricultural extension were essentially the promotion of agricultural exploitation in a short-term direction in order to plunder the wealth of the dynasties and governments of contemporary aggression.

Meanwhile, for the periods when Vietnamese have national autonomy and independence, agricultural extension ideology and policies focus on investing in the development of the agricultural sector in a long-term direction, ensuring the lives of farmers, although the level of the stages is different. In addition, the study of agricultural extension ideologies and policies not only helps to provide an overview of the development of Vietnam's agricultural sector but also confirms the role of orientation in this development of agriculture. From here, policymakers will gain insight into changes in the agricultural sector as well as be able to make appropriate policies for different stages of development.

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