

Some Problems of Land Accumulation and Concentration in Agricultural Development in An Giang Province in the Period of 2010-2020

Nguyen Thi Xuan Loc

(Department of Tourism and Vietnam Studies, Nguyen Tat Thanh University, Vietnam)

Abstract: An Giang is the province that has right directions and timely decisions of agriculture, in which the model of land accumulation and concentration is implemented in many forms, bringing high efficiency in agricultural development. However, land accumulation and concentration is also facing difficulties that need to be resolved. The content of the article mentions “Some issues of land accumulation and concentration in agricultural development in An Giang province” and suggests appropriate recommendations to further develop of agriculture and economy of the province.

Key words: agriculture; development; land accumulation; land concentration

JEL code: Q

1. Introduction

An Giang is a province that has creative models in agricultural development, especially policies on land, from the model of cooperatives, allocation to households (land allocation to households), to land concentration, accumulation in agricultural development. Through the provincial policies and guidelines corresponding to national policies and guidelines, they have brought high efficiency to the economy, especially in the agricultural sector, making an important contribution to stability of the province’s socio-economic, security and political situation.

Agriculture in An Giang has made remarkable progress and gained significant achievements, making an important contribution to the stability of the province’s socio-economic, security and political situation. Therefore, the paper focuses on the issue of land accumulation and concentration in agricultural development in An Giang province in the period of 2010-2020. Thereby stating the achievements and backlog of agricultural economy in An Giang province. From there, make appropriate recommendations, so that the agricultural economy of An Giang province will develop more and more.

1.1 Method

Several research methods were applied has been applied in this study to clarify the issue of agricultural economic development:

- Methods of analysis and synthesis: are applied to analyze materials related to the research problem.
- Historical method and logical method: The historical method is applied to describe the research problem

according to the process, namely the period (2010-2020). Logical methods help in identifying appropriate research problems.

Research limit:

Limited of space: the research is concentrated in An Giang province.

Limited scope of the study: the study focused on Some problems of land accumulation and concentration in agricultural development in An Giang Province in the period of (2010-2020).

2. General Overview of Land Accumulation and Concentration

2.1 Land Accumulation

Land accumulation is an increase in the land scale of production units (farmer households, farms, agricultural enterprises...) from time to time due to reclamation, inheritance, purchase, lease, pledge,... to carry out agricultural production (Pham Dung, 2017).

2.2 Land Concentration

Land concentration can be understood as “gathering” a lot of existing land into large-scale plots and fields to serve for agricultural production and service industries by hiring or associating in production, business and contributing land use rights (QSDĐ) to enterprises (Pham Dung, 2017).

3. The Forms of Land Concentration and Accumulation in an Giang Province

In recent years, in order to respond to the development requirements of agricultural production, in our country in general and An Giang Province in particular, there have been many forms of land concentration and accumulation, but mainly in the following forms:

- Accumulating land in the form of a farm from renting public land and private land, received transferring, borrowing or being assigned, inheriting or being given ... thereby forming farm that is from small to large scale.
- Concentrating, accumulating land through the form of land consolidation and exchange of land to develop the farmer household economy and services of agricultural cooperatives.
- The form of farmer household voluntarily contributing land and capital to purchase machinery and equipment, cooperating in production. There are also cases where the State provides capital to buy machines, implement agricultural mechanization to increase the efficiency for each household according to the accumulation of land and capital of each participating household.
- The form of some farmer households voluntarily transfer their land to others by renting or selling the land, when they no longer need production or they are unable to cultivate.

4. Some Groundbreaking Land Policies of An Giang Province

In the process of implementing regulations, directives and resolutions of the Central Government on land issues, An Giang Province has implemented its own groundbreaking policies in accordance with the province's development conditions, bringing about outstanding economic results. In particular, the policy of land accumulation is considered the right and appropriate direction in the context of agriculture requires association to compete with others.

4.1 Land policies of An Giang Province from 1986 to 2000

Since 1986, our country has entered the renovation period, with turning-point policies and guidelines in economic, political, social and agricultural development, especially, the Government always has important policies and guidelines on land. Particularly in the area of An Giang Province, the People's Committee (UBND) of An Giang Province issued Directive No. 49/CT-UB, dated December 18, 1986 on the management of the use of machines for agricultural production.

In 1988, the Provincial People's Committee issued Decision 303/QD-UB, dated October 4, 1988 on promulgating specific provisions for the implementation of the Politburo's Directive No. 47/CT-TW on resolving some of urgent land issues: respecting the lawful and stable and long-term use of land to promote the true production capacity of farmers; and advocating for manufacturing corporations to turn to services.

Directive No. 25/CT-UB of the Provincial People's Committee, dated November 27, 1991, on the construction of the farmers' organizations in agricultural production. In 1993, the Land Law in 1993 admitted that farmer households has the right to use land: transfer, inheritance, mortgage, lease and conversion.

4.2 Policies of the State and An Giang Province on land from 2000 to 2020

In 2001, An Giang Provincial People's Committee launched the Cooperative Development Project for the period of 2001-2005 on September 18, 2001 with the content of re-organizing production (agriculture) in the direction of cooperation and 4 cooperations. The Land Law in 2003 was amended and replaced by the Land Law in 2013 that has greatly affected the process of land accumulation and concentration in our country. Decree 135/2005/ND-CP dated November 8, 2005 of the Government in accordance with the provisions of the Land Law in 2013. The policy on agricultural land accumulation for rural agricultural development was first introduced in Resolution No. 26-NQ/TW dated August 5, 2008 of the 7th Conference of the 10th Central Executive Committee on agriculture, farmers, rural areas (Resolution No. 26-NQ/TW). Resolution No. 19-NQ/TW, dated October 31, 2012 of the 11th Central Executive Committee on Continuing to renovate land policies and laws in the period of comprehensive renovation, ... identified that: Continue to allocate land, lease agricultural land to households and individuals to use, expand the concession limit of agricultural land to create favorable conditions for the process of land accumulation and concentration to gradually establish large-scale agricultural production.

On the basis of the 5th Resolution of the 9th Central Executive Committee on promoting industrialization and modernization of agriculture and rural areas in the period of 2001-2010; An Giang Provincial Party Committee also issued a Resolution on accelerating the industrialization and modernization of agriculture and rural areas in An Giang in the period of 2001-2010. The Resolution emphasized the important role of land concentration and accumulation associated with professional development (An Giang Rural Development Strategy to 2020, 2004).

In 2012, the 6th Conference of the 11th Central Executive Committee issued Resolution No. 19-NQ/TN dated October 31, 2012 on Continuing to renovate land policies and laws in the period of comprehensive renovation, creating a foundation for our country to basically become an industrialized country towards modernization by 2020. Regarding the land allocation and lease policy, the Resolution states: "Continue to allocate and lease agricultural land to households and individuals for a definite time in a longer term than the current regulations to encourage farmers to stick more to land and feel secure to invest in production. At the same time, expand the concession limit of agricultural land in accordance with specific conditions of each region and each stage to create favorable conditions for the process of land accumulation and concentration to gradually

establish large-scale agricultural production. 10th Resolution of Provincial Party Congress of An Giang, tenure 2015-2020 gave the orientation “Agriculture is a key economic sector, making the province become the agricultural center of the Mekong Delta”. At the Resolution of the Government’s regular meeting in February, 2017, the Government requested the relevant ministries to review and propose amendments to the land policy, to facilitate the land accumulation and concentration and to expand the concession limit for large-scale agricultural production.

5. Achievements From the Policy on Land Accumulation and Concentration in an Giang Province

From 1986 to 2000, An Giang Province completed the transfer of land to households. In 2003, the land use coefficient in An Giang Province was up to 2.09 times; food production reached over 2.7 million tons; the average food per capita is 1,275 kg. In particular, the implementation of Project 31/DA-BCS during the flood season in 2002 created jobs for nearly 100,000 workers, generated an additional income of VND 520 billion. In 2003, created jobs for over 150,000 workers, generated an additional income of VND 630 billion (An Giang Rural Development Strategy to 2020, 2004).

From 2015 to 2019, An Giang Province issued several guidelines and policies to encourage farmers, groups and cooperatives to increase production scale: Consulting, management training, management - production knowledge for households with a scale of farm or above (3 hectares) and creating conditions for banks to lend and support 50% interest rates for households to lease land (An Giang Rural Development Strategy to 2020, 2004).

In 2018, An Giang Province continued to promote agricultural production in the direction of flexible structure of plant, associated with high technology applications. Productivity of rice continuously increased over the years; the average rice output was about 4 million tons/year, the value of agricultural production was more than VND 173 million/hectares. Through groundbreaking policies, the material and spiritual life of rural people was improved, average income per capita in 2018 reached VND 40.7 million VND/person/year. The area of agricultural land was over 250,000 hectares, rice production was about 3.89 million tons/year. Large-field form is planting up to 22,000 hectares (Huynh Loi, 2018).

By 2019, An Giang Province had had nearly 600 hectares of land accumulation with many forms, most of which were more effective than before; especially for land lessors (income from leasing; from other jobs such as raising animals, planting ornamental plants, working as hired labor for businesses). As for rice area with a cultivated area of over 250,000 hectares, the production of 3 crops with the land use coefficient as 2.43 times; rice production in 2019 reached nearly 3.92 million tons; in which output of sticky rice and other rice varieties reached about 1.050 million tons (Phan Thi Thu Ha, 2020).

6. The Remaining Problems Need To Be Solved of Land Accumulation and Concentration in an Giang Province

At present, An Giang’s agriculture is gradually forming concentrated production areas, large fields and specialized areas. However, there are still problems in concentrating and accumulating land in the An Giang Province:

Firstly, most of the production scale is based on small farmer household, low productivity; the accumulation and concentration of land are limited within the province. Agricultural land in the province is also quite

fragmented. Land statistics in 2018 showed that the agricultural land area was 8,000 square meters/household. The number of households using less than 3 hectares of land accounted for 95%. The number of households with 30 or more hectares accounted for only 0.01%. For nearly 10 years, the rate of land accumulation has increased extremely low, the land accumulation has been mainly affected by production factor and the market, there have no specific policies that directly affected the process of land accumulation. The Land Law has amended the concession limit to 10 times (30 hectares), but the actual accumulation of over 30 hectares accounted for a small number (Duc Quynh, 2018).

Secondly, for the form of land accumulation from large fields, enterprises have to make large investments, which is difficult to manage the associations. The model of renting land from farmers is difficult to negotiate with many households, the risk of reclaiming land before maturity, large investment costs, and difficult to withdraw redundant labor (Thuy An, 2017).

Thirdly, a part of household do not produce or produce with low efficiency but still think of keeping fields and land, not renting or lending for fear of losing arable land, just farming to keep land, and being afraid to allocate land for cooperatives.

Fourthly, regarding land policies and laws, the annual concession limit to households and individuals has not encouraged the accumulation and concentration of land for developing large-scale agricultural production.

Fifthly, when businesses have rented a large area of a few dozen hectares to concentrate but some households with surrounding fields do not agree to lending, renting or selling land, making it difficult to accumulate land for large investment and apply high-tech applications in economic development.

7. Some Recommendations on Land Concentration and Accumulation in An Giang Province

Firstly, land accumulation does not push farmers to the “margin” of modernization in agricultural production. It officially creates jobs and non-farm incomes to push rural labor out of agriculture. The farmers do not become impoverished, but transfer the economic form of “working at their own places”, the policy of land accumulation must be associated with social policy, job creation, vocational training for farmers when they have given rent land, so that farmers can have better life even they don’t have land.

Secondly, the State needs to focus on building and perfecting the legal corridor, ensuring harmony the interests of related parties, the common interests of the whole economy and the stability and order of social relations. State should eliminate accumulation and use of land in the direction of speculation and consider in the appropriate policy of concession limit to the current development trend.

Thirdly, putting the interests of the farmers first on the concentration and accumulation of land. We should let farmers contribute capital by the area of land, business enterprises and farmers themselves are workers on their land.

Fourthly, create opportunities for capable farmers to stay, accumulate land, lease and buy land easily with low transaction costs, have capital to buy land, buy machines, have roads, mechanized electricity, which can be associated with the land market and infrastructure construction.

8. Conclusion

Land accumulation and concentration in An Giang Province has contributed to agricultural restructuring,

created economic development value according to the current trend, people get rich on their own land by farming, they can transfer production methods to achieve high economic efficiency through efficiency of land accumulation and concentration. Along with the policies of the Central Government, An Giang has made appropriate policies in transferring and contributing agricultural land to large fields. Through the guidelines and policies of the state, the appropriate decisions of the leaders of An Giang Province have been gradually improving the mechanism of land accumulation, proceeding to eliminate the concession limit and creating favorable conditions for enterprises to accumulate land to invest in developing agricultural production and hi-tech applied agriculture on large scale. Therefore, it is necessary to implement policies and solutions to ensure the rights and benefits of farmer households who are most closely associated with fields and agriculture, and promote an effective modern agricultural production.

In addition to the recommendations mentioned above, in order to resolve the remaining problems in land concentration for the development of agricultural economy in An Giang province, the following solutions must be attached:

- In order for the province's agricultural land to not be fragmented and small, the province should have specific orientations for people to understand and participate in concentrating the land into big ways, changing production structure, bringing agricultural economic benefits.
- The cooperation between enterprises and farmers in land concentration, need the orientation of the government so that people can feel secure in allocating and leasing land.
- The Government should have strict sanctions for a number of households to abandon fallow land but refuse to allocate land to convert a new production model to be effective in agriculture.
- In order to achieve high efficiency, the province needs more efforts in focusing and accumulating land in the province's agricultural development, not only by resolutions but also with specific plans, plans and actions. In order to develop the agricultural land accumulation in An Giang province, it will achieve important achievements.

References

- According to Pham Dung (12/2017). "Journal of communism, accumulation and concentration of land in Vietnam in new conditions: Theoretical and practical issues", available online at: <http://tapchimatran.vn/nguyen-cuu/Central-Capital-of-the-Middle-East-Vietnam-Vietnam-in-the-New-Area-of-the-History-of-Southeast-Asia-Architecture-10798.html>.
- An Giang rural development strategy till 2020, Issued together with Decision No. 669/2004/QĐ-UB of April 20, 2004 of the People's Committee of An Giang province.
- Decision No. 899 / QĐ-TTg of June 10, 2013.
- Duc Quynh (10/2018). *There are Still Many Difficulties in Accumulating Agricultural Land* <https://vietnambiz.vn/con-nhieu-kho-khan-trong-tich-tu-ruong-dat-nong-nghiep-105784.htm>
- Hong Giang (12/2016). *Land Accumulation: Solutions to Implement Agricultural Restructuring*, available online at: <http://baoninhbinh.org.vn/tich-tu-ruong-dat-giai-phap-thyc-hien-tai-co-cau-nong-nghiep-2016121308363601p2c21.htm>
- Land Law* (11/2013), Publisher. National Politics, 2013.
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (5/2016). *Report on Land Accumulation and Concentration of Some Localities in The Northern Region*.
- Nguyen Dinh Bong (3/2013). "Land accumulation policies seen from the real situation of the Mekong Delta", *Communist Review*, Vol. 847, No. 5, pp. 54-58.
- Nguyen Dinh Bong and Ta Huu Nghia (7/2010). "Analyzing and evaluating the role of state management impact on land accumulation", Department of Cooperative Policy and Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture.

**Some Problems of Land Accumulation and Concentration in Agricultural Development in
An Giang Province in the Period of 2010-2020**

- Nguyen Thi Xuan Loc (10/2005). “Land issues in An Giang in the period of 1988-2003”, master of history thesis.
- Nguyen Van Tuat (1991). “Some land issues in An Giang agriculture”, *Journal of Social Science*, No. IV.
- Phan Thi Thu Ha (1/2020). “Land accumulation in agriculture — Situation and policy recommendations”, available online at: <http://lapphap.vn/Pages/tintuc/tinchitiet.aspx?tintucid=210380>.
- Report No. 13-BC / NN-NT dated November 25, 2016 of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Central Economic Board, 2016.
- Thanh Sang (10/2019). “Leverage of policies on agricultural and rural development in An Giang”, available online at: <https://bnews.vn/don-bay-chinh-sach-phan-trien-nong-nghiep-nong-thon-an-giang/137593.html>
- The Hung (10/2016). “Vietnamese agriculture stands at a crossroads”, available online at: <https://dantri.com.vn/kinh-doanh/nong-nghiep-viet-nam-dang-dung-truoc-nga-ba-duong-20161030064014869.htm>.
- The Government (3/2017). “The government agreed to extend the land limit, accumulate land”, available online at: <https://bnews.vn/chinh-phu-thong-nhat-mo-rong-han-dien-tich-tu-ruong-dat/37834.html>.
- Thuy An (6/2017). “*Mekong Delta: Land accumulation seen from reality*”, available online at: <http://www.baohaugieng.com.vn/nong-nghiep-nong-thon/dong-bang-song-cuu-long-tich-tu-ruong-dat-nhin-tu-thuc-te-55518.html>.
- Tran Quoc Toan (2013). *Renewing Land Ownership Relations — Theory and Practice*, National Politics, Hanoi.
- Truc Giang (5/2019). *An Giang Converges the Potential of Agricultural Development*, <https://baodautu.vn/an-giang-hoi-tu-tiem-nang-phan-trien-nong-nghiep-d113560.html>
- Vo Van Sen (3/2010). *Some Urgent Issues in the Process of Industrialization — Modernization of the Khmer in the Mekong Delta*, Ho Chi Minh City National University.