AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND THE SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL LIVELIHOODS AFTER RESOLUTION 120/2017 IN THE VIETNAMESE MEKONG DELTA

Dissertation

HIEU –VAN TRAN

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Name:	Hieu –Van Tran
Student Number:	1931628001
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Approved by:

1. Dissertation Committee

Prof. Dr. Ir. Rudi Febriamansyah, M.Sc.
Chairman

Dr. Kien Nguyen Van
Committee Member

2. Coordinator of the Doctoral Program in Development Studies

Prof. Dr. Ir. Rudi Febriamansyah, M.Sc
NIP. 196302081987021001

3. Director of the Graduate School, Universitas Andalas

KEMENTERIAN PENDIDIKAN TINGGI, SAINS, DAN TEKNOLOGI
UNIVERSITAS ANDALAS
REKTOR

Prof. dr. Henny Lucida, Ph.D
NIP. 196701151991032002

AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND THE SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL LIVELIHOODS AFTER RESOLUTION 120/2017 IN THE VIETNAMESE MEKONG DELTA

By: Hieu –Van Tran
(Supervied by: Prof. Dr. Ir. Rudi Febriamansyah, M.Sc, Dr. Van Kien Nguyen)

Agricultural transformation in the Vietnamese Mekong Delta (VMD) has accelerated under the combined influences of climate change, market integration, technological advancement, and policy reforms. Resolution 120/NQ-CP (2017) has promoted a shift toward climate-resilient, ecological, and market-oriented agriculture. However, the extent and direction of agricultural transformation at the household level remain insufficiently understood. This dissertation examines agricultural transformation and sustainable rural livelihoods in An Giang Province, aiming to assess the current status of transformation, identify its key determinants, and propose pathways toward sustainable agricultural development. The study employs a mixed-methods approach based on the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework and agricultural transformation theory. Quantitative data were collected from a survey of 272 farm households across three representative agro-ecological zones, complemented by key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and field observations. Descriptive statistics, Poisson regression, and Multivariate Probit (MVP) models were used to analyze transformation pathways and their determinants.

The findings reveal that agricultural transformation is multidimensional, with households adopting five interconnected pathways: land-use transformation, ecological farming, livelihood diversification, digital agriculture, and value-chain integration. Transformation is shaped by household livelihood assets, institutional support, environmental conditions, and policy interventions. Ecological farming and livelihood diversification are the most common pathways for enhancing resilience, while digital agriculture improves production efficiency and market access. In contrast, land-use transformation and value-chain integration remain more limited because they require greater financial resources and institutional support. The study also shows that the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices remains gradual and is significantly influenced by human capital, cooperative participation, agricultural training, digital information access, and financial resources. Households with stronger livelihood assets are more likely to adopt advanced transformation pathways than resource-constrained households.

The dissertation concludes that sustainable agricultural transformation in the Mekong Delta requires differentiated policies that strengthen extension services, promote ecological and digital agriculture, support cooperative development, and improve value-chain integration. It contributes to the literature by proposing an integrated framework that links multiple agricultural transformation pathways with sustainable livelihood outcomes and provides empirical evidence to support the implementation of Resolution 120 in the Vietnamese Mekong Delta.

Keywords: agricultural transformation; agricultural transformation pathways; sustainable livelihoods; Resolution No. 120/NQ-CP; Vietnamese Mekong Delta; An Giang Province.