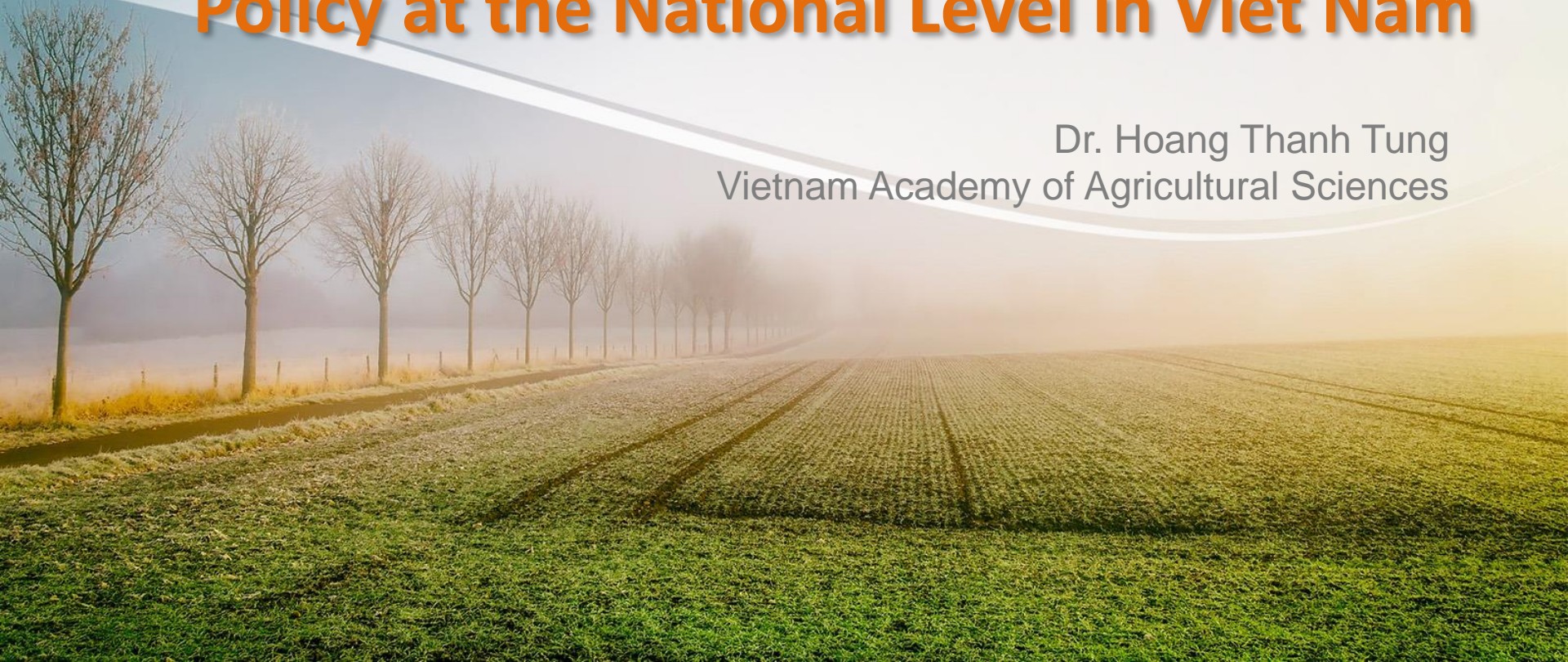


Analysis of Agroecological Transition Policy at the National Level in Viet Nam

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Rationale

- Social actors are mobilizing to promote agroecology in order to meet the major challenges of sustainable development, such as food security, halting biodiversity loss, employment and climate change adaptation.
- While public policies are key drivers to support and enable the transition to agroecological food systems, little is known about how these policies should be constructed to be effective.
- Most research projects focus on assessing agroecological practices at the farm level, and there is no generic framework for analysing how public policies might facilitate or hinder the agroecological transition.
- The main objective of this project is to engage with policy makers and provide them with convincing arguments



Objectives

- Conceptualise agroecology means in Vietnam and its degree of institutionalisation in the existing policy framework.
- This investigation will make possible to draw out the issues (challenges, themes, methods) surrounding the conceptualisation and implementation of agroecological policies in Vietnam



Concepts of agroecology

- Ecological agriculture applies methods that allow the regeneration and preservation of ecosystems. Several agroecological techniques are widely applied in agricultural production, such as afforestation, minimum tillage, multi-cultivation, and natural based cultivation.
- Agroecology approach is convincing and that is evidence-based alternative to the current chemical-based agri-food system promoted by new agricultural technologies and demands for more agricultural commercialization.
- This approach clearly aims at strengthening innovation capacity of family farms as well as the recognition of their contribution to sustainable food systems.
- It covers technical, economic, social, policy and institutional dimensions of the agri-food system.



Challenges and requirements for promoting agroecological transition

- Increasing use of chemical fertilizer to maintain agricultural productivity
 - The efficiency of using nitrogen fertilizer is only 30-45%, phosphorus 40-45% and potassium 40-50%
 - Make vegetables unsafe, associated with heavy metals, pesticides and microorganisms, adversely affecting the health of consumers.
- Climate change and pollution in agricultural production
 - Climate change may cause GDP in the period 2046-2050 to decrease from 0%–2.5%
 - The use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and growth stimulants has shown signs of exceeding the permissible limits of the ecological environment, leading to soil degradation and water pollution.



Challenges and requirements for promoting agroecological transition

- Agriculture in Vietnam still much depends on the natural resources rather than on advanced sciences and technologies.
- This pattern is not only gaining attention but may be reaching its limits as natural resource degradation is starting to have an observable effect on farmers
- Smart and sustainable consumption and production promote AE transition
- Covid-19 and challenges for agricultural supply chains and food systems

The transition of agricultural policies in Vietnam

- Centrally planning and autarkic system to an open and market-oriented one
- Intensive farming has become the mainstream in agriculture with the application of new scientific and technological achievements

1986-1992

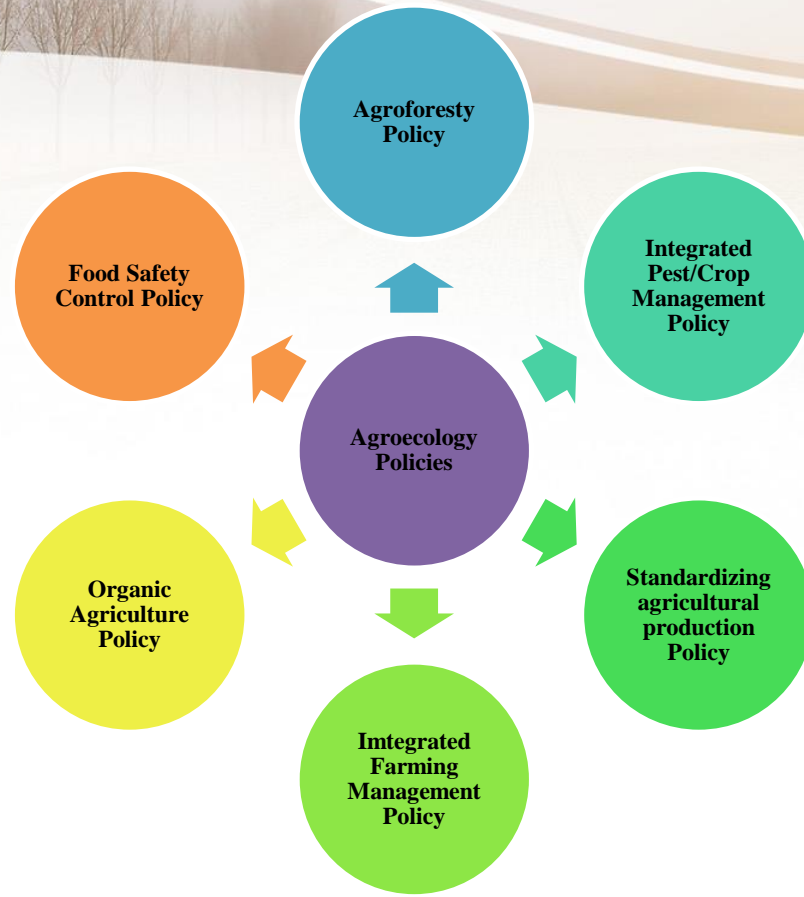
1993-2008

- The turning point was marked in 1993 by the Land Law which granted long-term land use rights to farming households
- it may cause problems for environmental ecosystem as a result of overexploiting natural resources

- This period experienced the transition to policies from food security to food safety and sustainable development.
- Resolution 26 on “Agriculture, Farmer and Rural Area” – Tam Nong.

2008-Present

THE AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION POLICIES IN VIET NAM



Agroforestry policies

- Agroforestry farming practices was first time institutionalized and promoted by the government in the Land Law 1987
- However, even in the Law on Forest Protection and Development 2004, agroforestry was set as principles of forest protection and development. Following revised version of Land Law (1993, 2003, 2013).
- There has been a shift in agroforestry policies, from more mandatory to more flexible and selective regarding agroforestry practices at farm level.
- Therefore, there may be a conflict in public policies pursuing the sustainability.



Policies for Integrated Crop Management and Integrated Pesticide Management

- **Integrated Pesticide Management**

- Vietnam's national IPM program has been in place since 1992, with the support of FAO the International Program
- Program for conservation and application of biodiversity in Asian communities as well as the IPM component of the agricultural sector support framework since 2000.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued Decision No. 2027/QD-BNN-BVTV dated June 2, 2015 on approving the project: “Promote integrated pest management on crops in 2015 -2020”.

- **Integrated Crop Management**

- The ICM program is to improve the capacity and awareness of agricultural staff and farmers about the relationship between fertilizers, pests and the ability to grow and develop crops.
- It can be customized to appropriate to each region such as “3 decreases, 3 increases” measures in the South or “2 decreases, 3 increases” measures in the North.

Policies for standardizing agricultural production

- Viet Nam has made a change in agricultural production by issuing standards to ensure food safety for consumers. One of the standards in production is good agricultural practices (VietGAP).
- Before VietGAP, there had been a lot of agricultural production safety program for vegetables, fruits, and used as a beverage.
- VietGAP is food safety inspection program through from A to Z of the production line. It starts from the farm preparation, cultivation to harvesting, post-harvest storage
- VietGAP was developed based on a combination AseanGAP and GlobalGAP with slightly lower criteria for compliance in aspects of protection
- This was clearly determined in the Decision No 01/2012/QD-TTg dated 09th January 2012 of the Prime Minister on the policy supports the application of Good Agricultural Production Practices in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Policies for Integrated Farming Management

- Integrated farming practices (the system of “pig-garden-pond”, in short Vietnamese: VAC) has been a traditional farming practices
- Directive 36/CT-TW dated June 25, 1998 of the Politburo on strengthening environmental protection
- Strategy for Environmental Protection to 2020, with a Vision to 2030; Green Growth Strategy, Decree 38/2015/ND-CP; Decision 16/2015/QD-TTg; National Strategy on Integrated Solid Waste Management 2018. These policies represent the shift towards circular economy of Vietnam in the agricultural sector.

Policies for organic production

- In December 2007 the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued national basic standards for organic production
- There are no official programs or regulations for supporting organic system since the government still obsessed to meet national food security and the international food demand.
- The draft of the National Basic Standards for Organic Products has been conceived and enacted by the MARD in December 2006 through the Decision No. 4094/BNN-KHCN on the issue of TCVN 602:2006 Organic.
- The situation has not much change until the official standard of organic farming was issued in 2017, namely TCVN11014:2017/2018.

Policies for food safety control

- Typical food safety control policy if the Law of Food Safety in 2010
- The Law provides on food safety assurance conditions:
 - Food production and trading and food import and export;
 - Advertising and labelling of food; food testing;
 - Risk analysis for food safety; preventing, preventing and overcoming food safety incidents;
 - Information, education and communication on food safety.
- Decision No. 3073/QD- BNN-QLCL dated December 27th, 2013 of the MARD regulating the development and development of safe models of food supply chains for safe agricultural, forestry and fishery products nationwide and the safe food supply chain.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR TO FACILITATE SUSTAINABLE AGROECOLOGY TRANSITION IN VIET NAM

- Identify and scale up successful agroecology-oriented production models
- Integration of agroecology with appropriate technologies
- Close linkage between agriculture with preservation, processing and consumption
- Establishing a sustainable agricultural ecosystem
- Promoting local advantages in agroecology transition policies
- Policies should focus on restoring the quality of ecological services

Thank you for your attention

