



DOI: 10.18427/iri-2017-0061

# **The Goals of Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy in EU and Vietnam**

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**Abstract.** *The World conference on Agrarian reform and Rural development in Roma in 1979 had pointed out that developed and developing countries have to eliminate rural poverty and hunger in order to facilitate the global problem: rural development. Until now, World conferences were annually held by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Declarations were published. Immense effort to contribute to Agricultural and Rural development strategies over the world was carried out and tacked from national development policies to agricultural and rural development programmes and was the motivation for the Declaration of World Conference 1979: Growth is necessary but not sufficient, and national strategies must fully recognize the interdependence between industry and agriculture. Nowadays, the goals of supporting rural poor as well as rural areas on the world are fostering the agricultural production and rural development in a sustainable pathway with much more economic access to food and reducing vulnerability. Although the European Union countries and Vietnam followed different development paths, they are common in having larger rural areas in topography and rural sector spreads in both regions. European Union countries had implemented investments for rural sector by the means of several programmes, and among them in recently the impress rural development programme in period 2007-2013 which continues in period 2014-2020. In Vietnam, agriculture and rural development have been playing an important role in national development planning for 30 years when "Doi moi" (Renewal) policy was carried out in economic, political and social aspects in year 1986. The paper is based on desk research (data sources: Eurostat, General statistics office in Vietnam; documents: EU and national regulations, development funds documents, and related reports) and the applied methods are Document analysis, Time series analysis, Descriptive methods and correspondence analysis. The expected results of my research will contribute to the understanding of the motivations, challenges and development paths of rural areas in Europe and Vietnam: common aspects and limitations of implementation and lessons for future study.*

**Keywords:** rural development, agriculture, Europe Union, Vietnam, challenges, development

## Introduction

European Union countries and Vietnam have the same larger rural areas in topography and rural sector spreads in both regions even they are in separated continent: Asia and Europe and with differences in almost characteristics of rural sector.

As in the Report 2013 of European Commission "Rural Development in the European Union - Statistical and Economic Information", Sir Jerzy Plewa, Director General had stated in Foreword that "Rural areas in the European Union are not only home to 113 million people - they also provide food, raw materials, jobs and a wide range of environmental goods and services, such as cultural landscapes, biodiversity, carbon storage, water and soils". The report 2013 was a step to come an end of period 2007-2013 and prepared for new rural development programmes (2014-2020) in order to identify that "the sustainable development of rural areas has been a key objective of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy since it was formally established as second pillar of the policy in 2000".

Vietnam is an agricultural country in the Southeast Asia areas, a member of ASEAN countries, has the divergence between rural and urban areas nowadays (66% rural population and 34% urban citizen in total of about 90 million people - World Bank database 2016) and the added value of agriculture in GDP is more and more reduced annually but the country always conducts and orients an economy on the line of sustainable rural development and agricultural reform, especially from the "Doimoi/Renewal" policy was implemented in 1986 in overall aspects of society, polity and economics in Vietnam to the strategies in each period of economic development.

### *Back ground in scope of global in agriculture and rural development in the world*

Antonelli and his colleagues (2015) in analysis about the global investments in agricultural land had stated: "Land and water resources are central to societal development, as they are two of the most important agricultural production factors.... Agricultural production is by far the most water-intensive human activity" (Antonelli et al., 2015:98).

However, the desire of this paper's topic is derived from the Peasants' charter - The Declaration of Principles and Programme on Agrarian reform and Rural development, a FAO document printed in Roma 1981. "Declaration of principles: ...agrarian reform is a critical component of rural development and that the sustained improvement of rural areas..., requires fuller and more equitable access to land, water and other natural resources; widespread sharing of economic and political power; increasing and more productive employment; fuller use of human skills and energies;

participation and integration of rural people into the production and distribution systems; increased production, productivity and food security for all groups; and mobilization of internal resources" (FAO, 1981:1,2).

So, it can be said that the Peasant's charter of the World conference on Agrarian reform and Rural development in 1979 (held by FAO of UNs) remained popular and significant to nowadays: "Each government should formulate its rural development strategies in the context of overall economic and social planning on the basis of an analysis of its socio-political goals, capabilities and constraints - human, physical and financial" (FAO, 1981:6).

### *In Vietnam*

Vietnam's progress on economic growth and poverty reduction as a 'Role' model using for scholars and researches on the world. *Milo Vandemoortele* and Kate Bird (2011) had a research for causes of the renewal in Vietnam: "Strong leadership contributes to development only when it supports the implementation of effective and appropriate policy. A key foundation for Vietnam's progress in economic conditions was pragmatic and non-dogmatic leadership by the Party, not necessarily with strong individual leaders... Fence breaking in the agriculture sector included taking steps towards liberalisation by, for example, engaging in a market of agricultural inputs outside state-mandated channels" (Vandemoortele et al., 2011:13).

### *In Europe*

In many literature reviews about European rural areas, there is EU commission as a leader in promulgation and implementation the legal documents for the active programmes in Agriculture and Rural development. But till now, there is not the unique of official definitions for conception of rural areas.

*John Gray* (2000) had two conceptions of rurality or rural society in European community are such as: "Phase 1: Rural as social representation in constructing of Common Agricultural Policy (hereinafter CAP) - The CAP became the major vehicle for the construction of European communal space and the codification of European common meanings about agriculture and rural society that could be agreed to by people representing different member states... Phase 2: Rural as locality in implementing the CAP - The CAP thus required a bureaucracy to locate and analyse agriculture and rural society in various member states" (Gray, 2000:32, 36).

To have more clearly conceptions about agriculture and rural development in Europe and in general, Jan Douwe van der Ploeg et al. (2003) had affirmed that: "European agriculture has been struggling for

more than a decade with an ever deepening crisis. .... Multifunctionality and Rural development may be the key unifying concept of this new model and response to the many expressions of the crisis. .... Europe is moving from agricultural modernisation towards rural development as the main paradigm and as the guiding principle for policy formulation, enterprise development, and new institutional arrangements.... The levels involved in rural development: It is essential to recognize rural development as a *multi-level* process rooted in historical traditions. ...The first level is that of the *global interrelations between agriculture and society*. At the global level, rural development is also related to a general restructuring of the economy, which has led to substantial changes in the patterns of interaction between society and the firm. ... At the second level, rural development means *a new developmental model for the agricultural sector*. Until the early 1990s, scale-enlargement, intensification, specialization and, within some sectors, a strong trend towards industrialization, were the parameters that circumscribed developments in the agricultural sector” (Douwe et al., 2003:1, 2, 3).

## Motivation of sustainable agricultural and rural development

*Peter Hurst and his colleagues* (2007), had stated that: “SARD are integral and necessary components of sustainable development. Sustainable agriculture involves all three pillars of development - economic, social and environmental. ... Agriculture and rural development are sustainable when they are ecologically sound, economically viable, socially just, culturally appropriate, and humane and based on a holistic scientific approach. ...This means that SARD action programmes, including forestry, and fisheries must meet the nutritional requirements and other human needs of present and future generations, provide durable and decent employment, maintain and, where possible, enhance the productive and regenerative capacity of the natural resource base, reduce vulnerability and strengthen self-reliance” (Hurst et al., 2007:Preface).

## Methods

My methodology for emerging literature reviews are based on document analysis and related reports on the websites of EU, FAO, WB, Vietnam and websites of Google scholars, Science Direct, Research Gate, Elsevier, ... about agriculture and rural development in common aspects, limitations and lessons in both of EU countries and Vietnam. According to desk research, I applied a descriptive methods and correspondence analysis for the data collection and which is based on the websites of FAOSTAT, EUROSTAT, WB data, Vietnam STAT data - General statistics office in Vietnam ...) but especially concentrate into data of World Bank website about both of two contexts in agriculture and rural development strategy

of EU countries and Vietnam. The descriptive statistics is a main method for my research analysis in this topic. And as well as other desk research is used for identifying the motivations, challenges and development paths of rural areas in Europe and Vietnam.

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