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Research Article

SOME SOLUTIONS FOR RURAL ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DURING NEW RURAL AREA DEVELOPMENT IN VIETNAM

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ABSTRACT

The environment is one of the top concerns of the countries in the world in the development process. To Vietnam, a country of more than 70% of people living and producing in rural areas, the rural area environmental protection plays an extremely important role and is an urgent demand set out during boosting the industrialization and modernization associated with new rural area development.

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INTRODUCTION

In the industrialization and modernization as well as national development and protection, agriculture, farmers, and rural areas keep strategic positions and area the bases as well as important forces for sustainable socio-economic development, security, and defense; preservation and promotion of the national cultural identity and protection of the ecological environment of the country. Rural areas are considered as places which make production and supply of food for consumption of the whole society; the markets for consumption of products, play an important role in creating a harmonious connection between humans and nature, helping form peaceful and diverse eco-tourism areas, contributing to improving the spiritual lives for humans. Therefore, the exploitation and efficient use of resources and environmental protection in rural areas in the process of developing new rural areas have a tremendous impact on the environmental protection of the country. The sustainable development of rural areas ensures the long-term and sustainable development of the country. Therefore, in the process of developing new rural areas, the Party and the State of Vietnam always attach importance to environmental protection, which is considered one of the most important factors contributing to economic development in

general and sustainable development of agriculture in particular.

Current status of the environmental protection in new rural area development in Vietnam

After 30 years of innovation, environmental protection in Vietnam has made positive changes. However, for the pressure of the process of industrialization and modernization associated with developing new rural areas, environmental pollution is at an alarming rate. According to statistics from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, each year in rural areas, tens of millions of tonnes of domestic waste arise, of which about 80% waste, waste water, and pesticides packages-hazardous waste are not collected and treated in an appropriate manner, but discharged directly into the environment ... making rural water sources and atmosphere severely contaminated. The overuse of chemical fertilizers, growth stimulants, plant protection agents, pesticides in non-compliance with technical processes, not ensuring insulating period; massive aquaculture, lack of planning, non-compliance with the technical processes ... are major sources of toxic waste which are harmful to the environment. Accordingly, many diseases have spread rapidly, causing huge economic losses and serious threat to people's health.

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Criteria No. 17 on Environment in the new rural area development in Vietnam

1. The percentage of households using clean water in accordance with national standards
2. Production and business facilities gaining the environmental standards
3. No activities cause environmental degradation and there are activities making the environment clean, green and beautiful.
4. Cemetery areas are built according to planning
5. Waste and wastewater will be collected and treated according to the regulations.

In addition, the environment in the rural vocational villages of our country is now facing serious pollution. With nearly 4,600 vocational villages and craft activities in rural areas, in addition to the positive impacts, they create more jobs for millions of workers, the pollution level and the percentage of people infected there tend to increase strongly, life of people also has fallen and has been lower 10 years than the national average life of people. Many vocational villages have not handled the problems relating to waste and wastewater, causing loss of landscape and polluting the rural ecological environment. Today, waste management in the rural areas is ignored. Evenly, in many areas, ponds, lakes and deep areas are used to discharge waste, forming open disposal sites which do not ensure technical processes and pollute surface water and underground water sources. Besides, indiscriminate exploitation of the natural resource, without planning, evenly to the point of extinction has negative impacts on the environment and is the cause of the abnormal changes of the climate, causing great damage to agricultural production, properties, and lives of people.

The cause of this situation is because the environmental protection awareness of communities living and producing in rural areas is not high; awareness of environmental pollution risks in rural areas and the negative impacts of environmental pollution on the socioeconomic life and health of people of various levels of government authorities, organizations and individuals in charge in many rural areas is incomplete; officers in charge of environmental protection are inadequate and unqualified; investment funds for environmental protection do not meet requirements. So far, most of the rural areas in the whole country are struggling to implement and meet the environmental criteria 17 in the national set of criteria for new rural areas, the rural communes getting such criteria account for small proportion. Specifically, by the end of 2015, in the whole country, there are 1,674 communes (accounting for 18.7%) recognized to get the new rural standards and 11 units at district level recognized to get the new rural standards according to the Decision issued by the Prime Minister, in which the percentage of communes implementing the criteria No 17 only accounts for 42.4%, a criteria getting the lowest ratio at this time.

Thus, we can see, although the Party and the State of Vietnam always attaches importance to environmental protection but environmental pollution, especially in rural areas is very serious. Therefore, in the future, Vietnam should consider the environmental protection is an inevitable step in the strategy of

sustainable agriculture development and new rural area development in the period of promoting industrialization and modernization of the country.

Some major solutions of the environmental protection in the process of new rural area development

Stemming from the practical requirements towards the sustainable agriculture development in the process of new urban area development, the State and people of Vietnam should coordinate to implement some solutions as follows:

Strengthen state management for environmental protection

Complete the legal system, mechanisms, and policies on environmental protection; clearly, define responsibilities and assign tasks of the environmental protection and rural waste management across sectors and levels in an appropriate manner, overcome duplication in management. Develop inter-sectorial and inter-regional coordination mechanisms; mechanisms so that people effectively monitor the exploitation and management of natural resources, environmental protection and adaptation to climate change. Prepare, evaluate and approve documents on design and construction of drainage systems, wastewater treatment in the collection sites and solid waste treatment systems; renovate and construct ecological ponds and lakes in residential areas, develop greenery in the public works to be done on the basis of the construction plan of new rural communes approved under the provisions in joint Circular No. 13/2011 / TLT-BXD-BNNPTNT- BTNMT, dated October 28, 2011 of Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Agriculture and rural Development, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment regulating preparation, appraisal, approval of construction planning on new rural communes. Focus on inspection, supervision and development of sanctions to deter those who violate the Law on Environmental Protection.

Promote socialization and development of public services in environmental protection

According to the method of access to the environment, a modern method being done by the European countries and recommended by the environment program of the United Nations to other countries to follow, it is to research and establish environmental protection models with the participation of the communities. The essence of this issue is to promote the development and socialization of public services in protecting the environment. The 11th Congress of Communist Party of Vietnam also asserted: "Environmental protection is the responsibility of the political system and the whole society and the duty of every citizen". To solve these tasks, the Communist Party of Vietnam also said that "strengthening the socialization of environmental protection, development of environmental services and waste treatment are required".

Socialization of environmental protection is to mobilize the participation of the whole society into environmental protection and of the country. In other words, socialization of environmental protection is to turn the guidelines, policies, laws on environmental protection into obligations, responsibilities and rights of all levels of the society, from the policy makers, managers to people of all ages in the society. The purpose of socialization of environmental protection in the

new rural area development is to maximize the mobilization of resources in the society to participate in environmental protection activities, in order to keep the environment always clean and ensure the ecological balance. The significant meaning of environmental protection socialization is that all subjects in the society from children to the elderly, from producers to consumers are aware of their roles and responsibilities, rights and obligations in preserving and protecting the environment. It develops from awareness towards actions. People will change from the arbitrary lifestyle, thinking, habits of primary agricultural producers to lifestyle, thinking towards civilization and respect for the environment.

Improve awareness of environmental protection

Lack of environment understanding is one of the important reasons leading to environmental pollution and degradation. Because when people lack understandings, it means people have little knowledge about the environment, do not see the importance of environmental protection, they will not be motivated to protect the environment. Simultaneously, lacking of understandings will make people not know how to protect the environment, thereby people discharge waste causing environmental pollution, without knowing its consequences and moreover not give effective solutions to protect and improve the environment. On the other hand, because the practical awareness of economic development views to the environmental protection of people is not adequate and deep, people need to have accurate awareness and then do right actions in environmental protection. If adequate investment and a thorough performance in raising people's awareness of environmental protection are made, it will create a significant shift in thinking and lifestyle of people, especially farmers - the subjects of the process of new rural area development. From there, they will have a big change in actions. Once awareness of environmental protection has become self-conscious of every citizen, then the effect is very positive. This solution is developed on the basic principles of Marxism - Leninism, people are both actors and products of the society and of the control of the relationship between humans and the environment in a conscious manner.

Strengthen investment in development of science and technology of environmental protection

Along with improving awareness of environmental protection for all classes of people, with specific roles, the State should actively invest in scientific research, promote the transfer and application of technology for environmental protection in the process of new rural area development. This solution stems from a significant role of science and technology on the environment.

In fact, science and technology play an important role in the development process. Especially for sustainable development, science and technology have gradually shown the useful role for the environment, are environmentally friendly and contribute to protecting and improving the environment. Therefore, further investment on activities is required, the State encourages and implements research topics and projects, applications and transfer of technology in the treatment of pollution, environmental degradation in rural areas in the process of new rural area development quickly. The State accelerates the application of information technology in

environmental protection, development and replication of cleaner production, development, and implementation of schemes to promote the transfer and application of environmental technologies.

In the agriculture, it is necessary to apply technical measures of cultivation to reduce the use of plant protection chemicals, comply with the technical requirements when using plant protection chemicals. Make planning of concentrated farms away from residential areas and construct centralized slaughtering systems to ensure the environmental quality. Need to closely manage waste from the farms of livestock and poultry. The destruction of ill livestock and poultry shall be made in accordance with regulatory requirements and ensure environmental hygiene. The State should also apply strict policies in order to ban importing obsolete technologies in Vietnam, to avoid the country to become the landfill of the world's technologies. Absolutely not build more factories in favor of development of "chimney industry". On the other hand, actively promulgate policies to encourage the development of energies such as wind power, geothermal power, hydropower ... Soon develop and implement the systems provided for environmental technology standards mandatory for different types of enterprises and business sectors in the field of environment.

To exploit and effectively use science and technology of the environment, need to train a team of highly qualified experts in charge of the environment as the core forces to deploy environmental protection activities. Especially need to form scientific markets, environmental technologies and establish providers of environmental treatment technologies, waste control at the international and regional levels.

Strengthen investment into finance for environmental protection

Environmental protection is an extremely difficult work and requires more resources. One of the most important resources for the success of this work is a large investment in terms of finance. Lack of financial resources, the task of environmental protection may not soon bring high efficiency. In Vietnam, the financial resources spent on environmental protection have been concerned. From 2006 to now, expenditures for environmental protection industry in Vietnam have reached 1% of total State budget expenditure. This does not have to meet the practical requirements and is much lower than other countries in the region. While the problems of environmental degradation and pollution in our country are growing much higher than countries in the region and the world.

In the coming years, Vietnam strives to increase expenditure from the state budget for environmental protection activities at 2% of the total State budget expenditure. However, because of Vietnam policies, the state budget expenditure for environmental protection should be regular, expenditure from this source can not be arranged to invest in order to thoroughly solve the urgent environmental problems. Moreover, expenditures for environmental protection are inadequate, particularly for local areas, not really effective. Therefore, in the next time, it is necessary to complement the provisions of the law on the revenues and expenditures of environmental protection in line with the reality, ensure proper and adequate expenditures and annual expenditures increasing in accordance

with economic development level. Diversify sources of environmental protection investment and improve the efficiency of investments. And also, fully exploit the ODA. Manage investment funds for environmental protection towards savings, efficiency, focused investment. There should be mechanisms for monitoring the use of funds for environmental protection purposes. Soon go to implement effective revenues from environmental protection taxes, fees, fines for violations of environmental protection for environmental protection purposes. The environmental protection margin should be also strictly implemented.

Strengthen international relationship in order to exploit external sources for environmental protection

To obtain specific strategies, planning and plans for environmental protection in the process of new rural area development, the State also needs to strengthen and promote international cooperation on environmental protection. Because the relevant national environment is significantly influenced by the regional and global environment, the environmental protection industry in Vietnam is always associated with the protection of the water environment in the region and worldwide scope. Promoting international cooperation on environmental protection helps overcome difficulties and limitations beyond the settlement ability of a country. Firstly, the expansion of international cooperation on the environment in the spirit of respect and strictly implementation of the international conventions that Vietnam has signed, participated in, and acquired and communicated experiences and methods of environmental protection. Take advantage of the technical assistance and financial support from international organizations for the environmental protection, particularly for projects from GEP (Global Environment Fund), to achieve the objectives of effective environmental protection, in line with environmental protection objectives of the regional and global levels. Focus on coordination relations with other countries on issues such as biodiversity, ecological protection, and control of hazardous goods.

To strengthen international relations in the field of environmental protection, the state needs to develop cooperation strategies, maximizes mobilization and effective use of international resources, focuses on strengthening international cooperation in local and basic levels, strengthens cooperation with countries with common borders, particularly common rivers to protect the environment in the border areas and control trans-boundary pollution, in collaboration with the countries, international organizations to monitor, detect, prevent and strictly punish all acts of transfer of waste and obsolete technologies causing environmental pollution in Vietnam; minimize the adverse impact of the globalization of resources and the environment in Vietnam.

CONCLUSION

After all, the subject causing the environment pollution is humans, the subject of the State management of environmental protection are people working the system of state bodies, all guidelines, policies, and laws on environmental protection are also humans, and as humans develop. Therefore, improving the system of state management apparatus on the environmental protection and developing qualified staff in charge of

environmental protection are the first necessary step of Vietnam state.

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