

Agricultural Land and Livelihood of Household in Viet Nam

Nguyen Thi Dung¹

¹(Department of Economics- Finance, Bac Giang Agriculture and Forestry University, Viet Nam)

ABSTRACT: On the basis of the data of the General statistics office for the period 2005- 2015, the article uses the descriptive statistics method to analyze and assess the current situation of agricultural land distribution in Viet Nam according to use objects and livelihood of Viet Nam rural households. The article shows that land users are mainly households. Households' scale was small, fragmentary, unconcentrated. Livelihoods of households depend mainly on agricultural land. Monthly income per capita was created by agricultural production appropriated a significant proportion in self- employment. But efficiency of land use was low. Hence, livelihood of agricultural production households was not high. The reason is due to the application of scientific advances in production is limited, educational level is low. People produce in the traditional way, self-sufficient, access to international markets limited. Income of regions are different, gender is one of the determinants of income.

KEYWORDS: *Agricultural land, livelihood, household*

I. INTRODUCTION

Land has inherent value, and it creates value. A plot of land can provide a household with physical, financial, and nutritional security, and provide a labourer with a source of wages (Tim Hanstad and authors, 2014). With Viet Nam the country has nearly 16 million rural households. Although the country exports agricultural products, so livelihood of rural people depend on agricultural land but agricultural productivity is very low. Specially, with cultivations only 204,000 VND /day, livestock 228,000 VND/day and fishery 275,000 VND/day (Bao Van, 2018).

Livelihood security means secured ownership of, or access to, resources and income-earning activities, including reserves and assets to offset risks, ease shocks and meet contingencies (S.S. Acharya, 2006). Hence, the article researches and evaluates agricultural land and livelihood of household in Viet Nam in order to show reality agricultural land use of households in Viet Nam rural and livelihood of agricultural production households.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Based on the data of the General statistics office for the period 2005- 2015, the article uses the descriptive statistics method to analyze and assess the current situation of agricultural land distribution in Viet Nam according to use objects and livelihood of Viet Nam rural households.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Agricultural land

Agricultural land is suitable for agricultural production including crops and livestock. This is the main source of agricultural production. (FAO, 2013 and Glossary of statistical terms, 2007). According to Land Law 2013, agricultural land by purpose of use includes: land of agricultural production, forestry land, aquaculture land, salt land and other agricultural land (Parliamentary, 2013).

Agricultural household

A household is considered to be an agricultural household when at least one member of the household is operating a holding (farming household) or when the household head, reference person or main income earner is economically active in agriculture (OECD, 2001). According to Parliamentary (2013) agricultural households are households that have been assigned, leased or recognized by the State with the right to use agricultural land, receive agricultural land use rights and have stable incomes from agricultural production.

Livelihood

According to Chambers & Conway (1991) a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base. Poor people in rural areas, including those with no land, typically derive half their household income from farming (UNISDR, 2015)

Roles of agricultural land with livelihood of household

Agriculture plays four fundamental roles in poverty eradication:

- Through contributing to economic growth and the "quality" of that growth in terms of its benefits to the poor;
- As a key basis of livelihood strategies for hundreds of millions of the world's poorest people;
- As a provider of locally available staple foods for the poor; and
- Through the sustainable management of natural resources (DFID, 2002)

Agricultural production is based mainly on land. Land has inherent value, and it creates value. A plot of land can provide a household with physical, financial, and nutritional security, and provide a labourer with a source of wages (Tim Hanstad and authors, 2014).

Land-based livelihoods make a much more valuable contribution to rural livelihoods than the conventional wisdom dictates. There is also evidence that reliance on the land and natural resources is increasing as jobs in the formal sector become more scarce. These land-based livelihoods are critical to the survival and health of most rural households, particularly the very poor. In addition to providing for the basic needs of rural households, land-based livelihoods play a vital role in reducing their vulnerability to risks – risks such as the loss of a job or a pension, drought, floods, disease and death. (Maura Andrew and authors, 2003).

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Reality of household agricultural land distribution

Table 1 shows that agricultural land in Viet Nam accounted for a significant proportion of total land area in the period 2005- 2015. In 2005, this area appropriated 74.94%, in 2015 this area increased and accounted 82.36% of total land area. Average of this area raised 4.48% from 2005 to 2015. If land was allocated for users, agricultural land would be allocated for household appropriated nearly 60% and this land area tended to increase.

Table 1. Agricultural land by use objects (annual 1st, January)

Land Area	2005		2010		2015		Compared (%)		
	Area (ha)	Rate (%)	Area (ha)	Rate (%)	Area (ha)	Rate (%)	10/05	15/10	Average
Total land area	33121159	100.00	33095351	100.00	33123056	100.00	99.92	100.08	100.00
Agricultural land	24822559	74.94	26197449	79.16	27281040	82.36	105.54	104.14	104.84
Land was allocated for users	21275314	85.71	22744450	86.82	24497498	89.80	106.91	107.71	107.31
Agricultural land was allocated for Household	12430336	58.43	13915199	61.18	15018428	61.31	111.95	107.93	109.92
Land was allocated for managers	3547245	14.29	3452999	13.18	2783542	10.20	97.34	80.61	88.58

Resource: General Department of Land Administration, Viet Nam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Results of analysis shows that agricultural land of Viet Nam which is used by main households. In Viet Nam, the land is owned by the state, households are owned land use rights.

The number of rural households had a downward trend from 2006 to 2016. Low average was 6.36%. Inside, agricultural households appropriated nearly 90%. These households live mainly in the countryside.

The number of workable people in labour age also rose in this period. Average increased 0.65%. Number of workable people in labour age of agriculture and fishery decreased but the number of workable people in labour age of forestry raised. But number of workable people in labour age of agriculture accounted for a significant proportion about nearly 50% (table 2).

Table 2. Number of rural households and number of workable people in labour age by kinds of economic activity

	Unit	2006		2011		2016		Compared (%)		
		Quantity	Rate (%)	Quantity	Rate (%)	Quantity	Rate (%)	11/06	16/11	Average
Number of rural households	Household	13768472	100.00	15343852	100.00	15987527	100.00	111.44	104.20	107.76
<i>Agricultural, forestry, fishery households</i>	<i>Household</i>	<i>9783644</i>	<i>71.06</i>	<i>9535548</i>	<i>62.15</i>	<i>8579396</i>	<i>53.66</i>	<i>97.46</i>	<i>89.97</i>	<i>93.64</i>
Agricultural households	Household	9149118	93.51	8866510	92.98	7834584	91.32	96.91	88.36	92.54
Forestry households	Household	31566	0.32	51862	0.54	109700	1.28	164.30	211.52	186.42
Fishery households	Household	602960	6.16	617176	6.47	635112	7.40	102.36	102.91	102.63
Number of workable people in labour age	Person	30615090	100.00	31995954	100.00	31016720	100.00	104.51	96.94	100.65
Agriculture	Person	20065462	65.54	17667349	55.22	14566001	46.96	88.05	82.45	85.20
Forestry	Person	91671	0.30	140558	0.44	258479	0.83	153.33	183.89	167.92
Fishery	Person	1396372	4.56	1257322	3.93	1114617	3.59	90.04	88.65	89.34

Resource: General statistics office (2011, 2016)

Although agricultural land of Viet Nam accounts for a significant proportion. This land is used by rural households. Livelihood of rural households depends on agricultural production. Scale of household agricultural land is small and fragmentary, unconcentrative. The average agricultural household area was about 0.46 ha and average was divided 2.83 sections in 2017. Land size of Vietnamese farmer households is lower than China's land size and much lower than other Asian countries' land size (Tran Ngoc, 2017).

Table 3 shows structure of agricultural, forestry and fishery households by size of agricultural, forestry and fishery land area in use. Agricultural land scale went up from 2011 to 2016 but the increase is not significant.

There is a shift in the proportion of households who have land area such as no land, under 0,5ha, 0,5 to under 2 ha, 2 to under 5ha, 5 to under 10ha, 10 ha and over. Inside, landless Households and households have size of agricultural, forestry and fishery land area under 0,5ha fell. Households have size of agricultural, forestry and fishery land area 0,5 to under 2 ha, 2 to under 5ha, 5 to under 10ha, 10 ha and over increased slightly.

Although, policy makers pointed out the limitations of fragmentation but they don't agree to be a negative phenomenon (Patrik Sundqvist và Lisa Andersson, 2006).

This means households can produce a wide variety of crops, reduce the risk of crop failure by using a variety of land types.

Table 3. Structure of agricultural, forestry and fishery households by size of agricultural, forestry and fishery land area in use

	Total	No land	Unit: %				
			Under 0,5ha	0,5 to under 2 ha	2 to under 5ha	5 to under 10ha	10 ha and over
2011							
Whole country	100.00	6.97	50.7	30.39	9.61	1.78	0.55
Agriculture	100.00	4.59	53.1	30.66	9.38	1.74	0.53
Forestry	100.00	14.75	23.15	25.71	21.02	9.5	5.87
Fishery	100.00	38.1	20.87	27.17	11.86	1.69	0.31
2016							
Whole country	100.00	5.07	49.60	31.91	10.57	2.06	0.78
Agriculture	100.00	2.73	52.20	32.23	10.14	1.94	0.75
Forestry	100.00	7.66	19.70	30.26	26.60	10.48	5.31
Fishery	100.00	32.44	23.53	28.39	13.08	2.16	0.39

Resource: General statistics office (2011, 2016)

Livelihood of Viet Nam households

According to the VHLSS 2016, the gap in monthly average income per capita of the richest household quintile and the poorest one was 9.8 times, increasing in comparison to the gap of previous years (8.1 times in 2002, 8.3 times in 2004, 8.4 times in 2006, 8.9 times in 2008, 9.2 times in 2010, 9.4 times in 2012, and 9.7 times in 2014).

The VHLSS 2016 showed that the national Gini coefficient was 0.431 (0.42 in 2002, 2004 and 2006; 0.43 in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014).

The “40%” standard developed by the World Bank is used for assessing the income distribution of the population. This standard assess the proportion of income held by the 40% poorest people in the population. If this proportion is less than 12%, there is a high income inequality. If it ranges from 12% - 17%, income inequality is medium and if the proportion is greater than 17%, relative equality is considered to have been reached. This proportion in Viet Nam in terms of share of households was 18% in 2002, 17.4% in 2004, 17.4% in 2006, 16.4% in 2008, 15% in 2010, 15% in 2012, 15% in 2014 and 14.8% in 2016. According to this standard, Viet Nam’s income distribution in the population is quite equal but the trend is moving towards becoming less equal.

Table 4. The Government's poverty lines for period 2010-2016

Unit: VND

	Urban	Rural
2010	500,000	400,000
2011	600,000	480,000
2012	660,000	530,000
2014	750,000	605,000
2016	780,000	630,000

Resource: General statistics office of Viet Nam (2016)

Table 4 shows that Vietnamese Government's poverty lines for period 2010-2016 between urban and rural had a difference. This is the basis for assessing livelihoods of households who use agricultural land.

In order to evaluate livelihood of households, The article use data of monthly income per capita by source of income (At current prices), source of urban – rural, source of sex of household head.

Total monthly income per capita by source of income (At current prices) (table 5) from 2006 to 2016 raised. Monthly income of salary reached the highest level and monthly income rate of salary had been increasing. In 2006, it was 636, 500 VND, in 2016 it was 3097,600 VND.

Although in Viet Nam number of agricultural production households and agricultural land area is used by households appropriate a significant proportion, monthly income per capita by agriculture is average. This income raised slightly and was low from 2006 to 2016. The proportion of this income had a downward trend. In 2006 it accounted for 20.74%, in 2016 it decreased and accounted for 13.83%. Besides, monthly income per capita by construction, wholesale, retail sale, other services in income of self-employment and others tended to increase.

If monthly income per capita divided source of urban – rural. Both urban and rural had monthly income per capita to rise. Table 6 shows that monthly income per capita of urban is higher than rural. Main income source of urban and rural was created by wage. Besides, income source of rural was created agriculture production. In Viet Nam both of urban and rural had monthly income per capita by construction, wholesale, retail sale, other services in income of self-employment and others increased.

Generally, the income generated by agriculture, forestry and fishery tended to decrease. The Causes are policies of Vietnamese government such as resolution No 26-NQ/TW – The seventh meeting of the 10th central executive committee on agriculture, farmers and rural areas, The 12th meeting of 10th central committee about economic restructuring and industrial development.

Viet Nam have six regions: Red River Delta, Northern midland and mountain areas, North Central area and Central coastal areas, Central Highlands, South East, Mekong River Delta. Monthly income per capita by source of region (table 7) shows that different regions also had different income. Inside, monthly income per capita of South East was highest, monthly income per capita of Northern midland and mountain areas was lowest in the period from 2006 to 2016.

It can say that monthly income per capita of Mekong River Delta was created by agriculture was second only to Central Highlands. Although this region has the area of agricultural land is larger than other areas. It is accreted by Cuu Long alluvium every year. Mekong River Delta is a large delta area and is the largest agricultural area in Viet Nam, has capable of providing large- sale and high- quality raw materials for the processing industry. However, the educational level is low and human resource training system of region does not meet the requirements of human resource development for agricultural industry (Ha Thi Thuy Duong and Dang Quoc Tien, 2018)

Monthly income per capita by agriculture of Central Highlands was highest in Viet Nam from 2006 to 2016.

Table 5. Monthly income per capita by source of income (At current prices)

Income	2006		2008		2010		2012		2014		2016	
	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)
Total	636.50	100.00	995.20	100.00	1387.10	100.00	1999.80	100.00	2637.30	100.00	3097.60	100.00
Salary or wage	218.00	34.25	345.50	34.72	622.40	44.87	923.10	46.16	1253.20	47.52	1486.70	48.00
Self employment												
Agriculture	132.00	20.74	202.30	20.33	238.60	17.20	339.60	16.98	387.40	14.69	428.40	13.83
Forestry	5.10	0.80	6.90	0.69	9.80	0.71	13.60	0.68	15.70	0.60	18.00	0.58
Fishery	21.20	3.33	29.50	2.96	30.90	2.23	43.30	2.17	55.40	2.10	63.70	2.06
Industry	34.80	5.47	50.40	5.06	69.50	5.01	81.50	4.08	115.30	4.37	132.00	4.26
Construction	3.50	0.55	5.30	0.53	9.50	0.68	14.40	0.72	15.90	0.60	30.90	1.00
Wholesale, retail sale	62.30	9.79	94.90	9.54	147.60	10.64	203.40	10.17	266.90	10.12	336.70	10.87
Other services	44.50	6.99	74.90	7.53	100.90	7.27	1430	7.15	192.60	7.30	248.00	8.01
Others	115.10	18.08	185.60	18.65	158.00	11.39	237.90	11.90	335.00	12.70	353.80	11.42

Resource: General statistics office of Viet Nam (2016)

Table 6. Monthly income per capita by source of urban - rural

	2006		2008		2010		2012		2014		2016	
	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)
Urban												
Total	1058.4	100.00	1605.2	100.00	2129.5	100.00	2989.1	100.00	3964.5	100.00	4551.3	100.00
Salary or wage	453.8	42.88	683.5	42.58	1168.4	54.87	1666.7	55.76	2226.2	56.15	2537.2	55.75
Self employment												
Agriculture	46.7	4.41	58.1	3.62	73.8	3.47	115.4	3.86	144.1	3.63	158.9	3.49
Forestry	0.8	0.08	1.1	0.07	2.2	0.10	2.3	0.08	2.7	0.07	1.7	0.04
Fishery	10.6	1.00	18.5	1.15	20.0	0.94	29.1	0.97	28.0	0.71	34.6	0.76
Industry	63.6	6.01	78.8	4.91	109.8	5.16	112.1	3.75	152.2	3.84	172	3.78
Construction	8.0	0.76	9.5	0.59	13.6	0.64	20.4	0.68	24.7	0.62	37.1	0.82
Wholesale, retail sale	129.2	12.21	191.0	11.90	259.0	12.16	346.0	11.58	446.1	11.25	588.5	12.93
Other services	116.0	10.96	181.7	11.32	218.6	10.27	311.7	10.43	406.0	10.24	493.9	10.85
Others	229.6	21.69	383.1	23.87	264.1	12.40	385.5	12.90	534.6	13.48	527.8	11.60
Rural												
Total	505.7	100.00	762.2	100.00	1070.4	100.00	1579.4	100.00	2038.4	100.00	2422.7	100.00
Salary or wage	140.0	27.68	216.4	28.39	389.5	36.39	607.1	38.44	814.1	39.94	999.0	41.23
Self employment												
Agriculture	167.1	33.04	257.4	33.77	308.9	28.86	434.8	27.53	497.2	24.39	553.6	22.85
Forestry	6.8	1.34	9.1	1.19	13.1	1.22	18.5	1.17	21.5	1.05	25.1	1.04
Fishery	25.8	5.10	33.8	4.43	35.5	3.32	49.4	3.13	67.7	3.32	77.2	3.19
Industry	25.6	5.06	39.6	5.20	52.3	4.89	68.5	4.34	98.7	4.84	113.4	4.68
Construction	2.0	0.40	3.7	0.49	7.7	0.72	11.9	0.75	11.9	0.58	28	1.16
Wholesale, retail sale	40.3	7.97	58.2	7.64	100.1	9.35	142.8	9.04	186.1	9.13	219.8	9.07
Other services	20.6	4.07	34	4.46	50.6	4.73	71.4	4.52	96.3	4.72	133.9	5.53
Others	77.6	15.35	110.1	14.45	112.7	10.53	175.2	11.09	244.9	12.01	272.9	11.26

Resource: General statistics office of Viet Nam (2016)

Table 7. Monthly income per capita by source of region

	2008		2010		2012		2014		2016	
	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)
Red River Delta										
Total	1064.8	100.00	1580.4	100.00	2350.6	100.00	3264.9	100.00	3883.3	100.00
Agriculture	171.2	16.08	173.3	10.97	244.4	10.40	292	8.94	323.9	8.34
Forestry	1.7	0.16	1.5	0.09	2.5	0.11	1.1	0.03	1.4	0.04
Fishery	16.5	1.55	14.4	0.91	28	1.19	34.1	1.04	9.9	0.25
Northern midland and mountain areas										
Total	656.7	100.00	904.6	100.00	1258.4	100.00	1613.4	100.00	1962.6	100.00
Agriculture	218.1	33.21	268.3	29.66	346.6	27.54	403	24.98	455.3	23.20
Forestry	25	3.81	36.4	4.02	45.4	3.61	53.5	3.32	61.1	3.11
Fishery	8.7	1.32	9.4	1.04	13.8	1.10	14.7	0.91	18.7	0.95

North Central area and Central coastal areas										
Total	728.2	100.00	1018	100.00	1505.2	100.00	1982.3	100.00	2357.6	100.00
Agriculture	156.8	21.53	183.7	18.05	260.6	17.31	304.3	15.35	334.9	14.21
Forestry	9.2	1.26	15.3	1.50	23.7	1.57	29.4	1.48	30.4	1.29
Fishery	26.3	3.61	31.8	3.12	35.5	2.36	45.5	2.30	56.4	2.39
Central Highlands										
Total	794.6	100.00	1087.9	100.00	1643.3	100.00	2008.5	100.00	2365.9	100.00
Agriculture	349.7	44.01	455.5	41.87	744.8	45.32	846.4	42.14	910.1	38.47
Forestry	6.6	0.83	9.6	0.88	9.6	1.29	11	0.55	13.5	0.57
Fishery	6	0.76	4.5	0.41	4.5	46.88	5.3	0.26	5.1	0.22
South East										
Total	1773.2	100.00	2304.3	100.00	3172.8	100.00	4124.9	100.00	4661.7	100.00
Agriculture	137.7	7.77	237.7	10.32	343.2	10.82	325.7	7.90	314.6	6.75
Forestry	1.5	0.08	1.1	0.05	1.7	0.05	2.2	0.05	2.8	0.06
Fishery	11.1	0.63	7	0.30	16.5	0.52	16	0.39	24.2	0.52
Mekong River Delta										
Total	939.9	100.00	1247.2	100.00	1796.7	100.00	2326.8	100.00	2777.6	100.00
Agriculture	281.1	29.91	293.9	23.56	409.3	22.78	491.5	21.12	577.6	20.79
Forestry	2.5	0.27	2.3	0.18	3.7	0.21	2.5	0.11	5.5	0.20
Fishery	82.4	8.77	93.8	7.52	126.5	7.04	179.8	7.73	182.1	6.56

Resource: General statistics office of Viet Nam (2016)

Table 8. Monthly income per capita by source of sex of household head

	2006		2008		2010		2012		2014		2016	
	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)	Quantity (1000 VNĐ)	Rate (%)
Male												
Total	596.8	100.00	937.6	100.00	1321.4	100.00	1929.9	100.00	2525.3	100.00	3000.1	100.00
Agriculture	144.8	24.26	225.6	24.06	269.5	20.40	382.8	19.84	438	17.34	487.1	16.24
Forestry	5.8	0.97	7.8	0.83	11.4	0.86	15.5	0.80	18.3	0.72	21.1	0.70
Fishery	23.9	4.00	33.1	3.53	34.4	2.60	49	2.54	63.3	2.51	73.8	2.46
Female												
Total	778.8	100.00	1201.3	100.00	1617.5	100.00	2247.1	100.00	3026.7	100.00	3439.1	100.00
Agriculture	83.2	10.68	118.7	9.88	130.3	8.06	186.3	8.29	211.7	6.99	222.7	6.48
Forestry	2.4	0.31	3.9	0.32	4.5	0.28	6.9	0.31	6.4	0.21	7.1	0.21
Fishery	11.2	1.44	16.7	1.39	18.8	1.16	23.3	1.04	27.8	0.92	28.3	0.82

Resource: General statistics office of Viet Nam (2016)

Central Highlands have the main products of Viet Nam, with high market demand, reach the export value of billions of dollars a year such as coffee, rubber, cashew nuts, vegetables, fruits and flowers... (Quang Huy, 2017).

Compared to gross income, monthly income per capita by agriculture of regions is not high.

If monthly income per capita divided source of sex of household head, income of female is higher than income of male. But income rate of female was created by agricultural production was lower than income of male rate was created by agricultural (table 8).

Reality of agricultural land and livelihood of households in Viet Nam shows that agricultural land was used mainly by households. However, households' scale was small, fragmentary, unconcentrated. Efficiency of land use was low. Hence, livelihood of agricultural production households was not high. Monthly income per capita was created by agricultural production appropriated a significant proportion in self-employment. Inside, monthly income per capita was created by agricultural production of Central Highlands was highest, monthly

income per capita was created by agricultural production of male accounted for a proportion higher than monthly income per capita was created by agricultural production of female.

Generally, livelihood of rural households in Viet Nam is low. The reason is due to the application of scientific advances in production is limited, educational level is low. People produce in the traditional way, self-sufficient, access to international markets limited. Income of regions are different,

As a result, improving livelihoods of households, households should link to production to accumulate land to develop goods, apply of technical advances into production, connect with businesses to build a chain of agricultural products to stabilize production and increase the value of agricultural products.

V. CONCLUSION

The results show that land users are mainly households. Households' scale was small, fragmentary, unconcentrated. Livelihoods of households depend mainly on agricultural land. Different regions have different income, gender is one of the determinants of income. Generally, monthly income per capita of households who product agriculture is low. households should link to production to accumulate land, apply of technical advances into production, connect with businesses to build a chain of agricultural products to stabilize production and increase the value of agricultural products in order to improve livelihood.

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