

Evaluation of the effectiveness of forest land allocation and allocation of forest for protection on contract to households and individuals

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I. Introduction

Forest and forest land represents about 2/3 of the land area in the whole country and is a mean of labour and main labour object of over 30 million people of 50 ethnic groups and at the same time is the leading decisive factor contributing to ecological environment protection. The State programme for allocating forest land to various organizations began in 1968. With time, the State has promulgated and implemented a system of policies on forest land allocation and allocation of forest for protection on contract to organizations, households and individuals suitably to each period. Through nearly 30 years implementing the programme of forest land allocation and allocation of forest for protection on contract, the forestry branch has accomplished some definite achievements, encouraging many economic components participate in forestry endeavours. Larger and larger area of bare land and denuded hills is put into use. Many good models of production with the forms of agro-forestry system, forest farm and forest garden have developed in all localities, creating employment and income for million of people.

Besides the above- mentioned achievements, the programme of forest land allocation and allocation of forest for protection on contract still have many remaining problems. An easily seen fact is that with agricultural land, after the decision No 10 on production on contract and the Decision 64/ CP, the peasants have attached themselves closely with the land, food production have made quick and rather stable step forward but with forest land the allocation of forest land and the allocation of forest for protection on contract carried out formerly and after the issuing of the Decision 02/ CP, no such a motive force was created. To find out the causes of the above- mentioned situation we conduct a research subject: Evaluation of the effectiveness of forest land allocation and allocation of forest for protection on contract to households, individual"

II. Research methodologies

The following research methods have been applied:

- + Study and analysis of policy documents.
- + Rural appraisal with the people's participation (PRA).
- + Participatory investigation: exchange views and discussion with the people
- + Expert method: consulting the views points, ideas of leading experts in forestry branch.
- + Statistical analysis, economical mathematics

By interdisciplinary research method the subject is all-sidedly and intensively studied.

III. Research results

The research subject has studied the policy on forest land allocation and allocation of forest for protection on contract in Vietnam, the situation of this policy implementation from 1968 to 1996. The research subject also deals with policies of some countries in Asia aimed at encouraging the people to protect and develop the forest in keeping with the conditions in each country.

Recommendations are briefly expressed as follows:

1. The State should early promulgate decision on right to land use of the households and individual so that these entities are legally implement their mastery over the land and forest allocated to them.
2. Supplying sufficiently the budget, equipment, means and well- trained contingent of employees implementing the forest land allocation special attention is paid to GPS equipment, equipment for survey such as TOPCON and traveling means .
3. Land allocation must be linked with land use zoning, planning. Plan of land use must be elaborated from grass-root level with the people's participation in discussion, exchange of views. After land allocation there must be strict inspection by the provincial cadastral office and Forest Protection Branch, timely detecting and correcting the errors, avoiding costly repeated allocation.
4. Concerning the remote and distant regions and regions inhabited by the ethnic minorities, following land and forest allocation the State must timely provides support in capital and technical matter through programmes and projects.

5. In the State policies of land and forest allocation there must be clearly defined the right of the households to the use of residential land and land for gardening. We propose the residential and gardening land area of the households in midland and mountainous regions as follows:

- Residential land 400m²
- Land for gardening 5,000m²

The households with insufficient residential and gardening land as regulated are supplemented with forest land. We propose the State leave to the commune 50% of forest land fund to serve the public requirements in the locality (the same as with agricultural land regulated by Article 45 of the Land Law).

6. With Allocated forest the chief of household is allowed to take the initiative in carry out forest production activities (forest planting, forest enrichment planting, maintenance, protection) in keeping with the planning, properly implementing silvicultural procedures promulgated by the State in forest establishment and management.

A large part of the household chiefs do not yet know the silvicultural techniques thus in the course of production there need be whole- hearted assistance of the local forest authority in planting stock, structure of planted species especially in silvicultural techniques.

7. Direct economic benefits is the motive force arousing households and individuals to receive forest land and forest for protection on contract. Thus the State policy of forest land and forest allocation must see to maximizing people's economic benefits so that they willingly attach themselves to the allocated land and forest. The author recommends a direction in distribution of benefits between the State and households, individual depending on various types and conditions of the forest and land as follows:

a. Natural forest:

- Allocation on contract (01/ CP).

Payment to household for forest protection is 100,000d/ ha/ year and the thinning products. The household enjoys no product in main exploitation products.

If the household (or individual) receives no payment it is allowed to enjoy 100% of main exploitation and thinning products after paying tax, and the cost of designing, justification, management, (and forest enrichment planting if this has been done).

Side A calculates the products due to side B in each exploitation cycle based on the forest allocation time. In remote, distant regions and where the people are poor the chief of household may receive the payment on contract. In mid-land and low-land regions, the payment on contract is in kind (products). With special - use forest payment is paid on contract.

- In case of allocation on contract stated in 02/ CP; side B enjoys main exploitation and thinning products after paying tax and other obligations.

b. Forest plantation

- Forest plantation as production forest.

* Case 1: He who receives the land and invests himself or borrows capital from the State (privileged credit) enjoys 100% main exploitation and thinning products after returning the capital and the interest.

* Case 2: He who receives the plantation planted by the capital from the State enjoys on contract 50% of main exploitation product and 100% of thinning product. Side A calculates the products side B may enjoy in the exploitation cycle based on the number of years the forest is allocated to it.

* Case 3: Household that receives forest from the State for protection enjoys the ratio of the products as in case 2. If the household does not receive the products, it may be paid 100,000 d/ ha/ year and the thinning product. In second cycle it must be pay tax 4% on land- use to the State based on the amount of main exploitation products each side enjoys.

- Forest plantation as protection forest. The household that receives the forest on contract enjoys 100% of the main exploitation and thinning products as dictated by procedures of protection forest. Immediately after being exploited the plantation must be re- planted. 100,000d/ ha/ year and thinning product may be received as payment for forest protection instead of main exploitation and thinning products.

- Forest plantation as special- use forest: The household that receives the forest for protection on contract is paid 100,000 d/ ha/ year.

In brief: the situation of land allocation and forest allocation for protection on contract is divided in two stages:

- + Period prior to renovation
- + Period after renovation

After studying real situation of land and forest allocation in Thanh Hoa, besides the results obtained the research subject also mentions the remaining problems in both sides: Locality and the State, hence difficulties and restrictions of policy on land and forest allocation to households and individuals are shown and 7 recommendations are made as being summarized above.

References:

1. Law on Forest Protection and Development, 1991.
2. Land Law 1993.
3. Decision 02/ CP dated 15/ 1/ 1994 of the Government on Promulgation of the Regulation on Forest Land allocation to Organizations, Households and Individuals for Long- term use in Forestry.
4. Decision 01/ CP dated 04/ 01/ 1995 of the Government on Promulgation of the Regulations on Land Allocation on Contract for Use in Agricultural and Forest Production, Aquaculture in State – owned Enterprises.
5. Decision 327/ CT dated 15/ 9/ 1992 of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers on some Policies on the Use of Bare Land and Denuded hills, Forest, Coastal Sedimentary Deposit areas and Water Bodies.
6. Decision 556/ TTg dated 12/ 9/ 1995 of the Prime Minister on amendment and supplementation to Decision 327/ CT dated 15/ 9/ 1992.
7. Decision 202/ TTg dated 2/ 5/ 1994 of the Prime Minister on Forest and Forest Land Allocation on Contract for Forest Protection, Forest Regrowth Tending Regeneration and Forest Planting.
8. Decision 264/ CT dated 22/ 4/ 1992 of the Chairmam of the Council of Ministers on Policy Encouraging Investment in Forest Development.

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