

An analysis of the roles of rural industry in Van Truong commune, Tien Hai district, Thai Binh province

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Received 05 September 2010; received in revised form 24 September 2010

Abstract. The Red River Delta (hereafter as RRD) is one of the two biggest deltas in Vietnam with the population is 19,625 million persons in 2009. It is also the most populous area with the population density of 932 person/km² in 2009 (General Statistics Office, 2010). Tien Hai District of Thai Binh Province locates in the eastern part of the RRD, lies in the coastal zone - a sensitive area and affected by the interaction between the mainland and the South China Sea (in Vietnamese as Biển Đông - East Sea). The study area of this research is Van Truong Commune locates in the “old-land” area. Analysis of the roles of rural industry will show the characteristics of one of the fundamental features of the rural development process particularly in Tien Hai District as well as in the RRD.

Non-farm work is a useful solution to gradually bridge the income gap between urban and rural areas, in which rural industry has been paid attention to develop (UNIDO, 2000). Nevertheless, in a long time, the role of rural industry has been neglected because the mode of production was followed the state-owned enterprises and cooperatives. The objective of the paper is to analyze the realistic situation of rural industry in the RRD by tracing the characteristics of rural industry in Van Truong Commune, Tien Hai District, Thai Binh Province.

1. Introduction

The Red River Delta (hereafter as RRD) is one of the two biggest deltas in Vietnam with the population is 19,625 million persons in 2009. It is also the most populous area with the population density of 932 person/km² in 2009 [1]. The RRD is considered as the “Home of Vietnamese Nation”. Moreover, it is one of the most typical populous deltas in the South-East Asia. Tien Hai District of Thai Binh Province locates in the eastern part of the RRD, lies in

the coastal zone - a sensitive area and affected by the interaction between the mainland and the South China Sea (in Vietnamese as Biển Đông - East Sea). Tien Hai is a famous place of the land reclamation process in the late 19th century under the Nguyen dynasty. The process of land reclamation and changes in administrative boundaries divided Tien Hai district into two areas: the “new-land” area included coastal communes, which had a relatively short history of development (from the 19th century up to now). The latter was the “old-land” area, its history related closely with the RRD. The physical setting together with various

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development history formed basic distinctiveness between the two communes of Tien Hai District. The study area of this research is Van Truong Commune locates in the “old-land” area. Analysis of the roles of rural industry will show the characteristics of one of the fundamental features of the rural development process particularly in Tien Hai District as well as in the RRD.

Non-farm work is a useful solution to gradually bridge the income gap between urban and rural areas, in which rural industry has been paid attention to develop [2]. Rural industry is not a new subject in the economy structure of Vietnam. In 1936, Gourou P., quoted that: “*the RRD had 108 types of rural industry and this number was surely smaller than the reality situation*” [3]. Nevertheless, in a long time, the role of rural industry has been neglected because the mode of production was followed the state-owned enterprises and cooperatives. Such models were considered inappropriate due to the characteristics of rural industry in the RRD, of which its scale was equal to a household in order to salvage redundant human resources, as well as to suit a small consumption market [2-4]. On the other hand, finding a market for products also depended much on the policies of the government and lower administrative levels. Moreover, the only economy forms admitted by the government were the state-owned enterprises, cooperatives and mutual-aid groups, which were directly under local authority’s control, while the

household economy was not encouraged to develop. Those reasons had limited the rural industry development in the pre-reform period. Assessing the development of rural industry since the reform (in Vietnamese as “Đổi Mới”) process implemented up to now by comparing to previous periods will show the influences to rural development at village level.

The objective of the paper is to analyze the realistic situation of rural industry in the RRD by tracing the characteristics of rural industry in Van Truong Commune, Tien Hai District, Thai Binh Province.

2. Study area and research methods

a) Location

Van Truong Commune is situated from 20° 21' to 20° 22' N, and 106° 27'-106° 29' E. The commune is located in the South - Western of Thai Binh Province. Van Truong is commune among the total 35 communes and town of Tien Hai District, Thai Binh Province. The reasons for choosing Van Truong Commune as key study area are as follows: (i) it relates to the history of founding and developing the Tien Hai District - the region was very famous for land reclamation and development in the RRD; (ii) Van Truong is one of the typical communes in the RRD where its economy is mainly based on agricultural activities as well as surplus population character.

b) Research methods

Field work is used as main method of this study. During the period of 2002-2006, the author conducted several field trips within Tien Hai District as well as Van Truong Commune. There 110 households were selected for interviewing by using questionnaires.

Furthermore, historical and other related documents such as the strategies, policies of rural industry development from Thai Binh Province level down to Tien Hai District and Van Truong Commune levels were collected. On the other hand, the reports of socio-economic development of Van Truong Commune were used for analysis of the status and level of development in the study area.

GIS software such as Mapinfor 8.5 and ArcGIS 9.2 were used in order to make some maps as the method for analyzing and displaying the distribution of the rural industry in Van Truong Commune.

3. Rural industry in Vietnam: Concept and Development

a) The concept of rural industry: some different viewpoints

The concept of rural industry covers wide meanings, and it is known in different socio-economic situation of different countries. In 2000, UNIDO quoted that: “*Rural industries are the industrial enterprises located in rural areas. A narrow definition of “industries” is those economic activities classified as manufacturing*”. And “*Manufacturing is defined here as the physical or chemical transformation of materials or components into new products, whether the work is performed by power-driven machines or by hand, whether it is done in a factory or in the worker's home,*

and whether the products are sold at wholesale or retail” [2].

According to Vu Huy Phuc in 1996: a laborer, who are doing rural industry, has some typical characters such as (i) having skilled-work with the specific product(s); (ii) having own right in order to decide all activities as supplying input materials and selling output products; (iii) working alone or cooperating with other laborers.

Therefore, it can be said that rural industry include handicraft production activities completely performed by manual labor or with partly support of industrial machinery and modern technological means.

b) Traditional rural industry

Traditional rural industries appeared in the early times and manage to exist now, including those though with improved and mechanized production method still conform to traditional techniques. Traditional rural industries often inherited through generations with confidential expertise only unveiled to descendants in the family.

- “*Occupational*” village: “*Occupational*” village¹⁾ is one of the most typical characters in Vietnam’s rural industry, especially in the RRD. A village where there are many houses participating in a certain branch of rural industry. In a typical “*occupational*” village, the number of such houses often ranges from 30% to 80% [2].

- *Classification of rural household*: according to the definition of UNIDO, there are three household types in Vietnam rural areas as the followings:

¹⁾ “*Lang nghe*” in Vietnamese means occupational village.

+ *Non-farm household*: A household with at least 80% of income or employment derived from non-farm activities. Would normally be a household enterprise according to Decree 66-HĐBT of the government.

+ *Mixed-type household*: A household with 20-80% of income or employment derived from non-farm activities. Some of these may be household enterprises according to Decree 66-HĐBT, but most of them not (a certain discretion can be applied at district and commune level).

+ *Farm household*: A household with maximum 20% of income or employment from non-farm activities and not registered for any business purposes.

c) The development of rural Industry in Thai Binh Province

◆ *From 1875 to 1954*

Penetration of capitalism brought back many changes to Thai Binh's rural industry. From the traditional model at household scale, many houses evolved into specialized group in order to enlarge production. This period also saw mushrooming growth of occupational villages. Many products of the rural industry gained export opportunities, namely sedge mat, silver and gold jewel, sedge carpet, but they were in small quantities and to small market. Moreover, some traditional branches of rural industry fell into oblivion while other new ones appeared, including lace making, hat making,... At the beginning of 20th century, there were 73 occupational groups of rural industry with 143 occupational villages in Thai Binh (Table 1).

Table 1. Distribution of occupational villages in Thai Binh at the beginning of 20th century

District	No. of occupational groups	No. of occupational villages
Thai Ninh	11	9
Tien Hung	11	11
Kien Xuong	12	20
Duyen Ha	5	19
Hung Nhan	12	16
Dong Quan	3	2
Quynh Coi	7	6
Phu Duc	3	3
Thu Tri	19	19
Vu Tien	4	6
Thuy Anh	18	26
Tien Hai	7	7

Source: [5]

Thuy Anh, Thu Tri, Duyen Ha, and Kien Xuong are districts with an impressively number of occupational villages at the beginning of the 20th century. Because they had long history of development and they located near Thai Binh's City - the most important socio-economic center of Thai Binh Province. Therefore, these districts had more chance to

import various new branches of rural industry. While other districts had fewer than 10 occupational villages.

◆ *From 1954 to 1986*

Thai Binh's economy entered into the stage of collectivist production. Many rural industry occupations, which once sank into oblivion or

sparsely operated, were put into cooperatives. In this stage, Thai Binh's rural industry developed rapidly and attracted thousands of labor. With great quantity of outputs, handicraft production could afford domestic and overseas demands at the same time. Over many years, Thai Binh's rural industry kept top position in the North of Vietnam for output quantity, variety, and export value. The rural industry accounted for a significant proportion of provincial industrial sector. In 1982, this value was 73.4%, leading to the increase of industry by 26.8% of the economic structure. In 1986, Thai Binh had 1448 cooperatives of rural industry with 67,800 professional artisans, accounting for 12.7% labor in RRD's rural industry.

◆ *Since 1986*

Under the circumstance of such rapid changes in production models as well as working force in rural industry, Thai Binh People's Committee made a wise decision. They concluded that production activities, which had always been under the control of agricultural cooperative houses or inefficient organs, should be delegated to households. Moreover, production should be encouraged by allocating land in land reservation fund to households participating in small handicraft industry from 240-300 m². Therefore, the number of individual households involved in this industry rose dramatically, for example in 1995, there were all in all 32,509 households, which is 7.5 times as many as in 1986.

The most outstanding feature of Thai Binh's rural industry in this period is the restoration and development of traditional occupation villages: in 1995, the total number of restored and newly established trade villages was 40. In 2000, this figure was 82 with 24,246

households participating in rural industry, creating jobs for 140,000 laborers, equivalent to 17, 5% of the provincial labor force.

4. The roles of rural industry for development in Van Truong Commune

a) Characteristics of rural industry in Van Truong Commune

The Tien Hai District has seven communes, which have rural industry. Van Truong Commune has two occupational villages, namely Quan Bac Weaving Village and Bac Trach Food Processing Village. Additionally, rural industry occupations in Van Truong are much diversified, including net knitting, embroidery, rattan weaving... According to the statistic data of Van Truong Commune in 2004, there are 1897 laborers participating in rural industry, making up 36.34% of the total commune's laborers. At present, Van Truong commune has eight villages with seven supplementary rural industries, two of which were recognized in 2003. They are Quan Bac Weaving Village including four hamlets of Quan Bac Dong, Quan Bac Dinh, Quan Bac Nam and Quan Bac Doai, and Bac Trach Food Processing Village of two hamlets of Bac Trach I and Bac Trach II. Quan Cao village recently has developed rattan-weaving occupation. Occupations of embroidery and net knitting have been in several hamlets. Particularly, Rang Dong village does not have any rural industry occupation.

◆ *Weaving occupation*

Rural industry occupations of Van Truong Commune appeared in different time but the weaving, a traditional occupation occurred before French domination period. At present, 90% of households in Quan Bac hamlet have been engaging to the weaving occupation. Like

other occupations, the weaving occupation connects closely with the raw material. In the past, Quan Bac as well as other villages of Vietnam's countryside is where bamboos and rattans are very popular. Each household has some groves of bamboos and rattans, which are considered as borderlines between families as well as raw materials for production. Initially, the production was for family demand only and then it has expanded due to demands of

neighboring villages. Gradually, the weaving products have become commodity.

In 2003, the total number of laborers engaging to the weaving occupation was 756 throughout the commune, mainly in Quan Bac village. On average, each family has two people and some households have more than five people involving in the production with per capita income of 10,000 VND per day (Table 2).

Table 2. Laborers and income from weaving of households

No. of laborers in a family (person)	Number of households	Percentage (%)	Income (VND/ person/day)	Percentage (%)
1	7	6.7	< 10,000	18.7
2	85	80.9	10,000 - 12,000	53.4
> 3	13	12.4	> 12,000	27.9

Source: [4]

Weaving production has many steps, namely: splitting bamboos and rattans, whittling laths, weaving and finally smoking out for good color and quality. The most difficult step is shaping (*Len cap*) and smoking out for products. The step requires special techniques and skills that will create differences among households. The weaving products have many types, and their price belong to the size of product as well as its quality. Weaving *Thung* - the big basket brings a higher income it is because the steps from whittling laths to finish products require higher techniques and skills.

◆ Food processing occupation

The food processing occupation in Bac Trach village includes brewing traditional alcohol and making noodles and alcohol yeast. The development of food processing depends much on agricultural production and living standard. It is because agriculture provides raw materials for food processing and the living standard decides the consumption power of products. Before 1986, the food processing was less developed due to low productivity of rice and per capita food. In the period, there was only brewing traditional alcohol in household

scale, mainly for themselves consumption. Due to low living standard, food was not enough for preventing starvation so food processing was not developed. Cake making occurred but less expanded. Later, thanks to the policies of allocating rice fields to each household, the rice productivity and food surplus have considerably increased and living standard remarkably approved. The demand of people is to enjoy good eating so the food processing occupation has gradually developed. Some foods such as cakes and noodles now have become indispensable for daily life of local people.

Presently, brewing traditional alcohol has attracted most households involving with 273 laborers from 168 families. Brewing traditional alcohol is mainly at household scale. Households' capacity is below 20 liters per day, maximum to 50 liters per day in some families. The products have been sold on spot or neighboring villages, townships or communes of Kien Xuong district (Figure 2). The products are delivered door to door mainly by bicycles. There are a few households, which have agents Tien Hai Town or Thai Binh City use motorbikes for delivery.



Figure 2. Market areas Van Truong's rural industry in Tien Hai District.

Vermicelli making occupation has newly developed in Van Truong commune for 15 years, which is brought from Ha Tay Province. In the past, the making was done by hand but now machines process it. Initially, the commune had four Vermicelli making machines but now only two have been operating due to lacking of laborers. The young laborers look for jobs in other regions they do not want to take over their family businesses. Making noodles by machines has brought a higher productivity. The producers have a stable consumption market through retailers.

Making alcohol yeast is an occupation attracting many laborers in the commune. Households operate on large scale and employed children for shaping alcohol yeast. The products are mainly sold by wholesale to agents.

Besides the above-mentioned rural industry occupations, many households in Bac Trach village are doing jobs of making popular cakes for the local demands such as Banh Cuon (steamed rolled rice pancake), Banh Hap (steamed cake), Bun (rice vermicelli),... Recently, these occupations have expanded due to an increase of local people's demand.

◆ *Embroidery and Net Knitting*

Unlike weaving and food processing occupations, embroidery and net knitting occupation were introduced to the commune in the 1990s at household scale and small number of laborers. Embroidery occupation had introduced to Van Truong commune by a woman from Nam Dinh Province who was getting married with a man of Van Truong Commune. Initially, the occupation had attracted many people but later it was diminished. The reason is that the embroidery required skilled people. Recently, the occupation has not attracted local people

despite it is a stable distribution and the highest income as compared to other occupations in the commune. A laborer doing embroidery can earn 15,000VND per day and 30,000 VND per day for skillful people.

Van Truong commune, presently, has 123 people working for three embroidery workshops which are producing under orders from Greece, South Korea and Japan (Japan is considered as the most stable partner). However, the commune's embroidery products have not exported directly but via intermediaries. Products exporting to South Korea are through Vu Thu District, products to Greece are taken from Nam Dinh Province, and exports to Japan go to Thai Binh city. Income of workers has been reduced due to through many intermediaries.

◆ *Rattan Weaving*

Since 2002, Rattan weaving occupation has just introduced in the commune and it has much developed in Quan Cao village. The main raw materials are *Giang* (small bamboo) and rattan. The products are fine arts handicraft items such as flower baskets and trays. A salient characteristic of the bamboo weaving occupation is that designs of products change in period and quality is strictly examined. Therefore, the laborers have to quickly adapt changes of designs and their professional skills have to be regularly improved. The rattan weaving attracts 200 laborers who used to work fishing which brings a high income but is a hard job, especially for women. Therefore, when the rattan weaving occupation was introduced, many local people have changed from the fishing to this occupation.

General characteristics of rural industry in Van Truong Commune

- Each occupation has been apportioned in specific village(s) such as weaving in Quan

Bac, food processing in Bac Trach, rattan weaving in Quan Cao, embroidery and fishing net knitting scattered in several villages. Rang Dong village have no occupation. The characteristic was due to employment allocation in the rural areas but the major reason was the religious differences among villages. In terms of geographical characteristic, hamlets are very close among others but the occupations are quite different and they never transfer their own occupations to one another. Nowadays, the religious difference has not existed any more but each village has developed its own occupation, which created diversity in the rural industry in Van Truong commune.

- Products of Van Truong Commune's rural industry have provided to market via intermediaries. Along with the traditional

occupations of weaving and food processing, many new occupations have been introduced through individuals who had contact with occupation founders of other localities.

b) The roles of rural industry for development in Van Truong Commune

◆ *Creating jobs for local people*

Characteristic of rural industry is to produce according to crop seasons. Every year the period of harvest is 75%, and the left months are leisure time after the harvest. The development of rural industry has created jobs for local people during the leisure time. According to statistics data of Van Truong Commune People's Committee, in 2003 the commune had 1,897 laborers taking part in the rural industry (Table 3).

Table 3. The size of rural industry occupations of Van Truong Commune in 2004

Occupation	Number of households	Total number of laborer		Female laborer	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Weaving	359	765	38.42	397	51.89
Rattan weaving	203	302	15.12	275	86.13
Processing	284	574	28.74	257	44.77
Embroidery	102	123	6.16	120	97.56
Net knitting	97	120	6.00	116	96.67
Others	63	113	5.56	46	40.70

Rural industry has created jobs for 36.34% of local laborers. The occupations of weaving and food processing employ 65.66% in total number of laborers in all sectors. On average, each household has two people taking part in. The percentage of female workers in the rural industry reaches 58.5%. The embroidery, rattan weaving and net knitting occupations have the highest percentage of female workers of more than 85%. Weaving and food processing are traditional occupations so the percentage of male and female workers is equal. The food processing business employs more male workers because it is used industrial machines.

Rural industry has generated regular jobs thanks to stable market and non-stop demand. There are 95 of 110 interviewed households, which have been carrying out rural industry even in harvest time. Especially for households involving in weaving occupation, during the harvest time, the consumption demand has increased meanwhile the number of laborers is limited. Therefore, the price is higher of 2,000-5,000 VND per product. It is the reason why many households do not stop their production during harvest time.

◆ *Increasing income for households*

Occupations bring a remarkable income for households in rural areas. An investigation among 110 households shows that 105 households involving into rural industry have earned an income between 300,000 and 600,000 VND per month (Figure 3).

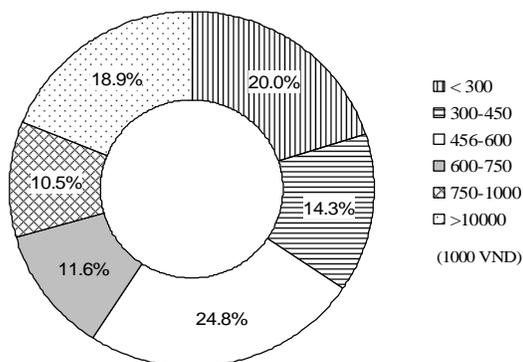


Figure 3. Proportion of household income from rural industry occupations.

Households, which earn a monthly income below 300,000 VND/person, are not doing permanent or have only one laborer working in rural industry. All households of food processing have expanded animal husbandry to make use of residues as well as reduce environmental pollution. The households of weaving, embroidery or net knitting which get higher income of more than 1 million VND are taskmasters. They distribute raw materials and products in market. Moreover, in the sector of food processing, they are households using machines in production or employing a large quantity of workers (more than 6 people).

Income from occupations accounts a considerable proportion in total family income. If a household has two people regularly involving into occupations, the income will make for 30% of total family income

◆ *Changes in the economic structure of Van Truong Commune*

The commune's economic structure includes agriculture, rural industry, commerce and service, in which agriculture plays an important role in the structure. In 2002, the proportion of agriculture accounted for 52.6%, rural industry was 28.7% and commerce and service - 18.7%.

Agriculture with two major sectors of husbandry and cultivation has equal proportion. The commune's total agricultural area is 648.18 ha, 424 ha of which is used for two rice crops with productivity of 13.55 tons per ha in 2002, and the rest area for subsidiary crops or intercrops. The total food yield reaches 6,613 tones and per capita food ration is 730kg. Husbandry is relatively developed accounting for 48.8% of agricultural production value.

Rural industry made of 28.6% in 2002. Food processing had efficiently assisted for breeding so the communal industry and agriculture has close ties and support to each other creating a specific rural and agricultural economy. Thus, the communal industry is an indispensable part in Van Truong Commune's economic structure and a focus of transforming rural economic structure.

During 4 years from 1999 to 2002, although there has not been any leap in the economy, the economic pattern has changed and agricultural proportion reduced by 10.3% (from 62.9% to 52.6%) and rural industrial proportion rose by 6.7%. The transform of economic structure has created a positive change in economy. People's living standard has been improved and per capita income increased from 3,600,000 VND in 2000 to 4,020,000 VND 2002, respectively.

c) *Weaknesses and suggested solutions for development of rural industry*

◆ *Weaknesses of rural industry in Van Truong Commune*

- *Lack of suitable organizing forms:* Household-scale production is a popular form in the rural industry. It cannot deny the advantages of this form, such as local people have their own rights in production process, and flexible working time. Nevertheless, households do not have long-term plan for occupational development, and they do not have enough knowledge and relations to expand markets. Besides, the limited awareness of market has created a competition and market admittance.

Advanced technologies have not applied to the production. The machines that are using are outdated equipment and most of households' productions are by hands. The products of the rural industry are mainly supplied for domestic demand not for export purposes so the production is still on small scale.

- *Incompatibility between income and working time:* Income from the rural industry has not been compatible with the working time. Laborers usually work in more than 8 hours per day but they could get about 10,000 VND. It is as a half of income from other occupations such as construction, workers in factories or working in big cities. Income of a household brewing traditional alcohol is much lower against their working time. To get a pot of wine, producers have to process following steps: soaking rice, cooking rice, fermenting, brewing and distributing. They have to take 5 days for completed products. Therefore, if brewing a pot of wine, they have to spend 10 hours a day to earn 8,000 - 10,000 VND. Thus, although the rural industry brings a stable income, it has attracted female married laborers or those who

cannot find jobs in cities. Male laborers have looked for jobs in cities or high-income jobs. Recently, an occupation of making foam rubber mattress has been brought to the commune and it has attracted many laborers, mainly male workers due to high income between 700,000 and 2 million VND per month.

In short, the development of rural industry has brought many positive changes in rural socio-economic condition. However, the process of rural industry development has had many concerns. The most concerning matters are regulating raw material resources and seeking consumption market.

◆ *Evaluation of development capability of Van Truong's rural industry*

Van Truong's rural industry has been through many different stages. The occupations' prosperity or decadence depends on many elements, in which, the element of nature varies less. The changes are policies, mechanism and demand of market that will decide the number of laborers in rural industry. To evaluate the development capability, it should consider all stages and examine favorable and unfavorable elements for the development in each specific stage. Then, it should investigate the available favorable conditions in order to forecast the development orientation for the rural industry in the future

Evaluation of development stages of Van Truong's rural industry showed that the 1970-1980 stage was the best period in terms of number of laborers and proportion in economic structure. This was a concentrated production period. The country and occupations were not developed so it attracted locals to take part in rural industry. Moreover, it had traditional markets in the period. Later, due to weak management and execution, low quality products lost markets. When shifting to a new

mechanism and dismantling the cooperative formed production, households run their own businesses but due to less awareness of market,

many households had to give up their occupations.

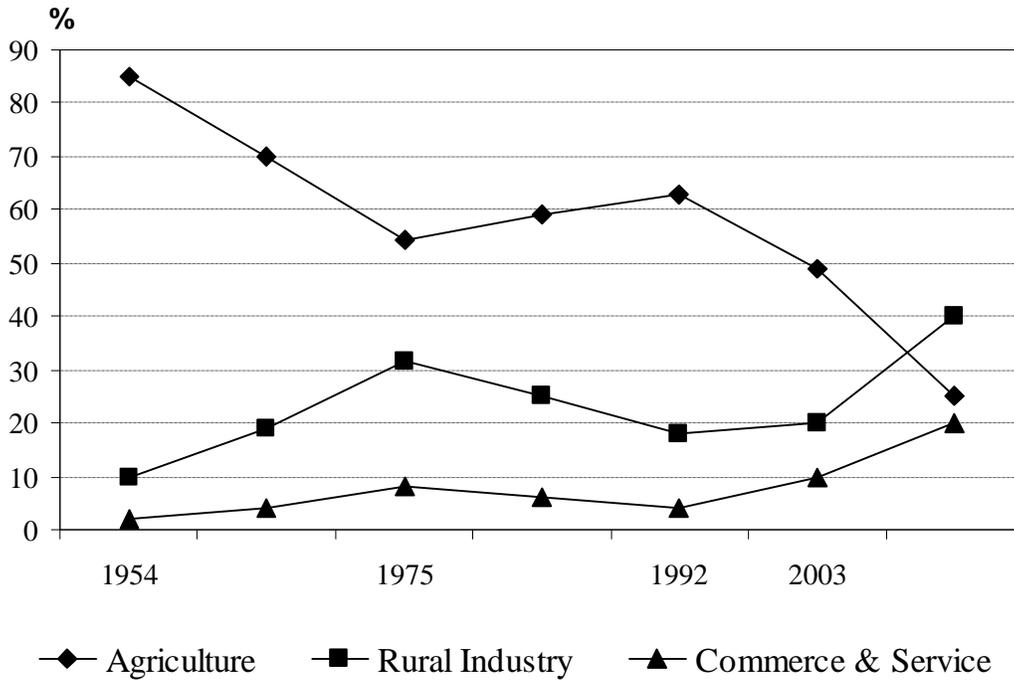


Figure 4. Trend of economic development of Van Truong Commune.

Currently, Van Truong’s rural industry has many favorable conditions for development such as State’s encouragement and assistance policies and new mechanism for export products to developed countries. With the general development, the communal industry will continue to expand and assert its position in the rural economy in terms of number of laborers and proportions in economic structure.

◆ *Suggested solutions for Van Truong’s rural industry development*

In order to expand the rural industry, it needs a stable and expanding markets and suitable organization and management. Therefore, the suggested solutions are to promote State management to products of the rural industry, particularly to rattan weaving occupation. Furthermore, it should be set up cooperative. The model of the new-styled co-ops is illustrated in diagram as follows (Figure 5).

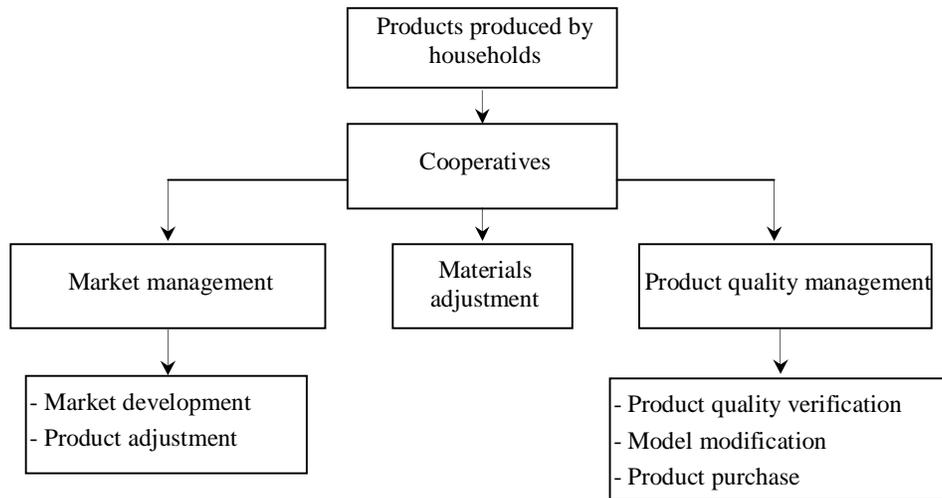


Figure 5. Suggested model for production and management of weaving occupation in rural industry development.

Advantage of the model is taken part in by State management. The completed products are named so it is favorable for marketing and creates trust to consumers. A concrete allocation will generate an initiative in production and trading and avoid surplus in harvest leisure time (time between the crops) or scarcity in harvest time. Professional units with high qualifications, good organizing ability and knowledge on market will well regulate products and create connections with different markets. Another advantage of the new form is to attract young laborers, who will actively participate to organizing, managing, transporting products and raw materials, and widening markets.

The specific allocation in production creates un-interruption and responsibility to each individual. Quality control unit includes well-experienced and skilled people who are responsible on product quality before selling in markets. Purchasing and distributing products are taken by young and active people. Production is allocated to households to make use of labor resources and flexible working

time. The occupation of food processing which is not suitable with the co-op form will be encouraged in households through capital assistance for equipping machines and buying raw materials

5. Conclusions

Rural industry is one of the typical characteristics of the RRD. It has long history of development. Since the 19th Century, rural industries have been playing important roles for rural development of the RRD. The history of rural industries development indicated that household rural industry is the very flexible form for the development of rural industry in Van Truong Commune as well as Tien Hai District. Rural industries in the study commune have two main types: food processing and bambo processing. They are playing an important role for socio-economic development of the commune in terms of reducing the pressure of high population and increasing the income of local people and households.

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