

POLICY OF MOBILIZING RESOURCES FROM THE COMMUNITY FOR NEW RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN VIETNAM

Ph.D. Nguyen Thi Hoang Yen

University of Labour and Social Affairs Vietnam

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ABSTRACT

Mobilizing resources from the people and the community is crucial and necessary for investing in the New Rural Development (NRD) in Vietnam. In recent years, the Government has implemented policies to mobilize resources from the people and the community for NRD, creating new milestones for rural development. Thanks to the contributions of the people and the community, the NRD has achieved remarkable achievements. The rural economy has developed, the rural landscape has been renewed, the material and spiritual life of the people has been improved, and more and more localities have met the new rural area standards. In addition to the achieved results, the resources and potential in the rural community have not been fully exploited, and the methods and ways of mobilizing resources from the people for NRD have not been unified in many places. Mobilizing resources from the people and the community for NRD still faces challenges in the new context of economic restructuring and urbanization affecting rural people. This requires the establishment of policies to effectively mobilize and exploit the resources of the people and the community. This article addresses the issue of policies for mobilizing resources from the people for New Rural Development and proposes solutions for improvement.

Keywords: policies, new rural development, resource mobilization, people and community.

1. Introduction

Rural areas in countries are the living places of the majority of the population. The development of rural communities is crucial for a country and its economy. Developing rural areas is always a priority for many countries. To develop rural areas, countries invest funds and implement appropriate resource mobilization policies. OECD countries have developed national rural development programs. Countries with rural development movements, such as China, South Korea, Japan, and Vietnam in Asia, have established specific programs with unique names such

as the "New Village" movement in South Korea, the "One Village, One Product" movement in Japan, the "Socialism New Rural Construction" program in China, and the "National Target Program for New Rural Development" in Vietnam. The concept of New Rural Development has been expressed in various ways, such as "New Rural Development is a high and comprehensive development state of rural society, encompassing all aspects from economy, production, to cultural development, education, environment, economic and social infrastructure, and political system Dũng (2015) 1. According to Looney (2012) in the work "Modernization Campaigns and Peasant Politics in China, Taiwan and South Korea", New Rural Development is described as a policy to eliminate the backward rural model and build a New Rural Development model with developed socio-economic aspects and increasing people's income. From a similar perspective of Le (2016), New Rural Development is a rural area with specific identification criteria, progressing in terms of economy, politics, and society; it is the result of transforming rural areas from poverty and backwardness to civilization, modernity, and development. The OECD viewpoint is that "New Rural Development is not only synonymous with agriculture and not synonymous with stagnant economy" (OECD, 2006). The work "Theory, Practice, and Policies of New Rural Development in China" translated by Cu (2006), states that "New Rural Development must first be rural, not urban". Thus, New Rural Development does not have a unified definition, and further research is needed to clarify its characteristics in order to mobilize resources and invest in appropriate development policies. In a comprehensive perspective, New Rural Development can be defined as a rural area with overall characteristics and structure forming a type of organized rural community that can be planned and designed in a coordinated manner, achieving new criteria to meet advanced, modern, and appropriate infrastructure, developing rural economy, stable rural society, and improving material, cultural, and spiritual life of the people. To achieve this goal, mobilizing resources from the people and the community to build New Rural Development is one of the priority solutions chosen by countries for sustainable rural development. This is also understandable because rural areas have a large territorial scope, where a large population resides, possessing resources, labor force, and potential in terms of resources, natural resources, and rich cultural heritage that can be exploited. Emphasizing the role and contribution of the community to the development of rural areas, Heinrich (2018) in the work "Investing in rural America: Bringing progress and economic opportunity to rural communities" believes that community resources are crucial for rural development and there needs to be a mechanism to mobilize resources from the community. Mobilizing resources from the people in building New Rural Development will help create effective and efficient results, maintain and develop sustainable New Rural Development results created by themselves (Bui, 2019). The participation of the people in building New Rural Development is considered an important factor that determines the success or failure of the approach to development based on internal resources and community ownership (Ho, 2018).

Harnessing the role of the people in building New Rural Development (NTM) is a fundamental and overarching issue, where the people are the subject of building New Rural Development from the subject of perception, the subject of implementation, the subject of inspection and supervision, to the subject of enjoying the results brought about by New Rural Development (Bach, 2019).

The term "people" refers to individuals living in a country. In the political and legal field, the term "people" is similar to the term "citizens" - individuals who hold citizenship, with rights and obligations under the law of the country. The legal community in Vietnam: "The community of residents includes the community of Vietnamese people living in the same area of hamlets, villages, hamlets, tribes, villages, communes, neighborhoods, and similar residential areas with the same customs, practices, or shared lineage" (Land Law 2013). The resources of the people and the community in rural areas include human resources, material resources, and financial resources such as labor, material wealth, money... mobilized from individuals, households, organizations, and the community to invest in the progressive and development of rural areas. Mobilizing the resources of the people and the community to build New Rural Areas is the overall measures, policies, and forms used by the State to gather resources in terms of money, assets, and labor to establish resources for investment in projects and constructions according to New Rural Area criteria.

2. Methodology

The author mainly uses the desk research method to systematize and synthesize current policies, statistics on labor resources, material resources, and financial resources of the people's investment and contribution to building New Rural Areas mainly for the period 2016 - 2023. The author collects specific data, situations, and uses statistical, analytical, and comparative methods to identify and clarify viewpoints on mobilizing resources from the people for building new rural areas, evaluate the effectiveness of resource mobilization mechanisms. Using the comparative method, evaluating the implementation of policies on mobilizing resources from the people and the community for New Rural Development is mainly found in countries with community-based New Rural Area movements such as China, South Korea, Japan, collecting and synthesizing statistical data on mobilizing resources from the people, the community, and calculating through Excel software. The results of resource mobilization are presented in tables, with analysis and the use of charts for illustration; using the method of generalization and analysis of theoretical and practical policies on mobilizing resources from the people and the community to build New Rural Areas and proposing some improvement solutions.

3. Results

3.1 Policies on mobilizing resources from the people and the community to build new rural areas.

Mobilizing the resources of the people and the community is an important policy in New Rural Development, especially in countries with a movement to build new rural areas based on the community. A typical example is the "new village" movement in South Korea, where the "new village" movement is a rural development movement implemented on a democratic basis with active participation of the people. The people are given the power to self-govern, express their initiatives, decide and manage community development projects of the government in villages, creating a self-reliant community, providing equal opportunities through education. Villagers are required to work collectively, cooperate in decision-making and conflict resolution, form the leadership management mechanism of the village, the structure of associations, agricultural cooperatives, create awareness of people's ownership rights in the development of the community and contribute to community resources, thereby promoting the effective mobilization of the active participation of the people (Ministry of Finance and Strategy of South Korea, 2013).

The mechanism of mobilizing resources for the "new village" movement is "people work, the government supports". The government provides the villagers with construction materials (cement, iron and steel, etc.) and the villagers contribute labor days to build rural infrastructure. The government supports resources based on the achievements and efficiency of building New Rural Areas in villages. Data from the Ministry of the Interior and Safety shows that in the period 1971- 1979, the total capital for implementing the movement was 2,752 billion Won, of which government support accounted for 51% and resources mobilized from the people accounted for 49%. In the early stage of the New Village movement, the people contributed labor days to build rural infrastructure. In the later stage, the government had a policy of saving 50% of the people's income to contribute to the village fund to implement the new village project (Vu et al., 2015). The people participate in the Cost Savings Reinvestment Program to create capital for themselves and the community, deducting from annual income to contribute to the village fund, using savings to buy shares of agricultural cooperatives, borrowing from the village fund. In addition, a reward policy based on the achievements of New Rural Development in villages is also applied by the government to encourage people to actively participate in building villages, self-improving houses, public works, and roads. The policy of mobilizing people to participate in the new village movement starts with small-scale projects that are closely related to the practical interests of the people, require less funding, and are suitable for their level and ability. Then, the people are mobilized to participate in larger-scale rural development projects with the management and supervision of the government. The voluntary and active participation of the people through financial contributions, labor days has changed the attitudes and lifestyles of rural people. The people are considered the leading and direct force in implementing the new

village movement, participating in community monitoring activities through the differentiation of functions of the systems participating in the "new village" movement has brought important policy lessons for countries.

Building a socialist new rural area in China is determined to be complex and long-term, with feasible and effective mechanisms and policies to operate. Among them, there are mechanisms to encourage farmers to fully exert their independence, spirit of struggle, and rely on their own labor to build a prosperous and strong society with the support of state support policies. The policy of mobilizing people to build new rural areas has similarities with Vietnam. Each locality must rely on its own strength and carefully consider the financial capacity and burden-bearing ability of the people, absolutely not being impulsive or chasing achievements, and not increasing the burden and difficulties for the people (Cu, 2006). The subjects mobilized to contribute to the construction of new rural areas include individual farmers, households, and popular farmer organizations such as cooperative organizations at the village level. The policy of mobilizing resources from the people for the construction of new rural areas in China is based on voluntary basis without coercion, with the cooperation and sharing of the state with the people in certain projects and items, taking into account the responsibility and obligation to contribute to the construction of new rural areas of the subjects. The form of contribution to the construction of new rural areas is carried out in cash, assets, labor days, etc., in which the contribution of the people includes labor days accounting for about 50% of the total investment (Nguyen, 2018). In difficult areas with low income of the people, the government supports the construction of new rural areas more, while areas with developed economy and high budget revenue receive lower support from the government. The government particularly focuses on propaganda and mobilization of the people to participate in contributing to the construction of new rural areas.

In Vietnam, the New Rural Development (NRD) is carried out with the principle of state and people working together. The people are the subject, and their active participation and contribution will determine the success of the movement. NRD has become a widespread movement, with the active participation of the political system and the entire population (Resolution No. 19-NQ/TW). The resources of the people and the community invested in NTM construction include the income of the people, savings of households deposited in commercial banks and credit institutions for investment in rural areas; the capital of the people invested in government bonds, local government bonds issued by the state to increase investment capital for rural areas; voluntary contributions in the form of money, assets, production tools and equipment, raw materials, land donation, labor... The policy of mobilizing the resources of the people and the community for NTM construction is a comprehensive set of measures and methods to mobilize the resources of the people to achieve resource objectives. The principle of mobilizing contributions from the people for NTM construction in Vietnam is implemented on a

voluntary basis based on the ability and specific circumstances of each region and locality, without rigidly stipulating the proportion of state funding and contributions from the people. The mobilization of contributions from the people must be discussed democratically and must have the consent of the people, strengthened propaganda to help the people understand and voluntarily participate, without mandatory contributions, excessive burden on the people, without linking contributions to the provision of public services enjoyed by the people, without mobilizing contributions from poor households, the elderly, the disabled without support, difficult households, policy families, beneficiaries of social assistance (CV 1447/TTg-KTN), 2014. Based on this principle, central and local authorities guide the mobilization of contributions from the people. The commune-level government determines the contribution targets of households based on criteria, decides on exemptions and reductions for eligible subjects, and the commune people's committee calculates the reduction level for each subject for the people to discuss and decide.

Mobilizing capital from individual is done by local authorities, with individuals and community residents being the target of mobilization. For commune-level authorities, the People's Committee of the commune directs the village chief and the hamlet chief to mobilize people to contribute to the New Rural Development according to the mobilization principles. Commune-level authorities are responsible for informing the people about the contribution deadline, contribution location, and contribution amount. Commune-level authorities are responsible for discussing and agreeing on the contribution amount with the people and submitting it to the People's Council at the same level for approval. Commune-level authorities delegate the collection of contributions from the people to village chiefs and hamlet chiefs. Commune-level authorities are responsible for informing the people about the deadline, contribution responsibility, contribution location, contribution amount, and contribution target. The collection process must have a receipt for the money collected. Commune-level authorities are responsible for publicly disclosing the contributions mobilized from the people, through the commune finance committee, which is responsible for accounting for the collected contributions from the people. Individuals and communities have the right to voluntarily contribute in cash or in kind, assets, labor days, or donate land for road construction. The contribution amount in cash is agreed upon and unified with the commune-level authorities. The mobilization methods include:

- (i) Mobilizing the people through encouragement and voluntary contributions, promoting the role of influential individuals in the community to influence the awareness of the people and the community. Through this method, voluntary contributions are encouraged and promoted to make the people aware of their rights and responsibilities in participating in the NRD. Through mandatory encouragement mechanisms, the beneficiaries directly benefit from the NRD projects, and they have a responsibility to contribute to the NRD

projects. Contributing to the NRD is both a right and a responsibility of the people as participants in the mobilization relationship. The people have a responsibility to contribute to the NRD, including financial contributions for items and projects directly related to people's livelihoods, such as village roads, cultural houses, rural markets, and infrastructure projects.

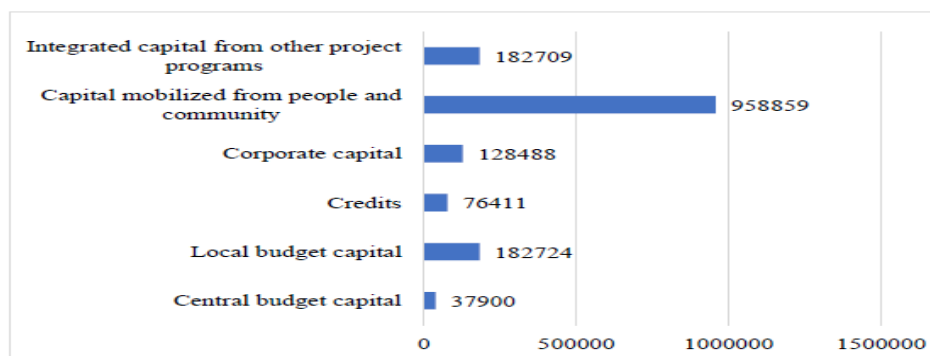
- (ii) Mobilizing the people to invest in new rural projects. To mobilize this source of capital, the State and local authorities need to specify regulations for each project and NRD project in the area. Mobilization mechanisms are based on civil agreements and contracts between the parties involved. The people benefit from their capital investment in NRD projects and have an obligation to comply with the investment procedures and fulfill their obligations to the State. Depending on the credit lending mechanism, bond purchases, or other capital contribution mechanisms for investing in NRD projects, the people have corresponding rights and obligations.

Results of mobilizing resources from the people and the community to build new rural areas and the issues raised.

The policy of mobilizing resources from the people and the community for the New Rural Development in recent times has achieved significant results, helping localities meet NRD standards. The people and the community have continued to contribute money, assets, labor, and land for the construction of NRD projects. At the end of the 2016-2020 NTM construction phase, the resources mobilized from the people and the community reached 128,488 billion VND, accounting for 8.2% of the total mobilized capital. The results of resource mobilization from individual are shown in the following figure:

Figure 1: Results of mobilizing resources from the people and the community to implement the NRD program in the 2016-2020 phase in the total mobilized capital

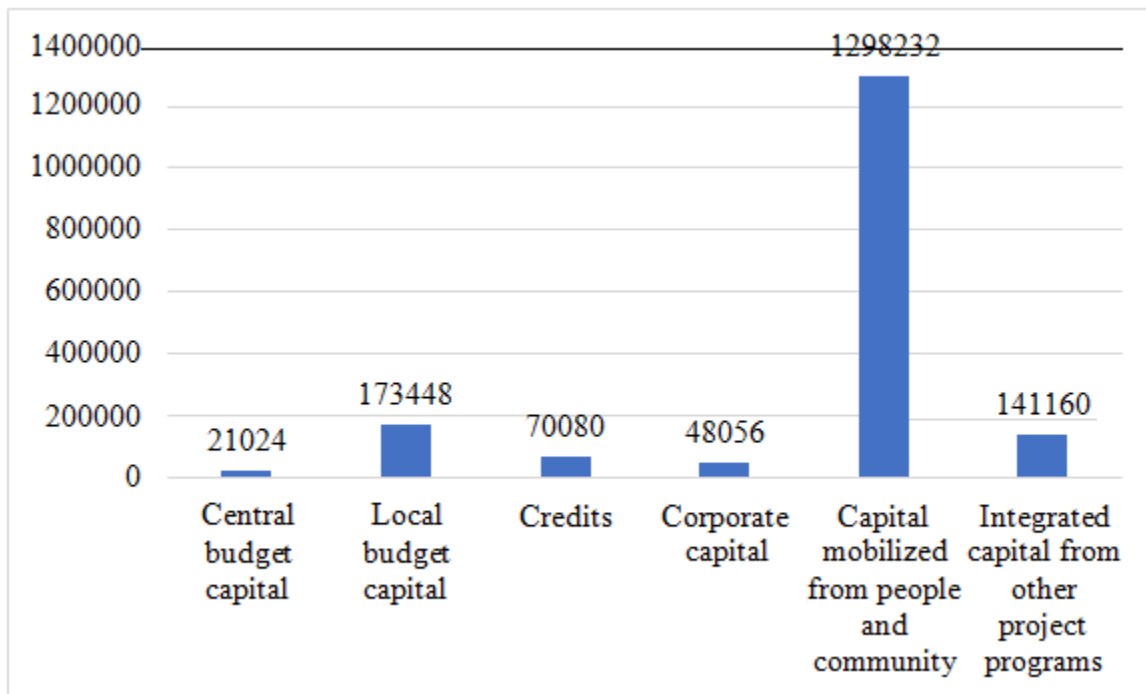
(Unit: billion VND)



(Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)

Figure 2: Resources mobilized from the people and the community for the NRD in the 2021-2023 phase in the total mobilized capital

(Unit: billion VND)



(Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)

The results have shown that although people have actively participated in contributing to building new rural areas, their contribution rate is still low compared to the goals, investment resource needs and potential of rural areas. People's contributions increase in the early stages, but tend to decrease in the later stages if appropriate mobilization measures are not taken. The contribution to building new rural areas is mainly in the form of money, assets, land donation, tree removal, demolition of construction works to make way for roads, and construction of new rural works in the area. The form of people's contribution is mainly to mobilize voluntary contributions, not mandatory revenues, the results achieved are still modest, the resources and ability to participate of people in many places are still lacking. fully exploited. In economically developed localities, people have the conditions to contribute to building new rural areas, but in many places, especially underdeveloped economic areas, people's lives are still difficult, with low incomes, it is difficult to afford them. to contribute to building new rural areas. The results of mobilizing contributions to build new rural areas across the country have shown many examples and examples of advanced contributions of money, assets, and donating land to pave

the way, which have brought positive results. The following are typical examples of the results of mobilizing contributions from the people and the community in some localities.

Mobilizing voluntary contributions from the people: In the period 2016-2018, Binh Phuoc province mobilized 17,143,318 million dong, of which the capital mobilized from the people and the community was 256,339 million dong. Some families voluntarily donated thousands of square meters of land, cut down crops, and demolished constructions to serve the construction of New Rural Areas. Typical examples include the family of Mr. Lieu Thanh Kinh (1954) in Tan Dong hamlet, Tan Thanh commune (Bu Dop), who donated over 1,000 square meters of land to build a cultural house. The family of Mr. Nguyen Van Noi in My Tan hamlet donated 6,640 square meters of land for the local authorities to build a primary school. In Nghe An province, the village elder Truong Viet Van mobilized the poor people in Tan Xuan commune, where nearly 100% of the ethnic minority people live, to develop production and escape poverty; mobilized the people to donate land, open roads, and contribute to the construction of cultural houses. The people voluntarily donated over 4,500 square meters of land, contributed over 400 million dong to build rural roads, and 210 million dong to build cultural houses (Nguyen, 2020). Nam Dinh province has mobilized thousands of households to voluntarily donate land, contribute land, dismantle constructions, and hand over land to contractors for the construction and upgrading of infrastructure projects. Nghia Hung district has mobilized 100% of households to voluntarily donate land, contribute land, dismantle constructions to hand over land to contractors for the renovation and upgrading of transportation projects. In addition, economic entities and households have mobilized nearly 86,000 billion dong of credit capital to invest in production development, business, and job creation... Through land consolidation, land exchange, and the movement of land liberation according to the mechanism of building New Rural Areas for the construction of transportation, internal water resources, welfare projects... households have contributed 2,897 hectares of agricultural land and donated 206 hectares of residential land (worth about 7,000 billion dong).

Mobilizing the participation of the people through propaganda, promoting the role of influential individuals in the community: The work of mass mobilization, promoting the role of influential individuals in the community has been well implemented in many localities and has achieved positive results. For example, in Nghe An province, the village elder Truong Viet Van mobilized the poor people in Tan Xuan commune, where nearly 100% of the ethnic minority people live, to develop production and escape poverty; mobilized the people to donate land, open roads, and contribute to the construction of cultural houses. The people voluntarily donated over 4,500 square meters of land, contributed over 400 million dong to build rural roads, and 210 million dong to build cultural houses. The successes in building New Rural Areas thanks to the role of village elders, village chiefs, and influential individuals can be seen widely in many localities

across the country (Nguyen, 2020).

Mobilizing people to invest capital in new rural construction projects: Mobilizing people to invest in new rural construction projects is a form of mobilizing their idle capital to invest in projects. Local authorities publicly announce the list of investment projects, the capital needed to mobilize, the methods and measures to mobilize capital, and the capital mobilization plan for people to participate. People invest directly in the projects and receive interest from the invested capital. However, this method of capital mobilization is not widespread and does not bring high efficiency because there are no specific policies regarding the rights, obligations, and benefits that people can enjoy from the invested capital; the form of mobilization, the mechanism for calculating interest rates for loans, and the source of funds for repayment... In addition, the policy mechanism for investing in new rural construction is still complex and not really convenient for people to directly participate. The training and dissemination of these new policies are also limited, so many places still have difficulties and have not applied them correctly.

General assessment: The policy of mobilizing resources from people and communities to build new rural areas in Vietnam in recent times has achieved certain results. People's contributions have contributed to the State realizing the current goal of building new rural areas and gradually becoming a major and sustainable resource in the future. Through the mechanisms and measures of mobilization, people and the community have contributed money, assets, land for road construction, and labor to build and renovate new rural construction projects. The community's participation has helped rural areas have many innovations, demonstrating the people's cooperation with the State in building new rural areas, building new rural areas into an extensive rural development movement, around the country. In addition to the achieved results, the policy of mobilizing people's and community's resources is still slowly institutionalized into legal regulations to regulate forms of mobilization, rights, obligations, and responsibilities to contribute. Contribute and benefit from new rural projects. Currently, mobilizing people's contribution to building new rural areas is mainly administrative documents, the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation are not high, and there is a lack of specific regulations in mobilizing people's resources and communities to implement unification. However, the policy of mobilizing resources from the people and the community has not been institutionalized into legal regulations, mainly administrative documents, so the effectiveness and implementation are not high, and there is a lack of specific regulations for the unified mobilization of resources from the people. The process of mobilizing resources from the people and the community varies in different localities in terms of implementation methods and collection methods. Some localities implement contributions based on population, some based on households, some based on cultivated land area, and some only accept contributions in cash or goods and labor. People's

contributions increase in the initial stages but tend to decrease in later stages, and potential resources within the community have not been fully exploited. The living conditions of people in rural areas are still difficult in many places, with low incomes, high poverty rates, and underdeveloped economies, making it difficult to mobilize contributions for new rural construction. The potential of businesses to invest in agriculture and rural areas in rural areas is still low, so they have not been able to exploit the potential of rural areas as well as create job opportunities and improve people's income and life so that they can Dedicate resources to contribute to building new rural areas.

The sequence of planning with community participation in investment and capital contribution for the construction of new rural construction projects in many places has not been given enough attention, leading to low efficiency in investment projects. Mobilizing contributions from the people is still voluntary and not mandatory, without considering the specific conditions of each region, so the mobilization results are not high. The forms of contribution in terms of money, assets, labor, and participation in opinions are the main resource groups of the community to mobilize contributions for new rural construction.

The promotion of the roles of different entities in the community to contribute to the construction of the New Rural Development (NRD) is still limited, and there is a particular need to encourage and create an environment for people to discuss and contribute their opinions to reach a consensus. The dissemination, popularization, and education of the law to the people regarding the policy of mobilizing resources for the construction of the NRD are not evenly distributed among localities, and people's access to policy mechanisms is still limited.

4. Proposed solutions

Farmers are the subjects and the center of the process of agricultural development, rural economy, and the New Rural Development. In the face of opportunities and challenges in the future of rural Vietnam in the context of urbanization and globalization, it is necessary to promote the roles of the people and the community in the development of new rural areas. To achieve sustainable mobilization of resources for the NRD, it is essential to focus on the following core solutions:

Firstly, the policy of mobilizing contributions from the people and the community for the construction of the NRD needs to be specified into specific regulations to create a legal framework for sustainable long-term mobilization of resources from the people and the community. Specific regulations should define the subjects, objects, forms, and measures of mobilization, as well as the management and supervision mechanisms for mobilized resources. Local authorities should issue mechanisms and policies for mobilizing resources at the local

level based on democracy, promoting the proactive, creative, and empowering role of the people in making decisions on contributing to local construction, inspecting and supervising contributions, and supporting the NRD in the area. The contribution principle should be based on encouraging voluntary contributions from the people and mandatory contributions for certain welfare projects that directly benefit the people.

Secondly, the development of the rural economy, investment in agricultural development, and services linked to new economic tools in the NRD in localities help create employment opportunities, improve people's livelihoods, and enable them to reinvest resources in the NRD. The focus should be on improving land laws, regulations on capital contribution through land use rights for farmers, such as contributing capital shares to enterprises, determining the value of agricultural land use rights that is appropriate to the value of the land, enabling farmers to have capital when their agricultural land is reclaimed, and creating economic value for farmers when they contribute capital or purchase shares with land in enterprises. Improving the Law on Cooperatives and the collective economic forms of farmers, encouraging farmers to participate and become members of cooperatives, and bringing farmers to the market. Regulations should provide stronger support mechanisms from the state for cooperatives, especially agricultural startup cooperatives. Successful countries in developing new rural areas consider the development of cooperative economic as an important solution in generating resources for people to invest in the NRD

Thirdly, mobilizing people to invest in new rural construction projects is also a necessary form of investment through public-private partnerships to effectively exploit resources within the community. Building, reviewing, and supplementing simple investment mechanisms for people to participate in the construction of new rural areas from project planning, monitoring, project implementation, and project settlement. Small construction projects serving the interests of the community are implemented by the village and commune authorities, publicly disclosing the investment list and investment plan suitable for the financial capacity of the community to mobilize people's participation. Practice shows that community participation and people's involvement are very positive for village-level projects and small-scale projects, applied according to specific mechanisms. Community contributions and organized construction have brought about very high efficiency. In addition, there should be regulations on mobilizing people to invest in infrastructure projects under the new rural construction program through credit mechanisms through bond issuance (project bonds, government bonds, local government bonds) or direct investment in new rural construction projects with fees to recover capital.

Fourthly, promoting the dissemination and popularization of policies and mechanisms for mobilizing resources for new rural construction, especially the contributions of people and the community, is crucial. Enhancing the capacity of people as subjects in new rural construction,

promoting community activities. Igniting the spirit of patriotism, traditional cultural factors associated with appropriate forms of propaganda to encourage people and the community to actively invest and contribute resources to new rural construction. When people are aware of the benefits to themselves, their families, their lineages, and their homeland communities, the level of participation and contribution will be higher.

Fifthly, investing in and applying scientific and technological advances to the new rural construction program are of necessity. There should be policies to train people so that they can absorb and master scientific and technological advances, apply technology in the development of large-scale agriculture, smart agriculture, organic agriculture to improve labor productivity, product quality, and invest in the development of rural economy, service industry to promote the role of the people.

Therefore, mobilizing the resources of the people and the community to build new rural areas is a fundamental solution for long-term and sustainable new rural construction. Improving policies to mobilize the participation of people and the community, applying the public-private partnership model in new rural construction are solutions that countries prioritize.

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