



Research Paper

Results of implementing the components of the National Target Program on New Rural Construction in Binh Gia District, Lang Son Province in 2024

Nguyen Thi Mai Linh, Nguyen Thi Bich Hanh, Nguyen Thi Hong Vien,
Nguyen Thu Huyen, Nguyen Thi Dong, Chu Thi Hong Huyen

Faculty of Resources and Environment, University of Sciences, Thai Nguyen University, Tan Think Ward,
Thai Nguyen City, Thai Nguyen 250000, Vietnam.

Corresponding Author, <https://orcid.org/0009-0001-4895-4183>

ABSTRACT: This study evaluates the implementation of the National Target Program on New Rural Construction (NRCP) in Binh Gia District, Lang Son Province, in 2024, as outlined by the Prime Minister's Decision 263/QĐ-TTg and local directives. The research integrates data from legal documents, field surveys, and comparative analysis to assess the program's effectiveness across key dimensions: socio-economic infrastructure, agricultural restructuring, poverty reduction, and environmental sustainability... Findings highlight both successes, such as improved infrastructure and agricultural practices, and challenges, including slow progress in certain communes and difficulties in resource mobilization. The study offers solutions to accelerate progress, including enhanced leadership, targeted training, and stronger community engagement. The results provide valuable insights for refining rural development strategies in Binh Gia District and similar areas.

KEYWORDS: New rural area, Binh Gia District, Lang Son Province, National Target Program, rural development.

Received 14 Dec., 2024; Revised 26 Dec., 2024; Accepted 28 Dec., 2024 © The author(s) 2024.

Published with open access at www.questjournals.org

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the years developing countries have implemented various poverty reduction strategies [1]. There are many approaches to poverty reduction, such as enhancing the role of agricultural extension programs in rural areas, investing in infrastructure, etc [2]. Vietnam has achieved many successes in poverty reduction [3], [4], [5]. In particular, the National Target Program on New Rural Development is an important program of the Vietnamese Government, implemented since 2010 with the goal of improving the quality of life of rural people, promoting sustainable socio-economic development and poverty reduction [6]. This program aims to improve infrastructure, enhance cultural life, education, health and rural environment. At the same time, the program also focuses on developing production, improving people's income, creating a green, clean and safe living environment. This is one of Vietnam's great efforts in creating equitable and sustainable development for rural areas, improving people's quality of life, towards comprehensive development of the country [7],[8].

In recent years, Binh Gia District, located in Lang Son Province, has actively participated in the NRCP, adapting the national framework to local needs and conditions. As part of the 2024 assessment, this paper investigates the outcomes of implementing various components of the NRCP in the district, focusing on key areas such as socio-economic infrastructure development, agricultural transformation, poverty alleviation, and environmental management. The findings from this comprehensive analysis will provide critical insights into the challenges and successes associated with implementing the NRCP in Binh Gia District [9]. The study will highlight specific areas where the program has been successful, such as improving socio-economic conditions or restructuring the agricultural sector, and where it has faced challenges, such as difficulties in poverty reduction or balancing environmental sustainability. This research will contribute valuable evidence to the development of

more targeted, efficient, and adaptable rural development policies, which can be applied to future rural development efforts, both in Binh Gia District and in other areas undergoing similar transformations.

II. DATA AND RESEARCH METHODS

2.1. Database: The article uses data collected from legal documents and policies of the Party and State related to new rural construction. In addition, data on natural conditions and socio-economic conditions of the locality, as well as documents on the current state of the environment and food safety in the locality, are all important data sources for evaluating research results. The statistical information contained in these documents will serve as the basis for analyzing and evaluating the implementation process of new rural programs and criteria in the locality.

2.2. Research methods:

Field survey method: This method is used to collect data on natural conditions, natural resource potential and socio-economic situation of the locality. During the survey and research process, a combination of actual data collection and direct observation was used to assess the implementation of relevant criteria, especially environmental and food safety criteria in the locality. The combination of these two factors helps provide a comprehensive view of the actual situation of the criteria in the commune.

Comparison method: The comparison method is applied to compare the specific contents achieved by Binh Gia district with the contents prescribed in 263/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister: Approval of the Target Program National target program on new rural construction in the period 2021 - 2025. This comparison helps to assess the level of achievement of criteria for specific local conditions, thereby making comments and recommendations.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Introduction to Binh Gia District, Lang Son Province

It is a mountainous district, 75km from Lang Son city center, in the northwest direction. The district has National Highway 1B from Lang Son city to Thai Nguyen city, routes 226, 279 connecting with Bac Son, Trang Dinh, Van Quan, Van Lang districts (Lang Son province) and Na Ri district (Bac Kan). The district has an area of 1094.15 km² and a population of 53,802 people (2023).

- To the east, it borders Van Lang district and Van Quan district
- To the west, it borders Na Ri district, Bac Kan province and Vo Nhai district, Thai Nguyen province
- To the south, it borders Bac Son district
- To the north, it borders Trang Dinh district.

Binh Gia has 5 main ethnic groups: Nung, Tay, Kinh, Dao, Hoa living together, with a total population in 2019 of 52,689 people. The basic culture of Binh Gia is Nung - Tay culture, the whole district currently has 3 national archaeological sites (Tham Khuyen cave, Tham Hai and Keo Leng cave). Binh Gia district has 19 administrative units at commune level, including Binh Gia town (district capital) and 18 communes: Binh La, Hoa Binh, Hoa Tham, Hoang Van Thu, Hong Phong, Hong Thai, Hung Dao, Minh Khai, Mong An, Quang Trung, Quy Hoa, Tan Hoa, Tan Van, Thien Hoa, Thien Long, Thien Thuat, Vinh Yen, Yen Lo.

3.2. Results of implementing the components of the New Rural Program in 2024

Pursuant to Decision 263/QĐ-TTg dated February 22, 2022 of the Prime Minister on approving the National Target Program on New Rural Construction for the 2021-2025 period and Decision 1062/QĐ-UBND dated June 17, 2024 of the People's Committee of Lang Son province on promulgating the Set of criteria for new rural communes, the Set of criteria for advanced new rural communes, the Set of criteria for model new rural communes, the Set of criteria for new rural districts for the 2021-2025 period in Lang Son province, it is necessary to evaluate the implementation results of the Program's components to have an overall view as well as set out the direction for implementing the Program for 2025.

3.2.1. Improve the efficiency of management and implementation of new rural construction according to the planning to improve the socio-economic life of rural areas associated with the urbanization process

Currently, in the district, 13/18 communes have approved the General Planning for the period 2021-2030 (Tan Van, Hong Thai, Binh La, Vinh Yen, Thien Long, Thien Hoa, Hong Phong, Hoa Tham, Thien Thuat, Minh Khai, Hung Dao, Quy Hoa, Tan Hoa; 5/18 communes are currently implementing. It is expected that by the end of 2024, 16/18 communes will meet the planning criterion No. 1. In 2024, the District People's Committee issued a Decision on allocating general planning capital, currently implementing the adjustment of the general planning for the period 2021 - 2030 with a total cost of 1,500 million VND from the career capital source (500 million VND from the central budget, 1,000 million VND from the local budget). Commune Tan

Van is currently implementing a detailed planning for the residential area of Na Vuoc village, Tan Van commune. For Hoang Van Thu commune, striving to achieve advanced new rural standards, it is currently implementing a general planning and preparing to implement a detailed planning for the construction of the commune center.

3.2.2. Developing socio-economic infrastructure, basically synchronous and modern, ensuring rural-urban connectivity and regional connectivity

In 2024, the total mobilized capital for investment in socio-economic infrastructure development in the district is 174,101.15 million VND (direct investment capital from the central budget is 6,560 million VND, local budget is 15,426 million VND; integrated capital is 147,382 million VND, people contribute 3,733.15 million VND), specifically each content is as follows:

- Content 01: Continue to complete and improve the traffic infrastructure system in the commune, inter-commune and inter-district traffic infrastructure: 83,544.18 million VND (Direct investment capital from the central budget is 550 million VND; direct investment capital from the local budget is 13,929 million VND; integrated capital 65,205 million VND; People contributed 3,860.18 million VND). - Content 02: Completing and improving the quality of irrigation systems and natural disaster prevention at commune and district levels, ensuring sustainability and adaptation to climate change: 1,463.22 million VND (integrated capital of 1,248 million VND; People's contribution of 215.22 million VND).

- Content 03: Improving and upgrading the rural power grid system towards safety, reliability, stability and ensuring aesthetics: 4,453 million VND from the integrated capital source to implement the Program.

- Content 04: Continuing to build and complete works at commune and district levels for kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools, high schools or multi-level general schools, vocational education centers - continuing education: 62,727 million VND (central budget capital: 3,660 million VND; local budget capital: 750 million VND; integrated capital 58,317 million VND).

- Content 05: Building and completing the system of cultural and sports facilities at the commune and village levels, district cultural and sports centers; renovating and embellishing cultural heritages associated with rural tourism development: 17,516.75 million VND (direct investment capital from the central budget 2,150 million VND; direct investment capital from the local budget 547 million VND; integrated capital 14,162 million VND; People's contribution 657.75 million VND);

- Content 06: Investing in the construction of a system of rural trade infrastructure, safe food markets at the commune level; central markets, wholesale markets, centers for purchasing and supplying safe agricultural products at the district level; agricultural technical centers; modern agricultural product supply center system: 695 million VND from integrated capital.

- Content 08: Continue to build, renovate and upgrade infrastructure and equipment for commune health stations and district health centers: 1,550 million VND from the integrated capital source for implementing the Program.

- Content 09: Develop and complete the digital infrastructure system, digital transformation in agriculture and rural areas; strengthen the construction of facilities for the grassroots information and communication system: 400 million VND from the career capital source (200 million VND from the central budget, 200 million VND from the local budget). Implement support for purchasing, repairing and replacing radio station equipment in 02 communes of Hong Thai and Vinh Yen: 200 million VND from the central budget; strengthen the means of producing information and propaganda products for district-level radio and television facilities: 200 million VND from the provincial budget career capital source.

- Content 10: Construction and completion of centralized domestic water supply works, ensuring quality according to regulations: 1,752 million VND from combined capital.

It is expected that by the end of 2024, the results of implementing the criteria on socio-economic infrastructure in the district will be as follows:

- Criterion (2) Traffic: 10/18 communes, reaching 55.56%.
- Criterion (3) Irrigation and natural disaster prevention: 18/18 communes, reaching 100%.
- Criterion (4) Electricity: 17/18 communes, reaching 94.44%.
- Criterion (5) Schools: 10/18 communes, reaching 55.56%.
- Criterion (6) Cultural facilities: 10/18 communes, reaching 55.56%.
- Criterion (7) Rural commercial infrastructure: 17/18 communes, reaching 94.44%.
- Criterion (8) Information and communication: 13/18 communes, reaching 72.22%.
- Criterion (9) Residential housing: 14/18 communes, reaching 77.77%.
- Criterion (15) Health: 18/18 communes, reaching 100%.
- Criterion (17) Environment and food safety: 10/18 communes, reaching 55.56%.

3.2.3. Continue to effectively restructure the agricultural sector, develop the rural economy; strongly implement the One Commune One Product (OCOP) Program to increase added value, in line with the digital transformation process, adapt to climate change; strongly develop rural industries; develop rural tourism; improve the operational efficiency of cooperatives; support start-up businesses in rural areas; improve the quality of vocational training for rural workers... contributing to increasing people's income in a sustainable direction

Content 01: Focus on restructuring the agricultural sector and developing the rural economy; small-scale industry and services towards a circular economy, ecological agriculture, promoting advantages in terms of terrain, climate, natural landscape and socio-economic infrastructure.

Content 02: Effective construction and development, synchronous mechanization, improving the capacity of processing and preserving agricultural products according to the value chain... The District People's Committee directed the District's specialized departments to coordinate with the People's Committees of communes to focus on effectively implementing the Project on restructuring the agricultural sector associated with building new rural areas; promoting intensive farming measures, applying science and technology to production, organizing agricultural production in the direction of concentrated commodity production associated with processing and consumption of products, which has initially created positive changes in the structure of crops and livestock and changed the production mindset of rural people. In the district, 26 cooperatives are operating in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries operating under the provisions of the Law on Cooperatives 2023. Of which: there are 19 agricultural and forestry cooperatives; 07 livestock cooperatives. In 2024, there will be 02 production development projects implemented in 02 communes (Binh La, Hong Thai) with a total state budget support of 600 million VND. Implementing the Star Anise Production Model according to organic standards in Hong Thai commune, the total state support budget is 300 million VND; scale of 12 hectares with 12 households participating in the project. The Star Anise Production Model according to organic standards in Binh La commune, the total state support budget is 300 million VND; scale of 14.4 hectares with 19 households participating in the project; currently, the unit in charge of the association is completing the documents to submit to the district People's Committee for project approval; expected to be approved in October 2024. Through assessment, up to now, 10/18 communes have met criterion No. 13 Organization of production and rural economic development. It is expected that by the end of 2024, 01 Hoa Tham commune will meet the criteria, bringing the total number of communes meeting the criteria to 11/18 communes and 02/8 communes have met the new rural standards meeting criterion No. 13 Organization of production and rural economic development in the national criteria set for advanced new rural communes.

Content 03: Continue to effectively implement investment policies for forest protection and development, forest environmental service payment policies and the Sustainable Forestry Development Program for the period 2021 - 2025; focus on promoting the development of models of linking concentrated large timber plantations, associated with sustainable forest certification; develop non-timber forest products according to the strengths of each region.

The District People's Committee identifies concentrated forest planting as the focus, making the most of capital support from the budget, mobilizing all investment resources for forest planting and forest protection, creating raw material areas associated with product consumption markets; reviewing vacant land funds, determining the area of forests reaching the age of exploitation in each stage; determining the suitability of ecological characteristics of tree species for the goal of planting large timber forests, allocating forest planting area targets to each People's Committee of communes and towns, ensuring the completion of forest planting targets. Planning and developing concentrated forest planting wood material areas and key products with strengths of the district for Acacia, Eucalyptus, Grease, and Cinnamon species. Continuing to implement solutions to restructure the forestry sector towards improving quality, efficiency, competitiveness and added value. Exploiting and effectively using the potential of forest areas and forestry land planned for production forests to serve the goal of economic growth, expanding the area of raw material forests. Develop a plan for reasonable and sustainable exploitation of planted forests that provide key wood materials for processing such as: Acacia, Eucalyptus, Cinnamon.

Content 04: Implementing the One Commune One Product (OCOP) Program in association with regional advantages. Implementing the One Commune One Product (OCOP) Program is a key task and a fundamental solution to restructure the agricultural sector, associated with building new rural areas, which is being implemented by Party committees, authorities, agencies and departments from district to grassroots levels. Focus on diversifying and producing products according to the value chain, perfecting production organization in the direction of linking production households with cooperatives and enterprises. The OCOP Program is a program for developing the rural economy in the direction of developing internal resources and increasing value, which is considered a solution and task in implementing the National Target Program on building new rural areas. The focus of the OCOP Program is to develop advantageous agricultural products in each locality according to the value chain, implemented by private economic sectors (enterprises, production households) and

collective economies. The One Commune One Product (OCOP) Program has been directed to implement in compliance with the annual OCOP Cycle according to Decision No. 1533/QĐ-UBND, dated August 13, 2019 of the Provincial People's Committee Chairman approving the Project "One Commune One Product Program of Lang Son Province for the period 2019 - 2020, with a vision to 2030". Directing the review, encouraging and guiding people and economic entities to participate in the OCOP Program, ensuring that OCOP products have high community character, are key products, advantages of localities, regions and are of good quality. In 2024, the provincial budget capital to support the development of OCOP products is 350 million VND to implement 03 products. Currently, we are coordinating with the consulting unit and the subject to complete the dossier to participate in the assessment and classification of OCOP products, expected to be assessed in November 2024. Currently, in Binh Gia district, there are 13 products that have been certified as OCOP products with 03 stars according to regulations. However, by the end of April 2024, there are only 08 products with valid terms, 05 products have expired certification and have not been re-assessed and classified, including 01 cooperative; 09 production and business households and 03 cooperative groups.

Content 05: Improve the operational efficiency of production organization forms.

Organizing production and developing rural economy: Continue to strengthen leadership and direction to effectively implement the Agricultural Restructuring Program associated with building new rural areas. Accelerate the shift in economic structure and crop structure towards commodity production with high economic efficiency, creating favorable conditions to support land accumulation associated with the development of collective economy and private economy; develop large-scale concentrated commodity production areas with economic value associated with processing and consumption markets; develop livestock, poultry and aquatic farming in the direction of industry and semi-industry associated with disease safety; mobilize resources to promote forestry economic development; strengthen agricultural extension work, apply scientific and technical advances, bring mechanization into production, reduce post-harvest losses in agricultural and forestry production. Directing the implementation of Resolution No. 08/2019/NQ-HĐND dated December 10, 2019 and Resolution No. 15/2021/NQ-HĐND dated July 17, 2021 of the People's Council of Lang Son province on specific policies to encourage investment, develop cooperation, link production and consumption of agricultural and rural products in Lang Son province for the period 2020 - 2025. Since the beginning of the year, the District People's Committee has confirmed 10 projects requesting interest rate support (of which: 04 loan applications have been disbursed by the Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development - Binh Gia District Branch). Up to now, 151 projects have been approved for disbursement, of which: 15 projects have been completed, 136 projects are being implemented (92 livestock projects, 44 forest planting and care projects) with a total outstanding debt of 45,497 million VND.

Content 06: Improve the operational efficiency of systems connecting and promoting agricultural product consumption.

Systems connecting and promoting agricultural product consumption such as e-commerce channels are gradually being formed and developed, along with the rate of products consumed through online channels such as Postmart, Voso... are increasingly widely applied in the district.

Content 07: Continue to effectively implement the Science and Technology Program serving the construction of new rural areas in the period of 2021 - 2025. Science and technology tasks serving the construction of new rural areas in the area continue to receive regular attention, implemented in many fields such as: Agricultural production, forestry, livestock, especially the application of good varieties of plants and breeds in production to create productivity, the quality of goods has achieved positive progress, in industrial production, small-scale industry, construction materials production, production, processing of agricultural and forestry products and other fields.

Content 08: Effectively implement the Rural Tourism Development Program in the construction of new rural areas in the period of 2021 - 2025 associated with the preservation and promotion of traditional cultural values in a sustainable, inclusive and multi-value direction.

Rural tourism development is one of the key solutions and tasks of the National Target Program on new rural construction in the period of 2021-2025, on the basis of changing the mindset from agricultural production to rural economic development, contributing to supporting localities to effectively and sustainably implement new rural criteria.

With great potential and advantages in developing agricultural and rural tourism, in recent years, with the attention and facilitation of all levels, sectors and the efforts of individuals, organizations, enterprises and cooperatives, rural tourism activities in Binh Gia district have improved a lot, initially making their mark associated with the results in implementing the New Rural Construction Program. Some localities and households have also taken advantage of natural landscapes and typical agricultural products to restore and create momentum for tourism development, such as tourist destinations: Fairy Mountain in Lan Luong village, Thien Hoa commune; Dang Mo waterfall eco-tourism area, Mong An commune... These locations not only

create jobs, improve efficiency and economic value in agricultural production, but also promote the process of building new rural areas.

Content 09: Continue to improve the quality of vocational training for rural workers, linked to market needs: District professional agencies have organized agricultural and non-agricultural vocational training classes for rural workers, contributing to creating jobs for rural workers, thereby contributing to increasing the rate of trained workers. Since the beginning of the year, 15 vocational training classes for rural workers have been opened with 523 students participating. In 2024, the new rural program's career capital will allocate 290 million VND (145 million VND from the central budget and 145 million VND from the local budget). Through the review, up to now, 10/18 communes have met criterion No. 12 laborers in the new rural commune criteria set and 2/9 communes have met the new rural standards and met criterion No. 12 laborers in the advanced new rural commune criteria set.

The results of implementing the criteria in the district by December 31, 2024 are as follows:

- Criterion (10) Income: 10/18 communes, reaching a rate of 55.56%.
- Criterion (12) Labor: 10/18 communes, reaching a rate of 55.56%.
- Criterion (13) Production organization and rural economic development: 11/18 communes, reaching a rate of 61.11%.

3.2.4. Sustainable poverty reduction, especially in ethnic minority and mountainous areas

From the beginning of the year, the district People's Committee has developed a plan to implement the National Target Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction in 2024. However, the poverty rate in the district remains high. The reason is that the infrastructure conditions are still low, especially the traffic system is very difficult to travel, the people's level is still low, the living and farming habits are still backward, there is still a mentality of waiting and relying on the support and investment of the State, ... As of December 31, 2024, the whole district has 14/18 communes (Hoang Van Thu, Tan Van, Mong An, Binh La, Vinh Yen, Hong Thai, Thien Long, Thien Hoa, Hong Phong, Hoa Tham, Quang Trung, Yen Lo, Hung Dao, Hoa Binh) meeting criterion No. 9 of residential housing in the new rural commune criteria set and 3/9 communes (Tan Van, Hoang Van Thu, Mong An) have met the new rural standards meeting criterion No. 9 of residential housing in the advanced new rural commune criteria set; 10/18 communes (Hoang Van Thu, Tan Van, Mong An, Binh La, Vinh Yen, Hong Thai, Thien Long, Thien Hoa, Hong Phong, Hoa Tham) met criterion No. 11 of multidimensional poverty and 2/8 communes (Tan Van, Hoang Van Thu) met multidimensional poverty criteria according to the set of criteria for advanced new rural communes.

3.2.5. Improving the quality of education, health care and health care for rural people

The work of universalizing education has been directed and implemented. In 2024, Binh Gia district achieved universal preschool education for 5-year-old children in 19/19 communes and towns (100%); universal primary education reached 19/19 communes and towns at level 3; universal lower secondary education level 3 reached 19/19 communes and towns; level 2 illiteracy eradication reached 19/19 communes/towns; Administrative and professional inspections of schools in the area are carried out regularly; The work of building national standard schools has been directed and focused on the material facilities for ethnic minority boarding schools in the area. In the district, 18/18 communes have met criterion No. 14 Education and Training.

The grassroots health system has received increasing attention and investment. The quality of medical examination and treatment and health care for rural people is gradually improving. Food safety and hygiene work has been strengthened to check and control. Up to now, 18/18 communes have met criterion No. 15 on health.

3.2.6. Improve the quality of cultural life of rural people; preserve and promote traditional cultural values in a sustainable manner associated with rural tourism development

Cultural, artistic, physical education and sports activities in the district are organized regularly, especially during Tet and major holidays of the year; continue to promote the campaign "All people unite to build cultural life in residential areas" associated with the National Target Program on New Rural Construction. Currently, in the district, 10/18 communes (Hoang Van Thu, Tan Van, Mong An, Hong Thai, Binh La, Hoa Tham, Vinh Yen, Thien Long, Thien Hoa, Hong Phong) have met criterion No. 16 on culture.

3.2.7. Improve environmental quality; build a bright - green - clean - beautiful, safe rural landscape; preserve and restore the traditional landscape of rural Vietnam

Environmental sanitation work is being carried out with attention. The District People's Committee directs the Department of Natural Resources and Environment to coordinate with the People's Committees of communes to strengthen propaganda and mobilize people to regularly carry out environmental sanitation work,

green - clean - beautiful village roads and alleys, clean barns, invest in building hygienic toilets. Launch the movement "Clean water and rural environmental sanitation week" among people. Strengthen management of production and business establishments in the area, ensure compliance with state regulations and prevent activities that affect the environment; In coordination with relevant units, organizing training on environmental knowledge associated with new rural construction, state management in the field of Natural Resources and Environment has been strengthened, since then the environment in rural areas has had many positive changes. In 2024, from the capital source of the national target program on new rural construction, support was provided to overcome pollution and improve the environment with a total budget of 200 million VND (central budget 100 million VND, provincial budget 100 million VND) and 100 million VND from the environmental protection fund of Lang Son province to implement the following contents (support 24 hygienic toilets for poor and near-poor households with a total budget of 36 million VND; support 24 toilets combined with bathrooms with an amount of 54 million VND and support the construction of 04 incinerators in villages with a total support budget of 10 million VND). Up to now, 9/18 communes have met criterion No. 17 Environment and food safety. It is expected that by the end of 2024, 1 more commune (Hoa Tham) will meet the criteria, bringing the total number of communes meeting the criteria to 10/18 communes according to the new rural commune criteria set and 2/9 communes (Tan Van, Hoang Van Thu) have met the new rural standards with criterion No. 17 environment in the advanced new rural commune criteria set.

3.2.8. Promote and improve the quality of public administrative services; improve the quality of grassroots government operations; promote digital transformation in new rural areas, enhance the application of information technology, digital technology, build smart new rural areas; ensure and enhance access to law for people; strengthen solutions to ensure gender equality and prevent gender-based violence

- The quality of cadres and civil servants is regularly assessed, on that basis, a detailed plan is developed to open training courses to improve knowledge and work handling skills, professional training courses, and professional training courses to improve the capacity of cadres and civil servants at commune level; Promote the leadership role of the Party organization, the coordination between political and social organizations in all activities.

- Fully implement administrative procedures according to regulations under the one-stop, one-stop mechanism. Ensure 100% resolution of administrative procedures for organizations and individuals and gradually improve the quality of public services in the district.

- Promote the dissemination of laws in various forms to enhance knowledge, understanding and access to the law for people; Regularly update legal documents and regulations in all fields for timely dissemination, ensuring correct and complete implementation.

- The information and communication system is being invested in and upgraded to ensure better provision of information to people.

It is expected that by the end of 2024, 13/18 communes in the district (Hoang Van Thu, Tan Van, Mong An, Hong Thai, Binh La, Vinh Yen, Thien Long, Thien Hoa, Quang Trung, Thien Thuat, Hoa Binh, Hoa Tham) will meet criterion No. 8 of Information and Communication; 12/18 communes have met criterion number 18 of the political system and legal access, including the communes of Hoang Van Thu, Tan Van, Mong An, Binh La, Vinh Yen, Hong Thai, Thien Long, Thien Hoa, Hong Phong, Tan Hoa, Thien Thuat, Hoa Tham, and 9/9 communes have met the new rural standards, meeting criterion number 15 of public administration in the set of criteria for advanced new rural communes.

3.2.9. Improving the quality and promoting the role of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations in building new rural areas

Content 1: The role of Party organizations, Government, socio-political organizations in building new rural areas is promoted and enhanced. Focus on improving the quality of Party organizations, government, socio-political organizations in the area. The assessment and analysis of the quality of grassroots Party organizations and Party members are seriously assessed, associated with the effectiveness of leadership and direction in implementing political tasks in the locality. The training and fostering of cadres at all levels is focused on, contributing to improving the capacity of commune cadres and civil servants, gradually standardizing the team of commune-level cadres and civil servants to meet the criteria of new rural areas. Effectively implementing the work of mobilizing and appointing competent district cadres to hold key positions to support communes in building new rural areas; mobilize, appoint, and replace staff in charge of the district-level New Rural Area Coordination Office to effectively advise the District Steering Committee on program implementation.

Content No. 02: On the effective implementation of the movement "Farmers compete in good production and business, unite to help each other get rich and reduce poverty sustainably": Right from the beginning of the year, the Standing Committee of the District Farmers' Association issued a decision to assign

competition targets to communes and towns to organize and implement; on the basis of the assigned targets and tasks, the Associations at all levels focused on propagating, mobilizing, and organizing farmer members to register good production and business households at all levels. Based on the investigation, review and assessment of the causes of poverty, the Farmers' Association at all levels has provided practical and specific support for each poor household to have the conditions to escape poverty such as: production capital, transfer of science and technology, vocational training, etc.

Content No. 03: Regarding the implementation of the Project "Supporting women to start a business in the period of 2017 - 2025: Binh Gia district has promoted the organization of communication and propaganda activities on the Party's guidelines, policies and laws of the State on start-ups, business development, raising awareness for members, women and people about activities to support women to start a business, innovate in production and business. Propaganda and mobilization of women's members and cooperatives led by women to actively participate in the Start-up Competition organized by the Central and the province. During the year, the Association received 03 startup projects from the grassroots level and the province selected 02 excellent projects to participate in the startup competition organized by the province and the central government. The results were 01 special prize at the provincial level, 01 national first prize, and 01 provincial third prize. Coordinated with the Provincial Cooperative Union to organize a conference to raise awareness for cadres and women members about collective economy and cooperatives in 2024 in Tan Van commune for 80 trainees who are members of cooperatives, production and business households, and women members. Coordinated with the Provincial Investment, Trade and Tourism Promotion Center to organize a training course on business start-up knowledge for 50 trainees who are branch heads, vice branch heads, and women members with startup ideas in the district. Coordinated to organize 02 classes on science and technology transfer, with a total of 78 trainees participating. The Women's Unions of communes and towns organize propaganda activities, raise awareness about startups, digital transformation; integrate propaganda into the activities of the Union such as the occasion of the March 8, October 20, and branch meetings.

Content No. 05: Cultivate, preserve good values and develop the Vietnamese family value system; implement the Campaign "Building a family of 5 no, 3 clean". Organize propaganda activities to thoroughly understand the Party's guidelines and policies, the State's laws and policies related to agriculture, farmers, and rural areas; build and develop families; especially Directive No. 06-CT/TW of the Secretariat on family work in the new situation. Contents of gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence, the role of women and the Union in participating in building the New Rural Area; cultivate, preserve good values and develop Vietnamese family values in the new situation; promote gender equality in criteria on education, health, labor and employment, building the political system, environment, towards 4 family values: Safety - Responsibility - Prosperity - Equality in all activities of the Association.

Implement the Campaign "Building a family of 5 no, 3 clean" to organize propaganda, raise awareness, knowledge, responsibility of cadres, members, women and people in the community about the content and criteria of the Campaign with 147 meetings, with 7,427 participants. The Women's Union coordinated to propagate members and people to participate in cleaning village roads, alleys, filling potholes, clearing sewers, taking care of flower roads, pruning trees, creating green, clean, beautiful landscapes to welcome the traditional New Year of the nation... with 3,272 laborers. Each Association base participated in 01 project, part of the work to participate in building new rural areas.

3.2.10. Maintaining national defense, security and social order in rural areas

The political system in communes continues to be stable, meeting the requirements of the tasks. National defense work is focused on, ensuring the full implementation of all tasks according to regulations; political security and social order and safety are ensured; in the area, there are no organizations or individuals engaged in activities against the Party and the government, economic sabotage, illegal proselytizing, or prolonged mass complaints; there are no complicated gathering places for social order; there is close coordination between the military and police forces in resolving tasks to ensure national defense and security in the district are always maintained. In the district, 16/18 communes meet criterion No. 19 of National Defense and Security, including the communes of Hoang Van Thu, Tan Van, Mong An, Binh La, Hong Thai, Vinh Yen, Thien Long, Thien Hoa, Hong Phong, Hoa Tham, Quang Trung, Yen Lo, Minh Khai, Quy Hoa, Hoa Binh, Tan Hoa. In 2024, the District People's Committee allocated 200 million VND to install a security camera model in Hoang Van Thu commune, which has been 100% disbursed.

3.2.11. Strengthening the supervision of the implementation of the Program; improving the capacity of new rural construction; communicating about new rural construction; implementing the emulation movement of the whole country joining hands to build new rural areas

In the process of implementing the National Target Program on new rural construction, inspection and supervision work has always been promoted and regularly implemented from the province to the district and

grassroots levels. In 2024, there will be 01 inspection and supervision by the Provincial Steering Committee of National Target Programs on the implementation of national target programs in Binh Gia district and Hoa Tham commune; the inspection team of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Provincial Office of New Rural Construction Coordination and provincial departments and branches will organize 01 inspection, guidance, assistance and support for Binh Gia district to carry out the task of new rural construction in 2024; the inspection team of the District Steering Committee of National Target Programs will organize 03 inspections on the situation of new rural construction in Hoa Tham commune and Hoang Van Thu commune in 2024. Every year, the District Steering Committee of National Target Programs has issued a Plan to implement inspection and supervision of new rural construction results; at the same time, the inspection of the implementation of national target programs is carried out in conjunction with periodic inspections of the implementation of socio-economic development plans of communes. Every year, the district steering committee establishes a team to inspect and evaluate the results of new rural construction and guides and helps communes that meet the conditions to complete the dossier for recognition of communes meeting new rural standards. For the community, production development programs and projects implemented locally always have the participation and supervision of the community from the planning stage to the implementation stage.

3.3. General assessment

3.3.1. Outstanding results achieved

The National Target Program on New Rural Construction has been directed and implemented by Party Committees and authorities at all levels; the Steering Committees for National Target Programs at the district level for the period 2021-2025 have been established and are operating effectively.

The system of mechanisms, policies, documents directing, managing and operating the implementation of the Program for the period 2021-2025 issued by the People's Council and the People's Committee of the province and district basically ensures timeliness and synchronization.

The communes have proactively developed specific plans and roadmaps to implement the Program for the period 2021-2025 and 2024 to ensure suitability with the actual conditions of each locality and unit.

In the commune striving to achieve new rural standards in 2024, the District People's Committee has focused on directing the implementation, especially the criteria that have not been met in the basic construction criteria and the criteria that people implement.

The propaganda and mobilization work for new rural construction is focused on building and replicating good experiences, typical models with spillover effects in new rural construction, typically the Agricultural Restructuring Program, shifting crop structure, and the One Commune One Product Program are being promoted. The fields of culture, society, rural economic structure, and increasing people's income continue to receive attention; the New Rural Program for the period 2021-2025; education and training, health care, and building cultural life in residential areas are promoted; the cultural and environmental fields have positive changes; political security, social order and safety in rural areas are maintained and stable; Mobilizing resources for new rural construction from socialized resources, mobilized resources from organizations, businesses and people in the area continues to contribute positively to the effective implementation of the Program. The movement "Binh Gia and the whole country join hands to build new rural areas" creates a strong spreading effect.

3.3.2. Difficulties and limitations

Difficulties and limitations

Some units have not been really determined, proactive and creative in directing and organizing implementation; there is still a mindset of waiting and relying on the support and direction of superior agencies. The results achieved in building new rural areas are not uniform among localities, there is still a gap between the group of communes meeting the standards and other communes; the average level of achievement of criteria/commune is still low, the number of communes with less than 10 criteria is still high. The maintenance and improvement of the quality of criteria in communes that have met the new rural standards is still slow, especially the maintenance of criteria and indicators with the participation of people in building new rural areas, which tends to decrease.

There have been many efforts in propaganda work, but the quality of propaganda in many places has not met the requirements, has not really promoted the combined strength of the political system and the role of the people in building new rural areas. The implementation of capital sources to support production development, investment and construction projects in key communes and the construction of model residential areas and advanced new rural communes in communes that have met new rural standards is still slow.

The mobilization of investment resources for rural agriculture and the mobilization of people's contributions to new rural construction is still low. People's awareness of developing production and business

according to the market economy mechanism is still limited; economic models that bring low economic efficiency are still mainly small-scale production.

In the process of implementing criteria related to propaganda work on site clearance and land donation by the people such as criterion No. 6 on cultural facilities, criteria related to mobilizing people to organize implementation such as criterion No. 13 on production organization and rural economic development, criterion No. 17 on environment and food safety... still face many difficulties. Therefore, it affects the results and progress of implementing the criteria.

Coordination between units is sometimes not regular and continuous, leading to difficulties and problems that have not been resolved promptly.

In Binh Gia district, the communes striving to meet the new rural standards are communes in region III, with difficult economic conditions, low starting point, high rate of poor and near-poor households; the economic conditions of the people in the area are still low, so mobilizing resources to build new rural areas is very difficult; the population is sparsely distributed, the terrain is difficult, living habits are still backward; the labor level of the people is still low, the main forms of production are fragmented and not concentrated; The selection of supported models for development of communes in the area is still slow, not really effective and ensuring sustainability.

The mobilization of investment resources for rural agriculture and the mobilization of people's contribution to building new rural areas is still low. People's awareness of developing production and business according to the market economy mechanism is still limited; economic models that bring low economic efficiency are still mainly small-scale production.

3.3.3. Causes

3.3.3.1. Subjective causes:

- Some units have not regularly directed implementation. The direction of implementing poverty reduction solutions in some places is still not drastic; there is still a mindset of waiting and relying on state support.
- The management capacity of the staff working on new rural construction at the grassroots level is still limited. The work of planning, surveying and evaluating criteria is not close, leading to the work of establishing projects, proposals, and commune-level planning being slow and not close to the goals of the criteria, affecting the determination of content, work, and implementation roadmap.
- The coordination between units is not regular and continuous, not really promoting the combined strength of the political system and the role of the people in building new rural areas, so the quality of propaganda is not high, and people's awareness is not full of their role and responsibility in participating in building new rural areas.
- The construction of production development models to increase income for people in rural areas has not received due attention; infrastructure serving production development and investment capital for agriculture and rural areas, although significantly enhanced, have not met development requirements.
- Awareness of environmental protection and preserving green - clean - beautiful landscapes has not been taken seriously by the people, they still consider this as the State's job; there is no proactive awareness in maintaining public hygiene.

3.3.3.2. Objective reasons:

- Binh Gia is a mountainous district, with many socio-economic difficulties; the terrain is mainly high hills and mountains, with large separations, the lives of rural residents are still difficult, the investment demand is very large while the ability to arrange capital from the State budget has not yet met the demand, and the mobilization of contributions from resources is very limited.
- In recent years, the weather has been complicated with heavy rain, flash floods, landslides, severe cold, and prolonged cold, affecting the crops of the people, and disease outbreaks; the prices of materials, gasoline, fertilizers, and pesticides on the market have always fluctuated frequently, while the product consumption market has encountered many difficulties, significantly affecting the lives and production of the people.

3.4. Proposed solutions to accelerate progress and improve the effectiveness of Program implementation

To accelerate the implementation of the New Rural Development Program in Binh Gia District, the following solutions are proposed: Implementation Direction: Strengthen leadership at all levels, with active roles from Party committees, local authorities, and socio-political organizations. The Steering Committee and Management Board will assign specific tasks to members and ensure efficient operations at the district and commune levels. Regular inspections will address challenges at the grassroots level. Propaganda, Training, and Coaching: Promote the movement "Binh Gia joins the whole country to build new rural areas," alongside campaigns like "All people unite to build new rural areas" and others. This will foster community engagement and mobilize resources. Additionally, training programs will enhance the skills of local officials, especially at

the grassroots level. Directing Production Development: Focus on afforestation, disease prevention, and irrigation. Encourage the development of agricultural and forestry projects, including crop and livestock restructuring. Promote scientific models and effectively deploy capital to boost economic efficiency. Building Infrastructure: Invest in essential infrastructure, prioritizing urgent projects that stabilize lives and encourage social participation. Capital sources from national programs will be integrated to meet new rural criteria. Culture, Society, and Environment: Raise awareness of cultural, social, and environmental criteria, requiring community involvement. Encourage self-management models for cultural and environmental sanitation management in villages. Political System and Security: Train qualified local cadres and enhance the role of mass organizations to implement targets at the grassroots level, maintaining security and governance stability. Implementation Organization: District departments will coordinate the 2025 New Rural Development Program, integrating it with other work plans. Steering Committee members will direct, inspect, and assess the implementation of assigned criteria.

IV. CONCLUSION

The implementation of the National Target Program on New Rural Construction (NRCP) in Binh Gia District, Lang Son Province, has yielded notable advancements in socio-economic infrastructure, agricultural restructuring, and poverty reduction, contributing to improved living conditions in rural areas. The study reveals that, while progress has been made, challenges such as uneven development across communes, limited resource mobilization, and gaps in public awareness and participation remain significant obstacles. These issues have slowed the overall impact of the program, particularly in remote and economically disadvantaged areas.

To address these challenges, it is crucial to strengthen leadership at all levels, enhance coordination between units, and promote community involvement through targeted propaganda and training efforts. Additionally, the development of sustainable economic models and improvements in infrastructure, particularly for production and environmental management, are essential for ensuring long-term success. The findings of this study provide valuable insights that can guide the refinement of the NRCP, offering actionable recommendations for accelerating progress and improving the effectiveness of rural development policies not only in Binh Gia District but also in similar contexts across the country. By leveraging these lessons, future rural development efforts can be more adaptive, inclusive, and impactful, contributing to the creation of sustainable and prosperous rural communities.

REFERENCES

- [1] C. Ayoo, "Poverty reduction strategies in developing countries," *Rural Dev. Sustain. Multifunct.*, pp. 17–57, 2022.
- [2] S. Maulu, O. J. Hasimuna, B. Mutale, J. Mphande, and E. Siankwilimba, "Enhancing the role of rural agricultural extension programs in poverty alleviation: A review," *Cogent Food Agric.*, vol. 7, no. 1, p. 1886663, 2021.
- [3] T. M. Nguyen and V. Van Thanh, "Strategies for poverty reduction to meet the requirements of sustainable development," *J. Infrastructure, Policy Dev.*, vol. 7, no. 3, p. 2597, 2023.
- [4] N. M. Tri, "Economic growth with poverty reduction in Vietnam," *J. Crit. Rev.*, vol. 7, no. 8, pp. 2527–2533, 2020.
- [5] D. Dapice, "Poverty reduction and inequality in Vietnam," *Vietnam Navig. a rapidly Chang. Econ. Soc. Polit. order*, pp. 251–274, 2023.
- [6] G. of the S. R. of Vietnam, "Decision No. 263/QĐ - TTg Promulgating a set of national criteria for new rural communes and a set of national criteria for enhanced new rural communes for the 2021-2025 period," *Chính phủ nước CHXHCN Việt Nam*, no. 8.5.2017, pp. 2003–2005, 2022.
- [7] D. T. Duong, "Sustainable development for Vietnam agriculture," in *E3S Web of Conferences*, EDP Sciences, 2020, p. 1015.
- [8] X. P. Nguyen, N. D. Le, V. V. Pham, T. T. Huynh, V. H. Dong, and A. T. Hoang, "Mission, challenges, and prospects of renewable energy development in Vietnam," *Energy Sources, Part A Recover. Util. Environ. Eff.*, pp. 1–13, 2021.
- [9] B. G. D. P. Committee, "Report on the implementation results of the New Rural Development Program in 2024 and the tasks and plan for 2025 (1).pdf," 2024.