

INFORMATION OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Doctoral dissertation title: Attracting foreign direct investment in the agricultural sector of the Southern Key Economic Zone

Major: Economics

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1. DISSERTATION SUMMARY

The objective of the study is to apply the theory of attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) to study the situation of attracting FDI into the agricultural sector of the Southern Key Economic Zone (KEZ) to develop high-tech agriculture, increase added value, thereby proposing solutions to promote FDI attraction into the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ. To achieve the research objective, the dissertation has combined both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Qualitative research methods include analysis and synthesis; comparison and contrast; scientific abstraction; and expert method. With the quantitative research method, the dissertation uses structural equation modeling (SEM) with PLS-SEM technique to analyze factors affecting FDI attraction into the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ.

The dissertation has discussed general theoretical issues on FDI; FDI attraction; FDI attraction into the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ. The dissertation analyzes the content of FDI attraction into the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ through 03 groups of measures (1) improving the investment environment; (2) increasing investment attractiveness; and (3) investment promotion. From theoretical and empirical studies, the dissertation has synthesized indicators to evaluate the results of FDI attraction and the contribution of FDI to the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ. The dissertation also studies the practical experience of 02 economic regions that have achieved successes in

attracting FDI into the agricultural sector, which are the Arava and Negev regions - Israel and the Sumatra and Kalimantan regions - Indonesia.

The dissertation has outlined the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ, according to which in the period of 2018 - 2023, the scale of the agricultural, forestry and fishery sector of the region accounts for the highest proportion in the key economic zones, about 17.32%. The average growth rate of the whole period is 3.26%, higher than the average growth rate of the whole country (3.02%), but still low compared to other economic sectors, unstable growth and signs of decline from 2018 to present. The dissertation has applied the source model of competitive advantage to assess the competitiveness of the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ, thereby showing that the major problem in the agricultural sector of the region is that technological innovation activities have not met the development needs. The science and technology market has been formed but on a small scale; research, transfer and application of technology to production need to continue to be developed. The dissertation also analyzes the overall picture of attracting FDI into the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ. Through the synthesis of policies and measures used to attract FDI, indicators to evaluate the results of FDI attraction and the contribution of FDI to the agricultural sector, it is reflected that the Southern KEZ always leads the country in attracting FDI to the agricultural sector. In the structure of FDI capital in economic sectors, the proportion of FDI capital in the agricultural sector of the region (1.23%) is higher than the national average (1.14%). However, the region has not attracted many investment partners from countries with strong agriculture; most of the FDI projects in the agricultural sector of the region invest in low-risk fields and have the ability to recover capital quickly; the number of projects with high technology content, development of biotechnology, genetic technology in agriculture, investment in developing raw material areas is still limited; the phenomenon of temporary suspension of business operations, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Based on theoretical and empirical studies, based on the results of expert consultation, the dissertation has adjusted the scale of factors affecting FDI attraction to suit the context of the agricultural sector in the Southern KEZ. The dissertation has conducted a survey of 129 FDI enterprises in the agricultural sector in the region. Data were collected through direct interviews using questionnaires to test the model and research hypotheses. The results show that the factors “Agglomeration Effects”; “Human Resources”; “Regional Agriculture Policies”; “Infrastructure”; “Public Service Quality”; “Natural Conditions” and “FDI

Attraction Policies” all have an impact on the intention to maintain and expand investment of FDI enterprises in order from high to low.

From the results of the current situation analysis, the dissertation has drawn out the successes and limitations, the causes of success and limitations in attracting FDI into the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ.

From the research results, the dissertation proposes a number of groups of solutions to increase FDI attraction into the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ as follows: (1) develop a strategy to attract FDI into the agricultural sector in accordance with the goals and development orientation of the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ; (2) regional agriculture policies; (3) FDI attraction policies; (4) human resources; (5) infrastructure system; (6) public service quality; (7) and other solutions such as agricultural development associated with environmental resource protection and strengthening investment promotion.

2. THE NEW SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS

Firstly, the dissertation systematized the theoretical basis of attracting FDI into the agricultural sector of key economic regions and studied the practical experience of two economic regions that have achieved much success in attracting FDI into the agricultural sector, namely the Arava and Negev regions of Israel and the Sumatra and Kalimantan regions of Indonesia.

Second, the dissertation has built a research model of factors affecting FDI attraction in the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ and used analysis to draw out the level of influence of factors on FDI attraction in the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ.

Third, the dissertation has assessed the current status of FDI attraction in the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ from 2010 to present and commented on the successes and limitations, the causes of success and limitations in attracting FDI in the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ.

Fourthly, based on theory and practice, the results of analyzing the current situation, from the viewpoint, goals, and orientations of attracting FDI into the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ of the Party and State, the dissertation has proposed a number of solutions to increase FDI attraction into the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ in the coming time.

3. APPLICATIONS/ APPLICABILITY IN PRACTICE AND SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER STUDIES

Beside the results achieved, the dissertation also points out issues that need to be further studied in future studies. Firstly, researching on attracting FDI from potential investors who have not invested in the agricultural sector. Secondly, the dissertation uses data from FDI enterprises operating in the agricultural sector of the Southern KEZ. Therefore, caution should be exercised when generalizing the findings to other regions. In particular, “Regional Agriculture Policies” is a contextual factor, influenced by the strengths and focus of agricultural production in each region as well as the availability of local resources. Therefore, further studies are needed to expand the sample from other geographical areas for comparative analysis.

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CONFIRMATION FROM THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

PRINCIPAL