



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

ADAPTING TO NEW CHALLENGES IN VIET NAM

**FAO – A Trusted Partner
for Sustainable Development**

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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KEY AREAS FOR PARTNERSHIP





MESSAGE FROM THE FAO REPRESENTATIVE IN VIET NAM

“Viet Nam has made great progress in reducing poverty and enhancing socio-economic development in the last two decades. Nevertheless, rural and agricultural communities continue to be among the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the population. The agriculture and food sector, being by far the country’s most important source of livelihoods for the people of Viet Nam, needs to further pursue poverty alleviation and address the most pressing challenges to the country’s agriculture and rural development.

In particular, progress is required in adapting to the increasingly severe impacts of climate change on natural resources, the need to enhance the country’s ability to deal with an unpredictable and volatile trade environment, and the pivotal necessity to substantially improve and diversify the livelihoods and income base of farming families - all this while ensuring sustainable environmental and social protection and safeguards. FAO is fully committed to support, in close partnerships with the government and development counterparts, the country and its institutions in contributing to these achievements, fundamental to ensure economic prosperity and social security for the large majority of Viet Nam’s population”.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Lieberg'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Albert T. Lieberg

FAO'S MANDATE AND VISION

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. With presently 194 member states, FAO works in more than 130 countries worldwide. FAO has operated in Viet Nam since 1978.

- FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the sustainable transformation of the global economy.
- FAO's vision is to achieve food security for all, to ensure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

According to its Constitution: *FAO shall collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate information on **nutrition, food and agriculture** (crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry) and recommend when appropriate **national and international action** that encompasses scientific research, education, conservation of natural resources, agricultural production and marketing, international policies and trade regulations.*

As per our **Constitution**, this mandate entails **natural resource management, climate change** and **natural disaster management**.



Quebec, Canada - Signature of FAO Constitution. In the afternoon of 16 October 1945, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) came into existence with the signature of its Constitution.

FAO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strategic Objectives are development outcomes in countries, regions and globally expected to be achieved over a long-term timeframe by members with FAO's contributions.



Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

We contribute to the eradication of hunger by facilitating policies and political commitments to support food security and by making sure that up-to-date information about hunger and nutrition challenges and solutions is available and accessible.



Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

We promote evidence-based policies and practices to support highly productive agricultural sectors (crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries), while ensuring that the natural resource base does not suffer in the process.



Reduce rural poverty

We help the rural poor gain access to the resources and services they need – including rural employment and social protection – to forge a path out of poverty.



Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems

We help to build safe and efficient food systems that support smallholder agriculture and reduce poverty and hunger in rural areas.

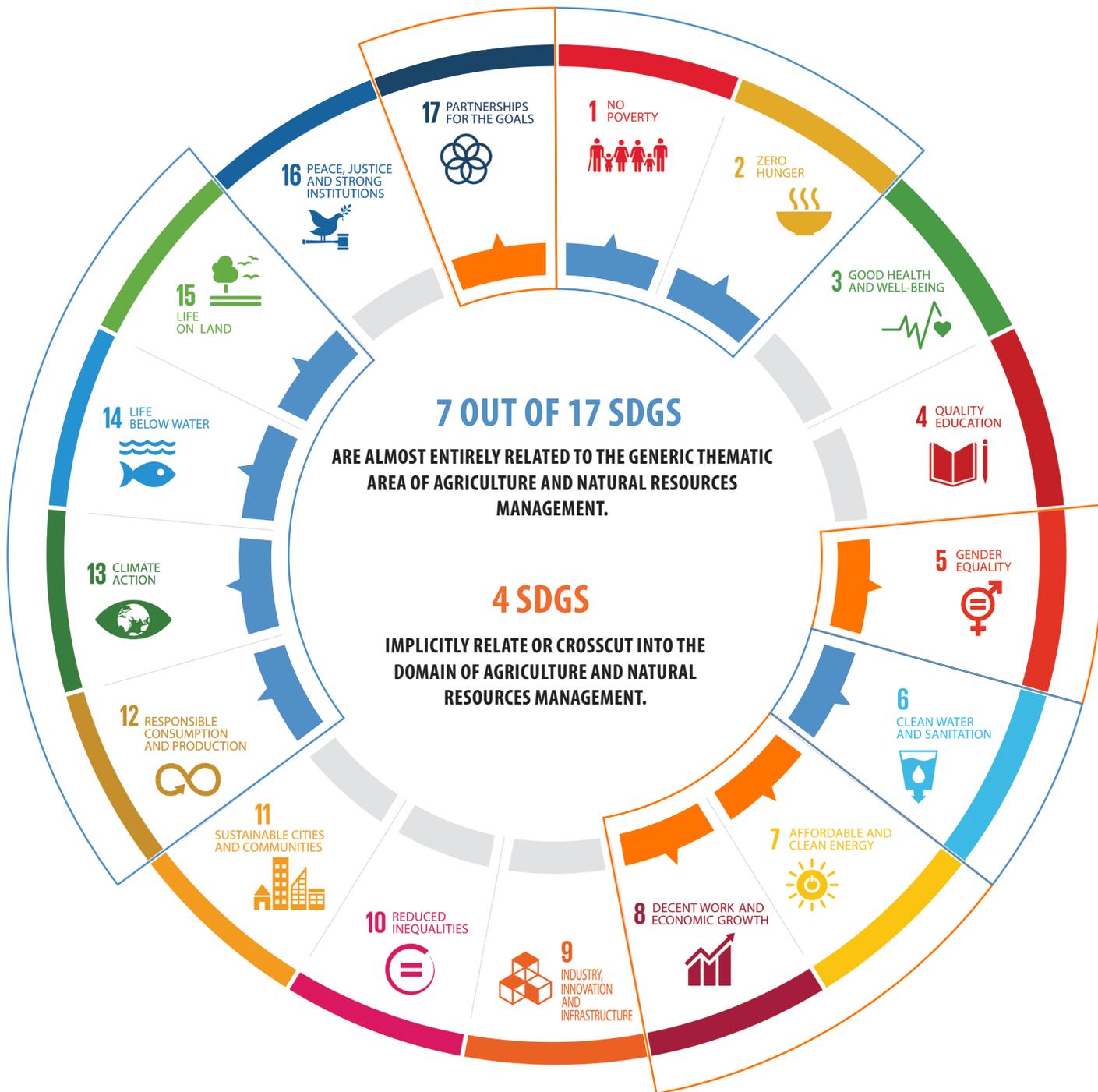


Increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters

We help countries to prepare for natural and human caused disasters by reducing their risk and enhancing the resilience of their food and agricultural systems.

Our planet faces multiple and complex challenges in the 21st century. The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** commits the international community to act together to overcome them and transform our world for present and future generations. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will shape national development plans until at least 2030. From ending poverty and hunger to responding to climate change and sustaining our natural resources, food and agriculture lies at the heart of the 2030 Agenda.

While it is commonly understood that work towards achievement of this Agenda 2030 demands an inclusive approach due to the integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs, nearly half of all SDGs are almost entirely related to the domain of agriculture and natural resources management – the key thematic mandate of all FAO work on global and national scales.



HOW WE WORK

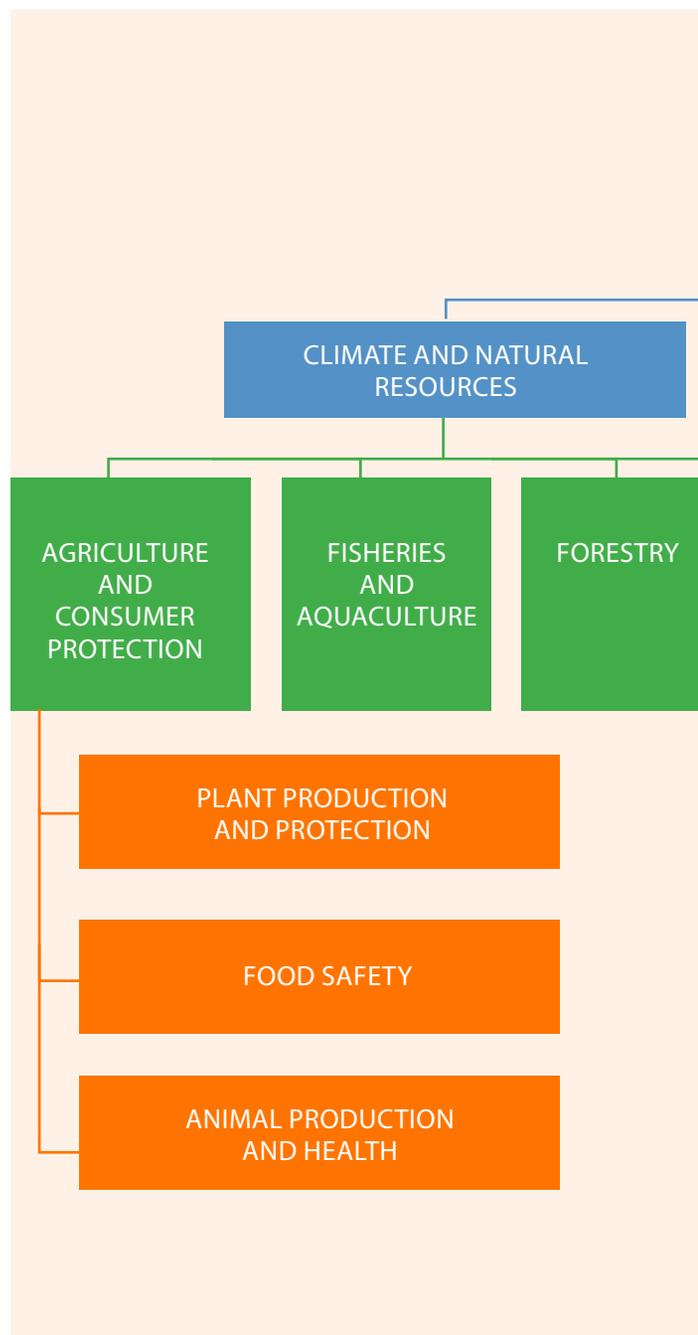
FAO works to create and share essential information and technical expertise on food, agriculture and natural resources. Importantly, we also play a connector role through identifying and working with different partners with established expertise, and facilitating dialogue between knowledge-holders and those who need it.

Turning knowledge into action, FAO links the field to national, regional and global initiatives in a mutually reinforcing cycle. By joining forces, we facilitate partnerships for food and nutrition security, agriculture and rural development among governments, development partners, civil society actors and the private sector.

This work is synergized across a decentralized network including five regional offices, 10 sub-regional offices and 85 fully-fledged country offices, including Viet Nam. Our global team numbers more than 11,000, of whom one-third is based at headquarters in Rome. With our 194 member states largely equitably represented, *importantly the proportion of women within our pool of professional staff has steadily risen towards gender parity.*



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FAO STRUCTURE (DEPARTMENTS & DIVISIONS)*

DIRECTOR – GENERAL

PROGRAMMES

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT

CLIMATE AND
ENVIRONMENT,
BIODIVERSITY,
LAND AND WATER

CLIMATE AND
ENVIRONMENT

LAND AND
WATER

BIODIVERSITY

HUNGER ERADICATION, FOOD
SECURITY AND NUTRITION

SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE

RURAL POVERTY
REDUCTION

FOOD SYSTEMS

EMERGENCY AND RESILIENCE
MANAGEMENT

INVESTMENT CENTRE

AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT
ECONOMICS

NUTRITION AND
FOOD SYSTEMS

SOCIAL POLICIES AND RURAL
INSTITUTIONS

TRADE AND MARKETS

STATISTICS

** Simplified, technical areas only*

TOGETHER, WE WORK TO:

Put information within reach and support the transition to sustainable agriculture. FAO serves as a knowledge network. We use the expertise and comparative advantages of our human capital to collect, analyze and disseminate data to support development.

Bring knowledge to the field. Our breadth of knowledge is put to the test in thousands of field projects globally, including in Viet Nam. FAO manages large amounts of capital provided by industrialized countries, development banks and other sources to ensure projects achieve their goals.

Strengthen political will and share policy expertise. FAO lends its years of experience to member countries including Viet Nam to develop agricultural policy, support planning, draft effective legislation and create national strategies to achieve rural development and hunger alleviation goals.

Support for prevention and mitigation of disaster risks. We develop mechanisms to monitor and warn about multi-hazard risks and threats to agriculture, food and nutrition. When need arises, we make sure disaster response plans are coordinated at all levels.

Bolster public-private collaboration to improve smallholder agriculture. As a neutral forum, FAO provides a setting to build common understanding. We also engage the food industry and non-profits to support farmers and facilitate greater public-private investments in the food sector.

This work is implemented through a range of project/programme modalities: Technical Cooperation Programmes, Trust Funds (including United Nations Joint Programmes), Telefood Special Funds, South-South Cooperation, Emergency Response Projects and government voluntary contributions (through Unilateral Trust Fund).

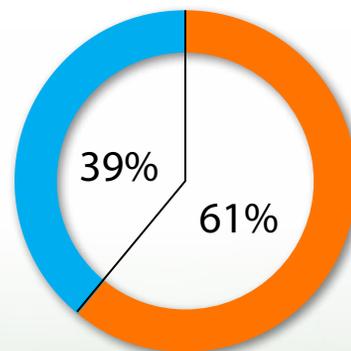


HOW IS FAO FUNDED?

FAO's overall work programme is funded by **assessed** and **voluntary contributions**.

Member countries' "assessed contributions" comprise the regular budget, set at biennial FAO conferences. "Voluntary contributions" provided by members and other partners support technical and emergency assistance to governments for clearly defined purposes linked to the results framework, as well as direct support to FAO's core work.

Total FAO Budget planned for 2018-19 is
USD 2.6 billion



 Voluntary contributions
 Assessed contributions



FAO AND VIET NAM

40 YEARS OF COOPERATION

Present in Viet Nam since 1978, FAO today is valued as a trusted partner for sustainable development forged across 40 years of cooperation.

This journey began with Viet Nam in a serious time of need - years of war had devastated the nation's physical, economic and institutional capital. At the same time, it was isolated from much of the outside world and many traditional channels of development assistance were out of reach. As one of the first United Nations agencies leading the post-war recovery, FAO became an important partner and main contributor of agricultural sector technical assistance during these difficult years. Initial priorities after the conflict were to restore food security, reforestation and help the government rebuild agriculture sector institutions and capacity.

During the 1980s, FAO's programme in Viet Nam was its third largest in the world, after India and China. During these years, FAO assisted Viet Nam to restore its agriculture, forestry and fisheries through important technical assistance. These valuable contributions were valued and are recognized by the Government of Viet Nam to this day.

1990s

1980s

1970s

FAO's focus changed during the 1990s towards provision of upstream policy advice. With the transition from a centrally-planned to market-oriented economy having a huge impact on virtually every aspect of the rural economy, FAO called on its vast international knowledge and expertise to deliver much needed policy development support to help Viet Nam respond to challenges and opportunities posed by the new market environment. During this period, FAO helped introduce a community-based approach to household food security.

2000s

The 2000s saw further progress in a number of important fields, with the Integrated Pest Management Programme implemented across 63 provinces to address a lack of crop management knowledge, while the **Farmer Field School Programme** in Viet Nam supported farmers in a number of areas.

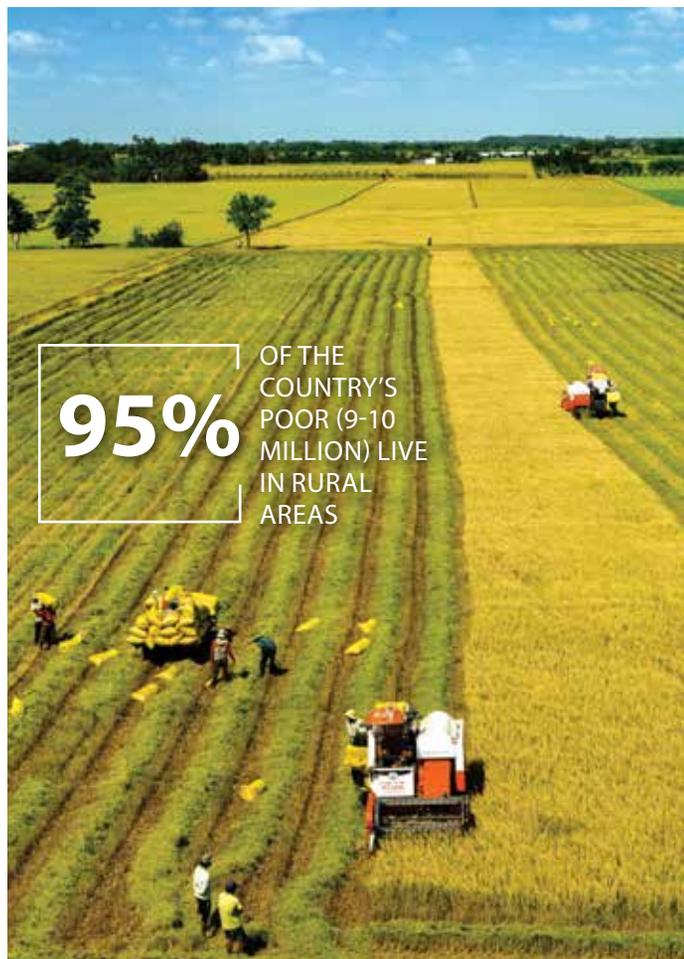
2010s

The 2010s saw increased food security with a focus on alleviation of hunger, malnutrition and food safety concerns, while the fight to combat serious disease threats was intensified with FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) taking a leading role.

Going forward, FAO is committed to further deepening its partnership with Viet Nam through achievement of the 2030 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These efforts will particularly focus on the 'Zero Hunger Challenge' to pay dividends right across a broad range of SDGs.

In this context, FAO is fully responsive to country changes to pursue greater alignment with national development priorities, and take account the broader regional and global aspirations of the country.

COUNTRY PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK VIET NAM 2017-2021



95%

OF THE
COUNTRY'S
POOR (9-10
MILLION) LIVE
IN RURAL
AREAS

The Country Programming Framework (CPF) is a tool for FAO country-level strategic prioritization and programming.

In essence, it defines development priorities for collaboration between FAO and a member country, outputs contributing to national and regional priorities and corporate results, and the resources and partnerships required. The CPF reflects FAO's contribution to country-led national planning processes.

In Viet Nam, the CPF was signed, co-owned and managed by FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on behalf of the Government of Viet Nam, to achieve sustainable economic empowerment and social transformation in alignment with key government priorities. It responds to Viet Nam's specific needs through synergy with outcomes of the five-year Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) 2016-2020 – the over-arching policy framework that sets out the government's agenda to deliver economic growth and social equity.

Building on FAO's past experiences in the country and linking the SEDP with FAO comparative advantages, the CPF is the strategic basis for FAO support to agriculture and rural development in Viet Nam during 2017-2021 within four priority areas:



Priority Area 1:
Increased food security with focus on alleviation of hunger, malnutrition and food safety concerns:

Achieve SEDP Outcome 5 “Improved access to social services” with the target of under-5 stunting rates reduced to 23 percent by 2020.



Priority Area 2:
Sustainable development of agriculture sectors: Implement the Green Growth Strategy and address climate change mitigation, natural resource management and environment protection

aspects under the SEDP Outcome 6. Moreover, implement the Paris Agreement to reduce green house gas emissions of 8 percent by 2030.



Priority Area 3:
New Rural Development and Sustainable Poverty Reduction:

Achieve SEDP Outcome 2 “Breakthrough in economy restructuring, productivity and competitiveness”, particularly the National Target Programme for New Rural Development. Contribute to SEDP Outcome 5 “Improved access to social services” and the National Target Programme on Sustainable Poverty Reduction.



Priority Area 4:
Enhanced resilience of communities to disasters and threats:

Achieve the climate change adaptation/ disaster risk management aspects under SEDP Outcome 5 “Improved access to health services” and Outcome 6 “Addressing climate change impacts and improved natural resources management and environment protection” and National Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Control 2007-2025.

Key partnerships with the government include the *Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development* as well as the *Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment*, which is responsible for climate change, environment protection and natural resource management. Additionally, FAO works with the ministries of *Planning and Investment*, of *Industry and Trade*, of *Health and of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs*, academia and civil society, alongside the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

CURRENT PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

FAO Viet Nam is currently implementing a diverse range of projects, programmes and initiatives across the four priority areas within the Country Programming Framework. Much of this work is cross-cutting by nature and synergized with our key pillars of policy support, food security/safety, agriculture production, climate change and emergencies.

Within new rural development, sustainable poverty reduction, food security and safety, our work intersects with a broad spectrum of national, regional and United Nations-led initiatives including the National Target Programme for New Rural Development, UN Joint Programme in Integrated Nutrition and Food Security and the Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC). Sustainable agriculture development, enhancing resilience of communities to risks and climate change mitigation incorporates the UN-REDD Programme, FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), national drought early warning and national disaster responses, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing prevention and control of zoonotic diseases, antibiotic resistance and antimicrobial usage, amongst others.

93%

OF ETHNIC MINORITY
COMMUNITIES LIVE IN
RURAL AREAS





IMPORTANT THEMATIC AREAS AND MAINSTREAMED PRIORITIES

- ✓ Education and training in national resources and environment
- ✓ Ecology, bio-diversity and marine eco systems
- ✓ Climate smart farming and food systems
- ✓ Wildlife protection and animal rights
- ✓ Integrated Rural Development
- ✓ Decent work and labour rights
- ✓ **ETHNIC MINORITIES**
- ✓ Social and environment standards
- ✓ Forestry and mountain development
- ✓ Eco-tourism and agriculture heritage
- ✓ Multi-sectorial income diversification
- ✓ Nutrition, dietary change, health and happiness
- ✓ **MAINSTREAMING WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT**

CPF PRIORITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES IN VIET NAM

PRIORITY AREA 1

Integrated Nutrition and Food Security Strategies for Children and Vulnerable Groups in Viet Nam

FAO supports Viet Nam to develop and implement integrated nutrition and food security strategies to meet equitable targets set in the National Nutrition Strategy and National Food Security Strategy. Key goals include improved access to social services and reducing the under-5 stunting rate to 21.5 percent by 2020 as indicated in the National Plan of Action for Nutrition to 2020. This work is important as malnutrition among children under-5 remains a public health priority, despite the rate for it and infant mortality having halved between 1990-2006. As such, remarkable results have already been achieved by the UN Joint Programme, with support provided to 36 million women of reproductive age and 7.1 million boys and girls under-5 through strengthened coordination between the health and agriculture sectors. FAO also plays a leading role in facilitating the Food Safety Working Group and ensuring regular sharing of food safety information among stakeholders.

Capacity Building for International Food Safety Standards Development and Implementation in ASEAN Countries

Food safety is a fundamental public health concern that has become increasingly challenging. International trade involves potential risks to public health from the entry of unsafe food or spread of food-borne diseases. In response





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the FAO-established Codex Alimentarius Commission, with membership of 186 countries, develops harmonized international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair food trade practices. In Viet Nam, FAO works to set and implement Codex standards as well as enhance institutional capacity to develop and harmonize food safety standards nationally and regionally within the ASEAN Economic Community. An additional focus is enhancing information sharing systems to better communicate food safety standards.

Strengthening Capacities for Nutrition - Sensitive Food Systems through a Multi-stakeholder Approach

To ensure food systems contribute to better nutrition, it is essential to strengthen the capacities of a broad range of stakeholders - encompassing the private sector, civil society organizations and academia - to mainstream nutrition in policies and investments. To enhance the capacities of public-private sector institutions in Viet Nam to promote nutrition-sensitive food systems and healthy diets, FAO works with universities to transfer skills and competences on nutrition-sensitive food systems and value chains, while encouraging small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to adopt nutrition-sensitive work practices and approaches in their business models. An e-learning module on nutrition-sensitive food systems designed for SMEs has been developed and disseminated in Viet Nam.

CPF PRIORITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES IN VIET NAM

PRIORITY AREA 2

Support to Countries to Address Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

IUU fishing captures a wide variety of fishing activity that undermines national and regional efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks. If IUU fishers target vulnerable stocks subject to strict management controls or moratoria, efforts to rebuild those stocks to healthy levels will not be achieved, threatening marine biodiversity, food security for communities who rely on fisheries resources for protein and the livelihoods of those involved in the sector. In Viet Nam, FAO is intensifying efforts to enhance the management of fisheries, marine resources and reduce IUU fishing. To achieve this, national plans of action to address IUU are being developed and IUU regional coordination and governance mechanisms strengthened.

FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme

FAO has been supporting Viet Nam to improve forest governance as part of the FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. After six years of FAO-led technical assistance, Viet Nam and the EU signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) in October 2018. This legally binding agreement aims to improve the application of forest laws, strengthen forest governance and promote trade in legal wood products. This is an important step, with 42 percent of Viet Nam's land area forested and the country playing a key role in timber sector processing in Southeast Asia. Viet Nam

imports timber from some 80 countries and domestic plantation timber is increasingly used in the production of timber products and the export of woodchip. Viet Nam's wood furniture exports mainly target environmentally-conscious markets in the EU, US and Japan. The EU FLEGT Facility helps combat illegal logging and strengthen forest governance, while encouraging sustainable economic development in countries that produce or process timber and export to the EU.

UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is a mechanism being designed to provide financial rewards to forest owners and users. Under the mechanism, countries measure and monitor the emissions of CO₂ resulting from deforestation and degradation within their borders. To achieve this, FAO supported roll out of the UN-REDD Programme (Phases I and II, 2012-2018) in Viet Nam and development of "REDD+ Readiness" (UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). Going forward, FAO will build on Phase II and maintain momentum towards for REDD+ in Viet Nam.

25-30%

OF VIET NAM'S
POPULATION DEPEND
ENTIRELY ON AGRICULTURE
FOR THEIR LIVELIHOODS

7 OUT OF THE 17 SDGs

ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY RELATED TO AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT – THE CORE MANDATE OF FAO

PRIORITY AREA 3

UN Support to the National Target Programme for New Rural Development

FAO plays a pivotal role in helping Viet Nam achieve the National Target Programme for New Rural Development (NTP-NRD), with the overarching goal to improve incomes, livelihoods and living standards of rural people through inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth. By 2020, half of all rural communes are expected to be recognized as “new-style rural areas” and average incomes will have increased 1.8-fold from 2015. FAO provides high-quality technical expertise and builds implementation capacity to deliver NTP-NRD (2016-2020) and enhances community knowledge to benefit disadvantaged areas, ethnic minorities and increase the potential of rural Viet Nam.

Policy-based Support to Agriculture Production in line with New Rural Development, Sustainable Poverty Reduction and Zero Hunger Challenge of Viet Nam

FAO has been providing technical support to Viet Nam through the project “Support to agriculture production in line with new rural development, sustainable poverty reduction and Zero Hunger Initiative of Viet Nam” (2017-2019), which is focused on development of selected policies in cooperation with government partners. The National Action Plan for Zero Hunger Challenge has been developed, building synergies with the National Target Programme for New Rural Development, a major government initiative to improve the economy and living standards of Viet Nam’s rural areas.



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CPF PRIORITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES IN VIET NAM

PRIORITY AREA 4

Strengthening the Agro-climatic Information System to address Climate Change impact

Drought is a major natural disaster threat in Viet Nam. In 2016, central and southern Viet Nam experienced their worst droughts in 90 years, with 18 provinces declaring states of emergency at the peak of the crisis. It led to one million people requiring food assistance and 1.75 million people losing income due to damaged or lost livelihoods. Agriculture is most vulnerable to drought, yet the lack of effective monitoring tools, early warning mechanisms and limited institutional capacity to conduct short- and long-term forecasts have hampered government efforts to counter this growing threat. In response, FAO is strengthening Viet Nam's agro-climatic information system to improve the agricultural drought monitoring and early warning system through an initial pilot in Ninh Thuan province. It will also examine drought and socio-economic contexts at district level and develop a strategy for scaling-up the pilot to national level.

Drought Forecast-Based Financing for Food Security, Livelihoods and WASH in Viet Nam

FAO is piloting an 'Early Warning, Early Action' model to enable communities to take preparedness actions based on reliable climate forecasts. This project aims to ensure that drought climatic forecasts and early warning are available to communities in a systematic way and trigger pre-defined early actions which can mitigate the impact

of drought. This initiative follows the worst drought in 90 years to hit central and southern Viet Nam.

Integrating Agricultural Sectors into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) - Climate Change

To build the capacity of government to ensure agricultural sectors benefit from NAPs, FAO is enhancing the technical capacity of institutions and evidence-based results of NAPs, integrating roadmaps and promoting knowledge-sharing of NAPs. In particular, technical and public service officers are receiving agriculture-based livelihood adaptation training, climate sensitive investment plans for agriculture sectors are supported and exchanges on science, technology and economics to integrate adaptation options into national investment plans are encouraged.



48%

OF THE POPULATION DEPEND ON
THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND
AGRO-FOOD COMPLEX

Prevention and Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases and One Health Approach

To mitigate risk and manage human health threats along different animal value chains, FAO's Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) is supporting Viet Nam to strengthen its capacity for timely and effective prevention and control of emerging zoonotic diseases as well as the early detection of new threats. In particular, FAO supports government authorities to conduct surveillance and ensure more effective control and prevention of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza HPAI outbreaks (caused by influenza H5N1 and H5N6 viruses). Joint activities have built local capacity for coordinated investigation and responses to zoonoses under the One Health concept. Improvements have been seen in biosecurity practices in livestock production systems, management of wildlife farming and information sharing, and safe animal movement across borders.

Tackling antibiotic resistance in livestock production and aquaculture is another increasingly critical area of work, with FAO having co-developed the Viet Nam National Action Plan for management of antibiotic use and control of antibiotic resistance in livestock production and aquaculture (2017-2020). It helps mitigate the public health risk of antibiotic resistance arising from antibiotic usage in livestock production and aquaculture in Viet Nam. FAO is further intensifying efforts to ensure more prudent antimicrobial usage in the livestock production industry to contain antimicrobial resistance.



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NEW PRIORITY PROJECTS IN VIET NAM



REGIONAL INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED IN VIET NAM



Zero Hunger Challenge

Zero Hunger is a vision of the world free of hunger and malnutrition, in which no one is left behind. The global Zero Hunger Challenge, a UN-wide initiative, was kicked-off at the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012. FAO has been the technical lead within the UN to roll it out. Key thematic components of Zero Hunger work in Viet Nam are: 1) households have enough food with sufficient nutrition year round, 2) under-2 child malnutrition reduced with specific targets, 3) develop sustainable food systems 4) increase smallholders' yields and income and 5) food not lost nor wasted.

Blue Growth Initiative

The world's marine and freshwater ecosystems – the Blue World – provide essential ecosystem services, biodiversity, food and livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people. The concept of a “blue economy” came out of the 2012 Rio+20 Conference. It is based on the premise that healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems are more productive and a must for sustainable ocean-based economies. The goal is to achieve sustainable use of living aquatic resources and sustainable growth of regional aquaculture to enhance food and nutrition security through meeting increasing regional and world demand for fish, aid poverty alleviation and encourage economic development.



One Health Programme

One Health is an integrated approach for preventing and mitigating health threats at the Animal-Human-Plant-Environment interfaces to achieve public health, food and nutrition security, sustainable ecosystems and fair trade facilitation. The One Health approach leverages the idea that problems impacting human health, terrestrial and aquatic animals, plants and the environment can be effectively resolved through improved coordination, communication and collaborative actions across disciplines and that these solutions be sustainable.

Regional Initiative on Climate Change

The Regional Initiative on Climate Change (RI-CC) supports the FAO Strategy on Climate Change and Action Plan Results Framework at regional and national levels. It directly responds to the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreement in guiding future actions in agriculture, food security and nutrition.



NEW SPECIAL FOCUS AREAS IN VIET NAM

FAO is embarking on five new dynamic areas of work in Viet Nam to reflect the country's changing development needs and help turn **challenges into opportunities**. Already endorsed by government in

early 2019, this portfolio also reflects FAO's continually evolving relationship with Viet Nam as a committed partner for sustainable development.



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DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC, PLASTIC-FREE AND FAIR TRADE FARMING SYSTEMS FOR SMALL-HOLDER FARMERS

While Viet Nam is recognized as a key agricultural player internationally, the rich potential of its small-holder farmers as a dynamic and productive force remains untapped.

To unlock the door to future prosperity for these farmers and rural communities, FAO is working with government and in the field to **develop organic, plastic-free and fair trade farming systems** to realize this potential. With organic farming already viewed by government as a possible pathway to restructuring the agricultural sector towards higher added value and sustainable development, the challenge is to achieve increases in agriculture commodities already produced in an ecologically balanced manner.

To realize this goal, FAO will develop, strengthen and pilot ways to promote **organically produced agricultural commodities** and enhance value-addition for certification, market research and commercialization. Through developing a fully transparent and traceable quality management programme with certification for organic and environmentally-friendly agriculture products, farmers can access exponentially growing international demand for organic and bio food, and domestic consumers who are increasingly shunning local produce due to food safety concerns. A key feature of FAO's work and the market appeal of such products is the **"zero plastic"** goal throughout the production process. With single-use plastic having increasingly severe environmental consequences in Viet Nam with soil and water contamination, **biodegradable materials** such as straw, wood chips and natural seedling



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trays will be adopted at all production stages - including packaging - with **collection and recycling systems developed.**

To ensure farmers and all value chain participants receive equitable returns, FAO will champion the 10 World Fair Trade Organization's **fair trade principles within farming systems.** Importantly, poor farming communities, empowerment of women and ethnic minorities will be key focuses of this initiative, in line with FAO Viet Nam's goal that a growing number of direct beneficiaries are women.



DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN BUSINESS TYPE COOPERATIVES FOR SMALL-HOLDER FARMERS

Today, many **small-holder farmers** in Viet Nam struggle to realize a better future with land, capital and technology out of reach. Modern business cooperatives, as is the case globally, are a potential solution to unlock resources and transform farmers' increased bargaining power and competitiveness into profits. However, in Viet Nam cooperatives have yet to fully transition to outward-looking and functional businesses from their pre-1986 command economy origins.

As a result, many cooperatives still operate without effective business plans and strong management capacity that diminishes profits and benefits to rural communities and

the rural economy at large. Ambitious government efforts to restructure these cooperatives have been impeded by a fast-decreasing labour force, largely due to rural-urban drift.

In response, FAO will work at institutional and grassroots levels to enhance the **competitiveness of cooperatives** through catalytic **business remodelling, building market** and **value chain linkages** as well as **identifying new markets**. With increased bargaining power and competitiveness translating into profits, this work will have a trickle-down effect to help revitalize rural communities – especially poor ones, with a particular focus on ethnic minorities and the empowerment of women.



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MULTI-SECTORAL RURAL INCOME DIVERSIFICATION – SMART FARMING SYSTEMS AND AGRO-ECOTOURISM

Revitalizing rural communities is a central mission of FAO in Viet Nam. To deliver a generational change in rural prosperity - underpinned by sustainable livelihoods, strong cultural identity and an eventual reversal in rural-urban migration – FAO is intensifying efforts towards multi-sectoral rural income diversification and leaving behind risky and unsustainable single/mono commodity approaches. It is important to promote inclusive rural development through an holistic approach. This also entails stabilizing household income through diversified on and off/non farming economic activities.

Development of **smart farming systems** is a critical part of our work to ensure diverse and sustainable income streams flow from Viet Nam's transformation into a modern agricultural producer and help communities address increasingly acute climate change challenges. Key initiatives include the optimization of production systems for different vegetable and fruit agro-products, with use of high-quality seeds in step with climate and tech-smart natural resource management and effective detection of pesticides and human food-borne diseases. Agriculture information-communication and technologies to enhance selected value chains will be introduced to deliver high-quality data on a range of important areas such as food safety, pest and disease management, climate monitoring and adaptation.

Agro-ecotourism is another exciting initiative to deliver prosperity to rural communities and employment for rural youth. Tapping into Viet Nam's current tourism boom, agro-ecotourism further leverages the country's unique landscapes, seascapes, indigenous values, food, handicrafts and hospitality in rural settings.



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Innovative promotion campaigns will showcase the social, economic and environmental benefits as well as traditional/cultural aspects of this form of tourism.

Importantly, linkages between these two pillars – organic farming and agro-ecotourism – will be solidified to become mutually beneficial and self-sustaining.



NUTRITION AND FOOD SAFETY – FUTURE SMART FOOD, DIETARY CHANGE, ORGANIC AND BIO FOOD GENERATION

Food systems are crucial to address **food insecurity, malnutrition, diet-related health problems** and **food safety**. In Viet Nam, communities and even households face situations where under-nutrition exists side-by-side with a fast-growing problem of overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases. Coupled with rising food safety concerns, these problems and their causes are complex and evolving fast.

To address these multi-faceted challenges, FAO will strengthen **agriculture** and **food diversification** (production and dietary) through promotion of '**Future Smart Food**', a holistic and cost-effective intervention that taps into the huge potential of neglected and under utilized species to achieve 'Zero Hunger'.

Targeted agriculture household and consumption models will address food insecurity in disadvantaged areas, especially those with large populations of ethnic minorities as well as ones threatened by natural disasters and climate change.

Dietary diversity is another tool to achieve 'Zero Hunger', with only 103 crops globally out of 30 000 edible plant species providing up to 90 percent of calories in the human diet. Promotion of healthier and diverse as well as more plant-based diets will be achieved through awareness raising, training, school teaching and support to local processors and entrepreneurs. Food safety and traceability along complete value chains, especially production and processing, will also be a focus of FAO efforts as will enhancement of school meals through "farm to school" models.



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SD AGENDA ROAD MAP AND INVESTMENT PLAN FOR AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Agriculture is of critical importance to the well-being of Viet Nam, touching nearly all aspects of society. More than half of the population and nearly 95 percent of the poor live in rural areas, while up to 65 percent of the population directly or indirectly depend on the agricultural sector for employment and livelihoods.

The paramount importance of the agriculture sector in Viet Nam is also reflected in nearly half (seven) of the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets being almost entirely related to agriculture and natural resources (ANR) management – also the key thematic area of all FAO work on global and national

scales. The indivisible nature of the SDGs related to ANR demonstrates the need to conceptualize a **roadmap to align the ANR-related SDGs into national planning and budgeting** in an inclusive manner.

Within the framework of the SD Agenda National Action Plan, FAO will also help **support and formulate an ANR Investment Master Plan** to detail activities and quantify the respective funding needs to close development gaps identified per target. This will form the basis for adapted alignment of development plans and budgets at central and provincial levels with defined targets and related financial requirements.



NEW TCP PROJECTS

An important feature of FAO's work in Viet Nam is the Technical Cooperation Programme or "TCP". This dynamic initiative delivers FAO technical expertise through targeted, catalytic and short-term projects. TCP is harnessed to produce tangible and immediate results by supporting institutions, farmer associations and other entities as target beneficiaries – providing technical inputs such as short-term experts and consultants, practical training, equipment and supplies related to training.

To qualify, project proposals are evaluated against 10 key criteria established by FAO's governing bodies. Importantly, funding cannot be channeled to government without major technical inputs from FAO to bridge gaps in national capacities.

In Viet Nam, three innovative TCP projects are poised for implementation:

Organic farming systems development and agro-ecotourism for small farming communities

In northern and southern provinces, this TCP will work to increase and diversify rural incomes through development of a small-scale organic/plastic-free farming system to tap into increased organic consumption and production to unlock domestic and export markets. In tandem, agro-ecotourism in pilot areas will leverage Viet Nam's unique landscapes, seascapes, indigenous values and hospitality to benefit communities.



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These initiatives will be underpinned by environmental protection and a make-over of the agriculture setting, with rural income diversification and value addition of agro-products playing a key role in enhancing rural livelihoods, to reduce intensifying rural-urban migration in Viet Nam.

Development of modern business cooperatives for small-holder farmers

Modern business cooperatives have proven potential to turn farmers' increased bargaining power and competitiveness into profits. In Central and Mekong Delta provinces, small-holder farmers will be supported to build a strong basis for common input and output marketing, reductions in production costs, robust profit margins and a revitalized community spirit.

Improved livelihoods and climate resilience through climate smart agriculture and agroforestry best practices

The northern mountainous region is among Viet Nam's poorest, with few development investment sources and increasingly impacted by other slow and sudden onset disasters. In response, FAO will help build the capacities of government and upland communities to scale-up climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry best practices in the North Mountain Region of Viet Nam.



SEEKING PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN VIET NAM?

Because:

- ✔ Agriculture and rural development are of **critical importance** to Viet Nam's sustainable development and delivery of equitable prosperity to all its citizens.
- ✔ About **70% of Viet Nam's work force** is directly or indirectly dependent on the agricultural and food sector and its economic environment.
- ✔ Agriculture is the primary sector, **ensuring food security** of the country's population.
- ✔ It is vital for the country's sustainable development to stop the constant draining of the rural sector causing an increasingly **unmanageable urbanization of larger cities**.



- ✔ It is pivotal to gradually **reduce continuous rural-urban migration** and reverse the trend by making the rural and agricultural setting attractive, especially for **young people**, through innovative, holistic and multi-sectorial approaches.



✔ Viet Nam is one of the countries **most affected** by the **impact of climate change** and **natural disasters** - and this will become worse in the years ahead.



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✔ The **impact of climate change and natural disasters**, the **mismanagement and depletion** of natural resources, and the ever more unstable international trade environment are constantly threatening achievements in food security, poverty reduction and economic development.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES

FAO is one of the very few organizations globally that has a clear and unequivocal mandate in the field of agriculture, natural resource management and rural development.

The comparative advantage of FAO lies within our role as the world's agricultural knowledge agency for a broad spectrum of work encompassing policy development, integrated capacity building, technical cooperation and responses to agricultural emergencies and recovery. Specially, FAO is:

70%

OF VIET NAM'S WORK FORCE IS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY DEPENDENT ON THE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SECTOR AND ITS ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

- ✓ AN AUTHORITATIVE VOICE OF **GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION**
- ✓ WIDELY ACCESSABLE SOURCE OF **TECHNICAL/SPECIALIZED EXPERTISE**
- ✓ TRUSTED AS AN **"HONEST BROKER" AND "NEUTRAL CONVENER"**
- ✓ A **NORMATIVE POLICY SUPPORTER AND STANDARD SETTER**
- ✓ RESPECTED AS A **GLOBAL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION**
- ✓ COMMITTED TO OUR **GLOBAL PUBIC GOOD FUNCTION**
- ✓ AN INCLUSIVE PROVIDER OF **NETWORKING CAPACITY**
- ✓ APPLYING A **MULTI-LEVEL AND CROSS-SECTOR GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

PARTNERSHIPS - TURNING VISION INTO ACTION



Partnerships play a crucial role in helping FAO achieve its mandate in Viet Nam and having a lasting impact on people's lives in rural communities.

In our drive to achieve results in each of our strategic priorities, FAO actively works to realize new partnerships to provide support as well as knowledge-sharing and expertise. FAO provides partners with unique opportunities to demonstrate their values and commitment, and reach their development objectives. We have a wide range of partnership modalities to increase investment in food and agriculture and collaborate with FAO to achieve the SDGs. Partnerships have potential to cut across all areas of our current work, and importantly our five new Special Focus Areas.



65% OF VIET NAM'S POPULATION LIVES IN RURAL AREAS

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT IN VIET NAM

65%	of Viet Nam's population lives in rural areas
95%	of the country's poor (9-10 million) live in rural areas
93%	of ethnic minority communities live in rural areas
73%	(7 million) of the poor are ethnic minorities and dependent on agriculture

25-30%	of Viet Nam's population depend on agriculture for their livelihoods
48%	of the population is reliant on the agriculture sector and agro-food complex
70%	of Viet Nam's work force is directly or indirectly dependent on the agricultural and food sector and its economic environment



7 OUT OF THE **17** SDGs

ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY RELATED TO AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT – THE CORE MANDATE OF FAO.

This booklet is made out of recycled paper. FAO Viet Nam aims to promote environmentally sound practices in all our activities.

Contact information:

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations (FAO) in Viet Nam**

One UN Building, 304 Kim Ma St., Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Email: FAO-VN@fao.org

Tel: 84 2438500100

Fax: 84 24 37265520

Website: www.fao.org/vietnam



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