



Agricultural Atlas of Viet Nam A Depiction of the 2001 Rural Agriculture and Fisheries Census

Infrastructure and Demography - Basic Infrastructure

Proportion of Rural Households Using Fresh Water

In the 2001 census, households utilizing fresh water for more than 6 months per year were considered to have access to fresh water to meet their 'daily needs', i.e. for activities such as cooking, personal hygiene, and so on. Fresh water should be colourless and tasteless with the source at least 7 meters away from animal breeding facilities and latrines. Rural sources of fresh water include drilled wells, rainwater, tap water, constructed wells, and river, lake or pond water treated through qualified filtration systems.

The government of Vietnam has been careful to invest in programmes and projects for safe water supply in rural areas. International organisations, particularly the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), have provided financial and technical support for the construction of drilled wells to help rural households make the transition from unhygienic water from ponds and lakes to safe well water. These efforts have increased the number of households using fresh water in recent years.

By the year 2001 more than 60% of rural households in Vietnam were using fresh water. The map shows that communes in which a high proportion of households use fresh water (dark blue) cover nearly two thirds of the country. Regions with the highest coverage are the Red River Delta, the Southeast, the Central Highlands and the Mekong River Delta. Areas with the poorest coverage are the mountainous Northwest and the Northeast, as well as the North Central Coast. More than 4% of those households using fresh water had taps connected to a public water supply - the highest percentage being in the Mekong River Delta (10%); and Long An commune in particular with 19%.

