



Pro-Poor Livestock
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Dept. of Agriculture, Forestry,
and Fishery Statistics General
Statistics Office of Vietnam



Agricultural Atlas of Viet Nam

A Depiction of the 2001 Rural Agriculture and Fisheries Census

V. Commercial Farms and Cooperatives

In recent years, commercial farming has increased rapidly in a number of different regions - not only in mountainous areas but also in the lowlands and along the coast - bringing socio-economic benefits to many rural areas. However, the trend towards commercialisation of farming has not occurred equally across the country due to variations, for example, in land quality, population density, wealth, and infrastructural development. This section of the atlas looks at the spatial distribution of commercial agricultural enterprises and of cooperatives in Vietnam.

Commercial farms were defined, for the purposes of the 2001 census, as having to meet two criteria. First is that the average annual production, including service revenues, per household must reach VND 50 million in the Southeast, the Mekong River Delta and the Central Highlands, and VND 40 million in other regions. Second is that production must be large-scale and achieve better results than would regular farming households in the same region (be it for agriculture, forestry or aquaculture).

Farmers of the Red River Delta have the lowest average area of farmland per person in all of Vietnam. All of the land in this region has already been allocated to farming households, posing a major obstacle to the development of commercial farming. Conversely, farmers of the Mekong River Delta have relatively large farm areas - 3 to 4 times larger per person than in the Red River Delta. This region has a tradition of commercial rice production and many other types of large-scale farming ventures are emerging, such as fruit plantations, poultry production and aquatic production.

In the midland and mountainous areas of northern Vietnam commercial farming has developed rapidly in recent years, thanks to the riches of the forest and perennial industrial cropland. Commercial farms in the Northeast consist mainly of fruit plantations and commercial forestry. In the Northwest, in addition to commercial forestry, commercial tea and coffee production is important. Commercial farms in the Central Highlands and the Southeast regions tend to be rather large thanks to extensive land areas that are suitable for forestry and for perennial crops such as rubber and coffee.