



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

Commercial Farms and Cooperatives – Commercial Farms

Distribution of Commercial Farms

At the time of the census there were 61,017 commercial farms; 2.5 times the number in 1995 and 33% more than in 1999. In spite of this fast rate of growth there is much heterogeneity among regions. The map shows a far higher density of commercial farms in the south of the country than in the north. The Mekong River Delta, Southeast and Central Highlands, with their extensive land and water surface areas, are the most likely candidates for expanded cultivation, livestock and aquatic production. Not surprisingly, by the time of the 2001 census there were 49,938 commercial farms in those three regions, accounting for 82.8% of all commercial farms. The Mekong River Delta alone had 31,196 commercial farms in 2001, accounting for almost half of all those found in Vietnam.

The highest densities are in the Mekong River Delta (25 per commune, on average); the Central Highlands (11.5); and the Southeast (10.2). Lower densities are found in the South Central Coast (4.2 per commune); the North Central Coast (1.8); the Northeast (1.7); the Red River Delta (0.96); and the Northwest (0.25). There are also big differences within regions, for example in the Mekong River Delta, where the average density is 25 farms per commune, Bac Lieu Province averages 198 (8,554 farms in 43 communes), whereas Vinh Long Province averages only 1.6.

The abundance of commercial farms in Bac Lieu Province - the highest commercial farm density in the whole country - is due to the expansion of shrimp-rearing along the coast, which came about when some low-yielding rice fields were turned over into aquaculture. Now the province has 6,604 commercial aquaculture farms. There are several commercial rice farms in the Long Xuyen quadrangle, a low-lying (0.4 - 2m above sea level), flat area, covering 489,000 ha, bounded by the border of Vietnam with Cambodia, Thailand bay, the Cai San channel and the Bassac (Hau) river. Commercial rubber farms are abundant in Tay Ninh and Binh Phuoc provinces of the Southeast region. The lower density of commercial farms in the north of the country is due largely to the typically smaller plots of agricultural land per household.

