



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

Commercial Farms and Cooperatives – Cooperatives

Distribution of Agricultural Cooperatives

Agricultural cooperatives (including forestry and aquaculture) are collective organisations that have been either established anew or transformed according to the Law for Cooperatives (approved by the National Assembly on 20 March 1996). Agro-forestry and aquaculture cooperatives are established by individuals sharing common needs and interests, who volunteer their capital and manpower in order to promote the potential of the group as well its individual households. Cooperative activities focus mainly on providing services to the farming community and on facilitating marketing and market access. By October 2001 there were 7,171 agricultural cooperatives - 6,237 of which were transformed from cooperatives pre-dating 1996 and 934 of which had been newly established.

The 2001 census collected only data on transformed or newly established cooperatives in rural areas in accordance with the 1996 Coop Laws and Government's Decree 16. According to the results of the census, there were 7,531 agriculture, forestry and aquaculture cooperatives in 2001. The vast majority of these, 7,171 (95.45%), were agricultural cooperatives, 322 (4.28%) were aquaculture cooperatives and only 20 (0.27%) were forestry cooperatives. The largest numbers of cooperatives are to be found in the Red River Delta, with 3,311; the North Central Coast, with 1,388; and the South Central Coast, with 697.

The map shows that the distribution of cooperatives generally follows the distributions of people, crops and monogastric livestock species, but that they are much more abundant in the highly populated areas of the north, especially the Red River Delta, than they are in similarly highly populated areas in the south (i.e. the Mekong River Delta). In the north, the communes with high densities of cooperatives are those areas with a strong tradition of collective economic development. Most of the cooperatives here pre-dated 1996 and were transformed to the new model. In the south, where this tradition is less strong, more of the cooperatives are newly established, for example 13.2% of those in the Mekong River Delta.

