



FAO Viet Nam Newsletter

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World Food Day 2022 Celebration in Viet Nam

development partners, local enterprises, cooperatives and farmers.



FAO Director-General Dr QU Dongyu virtually delivered the message at the WFD event in Da Nang

The theme of this year’s World Food Day on October 12 sets the foundation to engage with a broad range of stakeholders on the need to transform agrifood systems to ensure that every person has access to adequate food and nutrition, while protecting the environment, improving livelihoods, conserving natural resources and responding effectively to climate change.

Participants also engaged in the closing workshop of the World Bank-funded “Viet Nam - Sustainable Agricultural Transformation” project, implemented from 2015 - 2022 in 13 provinces. The project helped enhance the institutional capacity of the agriculture sector, renovate farming methods towards sustainability, and improve the rice and coffee value chains.

FAO Viet Nam joined hands with a range of partners to celebrate the 42nd World Food Day and underline the opportunity for Viet Nam to embrace the day’s global theme “Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life - leaving no one behind”. The event was co-chaired by Agriculture and Rural Development Vice Minister Mr Le Quoc Doanh, FAO Representative in Viet Nam Mr Rémi Nono Womdim, and World Bank Agriculture Manager for East Asia and Pacific Ms Dina Umali-Deininger.

The event in Da Nang attracted stakeholders from across the country, including provincial leaders, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations,



Vice Minister Le Quoc Doanh delivered the speech at the WFD event in Da Nang

World Rabies Day ‘One Health, Zero Deaths’

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ben Tre People Committee and FAO Representation in Viet Nam added their voice to that of key partners to renew their commitment towards the elimination of human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030 in Viet Nam and globally.

They joined the World Health Organization, United States Agency for International Development and United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in making this pledge as part of the 2022 theme “One Health, Zero Deaths” and underlining that the concept of One Health was key to disease control programmes.

This year’s theme encourages collaboration, partnership, and a joint approach towards rabies elimination – or “Zero Deaths”, in line with the “Zero by 30: Global Strategic Plan for the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies deaths by 2030”. Furthermore, the One Health concept emphasizes the importance of collaboration, ensuring all people act together as partners who can make a difference and act together for the elimination of rabies.

While progress has been made over the past 10 years, Viet Nam continues to face 70-100 human deaths from rabies each year. In the first eight months of 2022, Viet Nam reported 40 human deaths. Despite a significant decrease in rabies deaths in some provinces, it increased in 20 provinces during 2017-2021.

To mark World Rabies Day, thanks to the generous financial support of USAID, FAO Viet Nam supported Ben Tre and Ca Mau provinces with 10,000 and 7,000 doses of rabies vaccine, respectively to help achieve “Zero by 2030”



FAO supported rabies vaccine for Ben Tre and Ca Mau provinces

Government of Ireland and FAO build resilient livelihoods for women in northern Viet Nam



Meeting of a Delegation of the Government of Ireland led by the Minister for State Agriculture of Ireland and FAO Representation Team in Viet Nam

FAO is partnering with the Government of Ireland to enhance agricultural livelihood support for women in northern Viet Nam.

During a visit to Viet Nam, Ireland’s Minister for State Agriculture Mr Martin Heydon met with the FAO Representative in Viet Nam, Mr Rémi Nono Womdim to discuss this initiative and future opportunities for Irish support to sustainable agrifood systems and vulnerable communities in Viet Nam.

The “Resilient Livelihoods for Rural Women in Viet Nam Northern Mountainous Region” initiative in Tuyen Quang province was launched on the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the establishment of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and was attended by the MARD Minister His Excellency Le Minh Hoan, Ireland Ambassador to Viet Nam His Excellency Mr John McCullagh and the FAO Representative in Viet Nam Mr Rémi Nono Womdim.

The direct beneficiaries of the initiative are agriculture extension service providers – with at least half being ethnic minority women and their families. They will benefit from increased incomes from rural activities and resilience to natural and climate-induced disasters.

A major contribution will be made to strengthening capacity for value-addition and income generation related to agrifood systems, directly improving the target provinces’ capacities to provide social and economic services to their citizens, which by extension contributes to enhanced prosperity in the region.

The outcomes of this pilot activity will be widely shared and scaled-up into a programme for other northern

mountainous provinces facing the same challenges, such as Dien Bien, Hoa Binh, Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Son La and Yen Bai.

RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS FOR WOMEN IN VIET NAM NORTHERN MOUNTAINOUS REGION

Duration: September 2022 – 31 December 2023

Partner: Government of Ireland, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Viet Nam Women's Union (VWU), Women and Farmers groups

Impact: Ethnic minority women in the northern mountainous region have increased access to sustainable and resilient agricultural livelihoods.

This pilot programme places gender equality and women empowerment, as a main driver of human security, at the forefront of planned activities.

FAO supports Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hue provinces to fight Typhoon Noru



FAO mobilized to enhance the resilience of impacted community

In response to the forecast flooding risks posed by Typhoon Noru, FAO mobilized with local partners to carry out anticipatory action activities in central Quang Tri and Thua Thien-Hue provinces to help communities withstand the intense weather event.

Together with Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA) and Provincial Commands for Disaster Prevention and Control, the Anticipatory Actions protocol was launched in these provinces as part of a FAO-supported innovative response to natural disasters, whereby communities are proactive in responding to threats before they strike.

This regional project 'Increasing Capacities and Scale for Anticipatory Action including through Social Protection Systems', which sees FAO collaborate with VNDMA, the Commands for Disaster Prevention and Control at different levels, helps provinces to develop Anticipatory Action Plans and to promote its integration into Viet Nam's disaster management system. During the three days before Typhoon Noru made landfall near Thua Thien Hue and Quang Tri provinces, the FAO team distributed cash and waterproof drums to store food and agricultural assets (seeds, tools) to vulnerable communities. FAO also assisted them to move their livestock to locations safe from typhoon-induced flooding.



Distributing waterproof drums

ANTICIPATORY ACTION PROTOCOL

FAO activated its Anticipatory Action protocol for typhoons in Quang Tri and Thua Thien-Hue provinces to fight Typhoon Noru.

Beneficiaries: water proof drums were distributed to 600 households; multiple purpose cash transfer were given to 300 households

Building capacity to counter major pest threats in northern provinces

Farmers in northern provinces are now better armed to combat pest threats and safeguard crops.

Through FAO-organized training of trainers (ToTs), with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's Plant Protection Department, participants in Son La province are now better equipped to counter the spread of Fall Armyworm (FAW), particularly in maize crops in a safe and effective manner.

With technical assistance from FAO, more than 30 provincial staff specialized in crop production and plant protection took part in the training, with the knowledge gained to help inform the development of six Farmer Field Schools for training local farmers in other northern provinces aside from Son La.

The ToT is also another step towards developing technical solutions for sustainable plant pest management in general and FAW in particular, with field trials to select optimal options to reflect local contexts.

FAW, which arrived in Viet Nam in 2019 originally from the Americas, has caused significant economic damage to major Asian cereal crops – particularly maize. In response, FAO has been working with the Government of Viet Nam through a Technical Cooperation Programme on a range of initiatives, including a monitoring tool known as FAW Monitoring and Early Warning System, while a National Task Force on FAW control has been launched.

Viet Nam is also a pilot country for Global Action on FAW control (2020-2023) and in addition to this field programme, the country is supporting regional initiatives such as the Regional IPM Package on FAW and ASEAN Action Plan on FAW.



Mr Yubak GC, Senior Agriculture Officer from FAO RAP (Bangkok) is monitoring FAW control in maize in Son La province

INTERGRATED PLANT HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Support for development of National Strategy and Action Plan for Integrated Plant Health Management (IPHM).

Implementing organization: FAO

FAO is providing technical assistance to review the NP-IPHM 2015-2020; analyze and stock-take relevant global frameworks and approaches as well as models and best practices on plant health and pest and disease management.

Countering cassava mosaic disease in Viet Nam



Field visit to seed testing center in Tay Nguyen

FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development’s Plant Protection Department (PPD) held a workshop “Status and solution to prevent cassava mosaic disease in Viet Nam” in central Dak Lak province to counter the disease which has spread to more than 20 provinces after first being reported in south-eastern Tay Ninh province.

Attending the workshop were relevant departments and leaders of 24 PPD Sub-Departments nationwide to form an action plan to safeguard Viet Nam’s cassava industry. After the workshop, participants visited a cassava mosaic virus tolerant cutting production model in a greenhouse at Tay Nguyen seed testing centre.

During 2016-2018, FAO provided technical support to thousands of Vietnamese cassava-growing families, by equipping farmers and extension personnel with critical information and practical, low-cost technologies, based on partnership with important initiatives and pilot projects in neighbouring countries. FAO and MARD agreed to take future steps to achieve these mutual objectives in order to improve the livelihood of rural communities.

Workshop on animal pathogen diagnostics and antimicrobial resistance testing capacities

The Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Disease (ECTAD) of FAO in Viet Nam and the Department of Animal Health (DAH) jointly organized a workshop on animal pathogen diagnostics and Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) testing capacities in public and private laboratories.

The aim was to assess laboratory capacity and needs on field diagnosis and identification of bacterial pathogens of pigs, chickens and aquaculture as well as on antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) across veterinary laboratories in the country.

The meeting gathered technical laboratory and veterinary staff from 25 public and private laboratories as well as international agencies and projects supporting DAH and the GoVN (including PATH, FHI360 and TRANSFORM) on antimicrobial resistance.

The meeting provided opportunities to participants to share views on diagnostic veterinary laboratories and on the most pressing needs on diagnostics, AST and data sharing, and suggestions on how to improve knowledge on bacterial pathogen circulation and the most appropriate antimicrobial treatment strategies.

Moreover, the outcome of the meeting will address integration of plant health, plant nutrition, food safety, quality and nutrition integration of social protection and inclusive growth in compliance with environment protection, ecosystem and biodiversity conservation.

Together, this will increase the competitiveness of Vietnamese agriculture in domestic and global markets.



Dr Le Thi Hue, Vice Head of Veterinary Drug Management Division in DAH, presented the National Action Plan on AMR/AMU in livestock and aquaculture 2021-2025

Support for development of national soil health strategy and action plan

FAO Viet Nam and local partners are taking action to improve soil health across the country, contributing to greater food systems transformation.

A kick-off meeting for the FAO-funded technical cooperation project “Support for development of national soil health strategy and action plan” was co-organized with the Soils and Fertilizers Research Institute, under the Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

The project is designed with primary purpose to support development and roll-out of a National Soil Health Strategy and the National Plan for Soil Health Management (NP-SHM) 2022-2026, which will contribute to an agro-ecological and sustainable transformation of Viet Nam’s food systems.



Kick-off meeting for the project “Support for development of national soil health strategy and action plan”

The objective of the meeting was to mobilize key concerned stakeholders in the preparation of operationalizing the activities of the project, advising on the work plan and agreeing on the next steps going forward. Under this project,

FAO will provide technical assistance to review the NP-SHM 2010-2020, analyze and stock-take relevant global frameworks and approaches as well as models and best practices on soil health management.

Driving efforts together to stop overuse and misuse of antimicrobials in humans and animals

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week has been marked with a joint call from FAO Viet Nam, the World Health Organization and local partners for collective action in Viet Nam to protect human and animal health by stopping misuse and overuse of antimicrobials.

To mark the occasion, the Ministry of Health also issued an order for all provinces to undertake awareness raising to stop overuse and misuse of antimicrobials to prevent antimicrobial resistance.

The World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW), observed on 18-24 November annually, aims to increase awareness of the dangers posed by antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and to encourage action among the general public, health workers, animal owners and policy-makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.

AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites resist the effects of medications, making common infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.

In the Western Pacific region, which includes Viet Nam, the WAAW theme is “Stewards for the Future: One Region, One Movement to Fight against Antimicrobial Resistance” which emphasizes individual, institutional and community responsibility and collective action to fight AMR and protect ourselves, our community and also future generations.

FAO is working closely with the Government of Viet Nam to ensure proper dissemination of new regulations on antimicrobial use in livestock and aquaculture, as well as monitoring AMR in animals and food. Responsible antimicrobial use in animal production is also encouraged, which will help keep the environment and food free from antimicrobial residues and antimicrobial-resistant bacteria.

Food system transformation towards transparency, responsibility and sustainability

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) hosted today the annual International Support Group 2022 plenary meeting with the theme: “Food system transformation towards transparency, responsibility and sustainability”.

The meeting, co-chaired by His Excellency Mr Le Minh Hoan, The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and FAO Representative in Viet Nam Mr Rémi Nono Womdim, saw international partners join ministry departments and representatives from 63 provinces to exchange and share policy outlooks and prioritize areas to maximize coordination of resources for the transformation of Viet Nam's agrifood systems.



The Minister of MARD and FAO Representative in Viet Nam co-chaired the International Support Group 2022 plenary meeting

The main objectives of the meeting were to hold consultations on the final draft of the National Action Plan for Vietnam Food System Transformation towards Transparency, Responsibility and Sustainability by 2030 and related policies as well as call on international partners to continue supporting MARD to realize green and sustainable agricultural development.

While the country's agricultural sector took key steps in 2022 to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, is still faces great challenges, especially due to the impacts of climate change.

In order to adapt to the new production context and meet international commitments, Viet Nam needs to take specific actions to promote the transformation of the food system toward transparency, responsibility, and sustainability that adapts to climate change and ensures food security and nutrition for the people of the country and global food demands.

During the plenary session, FAO experts also shared the practices and experiences on global food system.

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