

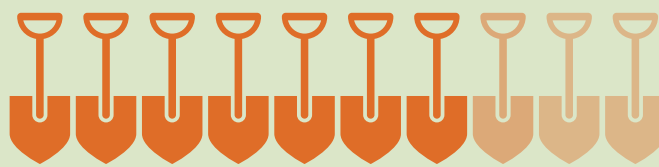
VIET NAM

Country Challenges

Close to three quarters of Viet Nam's population lives in rural areas, and its variable geography includes mountains (40 percent of land), tropical forest (42 percent of land) and level land (approximately 20 percent). Agriculture is a vital industry in Viet Nam, taking a 35 percent share of land area and making up approximately 20 percent of the country's economy while employing nearly 63 percent of its labour force. Though Viet Nam has a well-developed centralized statistics system, it lacks a network of staff to conduct censuses and surveys. There is a lack of coordination between local and commune statisticians and Viet Nam's General Statistics Office at the national level, and methodologies used for agricultural statistics at the local level may not always be sound. In addition, available technology for gathering and disseminating statistics is not always fully utilized, and many statisticians are not trained in its use. There is a general lack of funding to mount larger surveys, and this also inhibits use of better technology. Finally, the statistical system that does exist is not well-placed to meet the core data requirements specifically for agricultural statistics.



More than 35 percent of Viet Nam's land is designated as agricultural land



In Viet Nam, agriculture employs more than 63 percent of the labour force



Global Strategy Solutions

The In-Depth Country Assessment by the Global Strategy in Asia Pacific recommended a number of actions to improve its agricultural statistics system. Viet Nam should start by building an integrated system for agricultural and rural statistics through a number of actions, including developing an integrated survey framework for the existing agricultural survey programme. Statistics on crop area and production, livestock, fisheries and forestry should be improved, along with agricultural price and cost of production statistics. Generating statistics on seed, feed and wastage for the food balance sheet, as well as statistics on fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides, should be explored. Finally, Viet Nam can improve capacity for agricultural statistics through a number of actions, including assessing staff expertise, skills and training, developing a training plan for statistics officers in the GSO and line agencies, and increasing awareness and sensitization on the use of agricultural data for policy making for senior policy makers and GSO officials.

Current Country Work

The Global Strategy in Asia Pacific is collaborating with the Viet Nam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the General Statistics Office to activate a forward-looking plan that will meet the country's future agricultural and rural statistics needs. The plan will concentrate on the following actions.

- Develop a Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics
- Strengthen and harmonize data collections and improve user participation
- Adopt improved statistical methods that are in line with international best practices
- Adopt better statistical methods for crop, fishery, livestock and forestry statistics
- Improve the availability of other statistics related to agricultural and rural statistics
- Adopt and use the latest technological tools for data collection and distribution
- Build human resources capacity through trainings, workshops and technical assistance activities

Towards a Statistics Secure Future

Partnering with the Global Strategy in Asia Pacific, Viet Nam has taken a number of steps forward in its goal to improve its agricultural and rural statistics system. Three country missions from the Global Strategy team have led to completion of three important reports – an In-depth Country Assessment, a country proposal for technical assistance and a roadmap to a Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS). In 2017, Viet Nam will focus on technical assistance activities, working to strengthen and harmonize its overall data collection and dissemination capabilities through a number of actions, including improving user coordination and participation, adopting improved and international standard statistics practices, adopting better statistical methods in a number of agricultural related areas, and modernizing its statistical infrastructure. In addition, a number of important surveys will be initiated, allowing for adoption of new methodologies and hands-on capacity building. The full SPARS for Viet Nam is due to be completed and adopted during the second half of the year.



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