



FAO in Viet Nam 2014





Overview

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has operated in Viet Nam since 1978, with its initial priorities to restore food security and help the government rebuild agriculture sector institutions and capacity after the devastation of war. Since the 1990s, FAO's areas of focus have been broadly expanded to encompass policy advice, especially planning and strategies, complementing the provision of technical assistance.

In response to newly emerging risks and threats, FAO is extending its wide-ranging support as Viet Nam enters its next stage of development to achieve food security, in step with ongoing development for sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries production and an improved quality of life for Vietnamese people, especially rural communities.

To further meet these objectives, FAO launched a five-year Country Programming Framework in June 2013 to implement effective interventions in Viet Nam in four priority areas. The first of these areas centres on support for effective policies and legal frameworks for rural livelihoods, food and nutrition security as well as food safety. The second priority area will support climate

change adaptation and mitigation, while the third sphere of support will encompass improvements in the sustainable provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The fourth key area of FAO support will enable a more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food system for vulnerable rural communities.

These four areas of support will allow the FAO team to leverage its expertise and experience to continue its fruitful work in the country as a partner to deliver a more inclusive, sustainable and equitable future for Viet Nam and especially its rural communities.

Jong-Ha Bae

FAO Representative in Viet Nam

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was founded in 1945, with a mission to help build a food-secure world for present and future generations. FAO goals are to help ensure that all people have access at all times to nutritious and safe food as well as contribute to economic and social progress through agriculture and rural development. To achieve these goals, FAO works with its member countries and regional organizations in several key areas: eradicating food insecurity and rural poverty, policy and regulatory frameworks for food and agriculture, supply and availability of food and other products, natural resource management, and reliable information and statistics to support decision-making.



Rural Livelihoods, Nutrition, Food Security and Safety

This support will be delivered through building and implementing evidenced-based policies to promote food and nutrition security along with sustainable rural livelihoods. To reach these objectives a number of focus areas will be prioritized, including promotion of South-South Cooperation programmes, support for Government of Viet Nam and agencies in institutional restructuring of the

agriculture sector, technical and financial support for implementation of Resolution No.26 on Agriculture, Farmers and Rural Affairs and enhanced marketing capacity of stakeholders along with dissemination of agro-market information. In addition, programmes to build livelihood improvements and income diversification for rural residents and food safety will be developed.



Ongoing projects

Supporting the National Target Programme on New Rural Development

FAO is leading this project to assist the Government of Viet Nam to improve the incomes, livelihoods and living standards of rural people and promote inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth. Specifically it will enhance the knowledge of rural residents and producers, especially ethnic minority groups and the poor, as well as build the capacity of policymakers and leaders in the areas of policy, strategy and public investment.

Establishment of a rice seed production hub in Da Nang City

This innovative project is designed to improve farmers' livelihoods in the Hoa Tien commune project area and maximize income from limited land assets by introducing efficient farming practices with training in cutting-edge crop production technologies. The project has already dramatically improved yields and quality of rice seed products by introducing new varieties suitable to the central region, with further development enhanced by a seed testing and germination laboratory in Da Nang. Market-based solutions and fresh marketing techniques will ensure the sustainability of post project activities. Aside from transforming the commune into a sustainable rice seed hub connected to the national seed market, it will be a seed buffer for natural disaster preparedness and food security.

SPS capacities for trade and a value chain approach to food safety

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Fruit and Vegetable Research Institute have been engaged by FAO to implement this project to promote SPS standards and the application of VIETGAP among vegetable farmers. This is necessary as Viet Nam, as a World Trade Organization and ASEAN member, must increase its quality and safety regulations to be competitive in markets. VIETGAP is a nationwide certification programme that assures vegetables meet strict production standards.



Strengthening food safety information, education and communication

A risk-based approach to food safety communication will be applied as a result of FAO collaboration with the Viet Nam Food Association and Ministry of Health. To support the government in implementation of the Food Safety Law and National Strategy on Food Safety 2011-2020, the project will support awareness raising, capacity building and strategic development for different food safety management stakeholders such as consumers, producers, private sector, policy-makers and technical staff.

South-South Cooperation programme

Viet Nam is recognised as a leading country in developing experts and technicians through South-South Cooperation (SSC), with FAO successful in facilitating nine SSC Tripartite Agreements between Viet Nam and countries to carry out international food and nutrition security strategies. Since 2013, a new SSC strategy has been widely accepted as a complementary modality to implement FAO's five strategic objectives for development cooperation. The SSC programme is designed to achieve the development goals of food security, poverty reduction and a sustainable environment, with at least four new SSC agreements between Viet Nam and other countries undertaken by 2016.



Support for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Coping with climate change impacts on agriculture and disaster management is a major challenge for Viet Nam. To meet these emerging trends, the FAO in 2014 is working to develop early warning systems for climate change impacts on aquaculture and fisheries as well as enhance awareness and skills

in the adaptation and prevention of negative climate change impacts on agricultural livelihoods. It will also promote Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions, development of climate smart agriculture as well as support REDD+ implementation.





Ongoing projects

UN-REDD Phase II Programme for Viet Nam

The UN-REDD Phase II Programme is a joint programme by FAO, UNDP and UNEP implemented in Viet Nam with the Viet Nam Forestry Administration, under the framework of the global UN-REDD Programme. The programme's objective is to prepare countries for REDD+ under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Viet Nam was the first country to embark on a Phase I Programme under UN-REDD, which concluded in 2012 and it entered Phase II in 2013. The programme builds on the outcomes of the earlier phase to further enhance national capacity in REDD+ and is designed to plan and pilot REDD+ in six provinces with varying biophysical and socio-economic conditions. By the end of the programme,

Viet Nam should be able to benefit from future results-based payments for REDD+.

Enhanced NAMA readiness: building capacity for integrated food and energy systems

From early 2014, FAO Viet Nam kicked-off a new project to enhance readiness for Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) in integrated food and energy systems in the country.

Its core objectives are to develop guidelines for low carbon pathway options in the agriculture sub-sector, including synergies from integrated food and energy systems as well as climate smart agriculture, improved national capacity to observe greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture production and enhanced policy-makers' capacity to develop climate smart agriculture policies and NAMAs. A pilot measuring-reporting-verification system for one agriculture sub-sector for NAMA will also be implemented.





Support for long-term monitoring of forest resources

The project “Support for National Assessment and Long-term Monitoring of Forest and Tree Resources in Viet Nam” (NFA) is part of the global FAO “Sustainable Forest Management in a Changing Climate” programme. The project, implemented by the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute with supervision from the Viet Nam Administration of Forestry, will introduce new technologies for the National Forest Inventory to reflect emerging national and international reporting requirements, harmonize and update information on forests and review national forestry policies in light of a forest resources assessment.

Community-based forest harvesting for poverty reduction in Viet Nam

In Viet Nam formally recognized community forest management (CFM) is limited to pilot projects, while some communities informally engage in collective forest management. The lack of legal procedures and guidelines, particularly for forest timber harvesting scale- and capacity-appropriate for CFM, discourages sustainable management. The preparation of formal guidelines through this FAO-executed project will facilitate sustainable management of CFM sites if introduced within momentum for REDD+ preparation.

Climate Smart Agriculture: Capturing synergies between mitigation, adaptation and food security

The Climate Smart Agriculture project is implemented by FAO in the northern uplands, where food insecurity issues during climate shocks are a serious concern for the local population. The region is characterized by upland maize cultivation on very steep slopes subject to soil erosion and landslides, which could occur more frequently due to intensifying climate change. To help the region meet these challenges the project focuses on sustainable land management practices, diversification of productive activities into perennial crops, development of compelling models to inform policymakers and investment proposals for climate smart agricultural practices.





Sustainable Improvement of Goods and Services from Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

FAO expertise will focus on enhancing the capacities of research centres in the innovation and adaptation of new technologies in productive agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors for value-added commodity development and enhancement of value chain linkages. This will be achieved through increasing farmers' awareness and skills in

reducing post-harvest losses, with value added green production and market-oriented community-based development in selected areas. To complement these developments, the capacity of authorities and key actors will be enhanced in the application of voluntary guidelines on responsible governance of tenure and sustainable natural resources management.



Ongoing projects

Building capacity to eliminate stockpiles of persistent organic pollutant pesticides

The project's objective is to remove capacity barriers to the sustainable elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) pesticides in Viet Nam. This will contribute to the broader goal of supporting sustainable development in Viet Nam through the elimination of POPs from the environment.

FAO has brought experience and expertise from its global programme to clean up obsolete pesticides, prevent future toxic threats and protect human health and the environment.

It has also helped to develop technical and management guidelines for the treatment of contaminated sites, destruction procedures and provide training for national institutions and government agencies to handle POP stockpiles.

The technical guidelines developed for Viet Nam will be used to monitor implementation and ensure that the risk to workers and the environment is reduced.



Inclusive and Efficient Agricultural and Food Systems for Rural Vulnerable Groups

Effective pro-poor policies and programmes are essential to improve vulnerable groups' access to natural and productive resources in Viet Nam. In 2014, FAO will work towards these goals by improving the quality and management of the national health system with increased local capacity to prevent, detect and respond to zoonotic diseases and reduce risks of disease outbreaks. This body of work will build

on an already substantial FAO ECTAD portfolio on avian influenza and pandemic preparedness as well as FAO's One Health activities with its sister agencies under the UN "Delivering as One" plan in Viet Nam. FAO will continue to provide support on zoonotic disease prevention and control to reduce potential threats to human lives.



Ongoing projects

Immediate assistance to strengthen preparedness for highly pathogenic Avian Influenza

This project has a highly important role to play in the FAO HPAI programme in Viet Nam to control HPAI in the country and in Southeast Asia. Its overarching objective is to enable the Government of Viet Nam to sustainably reduce and stop the spread of influenza in the country and reduce the risk of contagion to mammals, humans to mitigate the possibility of a human pandemic.

Characterizing influenza viruses posing risks as the next global pandemic

Minimizing the risk of the emergence and spread of a new pandemic influenza disease is the important focus of this FAO project. This is done through specifically identifying influenza viruses in swine and avian populations globally, improving knowledge on fundamental drivers and spread-related risks of influenza viruses with strengthened surveillance at national and regional levels. This pilot project will significantly improve the current knowledge base in Southeast Asia, but also act as a springboard for a more thorough approach in other countries.



Emergency surveillance response to Avian Influenza A(H7N9) in high-risk countries

The project's main aim is to identify which animal(s) are the source of Avian Influenza A (H7N9) and determine the geographical distribution of the virus in China and possible spread to 'at risk' neighbouring countries like Viet Nam. The project includes overall regional coordination and technical assistance to selected at risk countries, with a rapid five-week risk-based surveillance of targeted animal populations in China and in high-risk countries such as Viet Nam to provide a snapshot of this novel virus' circulation in poultry and other animal populations.

Greater capacity to control rabies

To help the Government of Viet Nam meet objectives under the national rabies control programme and respond to increasing rabies outbreaks, there is an urgent need for the FAO to provide technical assistance and support to prevent an upsurge of human deaths. The more effective management and control of rabies will also improve public and animal health services, poor smallholder farmers' livelihood opportunities and the health of ecosystems in Viet Nam.



Enhanced laboratory capacity to combat zoonotic diseases

This project's long-term objective is to minimize the risk of the emergence and spread of new pandemic disease threats. To do this in 2014, this FAO project will strengthen animal health laboratory networks and diagnostic capacities in geographic "hotspots". The project will deliver enhanced national animal health laboratory capacity to diagnose diseases under a quality management system as well as strengthen national and international linkages in laboratory and epidemiologic networks for management of emerging zoonotic pathogens.

Progressive control pathway to control foot-and-mouth disease

Reducing the economic impacts of foot-and-mouth disease and risks to disease-free countries are achieved through application of Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) in Southeast Asia, including Viet Nam. The project will provide more direct assistance to participating countries during the early stages of the pathway and build foundations for continued progress.

Wildlife farming management and biosecurity in Viet Nam

This project will reduce the burden of wildlife-to-human zoonotic diseases and ensure improved people's livelihoods by strengthening wildlife farming biosecurity and management. In Viet Nam, coordination between government authorities to manage wildlife farming practices will be strengthened with an improved legal framework for wildlife farming management to control zoonotic diseases and ensure food safety and security.

Veterinary public health and surveillance of food-borne and zoonotic pathogens

Integration of food safety with control of zoonotic diseases will be achieved, with national veterinary authorities best placed to undertake this role. The project will create an environment where zoonotic infections are not considered in isolation, but part of a greater chain contributing to the safe production of food. Veterinary authorities will strengthen food safety competence and increased control of food-borne diseases. Importantly, the project will build upon existing coordination mechanisms to further build institutional capacities for promotion of the UN's One Health approach in Viet Nam.

One Health and Viet Nam

In light of the growing human population and increasing demand for more livestock-based protein, FAO is concerned about balancing the needs of people, domestic animals, wildlife and ecosystems in the face of limited natural resources, an increasing global population and greater consumption. Concurrently, it is recognized that major drivers of emerging zoonoses such as bird flu (HPAI H5N7 or influenza A H7N9) swine flu (H1N1), SARS, Nipah virus or rabies are to a large extent, the result of modifications to natural habitats, changes in agricultural practices or risky human behaviors. To better address these health threats, FAO is supporting a One Health collaboration in which multiple disciplines work together locally, nationally, regionally and globally to promote and ensure the health of people, livestock, wildlife and the environment.

In Viet Nam, FAO ECTAD is supporting the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and with partners, assisting other important ministries especially in the areas of health and natural resources. Implementing One Health in Viet Nam depends on a multi-disciplinary approach at the livestock-wildlife-human-ecosystem interface and requires effective coordination, collaboration and communication among key national stakeholders. For One Health's long-term sustainability in Viet Nam, disease dynamics need to be placed into the broader context of sustainable agriculture, socio-economic development, environmental protection and sustainability.



In Viet Nam, FAO is part of “**Delivering as One**”, a UN reform initiative to improve UN effectiveness, efficiency and development results.

DELIVERING AS ONE



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