



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Viet Nam and FAO

*Partnering to support rural communities and sustainable agricultural development*

Viet Nam joined the Organization in 1950, and in 1978 cooperation was strengthened with the establishment of an FAO country representation. Since then, FAO has undertaken a wide range of activities, providing technical assistance and strategic and policy advice to boost agricultural growth and rural development. This successful partnership has contributed to the transformation of Vietnamese agriculture to a self-sufficient, export-driven economic sector.

## **40** CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN VIET NAM

**Established in 1978, the FAO Representation in Viet Nam is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary.**

In the first decade of operations, the post-war priority was to restore food security and to support the Government in rebuilding institutions and capacity in the agriculture sector. Since 1990, FAO support has gradually expanded to cover policy advice. In the face of new risks and threats to food security, FAO is extending its support to enable Viet Nam's to maintain food security, while continuously promoting sustainable agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fisheries and improved livelihoods of rural communities.

### **UN-REDD Programme (Phases I & II, 2012-2018)**

FAO, UNDP and UNEP have been jointly supporting the Government in developing "REDD+ Readiness" (the UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), an intervention to end in 2018. FAO has led major interventions such as: i) building national capacity in the establishment and submission of Forest Reference Levels and Forest Reference Emission Levels (FRL/FREL) for UNFCCC;

### **Matching FAO's expertise to Viet Nam's development priorities**

FAO assistance in Viet Nam is shaped by the 2017-2021 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), which is centred on four priority areas:

- **Increased food security** with focus on alleviation of hunger, malnutrition and food safety concerns
- **Sustainable development of the agriculture sector** (including agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry), contributing to the national Green Growth Strategy and other strategies for improved natural resource management and environment protection
- **New Rural Development and Sustainable Poverty Reduction** programmes
- **Enhancing the resilience of communities to disasters and threats**

Jointly developed with the Government and other partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies, including the Socio-economic Development Plan (SEDP 2016-20) and its two components – the National Target Programmes (NTPs) for Sustainable Poverty Reduction (SPR); and New Rural Development (NRD). The CPF is fully aligned with the UN One Strategic Plan for Viet Nam, 2017-2021.

ii) formulating a National Forest Monitoring System and subnational REDD+ initiatives; iii) supporting forest law enforcement to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; and iv) prioritizing and implementing interventions under the Provincial REDD+ Action Plan in pilot provinces.

#### **CONTACTS**

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## Post-drought emergency and rehabilitation

In 2016, central and southern Viet Nam experienced their worst drought in 90 years, with 18 provinces declaring a state of emergency at the peak of the crisis. The drought led to 1 million people requiring food assistance and 1.75 million people losing their income due to damaged or lost livelihoods.

*“Food security and adequate nutrition for all is where sustainable development starts.”*

**José Graziano da Silva,**  
FAO Director-General

With financial assistance from the EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), FAO was able to reach 5 469 households in the Central Highlands. A mix of unconditional cash transfers, agricultural input vouchers, post-harvest equipment was provided,

while further support was delivered via behavioral change messages.

The project significantly increased food security of beneficiaries. Households were allowed the flexibility to choose support options according to their own needs and priorities. The local economy was stimulated and negative coping mechanisms – such as the sale of assets, reduced meals, migration, incurring debt and withdrawal of children from school – were substantially curbed.

## Prevention and control of emerging zoonotic diseases

Through a project to mitigate risk and manage human health threats along different animal value chains, FAO's Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) in Viet Nam has helped strengthen the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's capacities for timely and effective prevention and control of emerging zoonotic diseases as well as the early detection of new threats.

The project has supported the Department of Animal Health in conducting surveillance, which has enabled the Government to ensure more effective control and prevention of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks (caused by influenza H5N1 and H5N6 viruses). This was done through the selection of vaccines that accurately target viruses found in the field, and through the identification of live bird markets and provinces in which HPAI might be introduced or transmitted.

Joint activities with the Animal Health Department and other partners (the Department of Livestock Production, the National Centre for Agricultural Extension and VN Forest) improved the Government's capacity for coordinated investigation and response to zoonoses under the One Health concept. Improvements were also seen in biosecurity practices in livestock production systems, management of wildlife farming and information sharing, and safe animal movement across borders.

## Nutrition, food security and food safety

Remarkable results were achieved through the successful implementation of the UN Joint Programme on Integrated Nutrition and Food Security. Funded by Spain, this intervention was implemented by FAO, UNICEF, WHO and UN-Women in two successive phases between 2012-14 and 2015-17. It provided support to some 36 million women of reproductive age and 7.1 million boys and girls under five, and resulted in strengthened coordination between the health and agriculture sectors. Related knowledge and coordinated action informed the development and enactment of relevant policies, plans and standards as a result of modelling and evidence generation at both national and subnational levels.

Starting in 2015, FAO started playing its lead role in facilitating the Food Safety Working Group (FSWG) and ensuring regular sharing of food safety information and experience among participants, including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and the Canadian and Japanese International Development Agencies.

## New Rural Development

FAO collaborated in a joint UN project, financed by the One UN Fund, to support to Viet Nam's National Target Programme for New Rural Development (NTP NRD). The project was implemented together with UNIDO, UNESCO, IOM and UNV between 2014 and 2017.

FAO's main technical contributions comprised: i) policy support to design of the Programme; ii) development of special mechanisms and policies for disadvantaged areas and ethnic minorities; iii) development of technical guidelines for the Programme's implementation, including a handbook on technical project prioritization, participatory planning, value-chain production, and agriculture-based vocational training; and iv) the formulation of a capacity building programme for NTP NRD 2016-2020.

