



FAO-backed national strategy to unlock Viet Nam's agricultural economic potential



FAO Representative participated in the workshop to introduce the new National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development

FAO Viet Nam has played a key role in development of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in 2021-2030 with a vision to 2050, which will shape agricultural policy for the next decade. The strategy, recently approved by the prime minister, will kick-start the agriculture sector's transition to fully unlocking its economic potential.

Based on three pillars - ecological agriculture, modern countryside and smart farmers, the strategy's key objectives include ensuring sustainable agrifood systems meet present and future generations' needs for products and services, while ensuring profitability, environmental health, social and economic equity.

As agriculture depends on the services provided by ecosystems, sustainable agrifood systems must minimize negative impacts on the environment while optimizing production by protecting, conserving and enhancing natural resources and using them efficiently.

To realize this goal, FAO in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and Lai Chau Provincial People's Committee, organized a workshop to introduce the new "National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development for the period 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050", and mobilize resources for the development of sustainable agri-food systems in northern mountainous provinces.

Workshop participants – from FAO Viet Nam, MARD, international partners, national institutes and provincial and district representatives – focused on the implementation of National Target Plans in the Northern Mountainous Region, National Strategy for Socio-economic Development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas as well as the National Strategy for Sustainable Poverty Reduction 2021-2025.

The workshop distilled a number of important points which will contribute to the development of appropriate strategies and approaches to realize the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development's implementation in different contexts and scales, with a focus on the northern mountainous region.

By developing a common vision and an integrated approach to sustainability across agriculture, forestry and fisheries, Viet Nam can accelerate the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life to leave no one behind.

Viet Nam takes centre stage at APRC 36



A Vietnamese delegation participated at the APRC 36

FAO, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), has used the regional APRC 36 platform to outline the key responses to meet national food and agriculture challenges and promote regional coherence. This biannual meeting of all FAO member states in the Asia and the Pacific region, hosted by Dhaka, Bangladesh from 8 to 11 March 2022, offered an opportunity for government ministers, delegates and FAO representatives from more than 40 nations to debate key food and agriculture challenges and provide guidance to FAO's Global Conference in Rome in June next year.

At APRC 36, MARD representatives presented two technical papers for discussion by delegates. The first paper centred on actions to promote climate-resilient agrifood systems, with a key focus on challenges encountered in Viet Nam, with typhoons, drought, saltwater intrusion, pests and diseases becoming more frequent and causing damage amounting to 2 per cent of GDP annually.

In response, a number of FAO-supported initiatives are being implemented, including agricultural transformation in the Mekong Delta, facilitating linkages between domestic and international innovation networks centred on development and transfers of technology to meet businesses' and food systems' needs, support grassroots farmer organizations as the core for linkages in agricultural

value chains and enhance the collaboration and information sharing in sustainable management of natural and water resources.



APRC 36 was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh

The second paper focussed on One Health priorities, in particular facilitating policy interventions that reflect government priorities, enhance One Health trainings, strengthen a national One Health multi-sectoral coordination mechanism, increase advocacy and awareness campaigns on the role of One Health in food security, protection of environment and biodiversity as well as support Plant Health. These initiatives will be further discussed at FAO's Global Conference in 2023.

Staying one step ahead on disaster responses



FAO Viet Nam team facilitates group discussions during the community validation of anticipatory actions

FAO in Viet Nam is working to enable vulnerable communities act early to mitigate the threat of intensifying climate change-driven natural disasters.

In collaboration with the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA), FAO organized a provincial consultation workshop under the project "Increasing Capacities and Scale for Anticipatory Action including

through Social Protection Systems”, funded by Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

This event welcomed more than 40 participants from FAO in Asia and the Pacific region and Viet Nam, VNDMA leaders, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Red Cross, Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Provincial Steering Committees for Disaster Prevention and Control, and representatives from international organizations, development partners and research institutes.

The workshop’s key objective was to increase provincial capacities in anticipatory action, while simultaneously gathering information to support the formulation of anticipatory action for typhoons in central Viet Nam (Quang Binh, Quang Trj and Thua Thien-Hue provinces).

Anticipatory action involves building FAO and humanitarian partner capacities, while supporting the uptake and institutionalization of relevant national stakeholders as well as ensuring community engagement, with a particular focus on social protection systems.

HIGHLIGHTS

Project title: Increasing Capacities and Scale for Anticipatory Action including through Social Protection Systems, funded by ECHO.

Objectives: To promote mutual strategic priorities, scale-up anticipatory action and support its institutionalization, DG ECHO and FAO established a three-year Pilot Programmatic Partnership.

The partnership will focus on four objectives:

- **Setting-up anticipatory action systems and protocols**
- **Identifying suitable anticipatory action linkages to social protection systems**
- **Implementing anticipatory actions ahead of shocks**
- **Strengthening the evidence-base and advancing learning and geographic coverage: Viet Nam as well as Bangladesh, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Pakistan, and the Philippines.**

SMEs’ appetite for healthy diets



National workshop to review the achievement of the project

Realizing nutrition-sensitive food systems in Viet Nam is a step closer thanks to a FAO-driven project during the past five years.

This progress was underlined at a national workshop in Ha Noi to review the achievements of the project “Strengthening capacities for nutrition-sensitive food systems through multi-stakeholder approach” and to further mobilize national stakeholders to promote an enabling environment for nutrition-sensitive investments by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Over the past five years, FAO with the support of Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, has implemented this initiative in Viet Nam, along with sister projects in Ghana and Kenya, to increase the capacities of agrifood SMEs to adopt nutrition-sensitive approaches in their businesses.

This is important work as SMEs are one of the key economic engines in Viet Nam that make impactful contributions to national food security, social stability and poverty reduction.

The workshop brought together participants from SMEs, government partners, academia, international organizations, as well as representatives from the other countries involved in the project.

FAO and partners presented the project’s achievements and discussed ways to enhance the policy environment in support of SMEs and facilitate adoption of nutrition-sensitive approaches in the agrifood sector.

Opportunities to up-scale the project-developed activities to expand their reach were also identified by participants.

Transformative STAR-FARM project set to launch

An innovative four-year project to realize the agro-ecological transformation of agri-food farming systems in the Mekong Delta has received the green light.

The FAO-managed project “Smart Agro-ecological Transformation of Farming Systems towards Resilience and Sustainability in Middle and Coastal Zones of the Viet Nam Mekong Delta” (STAR FARM), in partnership with CIRAD and IRD has been approved for funding by the European Union.

To prepare for the launch of the project – which will strengthen six provinces’ resilience to climate change, environmental degradation and other external shocks – a FAO mission visited the Mekong Delta to identify opportunities to cooperate and collaborate with other actors to synergize project impacts.

The mission, jointly conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, particularly focused on how the project dovetailed with key strategic priorities of the provinces and methods of project implementation.



Dragon fruit plantation in the Mekong Delta

HIGHLIGHTS

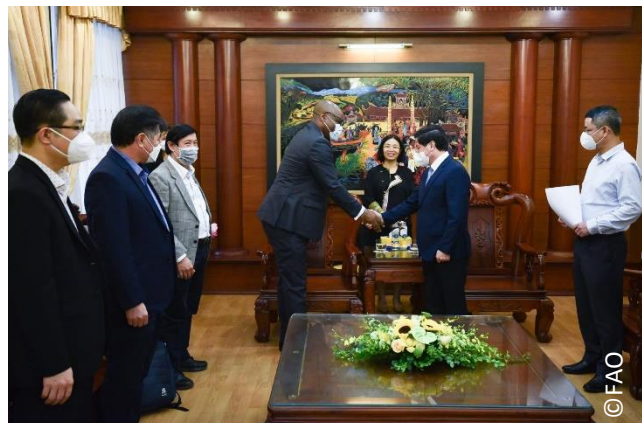
Project title: Smart Agro-ecological Transformation of Farming Systems towards Resilience and Sustainability in Middle and Coastal Zones of Viet Nam Mekong Delta

Implementing organization: FAO

Location: Mekong Delta

Funding and co-funding: EUR 4 150 000 from the European Union

MARD Vice Minister renews support to FAO mission in Viet Nam



FAO Representative in Viet Nam and Vice Minister of MARD

The FAO Representative and the Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development have committed to enhance future bilateral cooperation and sustainable agricultural development in Viet Nam.

FAO Representative in Viet Nam Rémi Nono Womdim met Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) Vice Minister Le Quoc Doanh to sketch out future cooperation in the spirit of FAO’s 40-year partnership with Viet Nam – that primarily addressed food and nutrition security as well as rural development – to tackle new and emerging challenges.

The Vice Minister pointed to population pressures, urbanization, resource degradation and climate change as requiring intensified FAO support. These areas dovetail with the FAO-Viet Nam Country Programme Framework (CPF) 2022-2026 and its pillars One Health, Climate Change Adaptation and the Environment, Food System Transformation and other cross-cutting governance matters for better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life to leave no one behind.

FAO and MARD agreed to take future steps to achieve these mutual objectives and realize a better for rural communities.

Trainers to drive national integrated plant health management

FAO-backed trainers are to take aim at the integrated plant health management of Viet Nam to further unlock the nation’s agricultural potential.

The training of trainers (ToTs) was co-organized by FAO Viet Nam and the Plant Protection Department of Tien Giang province as part of the project on National Plant Health Strategy and Action Plan for the Government of Viet Nam.

The training, witnessed and supported by FAO Representative in Viet Nam Rémi Nono Womdim, focused on Integrated Plant Health Management (IPHM) such as soil health and fertilizer agro-ecological, integrated pest management, pesticides, agricultural production and export standards.

The training was in response to a Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development request to support development and roll-out of a National Plant Health Strategy (NPHS) and National Plan for Integrated Plant Health Management (NP-IPHM) 2021-2025. Under this framework, FAO will provide 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, pest and disease management. It is expected that the NPHS and NP-IPHM will comprehensively address key challenges, particularly a systemic approach for management of pest and diseases, including transboundary pest and disease management/pest risks in the context of climate change and global trade integration.

Moreover, it 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.



Opening ceremony of national ToTs on IPHM

Removal of rinderpest virus from Viet Nam enters final stage

FAO, with the World Organization of Animal Health (WOAH), has taken another step towards the planned destruction of the rinderpest virus in laboratories of Viet Nam. Despite the successful eradication of the disease from the natural host and wildlife in 2011, several laboratories around the world retain virus stocks including wild-type virus, vaccine seed strains, and manufactured vaccines.



Destruction of the rinderpest virus in laboratory

Viet Nam is one of the six countries that still holds virus stocks with risks of catastrophic rinderpest re-emergence.

In May 2019, the FAO conducted a mission to advocate the Viet Nam Government destroy its virus stocks. Following this mission, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development agreed and requested support in removing the virus from its two laboratories.

Another mission took place from 1 to 9 June 2022 at the laboratories of the National Veterinary Joint Stock Company in Ho Chi Minh City and the National Centre for Veterinary Medicine Control No.1 laboratory in Ha Noi. It involved verifying the inventory of virus stock for destruction, checking equipment certificates for operation, packing the virus material and waste for destruction, decontaminating the laboratories and freezers and transferring material for incineration.

Other steps included delivering biosafety management training to laboratory staff and engaging the government in raising community awareness through activities targeting rinderpest and other transboundary animal diseases.

Strengthening animal health laboratory networks

Viet Nam's laboratory capacity continues to expand with FAO support.

FAO collaborated with the Department of Animal Health to hold a training course at the National Centre for Veterinary Diagnostics on "Guidance on regulations for the Transport of Infectious Substances".

This training outlined World Health Organization guidance on handling potentially dangerous pathogens, preparing documentation and how to reduce risks to staff, the public, and environment.

The sharing of identified pathogens and safe shipping of diagnostic samples, within Viet Nam and with international reference laboratories, is an important function of the nation's laboratory network, which supports the agricultural sector by identifying pathogens that can harm animal and human health.

Tackling antimicrobial resistance in Livestock production

FAO ECTAD in Viet Nam, with financial support from USAID, is collaborating with the Department of Animal Health to improve management of antimicrobial usage in livestock production. This is being achieved through training and distribution of an information sheet on restrictions of antimicrobial use in terrestrial animal production. Two workshops were held in Ha Noi (12 May) and Ho Chi Minh City (17 May) with key stakeholders on antimicrobial stewardship in livestock and aquaculture on the implementation of Circular Letter 12/2020/TT-BNNPTNT and the use of WHONET system for recording and comparing antimicrobial susceptibility patterns.

The information sheet, published online (English) and distributed in print (Vietnamese), provides an overview of current legislative restrictions and prescription requirements for antimicrobial use for terrestrial animal production currently in force in Viet Nam (<http://www.fao.org/3/cc0895en/cc0895en.pdf>). FAO also collaborated with the National Agriculture Extension Centre (NAEC) and national VTV16 channel to develop programmes on farm biosecurity, prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in livestock production.

Joint multi-sectoral zoonotic disease risk assessment

FAO ECTAD in Viet Nam, with financial support from USAID, organized a joint risk assessment workshop in collaboration with the Department of Animal Health (DAH) in Hai Phong city. Following the introduction of the tripartite joint risk assessment tool in 2019, the Government of Viet Nam – led by General Department of

Preventive Medicine (GDPM) of the Ministry of Health (MOH) – led by General Department of Preventive Medicine (GDPM) of MOH – has adapted the tool according to the institutional structure and legislation in Viet Nam.



Joint Risk Assessment Workshop

The workshop on 5-6 May 2022 – facilitated by the DAH, GDPM, National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, WHO and FAO – applied the Vietnamese adapted tool to identify high risk interface and gaps of information for priority zoonoses. Three zoonotic pathogens – avian influenza H5N6, H5N8 and rabies – were assessed at high-risk provinces. The results of the qualitative assessment revealed that the risk levels for H5N6 infection in humans in Dong Nai province in the last eight months of 2022 and for H5N8 virus transmitted from poultry to humans in Lang Son province from May to December 2022 was from low to moderate, while the risk of rabies causing fatal cases in humans in Ben Tre province from May to December 2022 was high. The workshop outputs can be used to guide the development of future zoonosis surveillance, and to promote timely information sharing and coordinated response. The finalized joint risk assessment tool will allow the Government of Viet Nam to conduct the Joint Risk Assessment regularly contributing to the global health security and WHO International Health Regulations implementation in Viet Nam.

Contact information:

FAO Representation in Viet Nam

Email: FAO-VN@fao.org

Website: <http://www.fao.org/vietnam/en>

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Ha Noi, Viet Nam



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence