ACF Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT 2026

VIET NAM

"Viet Nam aims to be a transparent, responsible, sustainable food producer and supplier of green agriculture with low emissions, and to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050.

With its experience and the help of international donors, Viet Nam is always ready and committed to expanding South-South and Triangular Cooperation to support African countries to ensure food security and nutrition, aiming for green growth, sustainable development, and prosperity."

Minister Le Minh Hoan, Former Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)
Source: 12 December 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

1	**Championing a shift in Food Systems Policy thinking:** Viet Nam has progressed its thinking on food system transformation from a focus on food security to a holistic food system-based approach. Viet Nam has established the Food Systems Transformation Partnership to support the implementation of the National Action Plan.
2	**Pioneering groundbreaking low-emission rice at scale:** More than 354,000 hectares had been enrolled in the One Million Hectares low-emission rice programme by the end of 2025, as reported in March 2026. The programme has delivered outstanding results increasing yields whilst reducing input costs, emissions, pesticide, fertiliser and water use.
3	**Leading South-South cooperation:** Viet Nam is actively supporting work on rice, food crops, coffee, aquaculture, livestock, forestry, small-scale irrigation, agricultural extension, climate change adaptation and agricultural value chain development in African countries, and turning its domestic transformation into a platform for wider peer learning.

Headline Areas of Progress in 2026

INDICATOR	BASELINE	LATEST	DIRECTION
Area enrolled in the low-emission rice programme	Launched 2024	**354,000 ha (End of 2025)**	▲ Improving
Gender Inequality Index (0 = full equality)	0.34 (2014)	**0.30 (2023)**	▼ Improving
The rate of agricultural land certified for production practices according to organic standards	0.94% (2016)	**1.5% (2025)**	▲ Improving
Agricultural R&D expenditure share index	0.29 (2013)	**0.34 (2022)**	▲ Improving
Share of State investment in agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in total State investment	128,415.0 (2020)	**153, 405 (2025)**	▲ Improving

Country context

Since the introduction of the Doi Moi (Reform) policy in 1986, Viet Nam has transformed from a country once facing food shortages into one of the world's leading exporters of rice, coffee, seafood, fruit and wood products, while lifting millions of people out of poverty.

Viet Nam's agricultural sector is characterised by millions of smallholder family farms, typically ranging from 0.5 to 2 hectares.

Around 68% of farmers are small-scale producers, while 62% of the population lives in rural areas. In 2025, agriculture, forestry and fisheries accounted for 11.64% of GDP, while exports of agro-forestry-fishery products exceeded USD 70 billion.

INDICATOR	VIET NAM	SOURCE
Top three commodities produced (2025)	**Paddy rice: 43.5 million tons; Vegetable: 19.6 million tons; Fishery: 9.95 million tons**	*MAE Report 2025*
GDP and agriculture as % (2025)	**$514 billion (agriculture, forestry and fisheries: 11.65%)**	*National Statistics Office and World Bank*
Global Food Security Index (2022)	**46th of 113**	*Economist Impact*
Prevalence of undernourishment (2024)	**6.1%**	*FAO Hunger Map*
Share of land use for agriculture, forestry and aquaculture in total land areas (2024)	**35%**	*Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE)*
Expected greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture (2020)	**104.5 Mt CO2eq**	*Viet Nam NDC 2022 Update*
Share of employed labour in agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in total employment (2025)	**17.8 million (33% in agriculture)**	*National Statistics Office; MAE*



KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2025/26

Viet Nam's **National Action Plan on Food Systems Transformation** sets 16 measurable targets for 2030, including a **10% cut in food system emissions against 2020**, stunting below 15%, at least 2.5% of agricultural land under organic production, and more than 30% of irrigated dry crop area using water-saving irrigation.

Viet Nam's delivery is built on partnership **49 partners have signed up to the Food System Transformation Partnership.** Viet Nam has organised capacity-building training at national and provincial levels and is supporting Son La and Dong Thap provinces in translating national priorities into local action plans

Viet Nam's Programme on "**One Million Hectares of High-Quality, Low-Emission Rice Associated with Green Growth in the Mekong Delta by 2030**" approved in November 2023, had enrolled **more than 354,000 hectares by the end of 2025**.

The programme is delivering groundbreaking results: a 30% reduction of in fertilizer use; a reduction of 2 - 3 pesticide applications per crop; a 20% reduction in irrigation water use; a 12% increase in rice yields; a 40% reduction in production input costs; an average increase in profits of VND 6 million per hectare per crop; and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of approximately 3 - 4 tonnes of CO_2 per hectare per crop. The entire harvested rice output is committed to be purchased by enterprises at premium prices, providing a strong incentive for farmers to participate

Viet Nam's **Seventh National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)** (2019–2025) reports:

- **Protected areas:** As of 2025, the country had 181 protected areas covering more than 2.3 million hectares; three biodiversity corridors with a total area of approximately 0.3 million ha; and 12 marine protected areas with a total area of nearly 174,748 ha and four new protected areas since 2020 that increasing the conserved terrestrial and marine area by more than 88,000 ha.
- **Forests:** forest cover held at 42% throughout 2020–2024, within the 42–43% target, and around 720,000 hectares certified for sustainable forest management by the end of 2025.
- **Payments for ecosystem services:** around VND 26,826 billion was disbursed in 2018–2025, supporting 7.56 million hectares, or 54.3% of national forest area

Viet Nam is **scaling nutrition-sensitive agriculture**, with 51 training courses for nearly 2,000 participants in 29 provinces and 28 pilot models in 21 provinces

Viet Nam's new **national agricultural product traceability system**, launched in December 2025, had by June 2026 been deployed in 26 of 34 provinces and centrally governed cities and covered 18,500 products across 112 product categories.

LEADERSHIP IN FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION: SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Viet Nam shares its food systems experience with partners in Africa, including **Senegal, Nigeria, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola and Sierra Leone**.

Since the 1990s, **Viet Nam has sent hundreds of experts to Africa to transfer techniques for growing rice, maize, vegetables, fruits, and aquaculture**. Over the past nearly 30 years, more than 12 African countries have received support, helping to increase crop yields by 2 to 4 times, contributing significantly to ensuring food security. Recently, Viet Nam is actively sharing the experiences on low-carbon and sustainable rice sector with 5 African countries.

Mr. Le Quoc Thanh, Director of the National Agricultural Extension Center, commented: "Viet Nam's agricultural extension does not just teach how to grow crops, but also transfers the mindset of efficient, low-cost, and adaptive production. This is the key to helping our partner countries build self-reliant and sustainable agriculture."



Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema met with former Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Cao Duc Phat and the South-South Cooperation Working Group, April 2026.