


Vietnam

 **A\$4.5** million
Budgeted funding

 **22**
Bilateral and regional
research projects

 **9**
Small projects and
activities

While Vietnam has experienced remarkably rapid economic growth in past decades, there are risks to the medium-term economic outlook. Businesses are constrained by the lack of a skilled workforce, and investments in infrastructure and deeper economic reforms are needed to sustain private sector growth. Inequality is a continuing challenge, with 10% of the population living below the poverty line.

Vietnam is one of few countries in which the gender pay gap has widened over the last decade. Ethnic minorities have still not benefited equally from economic growth; although they comprise 15% of the population, they account for around half of those living in poverty. Australia's commitment to development cooperation with Vietnam is ongoing. Reflecting our maturing economic partnership, we will continue to leverage Vietnam's significant domestic resources and foreign investment, and support Vietnam's efforts to enter a new phase of economic development. By helping to stimulate the private sector, upskill the workforce and support inclusive growth, we will contribute to achieving our shared, overarching goal of promoting prosperity and reducing poverty in Vietnam.

An overview of Australia's relationship with Vietnam is available on the DFAT website.

During 2019, Vietnam became more deeply integrated in international markets as a result of two new free trade agreements: the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement.

Vietnam achieved impressive economic growth in 2019 with GDP increasing 7%. Agriculture, fisheries and forestry accounted for 14% of GDP and exported products were valued at US\$41.3 billion. However, these sectors face a number of challenges. Three key examples are:

- » climate change that is leading to more extreme weather events such as severe drought, flood, saline intrusion and forest fire that affect large areas of agricultural land
- » pest and disease outbreaks in crops and animals that remain unresolved in 2020, especially yellow leaf and root rot on coffee, quick wilt and slow decline on black pepper, cassava mosaic disease, fall armyworm on maize and African swine fever (causing losses of at least 20% of the total pig herd)
- » post-farm issues such as weak linkages of value chains, lagging agricultural processing and a high rate of post-harvest losses.

In addition, the most recent COVID-19 pandemic has affected all sectors, including agriculture, both in production and commercialisation.

Vietnam's five-year Socio-Economic Development Plan 2016–2020 is in its last year of implementation. For 2020, science and technology were identified as key to increasing productivity, quality, efficiency and competitiveness in the sector. Focal points of research include product quality improvement throughout supply and added-value chains; seeds and breeds for high quality, disease resistance and climate-change adaptation; post-harvest management, processing and storage technologies; and ongoing productivity improvement.

Vietnam is the ASEAN chair in 2020, and therefore has an opportunity to enhance regional collaboration by sharing expertise and disseminating research results within the ASEAN countries.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is expected to continue to focus on developing higher-quality and value products in the coming years, targeting an increase of 3% in the agricultural GDP with US\$43 billion of exporting value in 2020.

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Current and proposed projects

1. Improving smallholder farmer incomes through strategic market development in mango supply chains in southern Vietnam (AGB/2012/061)
2. Developing value-chain linkages to enhance the adoption of profitable and sustainable cassava production systems in Vietnam and Indonesia (AGB/2012/078)
3. Improving livelihoods in Myanmar and Vietnam through vegetable value chains (AGB/2014/035)
4. Inclusive agriculture value chain financing [Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam] (AGB/2016/163)
5. Enhancing smallholder linkages to markets by optimising transport and logistics infrastructure [Indonesia, Vietnam] (AGB/2017/036)
6. Strengthening leadership, coordination and economic development of the temperate fruit industry in northern Vietnam (AGB/2018/171)
7. Establishing sustainable solutions to cassava diseases in mainland South-East Asia [Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam] (AGB/2018/172)
8. Off-farm: strategic review and planning for enhancing the livelihoods of coffee and pepper smallholders in the Central Highlands of Vietnam through improving stakeholders' participation in agribusiness led value chains (AGB/2018/208)
9. Increasing the sustainability, productivity and economic value of coffee and black pepper farming systems and value chains in the Central Highlands region of Vietnam (AGB/2018/175)
10. Planning and establishing a sustainable smallholder rice chain in the Mekong Delta [Vietnam] (AGB/2019/153)
11. Research to support agricultural policy and strategic planning: research to assist the Vietnam Government with the formulation of the 2021-2030 Agricultural Development Strategy for Vietnam (AGB/2019/185)
12. Characterisation of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (fall armyworm) populations in South-East Asia and northern Australia (co-funded with GRDC) [Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Philippines, Malaysia] (CROP/2020/144)
13. Increasing technical skills supporting community-based sea cucumber production in Vietnam and the Philippines (FIS/2016/122)
14. Half-pearl industry development in Tonga and Vietnam (FIS/2016/126)
15. Developing and promoting market-based agroforestry and forest rehabilitation options for Northwest Vietnam (FST/2016/152)
16. Managing risk in South-East Asian forest biosecurity [Indonesia, Vietnam] (FST/2018/179)
17. Scoping for a forest biosecurity network in South-East Asia [Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam] (FST/2020/102)
18. Building effective forest health and biosecurity networks in South-East Asia [Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam] (FST/2020/123)
19. Policy analysis for forest plantations in Laos and Vietnam (FST/2019/121)
20. Intensification of beef cattle production in upland cropping systems in Northwest Vietnam (LPS/2015/037)
21. Investigating and developing interventions to mitigate food borne parasitic disease in production animals in Laos [Laos, Vietnam] (LS/2014/055)
22. Safe pork: market-based approaches to improving the safety of pork in Vietnam (LS/2016/143)
23. Goat production systems and marketing in Laos and Vietnam (LS/2017/034)
24. Forages—taking stock and identifying research needs [Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam] (LS/2018/186)
25. Asian chicken genetic gains: a platform for testing, delivering, and improving chickens for enhanced livelihood outcomes in South-East Asia [Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam] (LS/2019/142)
26. Value-adding to existing livestock programs to understand and quantify the implications of greenhouse gas emissions, provide options for emissions reduction and inform in-country policy development [Cambodia, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, South Africa, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Zambia] (LS/2019/159)
27. Analysing gender transformative approaches to agricultural development with ethnic minority communities in Vietnam (SSS/2018/139)
28. A framework for assessing agricultural extension approaches and an analysis of transferrable public health approaches [Australia, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam] (SSS/2019/186)
29. Improving maize-based farming systems on sloping lands in Vietnam and Laos (SMCN/2014/049)
30. Farmer options for crops under saline conditions in the Mekong River Delta, Vietnam (SLAM/2018/144)
31. Supporting greenhouse gas mitigation for sustainable farming systems in the Asia-Pacific and East Africa [Fiji, Indonesia, Kenya, Vietnam] (WAC/2019/150)