

Agriculture made up 40 percent of Vietnam's GDP in 1991. Vietnam has an agricultural land area of 6.9 million ha. Estimates indicate that an additional 2.8 million ha can be brought under cultivation, of which over 1 million ha are regarded as having irrigation potential.

Rice is Vietnam's main crop and staple food. In 1991, rice output totalled 19.5 million tonnes. Secondary crops include cereals, sweet potatoes, and cassava. Industrial crops include sugar cane, peanuts, soya beans, rubber, tea, coffee, coconuts, and tobacco. The country also offers a wide variety of fruits and vegetables such as pineapples, bananas, oranges, grapefruit, onions, cauliflower, carrots, and cabbage.

Production potential is the highest in the Mekong Delta where rice is grown in two-thirds of the cultivated area. Nearly 60 percent of the paddy-irrigated area is in the Mekong and Red River deltas. The remaining agricultural land includes a long and narrow densely-populated coastal strip far less developed than the two deltas but with good potential.

The potential for the agricultural sector is high but production and consumption have remained at subsistence levels. In the past, growth in the agricultural sector was curtailed due to the government's focus on developing the industrial sector, which directed resources away from agriculture. This policy was reversed in 1987.

Agriculture Production for Vietnam in 1993

Crop	'000 Tonnes
Rice	22,300
Sugar Cane	6,656
Vegetables	3,204
Cassava	2,631
Sweet Potato	2,620
Maize	800
Peanut	240
Beans	106
Soya Bean	81
Rush	75
Rubber	70
Coffee (beans)	397
Tea	175
Jute	28
Tobacco	32
Pepper	8
Cotton	4

Source: IMF: Viet Nam - Recent Economic Developments June 4, 1994