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Vietnam, Sustainable Agriculture

Vietnam: Advocating the Mapping of Sustainable Agriculture for an Evolving Multi-Sectoral Economy

With access to sustainable food sources in the Soviet Republic of Vietnam heavily depending on changing environmental conditions and seasonal climate, a complex of economic networks within and/or without the country, differing regional labor relations, following political decisions such as the Doi Moi Policy - in which, as of December 1986, an “open door” economy as has been implemented in Vietnam in order to promote a trade market optimized to progress the nation’s capital holistically, in which, the course of an immense technological reform goes to show that now, more than ever, Vietnam faces a steady progression from a holding the title of being “...one of the lowest 40 low-income countries in the world.” However, as according to the Center of Gender, Environment and Sustainable Development Studies (GENDCEN) informs, the Soviet Republic of Vietnam’s economy is one “shifting from a centrally planned economy to a market oriented one, inside the framework of state regulations. The main thrust of the *Doi Moi* is to promote a multi-sector economic system, emphasising the state sector while encouraging the private sector. To achieve economic integration, the open door would be implemented gradually in order to stabilise the political and social situation.” Considering the majority of Vietnam’s population of 97,040,334 is made up of an agricultural labor force - a significant 40.3 percent - many sectors throughout Vietnam remain accustomed to having to produce, transport, and market goods to the global market in order to meet demands at home. With many families -averaging at 4 individuals per household- throughout the rural sectors of Vietnam residing in diverse “open villages” spanning over a myriad of unique climate and geographical conditions¹, families are accustomed to not only relying on their crops grown from plots that average at 0.63 ha -just under the size of 2 football fields- as a source as income, but also as their driving connection to supply food to the household’s table. Many Vietnamese families prepare their own staple crops of rice, fish, vegetables, & meats such as pork or chicken, when available, into dishes such as Pho or Bun. Though the Soviet Republic of Vietnam continues to provide poverty programs and implement policies which grant secure land to farming families, there remains several factors contributing to a decline in productivity and an undeniable “...increased vulnerability among the rural poor.”

As globalization and climate change proceed to aggravate and minimize the land available to farmers within Vietnam, it’s clear to see that despite current systems set in place, the security of Vietnam’s food can very well regress into previous stages if environmental factors remain a catalyst of recurring dilemma in regards of economic and social success. In turn, with access to transportation, education and healthcare slowly developing along with the country’s metamorphosis to accommodate all citizens, several families currently cannot afford to spare funds nor helping hands amongst the household, thus, ultimately sacrificing choice opportunities that would otherwise enrich the masses beyond the pursuit of agricultural labor at home. Without a proper course of action, that demands a foremost means of providing a better quality of resources available to enable a holistic approach for future cultivation following Vietnam’s turn towards achieving

¹ Climate and Geography: Climate - “tropical in south; monsoonal in north with hot, rainy season (May to September) and warm, dry season (October to March)” Geography - “low, flat delta in south and north; central highlands; hilly, mountainous in far north and northwest”

improved status amongst the global economy. This percentage of Vietnam's agricultural laborers responsible for one of the driving forces of national capital, lack the overdue and undermined accommodations they justifiably need.

Vietnam as a whole lacks a socio-economic infrastructure amongst those who grow and harvest, others whom negotiate international trade agreements, sign on labor related contracts, establish the Soviet Republic of Vietnam's subsidies for certain crops, and onwards, as well as educate the masses upon sustainable practices and implications. Establishing a commonplace department, coalition, or worker's union throughout the spans of Vietnam on over-heading and localized roles could prove to act as essential strides towards alleviating current concerns, little by little, to limit the strain that Vietnam's imbalanced progression places amongst demographics of the population currently placed within the lower priority. In creating networks in which information can be readily received and practiced, a minimization of environmental trauma by means of correcting misinformed practices, for example, the widespread of slash and burns alongside unnecessary deforestation of land present in Vietnam's current agricultural system could all-in-all recede tremendously if said malpractice could be reformed via demonstration and education. Should the Soviet Republic of Vietnam proctor and focus in on developing canal systems to supply more small-scale farms worked by impoverished families with a sufficient water supply, rather than deface natural land in pursuit of a larger farm-steading population, Vietnam could indefinitely draw in an increase in production in an otherwise, declining labor force. In addition to guiding agricultural endeavors in Vietnam to best fall in tandem with readily provided land, opening up development to undertake opportunities in which farming families may be presented with room to invest in technologies, such as irrigation systems provided via donations, crowd-funding, government aid, etc. to maximize farms' efficiency, sustainability, and increase odds of crop vitalities and multitudes to benefit the impoverished in gradually limiting out-of-pocket expense due to overabundant resource usage and precious time.

In contributing much of Vietnam's service and industry sectors into marketing contemporary machinery such as export of Samsung devices, the government currently fixates on utilizing the development of the Vietnamese economy as a means to further progress socially and conventionally, however, with an expanded outlook into the sustainability of Vietnamese agriculture, the country could benefit in factors of improving human health, promoting practices which invest in means to fund education and therefore further opportunities, increase Vietnam's economy further, and prompt a standard of environmentally-safe practices. Systems and practices such as the Vuon-Ao-Chuong modeled farm or practices within Climate Smart Agriculture acts as a resource that should be readily accessible and prompted to acknowledge in the process of solving major lapses in Vietnam's current sustainability and food security conditions. Presenting avenues in which current resources and land can be repurposed to accommodate can be coaxed and encouraged throughout Vietnam's rural communities by way of observation and adaptation. In motivating and enriching practices which focus upon responsible resource usage, the application of recycling food waste by contributing scraps back into the food production process –such as composting- communities can unify to better the quality of life they can provide themselves via expansive local knowledge in VAC and CSA systems. In expanding on current potential within several agricultural sectors by means of saving financially by improving efficiency, funds can extend to collectively siphon into communal based needs in order to create direct sources to better accommodations, including healthcare and education. As determined by the international ActionAid organization, in their report on *Lessons from Farmers adapting to Climate Change* “...advancing efforts to empower... {Vietnamese} ...communities to take collective action to reduce vulnerability and claim their right to food” is an essential call to action necessary to ensure quality of life for agricultural laborers. In the forming of communal unions, in addition to efforts to promote sustainable livelihood as a

standard among Vietnam's agricultural practice, communities will not only create their own direct source of restoring productivity, but also establish connections in which new possibilities can emerge both within and without the fields of agriculture.

The potential to have education led by rural farms invested in the security of future generations increases the likelihood that opportunities to grow careers outside agriculture may be passed through the evolution of Vietnam's economy immensely as these future positions could hold the capacity to strengthen and eventually moderate a potential period of rapid agricultural growth through the reimbursing labor workers for their major contribution to developing Vietnam's socio-economic standard. In changing the course of food security within Vietnam, global benefits could be reaped from the application of pros and cons found within Vietnam's climb and redistributed as a guideline to reforming similar countries which require a means to mapping and implementing their own means to sustainable growth and holistic human rights equities for laborers worldwide, much alike ActionAid's own findings within their study, *Asia at the Crossroads: Prioritising Conventional Farming or Sustainable Agriculture?*, "...the idea that livelihoods, growth and environmental sustainability must go hand-in-hand in developing countries...will be an unattainable ideal unless governments show a willingness to adopt a new development model – one based on human rights as opposed to profit for elites." Communities inclined to reform upon understanding the impact of sustainable agriculture in both an economic and environmental sense, may prompt others to elaborate upon the value of their own holistic concerns and drive individuals to adapt habits which will best benefit their livelihood, maximize the establishment of further standards to provide accommodations for the general public, promote access to information on sustainable principles, invest in a global well-being, reduce harm to a global and localized environment, & even possibly in the eventual future, ensure food security for all.

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