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# AGRICULTURE

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## IV. AGRICULTURE

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## OLD STRUCTURES, NEW BEHAVIOR

Before the socialist system was established, the majority of Vietnam's population used to live in rural areas and work in the agricultural sector. Industrial production was limited and an urban proletariat was almost non-existent. Today still 73% of the population live in rural areas and 54% are working in agriculture. Even if the organisation of the cultivation changed over the years, the plot size kept small while productivity increased with more self-reliance for the farmer. Since the industrial and the service sector are growing, most of the farmer have their main income from other jobs.

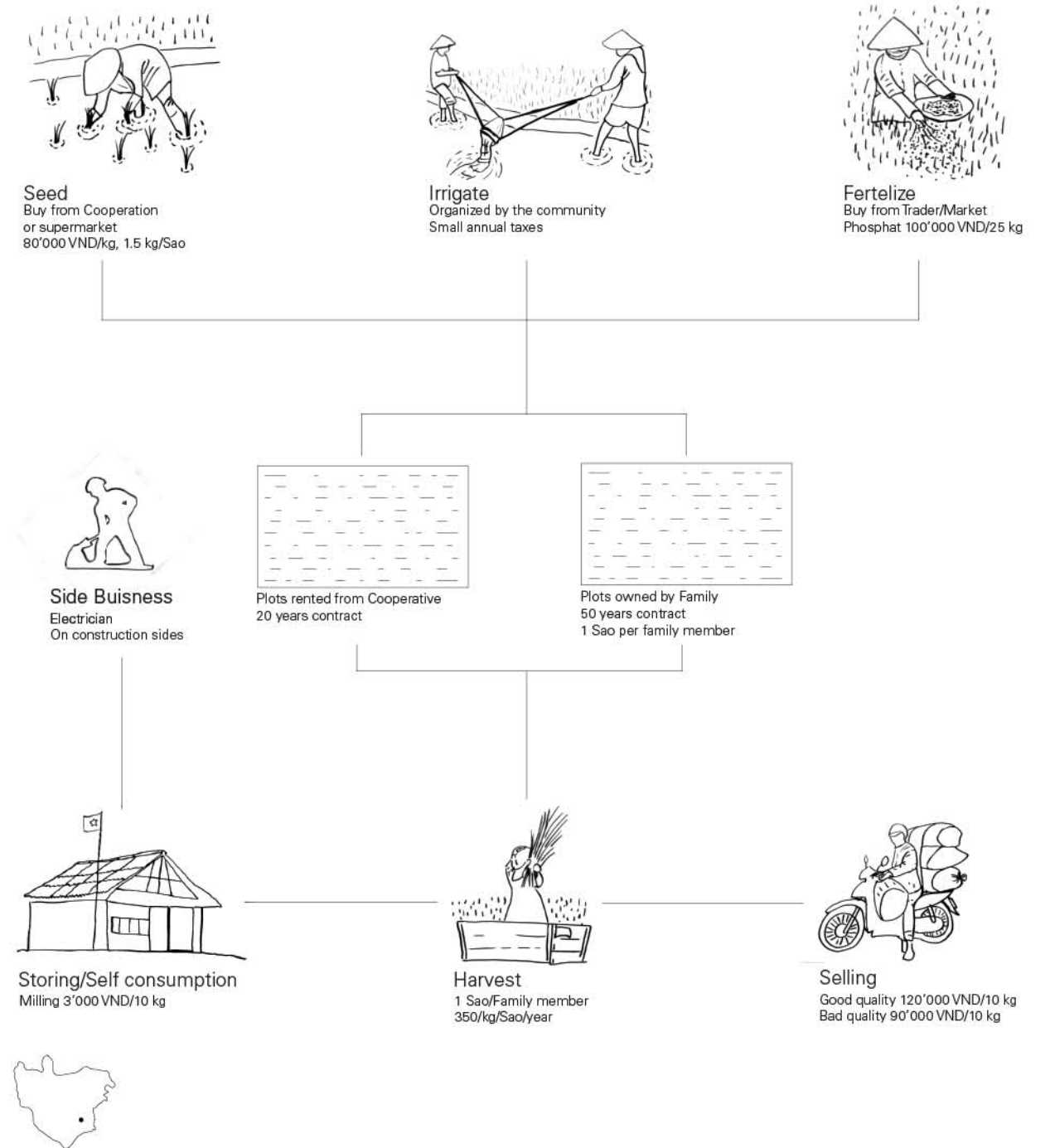


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### The relation between Vietnam and its agriculture

As one of the two cornchambers of Vietnam, the Red River Delta is crucial for the supply of Vietnam, as well as for the economy. Due to its labour intense production, agriculture is also important for the level of employment. Most of the farmers in the Red River Delta produce for self-sufficiency or for the local market. As a staple food, rice takes a big part of the agricultural land and is cultivated, beside other crops, from nearly all of the farmer.



### The rice farmer

The cultivation of rice is still done in a traditional way but the choice of seeds and its quality increased. While the profit is low, most of the harvest is used for self consumption. Surplus rice is usually sold via farm gate collection and brought to local markets.

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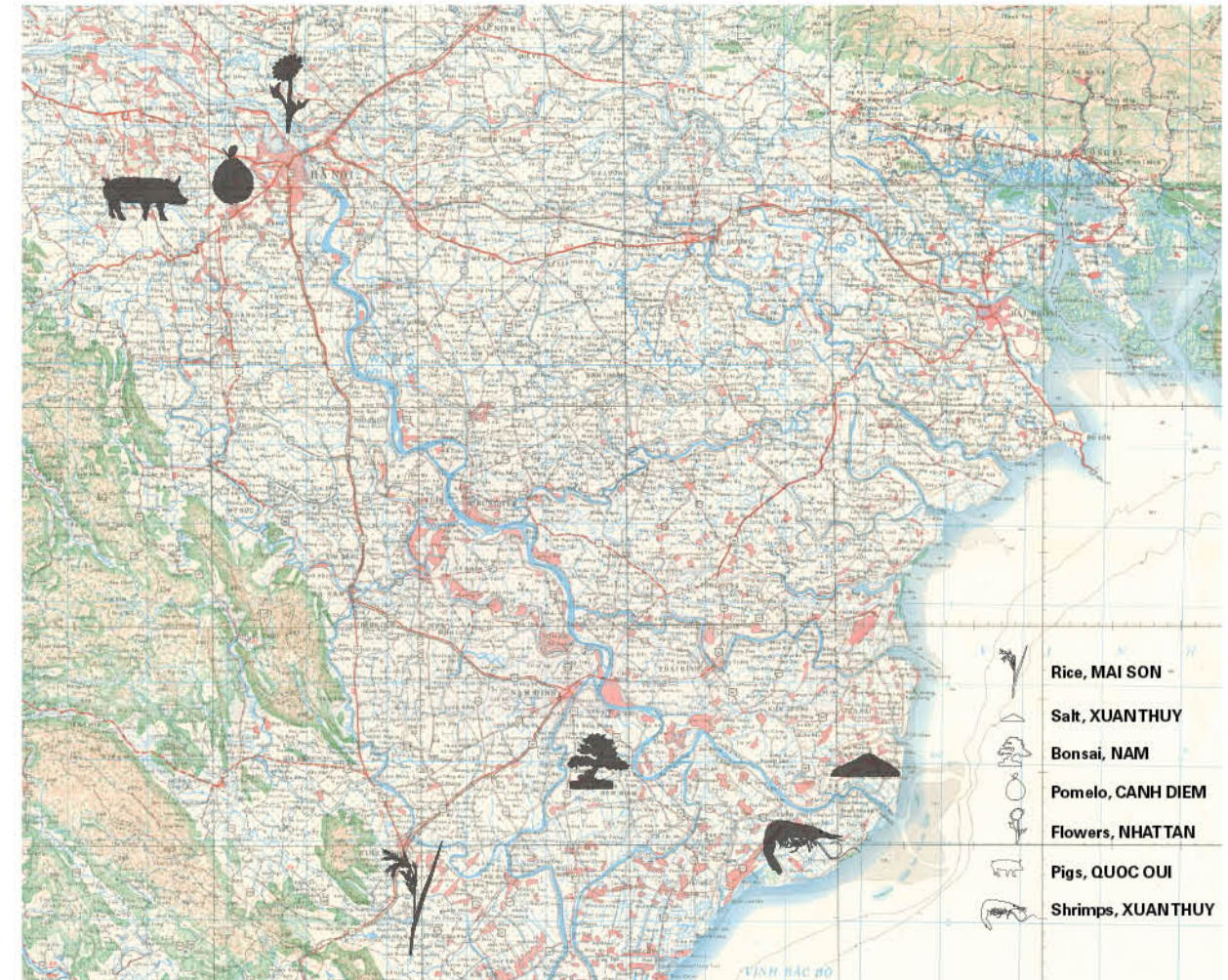
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### The flat lands of Vietnam

According to the topographic map, it is obvious that Vietnam contains two big flat lands, the Mekong Delta and the Red River Delta. Compared to the rest of the country, this two regions have a big potential in agriculture due to their topographic characteristics. These results in the fact that most of Vietnam's agricultural production is hosted in these regions. Due to its higher productivity, most of the agricultural export products are cultivated in the region of the Mekong Delta.



### The main occupancy of the land

In the Red River Delta, most of the land is occupied by agriculture. However, the agricultural land in the Red River Delta is decreasing as the urbanized and industrialized land is growing. Due to the lack of uncultivated areas, new production sites or urban developments are always on the expense of agricultural lands.

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### Characteristics of structures in the Delta

The rural areas in the Red River Delta have some common appearances, which are somehow characteristic for this region. While their developments are from different processes, they meld into a very memorable picture of this areas.



**Gravestones:** In the understanding of a Vietnamese farmer, the dead should always be buried where they lived and worked. For this reason, on many fields in the Red River Delta, small graveyards or single graves can be found.



**Sharp outline:** The outlines of settlements in agricultural areas are mostly very sharp. The fields end immediately at the houses of the settlements which are rather densifying than growing to the outside.



**Stripe plots:** The stripe farming is a very typical form of field structure. It is caused by different reasons such as equality during the distribution of land, as a protection of landerosion or to share damage in a flood dangered area close to the river.

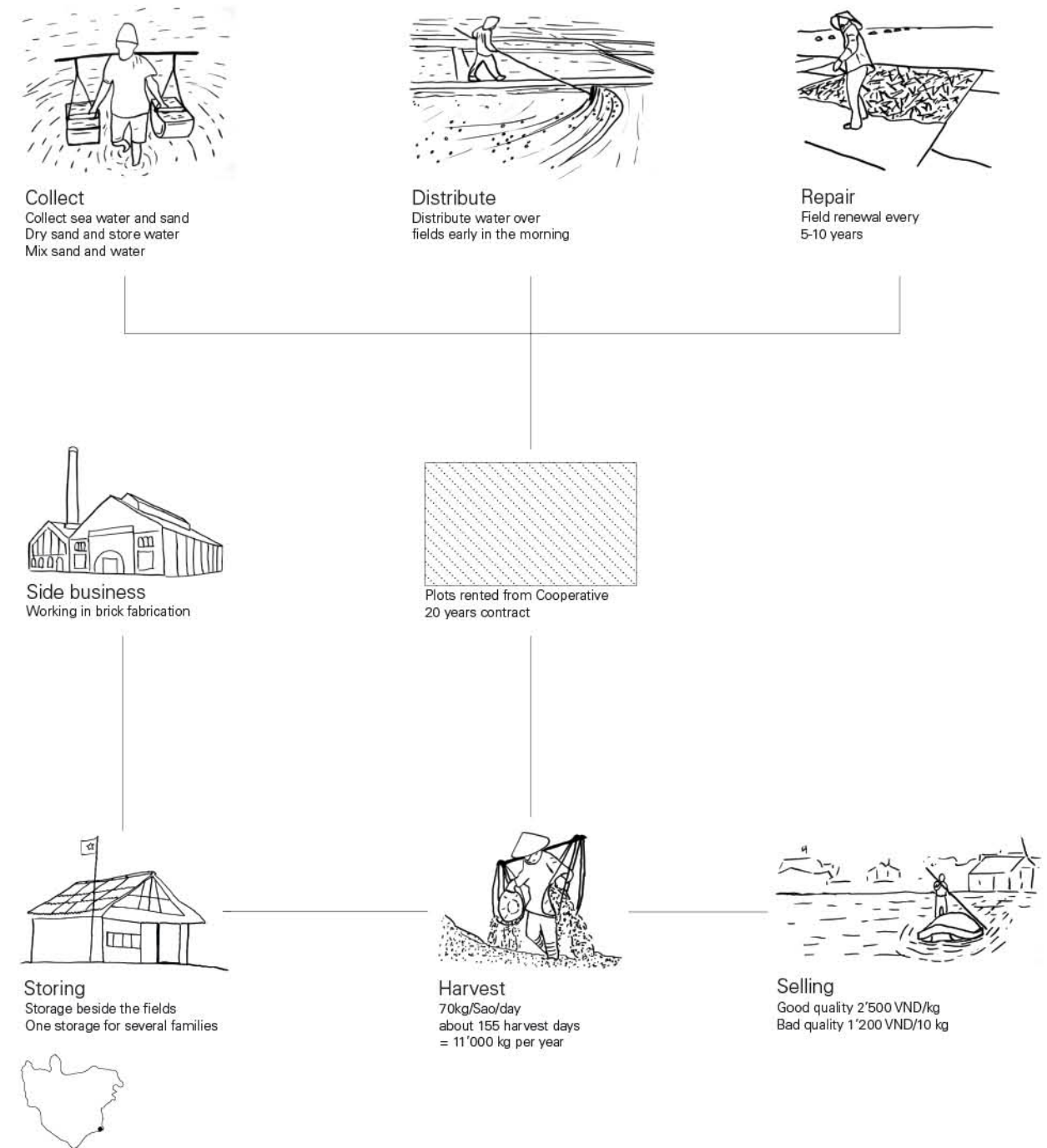


**River:** Most of the settlements are built along rivers. While the residential houses are built only on one side of the river, but on both sides of a road following the riverline, farming buildings remain on the other side of the river.



### Characteristics of structures on the coast

The coastline looks even more artificial than the rest of the cultivation land in the Red River Delta. There are enormous areas covered with shrimp and fish ponds and large field structures for salt production, covered with concrete and sand.



### The Salt Farmer

The salt production in this region started about 40 years ago, as the rice cultivation in this area is not so productive due to the salty grounds. The plots are covered with concrete surfaces and sand that is put out to dry. During winter time, when no work has to be done in salt production, they work in close by brick factories.

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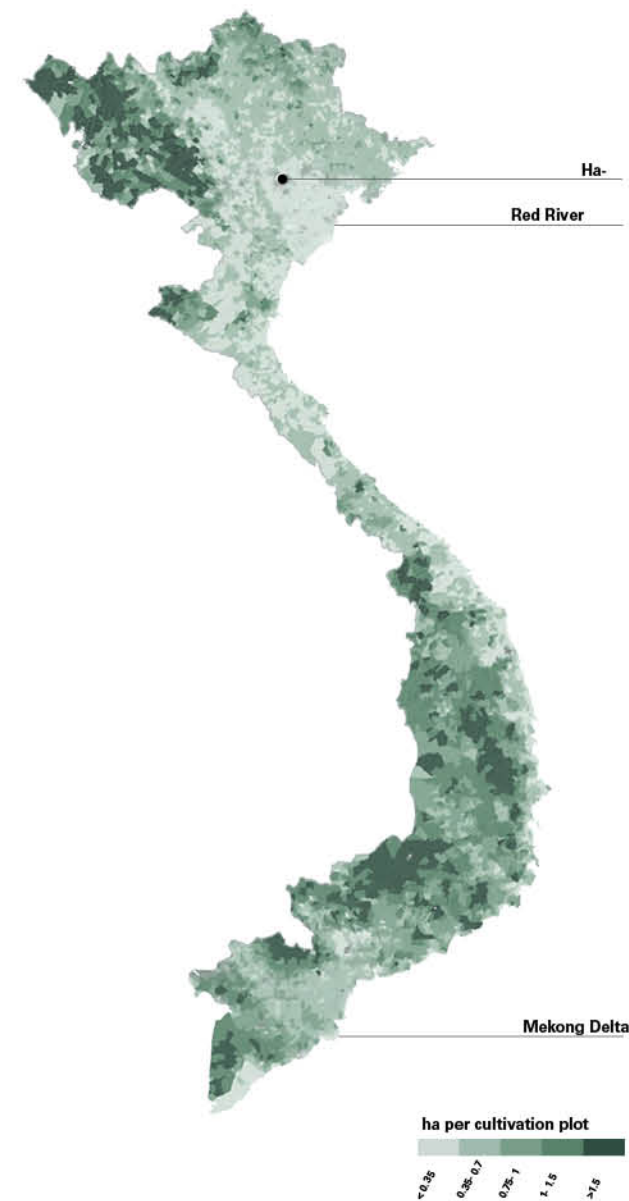




- Farmer Families**  
Small plots, try to grow enough to be self-sufficient
- Big land owner**  
3% of rich farmers own 22% of the land
- Landless people**  
Together with the poor farmers they hold 58% of the population

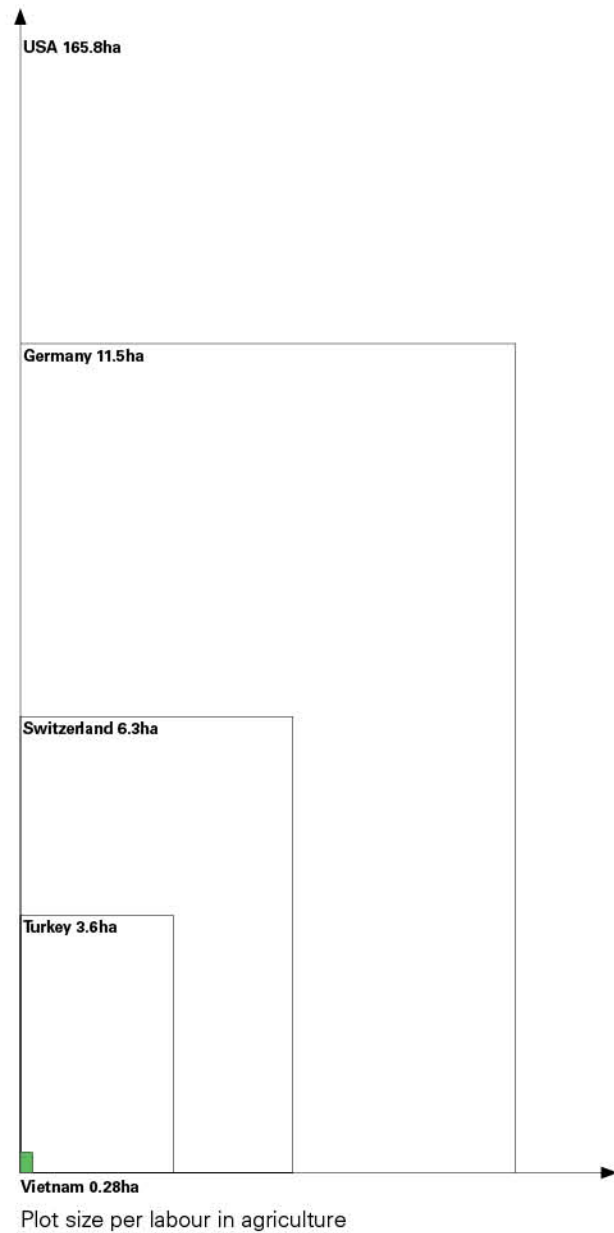
### Land distribution before 1955

At the time before 1955, the land is splitted up in two groups of land owner and a number of landless people who mostly worked as field labour. The system of big land owner is introduced by the occupying french, and therefore, many of the big farms are owned by foreigners, mostly french, but also chinese. The farming families can earn only little with the relatively small amount of land they own and produce more or less for self-sufficiency.



### Significant difference in plot sizes

In comparison to other parts of agricultural land in Vietnam, the Red River Delta has relatively small plot sizes, although it has the function of being one of two cornchambers in Vietnam. Different aspects like the historical development of the plot sizes and their distribution in the community or the form of cultivation of the local grown crop can be reasons for this.



### The closely meshed grid

The Plot size per labour working in agriculture is small, 22.5 times smaller than in Switzerland. At the beginning of the socialism era, the land was distributed to all citizens and therefore divided. Furthermore the irrigation system and the uneven ground are also playing a role in forming the grid.

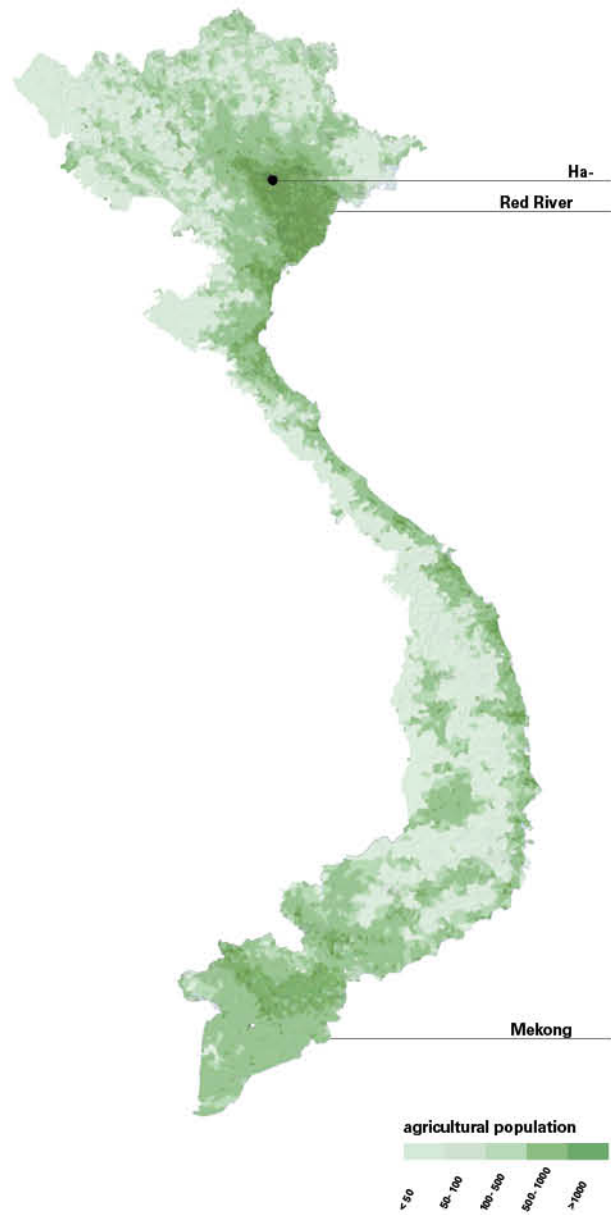


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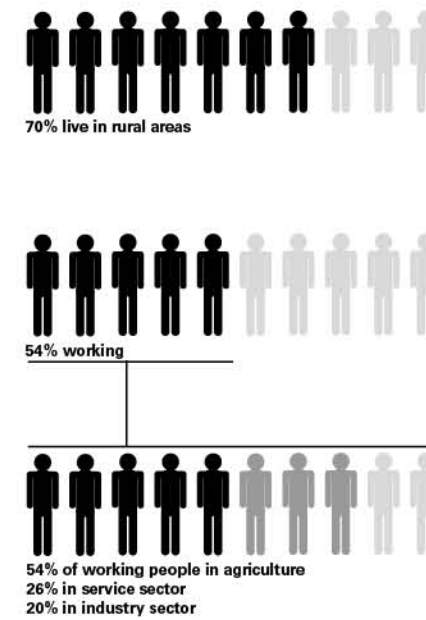
### Changing way of life

The tradition of agriculture in Vietnam kept many people in the agricultural sector until today. But with the economic growth, prices are rising and agricultural products are, in relation to other products, losing its financial worth. As a reaction, farmers start to search for other sources of income, to keep up with the life standard. The younger generation is leaving the rural area towards cities or industrial parks, but most of them keep a connection to the parents' farmland.



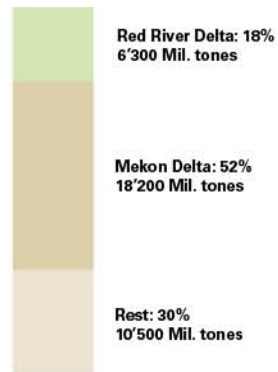
### Labour-intensive Production

Equal to population density, the density of people working in agriculture is very high in the Red River Delta. This shows the importance of the Delta not only in the meaning of production, but also for employment and the impact range for transformations in agriculture.

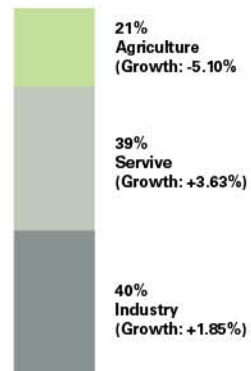


### Agriculture as still the main employer

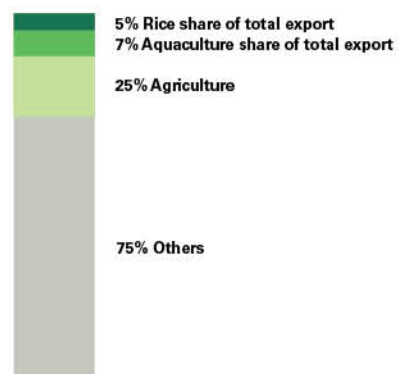
Of all working people more than half are still working in the agricultural Sector, although it is the sector with the smallest financial profit and therefore with the lowest life standart.



Rice Production



Gross Domestic Product



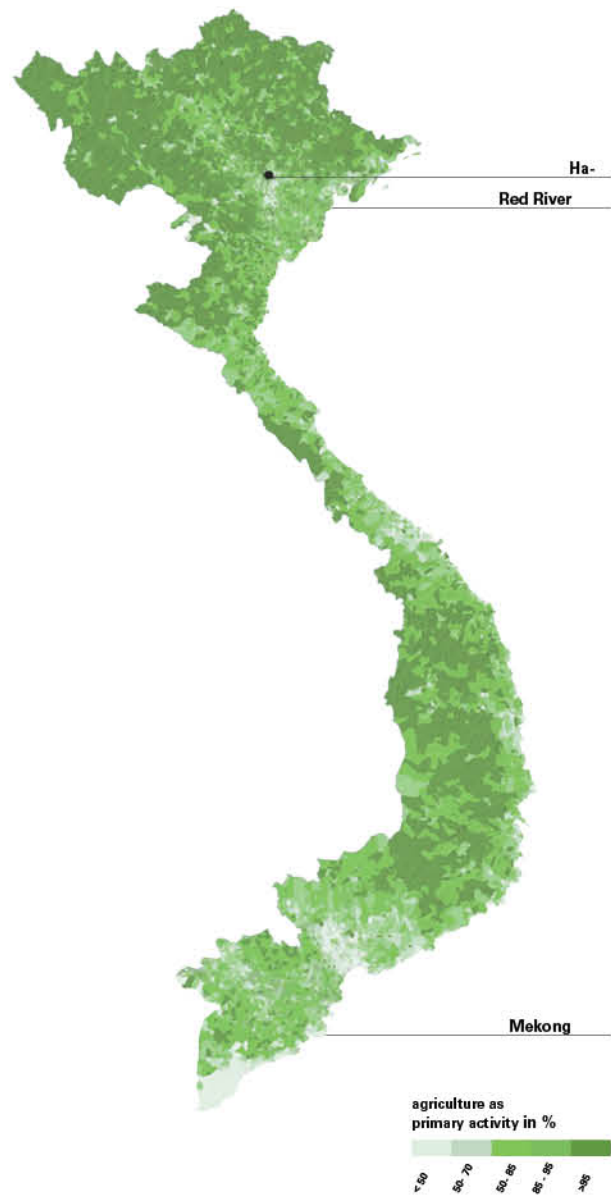
Export

### Competing industry and service sector

Even if the agricultural sector is slowly losing its importance compared to the service and industrial sector, it still holds a big share in the gross domestic product (GDP) and in export and points its role in Vietnam's economy.



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### Income compensation

In the Red River Delta, households with agriculture as primary activity are below 50%, which means, farmers have found other income sources that are more profitable than agriculture. In many cases the role of agriculture has changed from main business to an activity with low income but support of stable food.



To expand urban areas, new construction workers are needed in different positions.



Bigger textile factories employ a lot of younger people. During harvest time, many of them return to the fields.

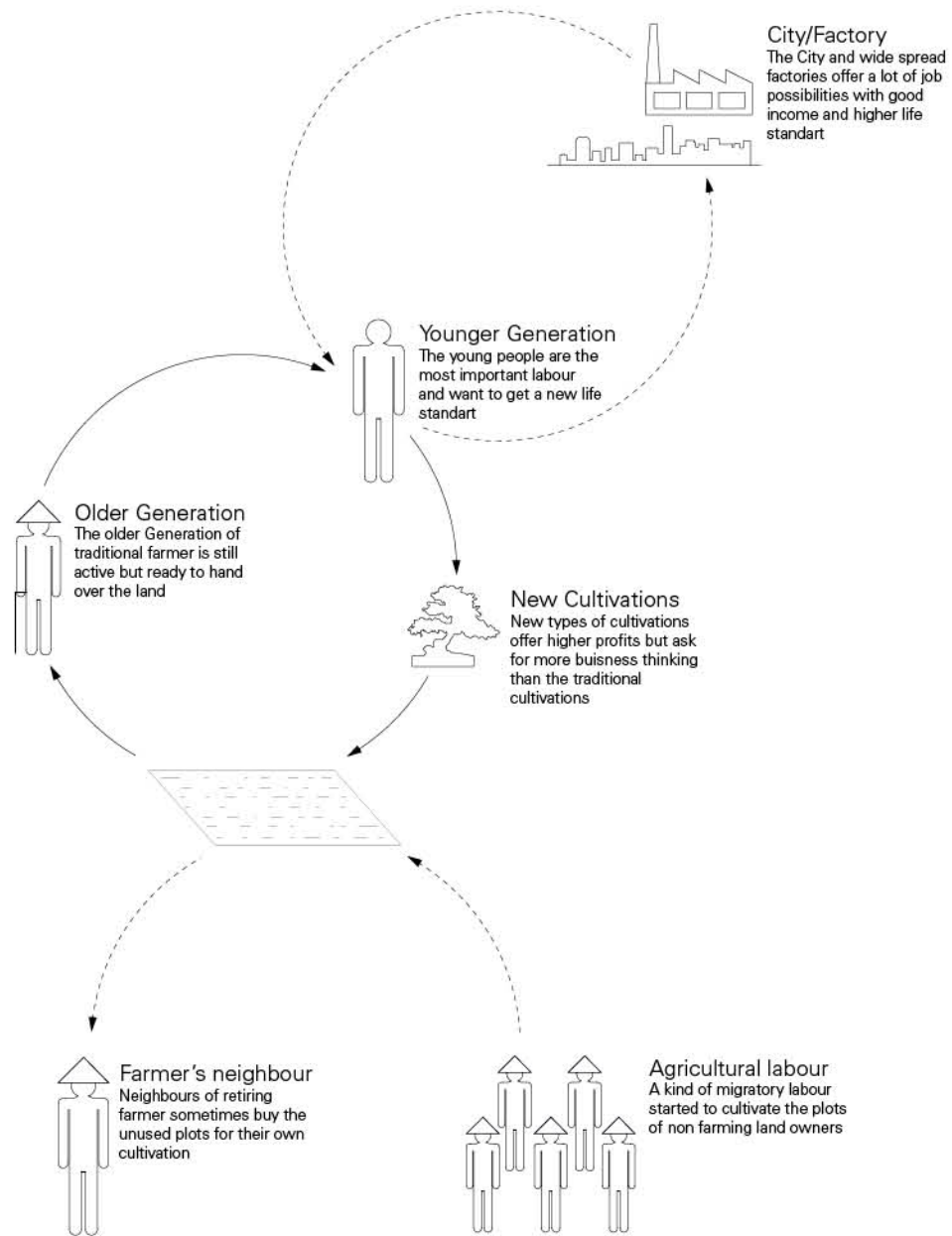


The increasing sector of Tourism asks for new labour in service sector, like trader or guides.



Small textile businesses employ sewers who are working during evenings, while throughout the day they work on the fields.

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### Who's working the land

Expecting higher life standart, most of the younger people are leaving agriculture for the city or factories. One way to convince them to stay are higher valued products with prospect of wealth. While the older Generation keeps cultivating, at some point they have to decide what to do with their fields as the young probably wont come back. When fields are kept in family property, agricultural labour is employed for field work, if not, fields are usually sold to neighbours



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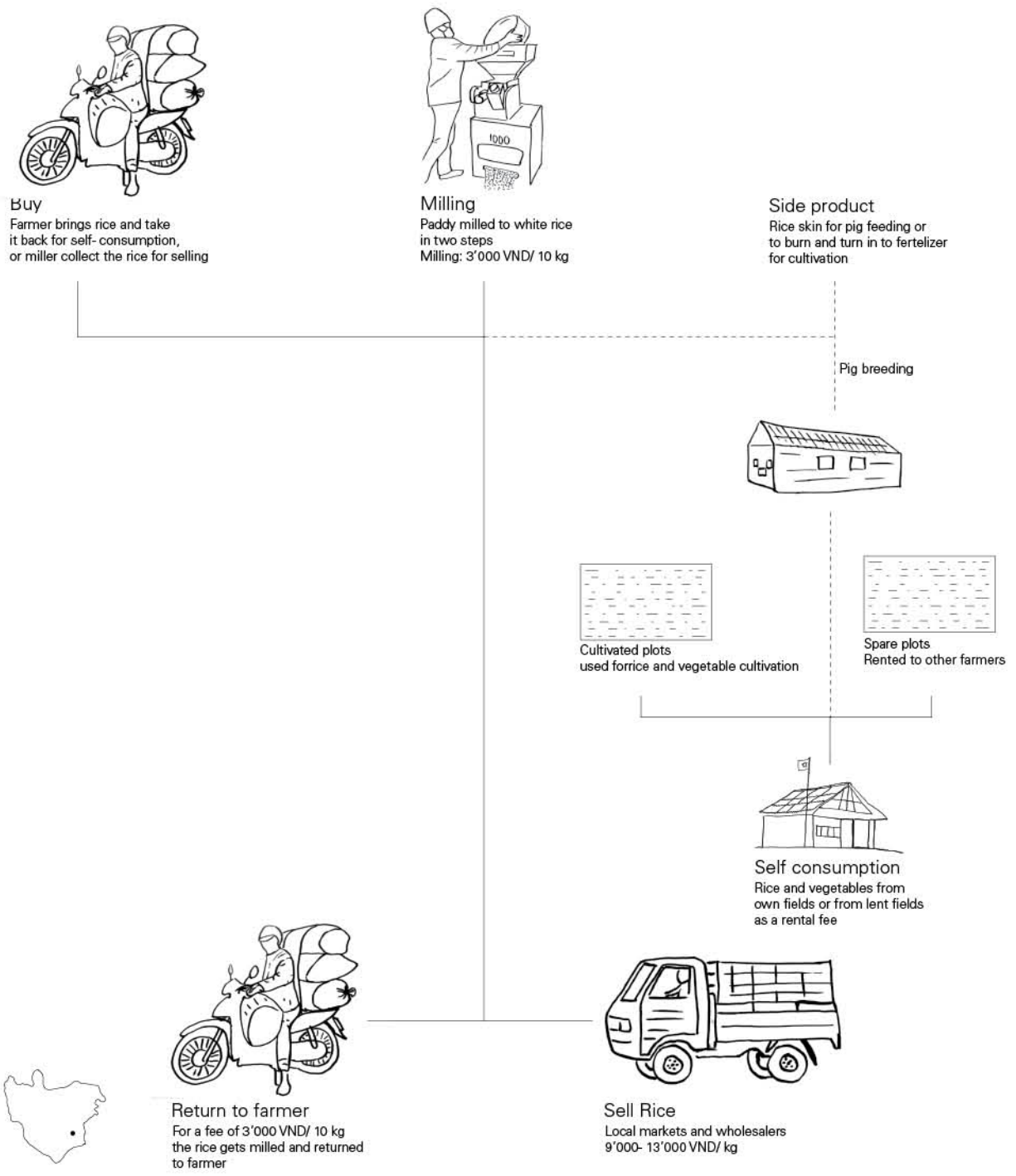
## REMAINS OF COLLECTIVE ORGANISATION

In 1950 the Vietnamese communist party planned to use collectivization to transform a poor, agrarian society to a nation with a strong and stable national economy. But the collectivized agricultural organisation lacked in productivity. Vietnamese farmers are more successful producing privately for household consumption or for the free market. But some organisation processes in agricultural production still remain the collectiv organisation.



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### Rice Processing

While milling machines as well as animals and the water distribution were collective, the milling machines and the animal breeding became a private business after the decollectivization. The work points, where farmer had to deliver their crops to the collective, today are milling business'. Also the animal breeding developed to a business and an important part of self-sufficiency.

### The Miller

In the process of securing the supply of markets, the miller is a stock holder of rice. Usually the miller uses collectors to buy the rice from the farmer. Depending on the demand, the miller returns the rice to the farmer for a milling fee, or the rice is sold to wholesalers or the local market.

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Private part of plot  
Free for private cultivation, for self-sufficiency or selling

State-owned part  
Predetermined cultivation and collected harvest

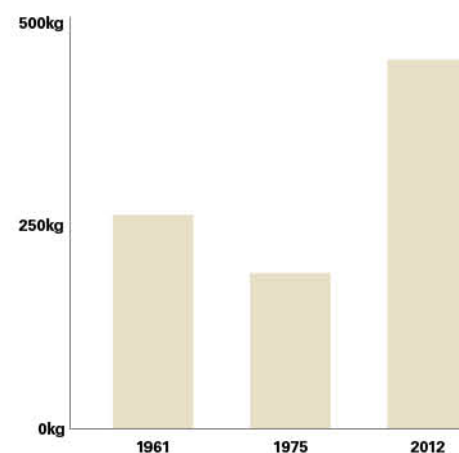
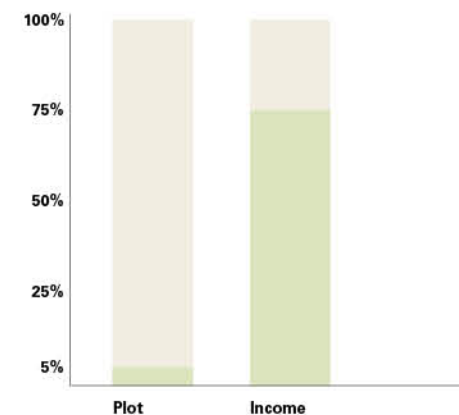


The hole land is owned and controlled by the state

Farmer plots  
Farmers have their plots for predetermined cultivation

### Collectivization of land

With the collectivization, the state of North Vietnam incorporates all the land. Big-land owners are dismissed (over 50'000 get killed), their land is split up into small plots and shared to the people (every citizen gets a part of land). City-citizen as well as landless people get a part of land for agricultural cultivation. But the growing crops are predetermined and the harvest is collected by the cooperatives, the farming people receive only a small share. A small part of the plots are free for private cultivation.

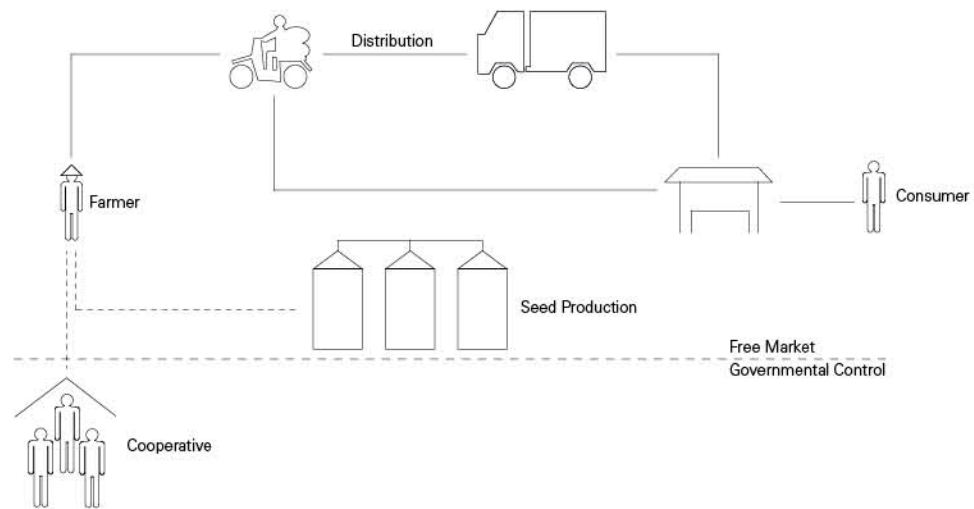
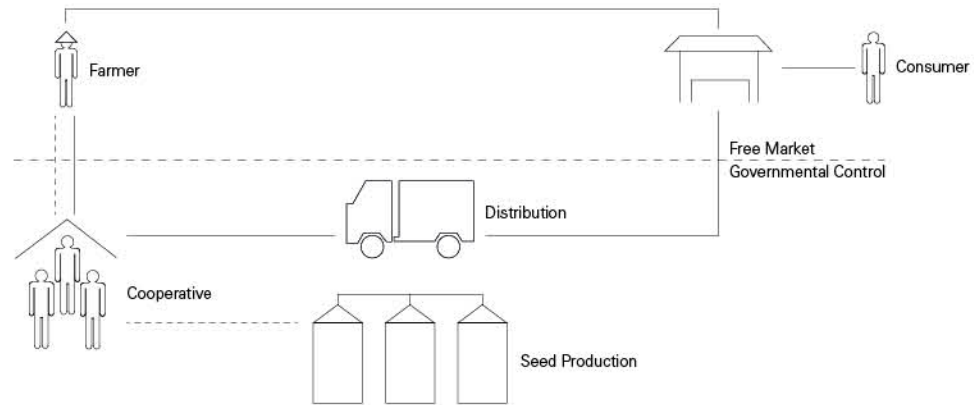


Rice production

### Responsibility and productivity

During the times of collectivization, farmer had their plots where they cultivated predetermined crops for the collectives. Only 5% of the plots could be used for private cultivation. But the farmer had not much motivation for the collective fields and due to lacking responsibility, the post-harvest losses were huge. This might be one important reason, why the government changed the system back to a more self-dependent way of field cultivation.

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Supply  
Products

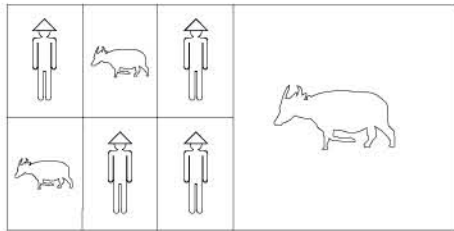
### Cooperatives and what's left

Looking at the situation before the decollectivization, the distribution from the farmer to the consumer was nearly completely organized over the cooperative, while only a small share of the production went directly from the farmer to the consumer. Today the distribution ways are liberalize to a free market, where the colletive is playing more the role of a farmer union.

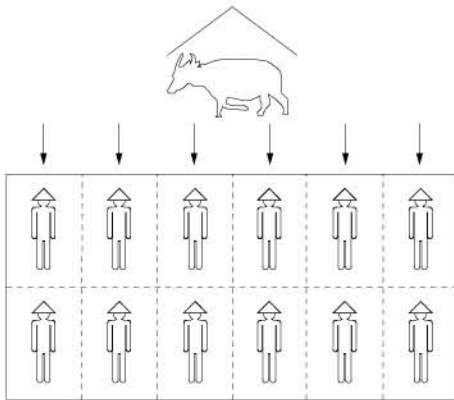


Football match in the area of Quoc Oui

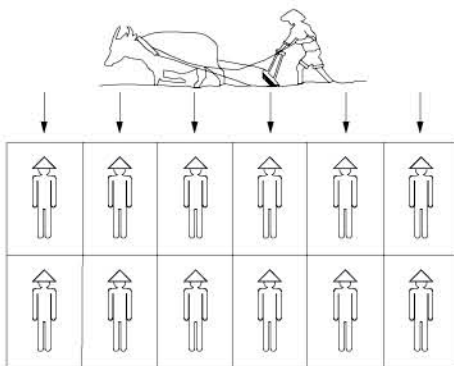
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Most rich farmer own a Buffalo, some poor farmer families do the field work without Buffalo



Buffalos are in possession of the cooperatives, which provide Buffalos to farmer



Buffalo is owned by private person/community and rented for the field work

### To whom belongs the Buffalo

In the history of Vietnams agriculture, the buffalo had always been an important animal as it stands for success in production. Treaded like a special family member, the farmer use the buffalo for field work, but in the Red River Delta, even though the buffalo is not ideal for this, the farmer use the buffalo also for milk and meat production. It is a official goal, to keep the number of buffalos, as they are an important counterpart to the machine.

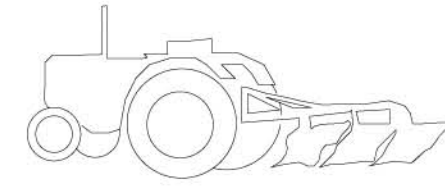
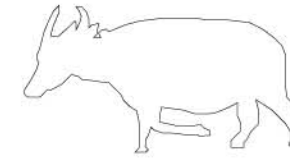


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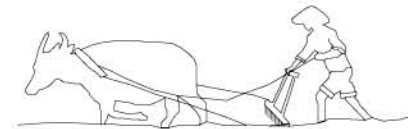


### Role of buffalos in the Red River Delta

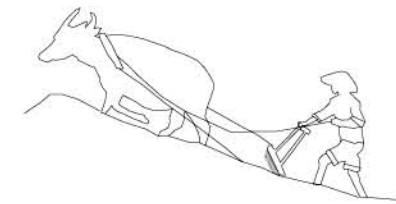
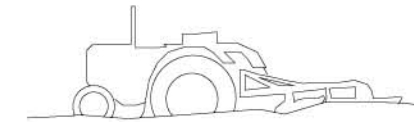
The buffalo density in the north of the country is much higher than in the south, although in the Red River Delta, most buffalo holding household have 2 buffalos, while in the mountain regions the number is higher. This is a sign for the level of mechanization comparing the south with the north. During the 1970's they tried in the Red River Delta to work with Sowjet Tractors, but it did not pay off for different reasons.



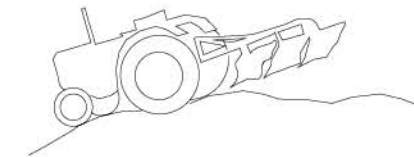
Accessibility to the corners



Soft ground



Uneven ground



Available amount



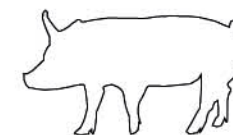
Life cycle cost



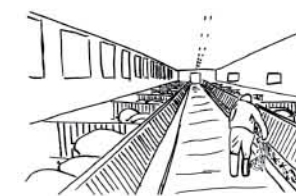
### Buffalo vs Machine

Due to the land characteristics of the Red River Delta, the buffalo is in advantage comparing to the machine doing the same duty. The buffalo can handle the uneven, soft grounds much better and reaches the corners of small plots. The machine also have much higher access and life cycle costs.

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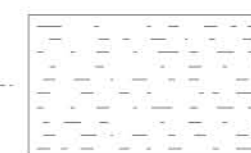


**Breeding**  
Young pig of 7 kg  
costs 1Mio. VND



**Feeding**  
Breeding to 100 kg in  
4 month with rice skin  
140 kg per year

**Side product**  
Biogas and fertilizer  
produced from pig dung



1000 Orange trees, Ricefields and  
Vegetables

**Fertilize**  
Fertilizer used for  
cultivated fields



**Selling**  
45'000 VND/kg  
Company or slaughter buys  
and collects pig in village center



**Self consumption**  
Rice and vegetables  
from own fields

**Cooking**  
Biogas used for  
cooking



### The Pig Farmer

After the decollectivization, the animal breeding has been distributed to the farmer, while some of them used their few pigs to rise a profitable pig breeding. Today's pig farmer started to use as much technology to get the most out of their pigfarming, such as biogas production.

### Self-sufficiency

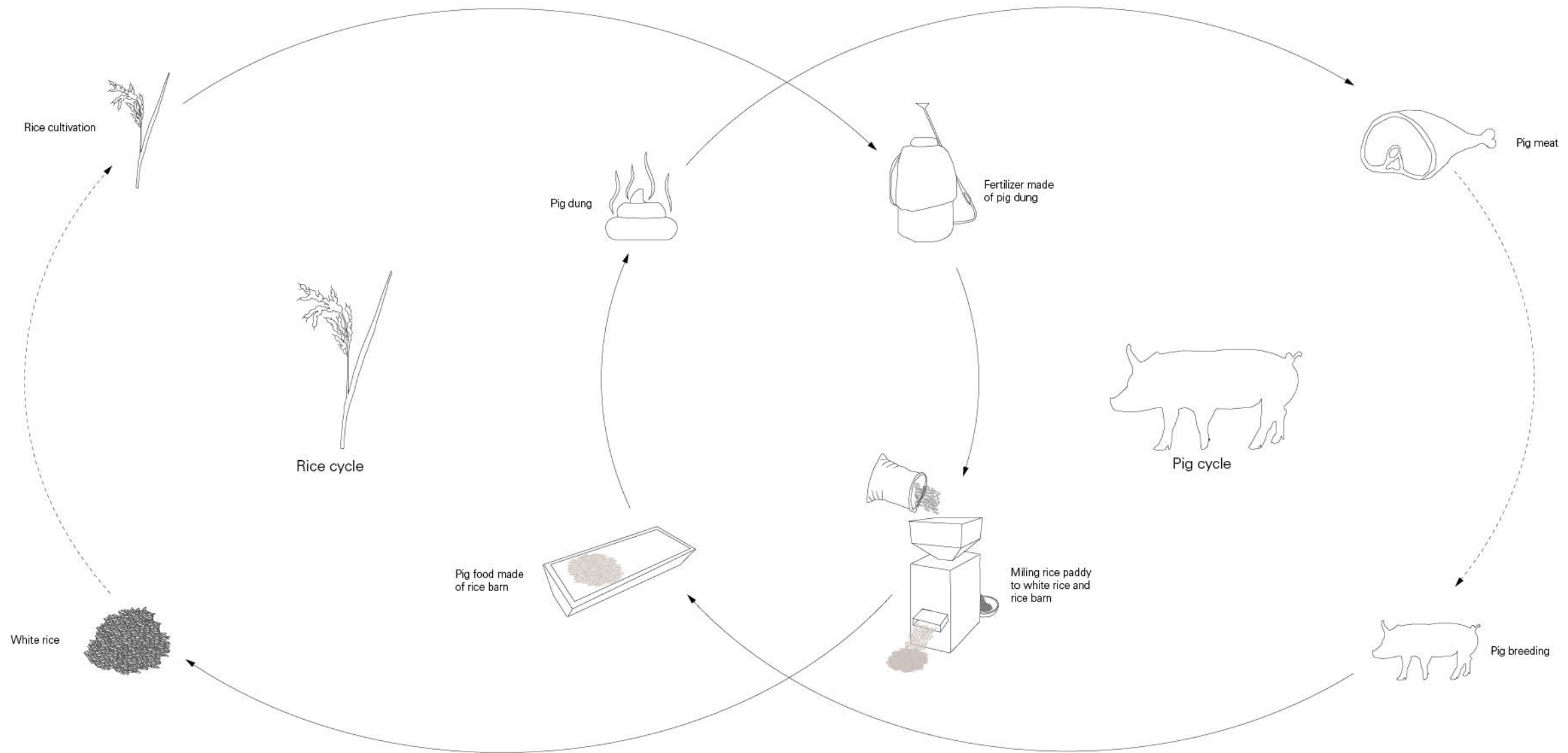
Trying to be as independent from the fluctuating prices for agricultural products, most of the farmer cultivate different sorts of crops as well as different animals. This is also a way to be more self-sufficient and therefore independent. Between the traditional cultivations many connections can be found, for example the overlapping from the rice cycle with the pig cycle which have some synergies. It is a basic rule to re-use as much as possible to increase the output and minimize the waste.

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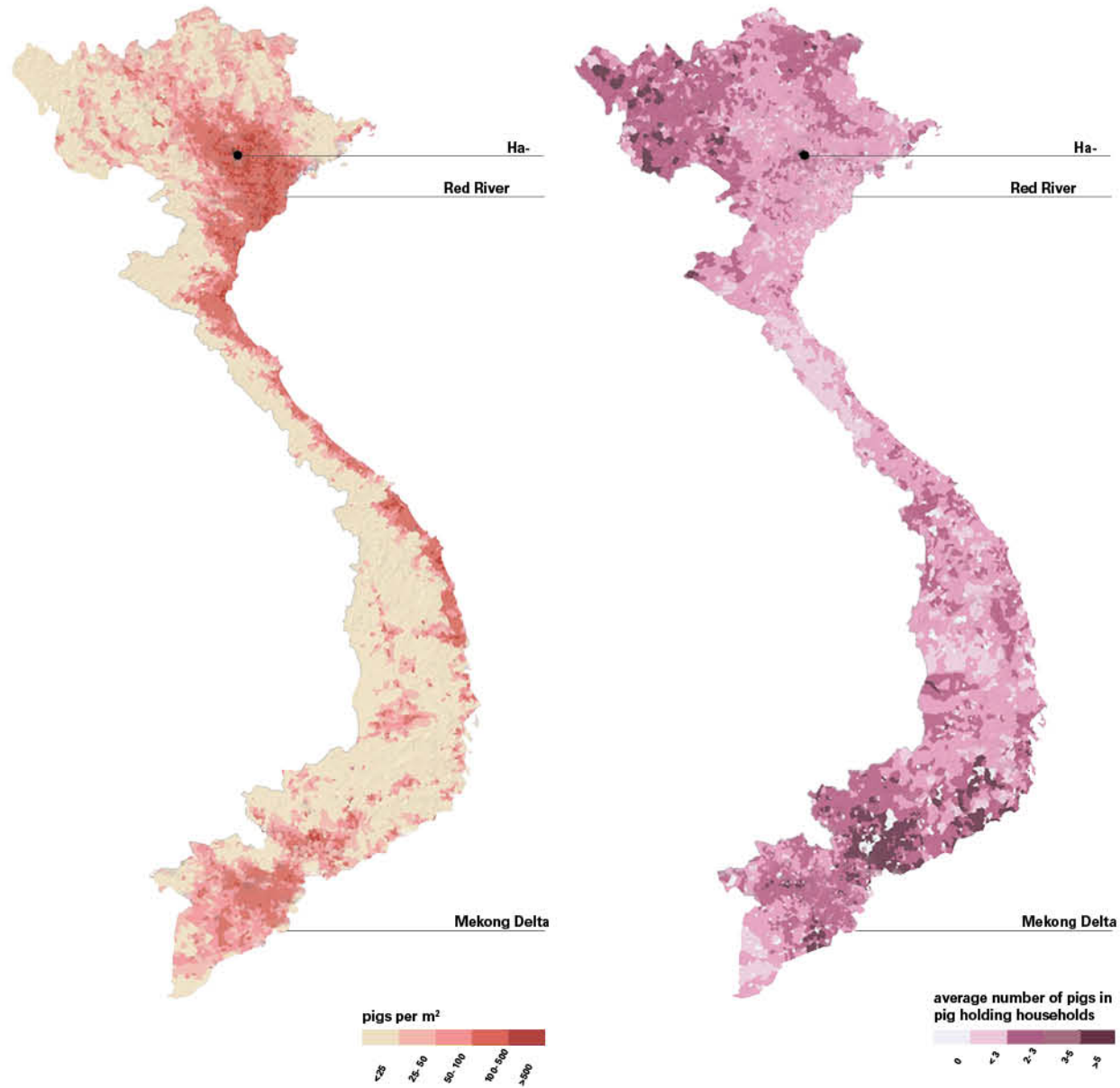




### Recycle in traditional cultivation

The rice cultivation produces some waste during the milling process, the rice husk can be used to feed pigs, while the dung of the pigs is usually used as a fertilizer. The overlapping of these two processes cause a close relationship and therefore, many rice farmer are also holding some pigs.

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### Reactions to market instability

While the pig density is high in areas of human concentration, the number of pigs per household show that most farmers use pig breeding as a side business or for their own use as a meat provider.

The fact, that most farmers have wide assortments of products (including rice, vegetables, aquaculture, poultry, pigs) can be read as a reaction on rapid fluctuation of prices in agricultural products from which the farmer try to protect themselves.



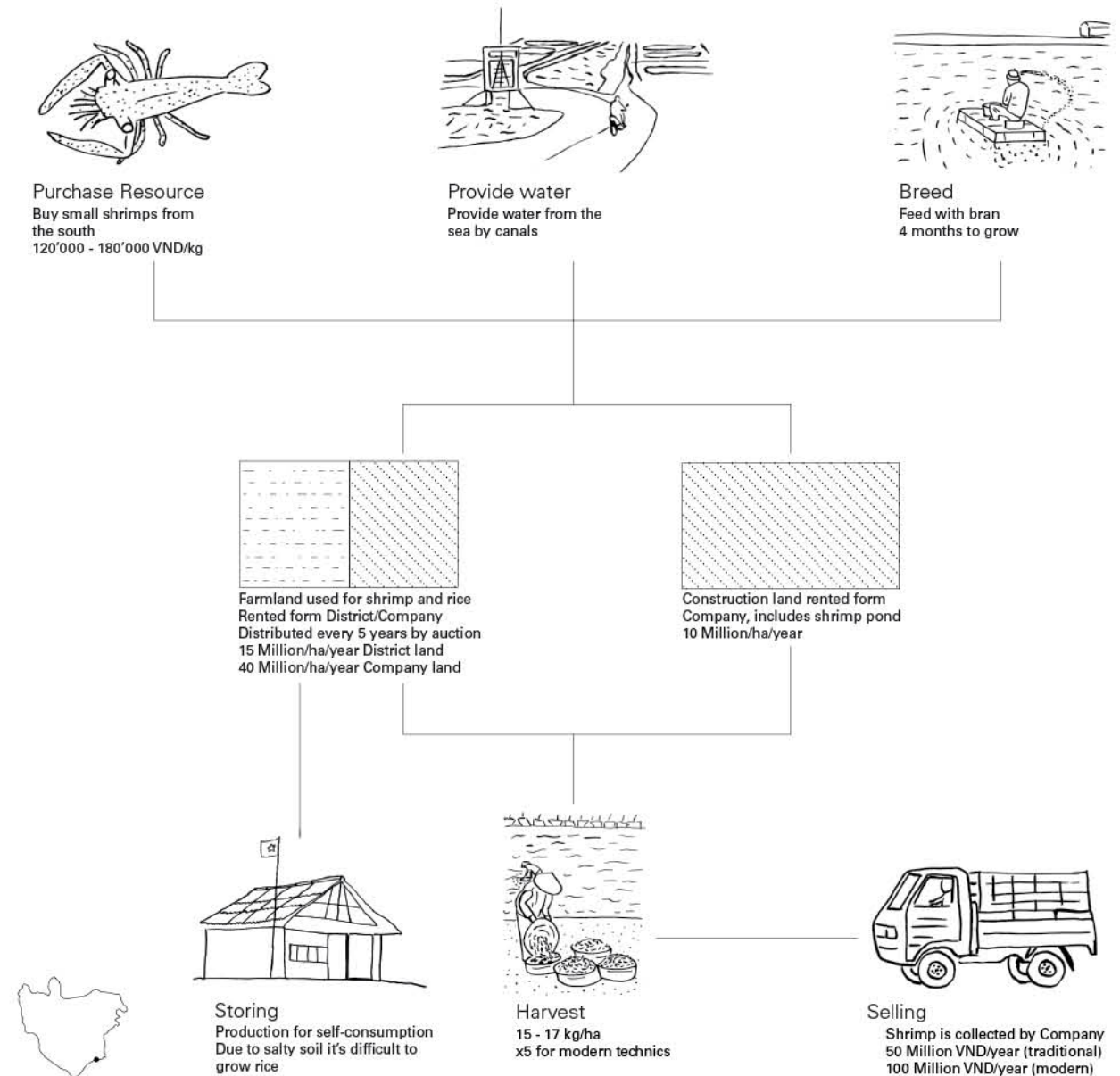
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## TOWARDS AN OPEN MARKET

After having major problems with the supply of the country and low productivity on the fields, the leading party decided to loose the restrictions on land law and predetermined cultivation. In the same time, the isolation on the world market decreased, the borders opened for international trade. This shift into a more liberal economy caused a boost in economic growth, also in the agricultural sector, which became an exporting branch of Vietnam's economy. Due to the release in land law, many farmers started to change their cultivations to export oriented products.



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### The Shrimp Farmer

Because it was difficult to grow rice in the salty ground close to sea and aquaculture promised high profits, the farmer were easy to convince to change their rice fields to shrimp ponds. While they cultivate shrimp or fish over the most time of the year, they still grow rice in the low season in their ponds. As the launch investement for shrimp is high, the anual purchase of larvae costs more than the usual rice seed and the land fees are more expensive than for rice fileds, the farmer are under bigger pressure of success.

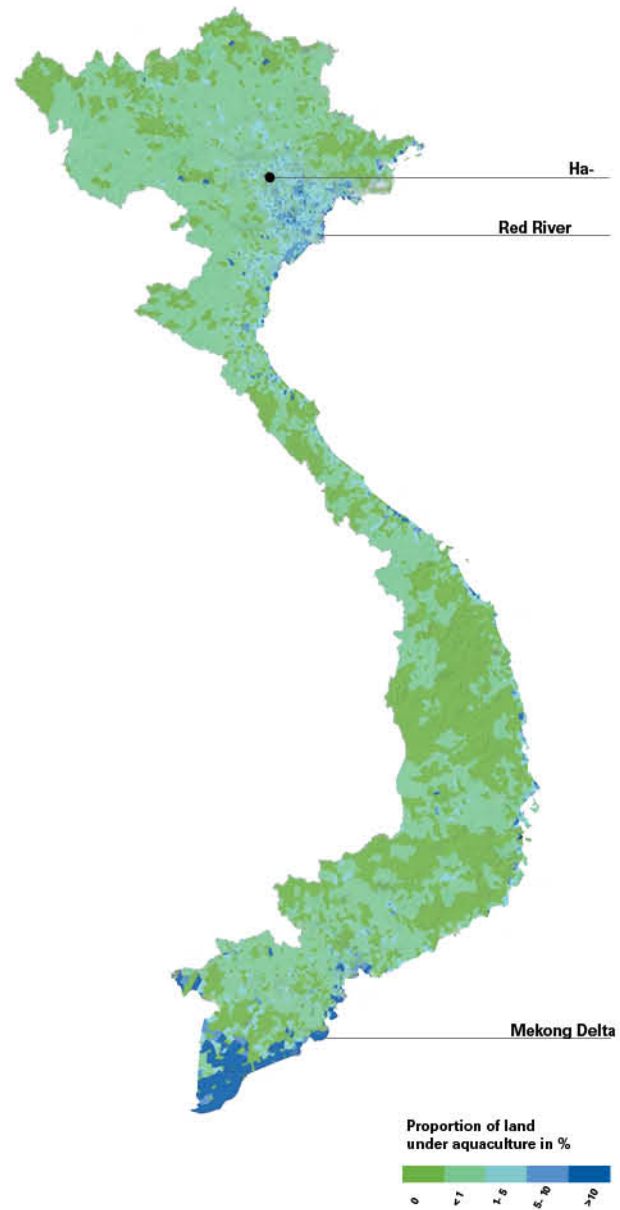
### Searching for high value products

With the rise of the export economy and development of technology, Vietnam's agriculture was searching for a new, higher valued product, which could be exported. Due to its coastel location, Viet-nam started to cultivate shrimp and fish on a grand scale. Hole areas were transformed in prospect of high profits, and many farmers were convinct to change their rice fields to fish ponts.

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### Proportion of land under aquaculture

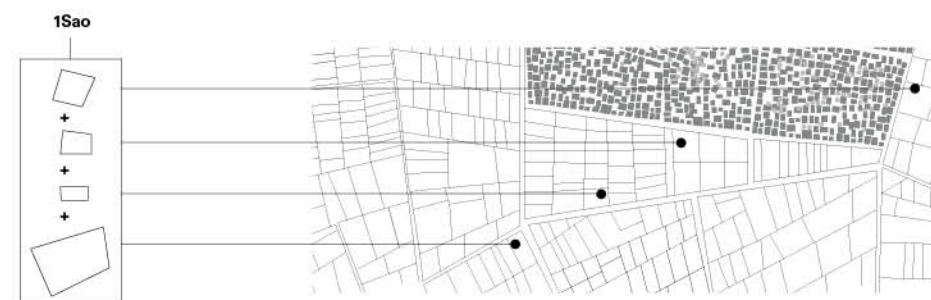
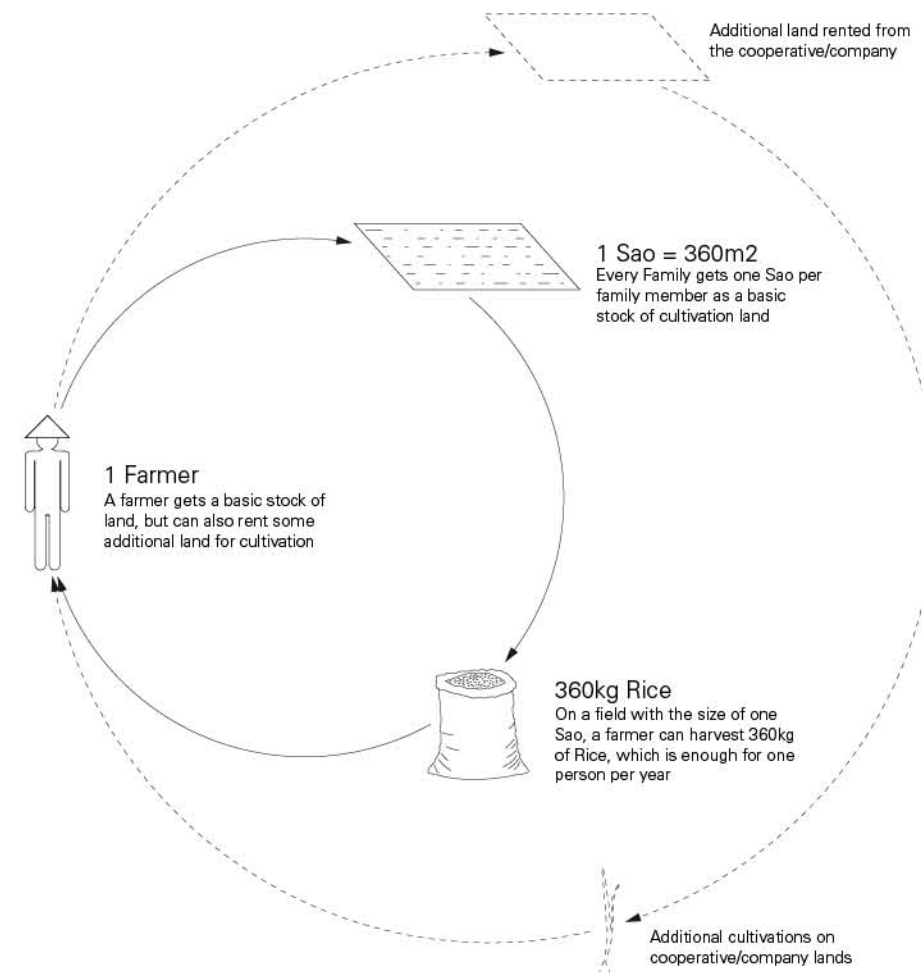
The main center of aquaculture in Vietnam is still the Mekong Delta, but beside the big aquaculture farms in the south, the Red River Delta has developed a more small scale but widely spread cultivation of aquaculture.





### Redistribution of land

Faced with high post-harvest losses and the threat of a famine, the government realized that a more private, family based land would encourage the farmer to increase their production. In 1989 an important land law reform took place and changed the way how the land and its production was handled. From now on, farmer were free in their choice of crops and instead of handing the harvest over to the state, they could sell their products and pay a land tax with the income. The consequence was a privatisation of the agricultural output market and a decentralization of input supplies. In 1993 the land was finally distributed to the people and each would get a piece of land (1 Sao) with a 50 year contract, and the option, if available, to rent additional land.



### One Person, One Sao

1 Sao is not compact. There are 4 different sorts of plots (near, far, good, bad) existing. Each citizen has the same amount of each quality.

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# Vietnams Bauern wehren sich

Eskalierender Konflikt um Landrechte

In Vietnam häufen sich die Proteste landloser Bauern. Die Regierung signalisiert Verständnis, scheut sich aber vor grundlegenden Reformen.

Marco Kauffmann Bossart, Singapur

Der vietnamesische Bauer Doan Van Vuon hat in seiner Heimat tragische Berühmtheit erlangt. Ein Konflikt um die Nutzungsrechte an 19 Hektaren Land kulminierte im Januar in einer Schlacht mit der Obrigkeit. Hundert Polizisten und Soldaten stürmten nach vietnamesischen Quellen das Anwesen des Bauern in der Stadt Haiphong. Vuons Familie, die sich gegen die Zwangsräumung wehrte, griff zu selbstgebastelten Minen und Schrotflinten. Sechs Beamte wurden verletzt. Der Bauer und drei seiner Verwandten sind seither im Gefängnis.

der Landwirtschaft abhängig.

Der Versuchung, die Bauern bei der Zuteilung von Land auszuhebeln und stattdessen finanzkräftige Unternehmen oder Investoren zu bevorzugen, können korrupte Beamte kaum widerstehen. Ihnen winken nicht zuletzt wegen der rasant steigenden Bodenpreise Bestechungsgelder. Wer sich vor Gericht wehrt, riskiert, von einer voreingekommenen Justiz abgewiesen zu werden, oder das Urteil wird nicht umgesetzt. Der Bauer Vuon erstritt sich 2009 angeblich ein Bleiberecht, wenn er im Gegenzug seine Klage fallenlasse. Dies habe Vuon getan, und dennoch sei er vertrieben worden, sagen seine Angehörigen. Nicht selten bemüht die Bürokratie auch ein nicht nachvollziehbares «öffentliches Interesse», um Landnutzungsverträge kurzfristig zu beenden.

### Kritik von der Parteispitze

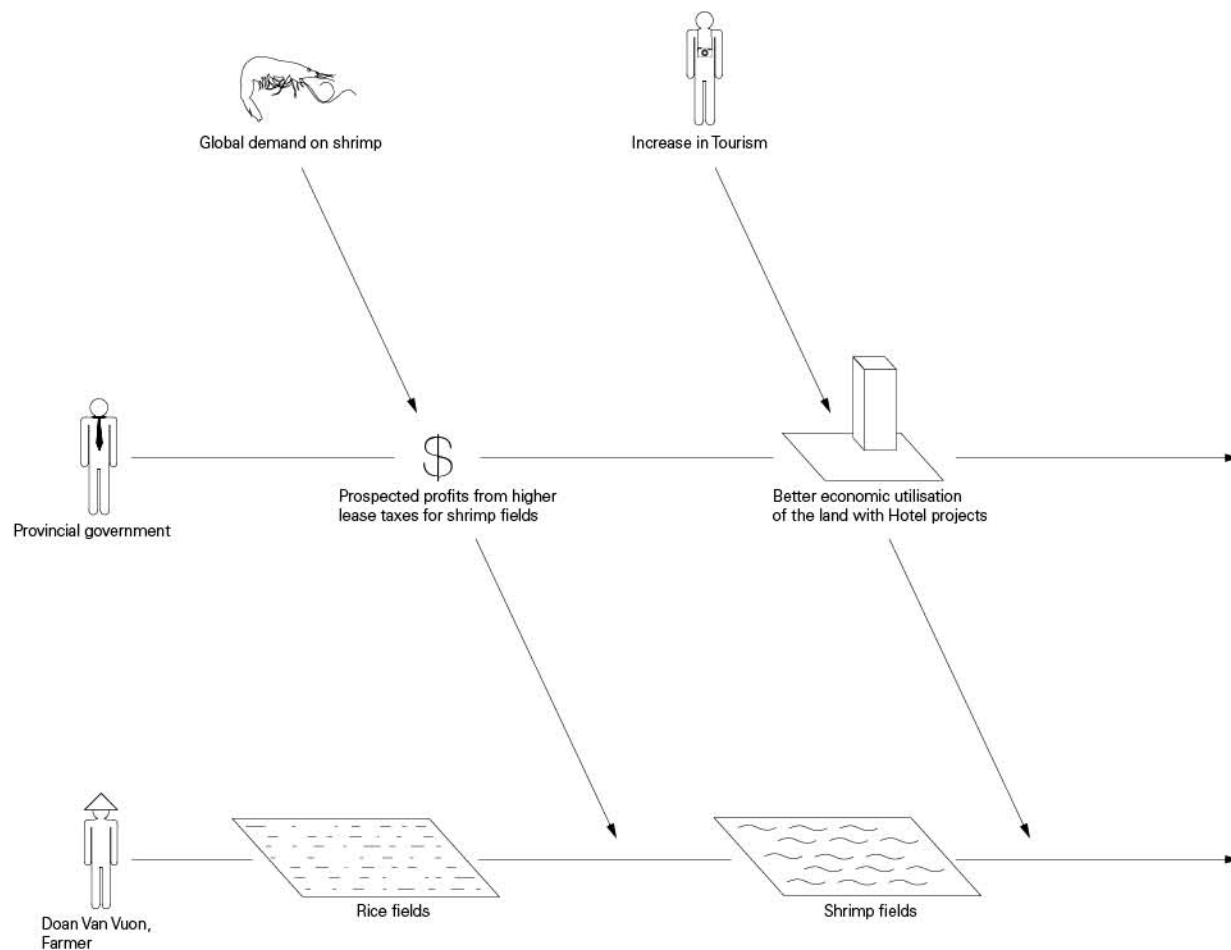
Vietnams Staatspresse berichtete ausführlich über das Drama in Haiphong. Der Fall wirbelte so viel Staub auf, dass Ministerpräsident Nguyen Tan Dung eine Untersuchung zum Verhalten der lokalen Behörden ankündigte. Zudem stellte er fest, die verschiedenen Landgesetze Vietnams seien «inkohärent». Andere Stimmen aus der kommunistischen Partei zeigten offenkundig Verständnis für den verhafteten Bauern. Inzwischen sind zwei subalterne Beamte in ihrem Amt suspendiert worden.

Das Einparteieregime in Hanoi dürfte die Landkonflikte als Gefahr für die innere Stabilität sehen, zumal sich die Proteste in Vietnam zwangsläufig gegen den Staat richten. 1997 brachen in der nördlichen Provinz Thai Binh Unruhen wegen eines Disputs um Land aus. Angesichts des aufgeheizten Klimas wird die Zentralregierung wohl vermehrt Druck ausüben, damit die bald auslaufenden Abkommen mit den Bauern für weitere zwanzig Jahre erneuert werden. Allerdings scheut sie sich laut politischen Beobachtern in Hanoi vor einer Revision der Gesetze. Nur schon eine Verlängerung der maximalen Nutzungsdauer gilt als unwahrscheinlich. Der private Landbesitz, der Bauern mehr Sicherheit geben würde, bleibt vorderhand ein Tabu. Man will keine systemischen Fehler sehen, sondern neigt dazu, Missbräuche auf einzelne Beamte abzuschieben.

### Verlust der Lebensgrundlage

Vuons Zusammenprall mit den Behörden mag ein krasser Einzelfall sein, doch weist er auf ein für Vietnam typisches Grundmuster hin. Die vietnamesischen Bauern können sich zwar das Recht erwerben, Agrarflächen für maximal zwanzig Jahre zu nutzen. Erheben lokale Behörden nach Ablauf der Mietdauer allerdings Anspruch auf das Land, verlieren die Bauern ihre Lebensgrundlage. Für den Wert, den sie durch die Kultivierung des Landes geschaffen haben, wird keine Entschädigung ausgerichtet. Der Bauer Vuon, von vietnamesischen Bloggern zum nationalen Helden stilisiert, hatte auf zuvor ungenutztem Sumpfland eine Fischfarm errichtet. Laut der Verfassung gehört Grund und Boden «dem Volk», in der kommunistischen Realität aber dem Staat.

In den letzten Monaten haben Bauern wiederholt auf der Strasse gegen die Landpolitik protestiert. Auch beschäftigt sich die vietnamesische Justiz mehrheitlich mit Landdisputen. Carl Thayer, Professor an der University of New South Wales in Canberra, schätzt, dass siebzig Prozent der Gerichtsverfahren im Zusammenhang mit Landrechten und Entschädigungen stehen. Eine Zunahme könnte sich abzeichnen, weil bis 2013 Hunderttausende von Mietverträgen auslaufen. 1993 wurde den Bauern erstmals das Recht eingeräumt, Agrarflächen für zwanzig Jahre zu nutzen. Laut der Uno-Welternährungsorganisation sind rund zwei Drittel der 88 Millionen Vietnamesen von Einkünften aus



Example of Doan Van Vuon, a farmer in Ha Long

### World market on the doorstep

With the opening for the international market, a lot of foreign investment and demands of products arrived in Vietnam. Worldwide trends and developments now had an effect on the vietnamese economy. But as the information flow is not yet so developed, farmer usually don't really now what's ask on the international market and how the prospects are. The provincial governement on one side have a relatively high autonomy, but on the other hand need to take care of their budget. So they interpreted new trends as chances and tried to profit the most out of it.

### Farmer under pressure

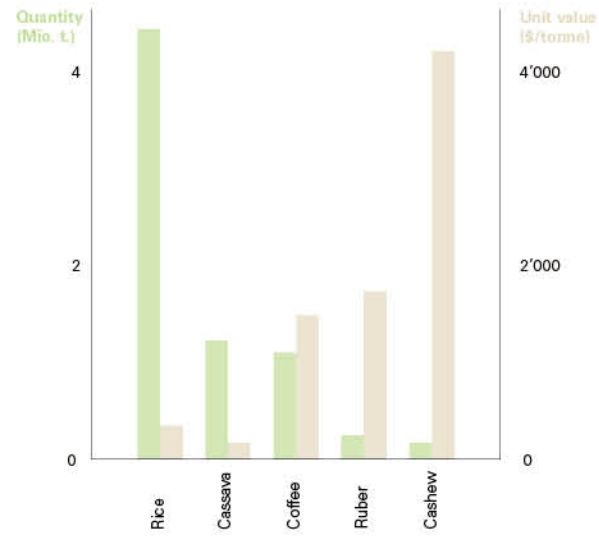
While the provincial governement have a certain overview of what's going on on the international market, farmer miss this informations and are in a very disadvantaged position.

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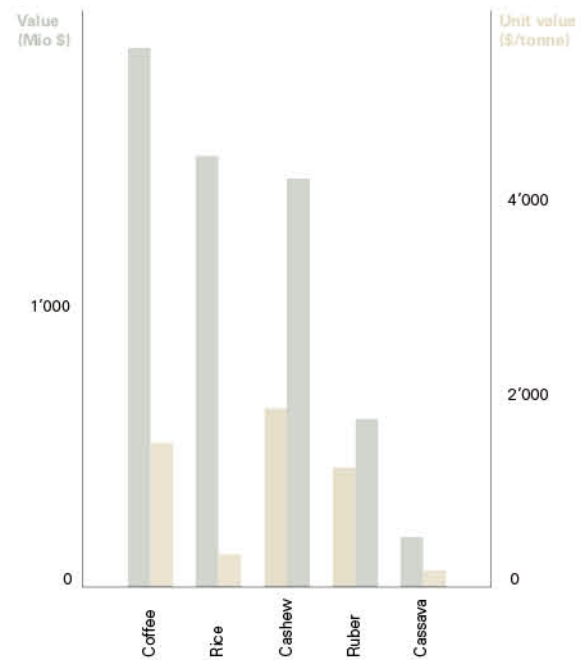




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Total quantity of products



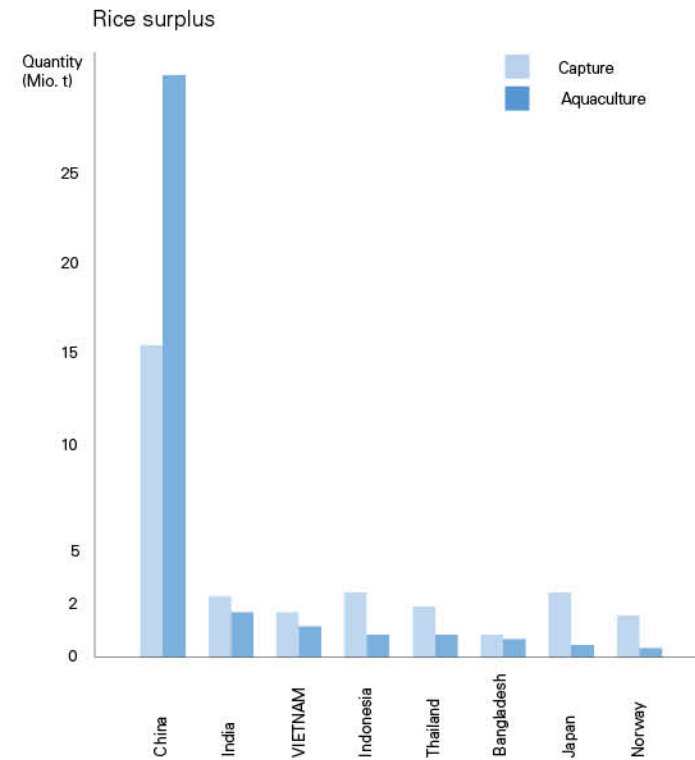
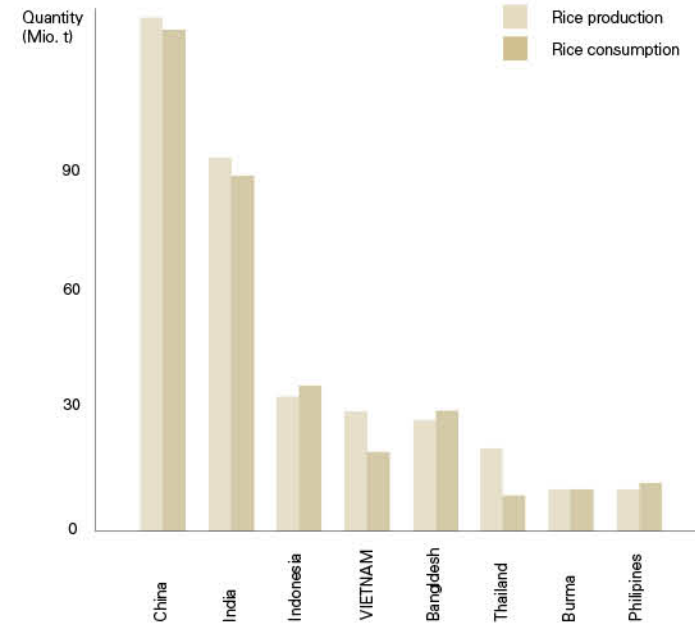
Total value of products

### Value of products

Looking at different products of agriculture, there are big differences in the unit value. While the products with the highest quantity are of low value, newer cultivations which are yet small in production, have a much bigger value.



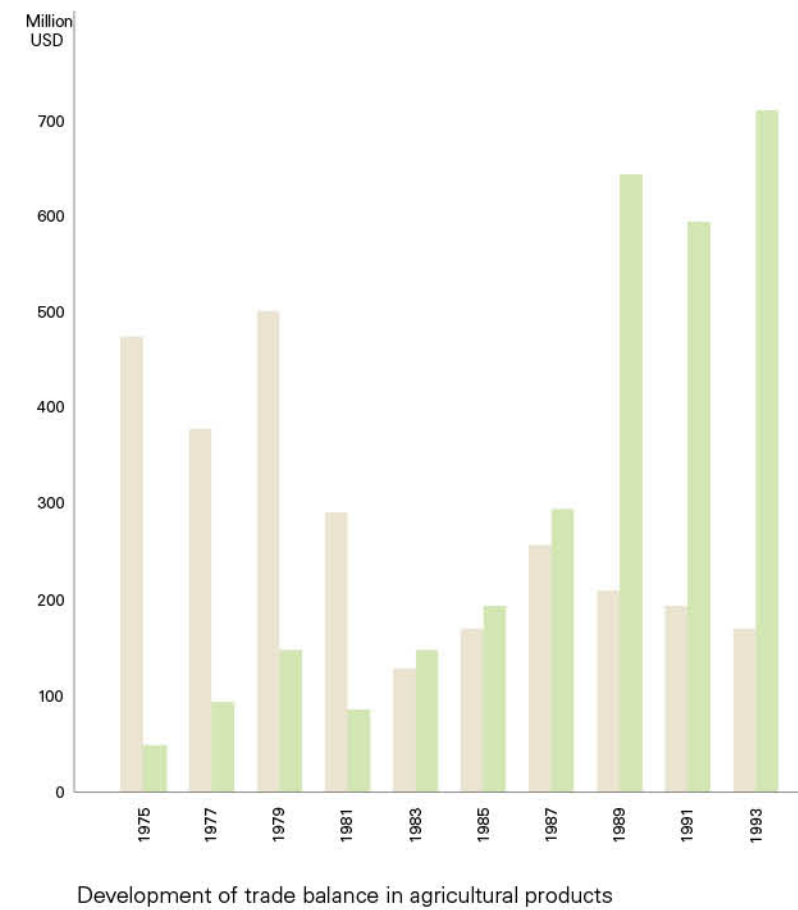
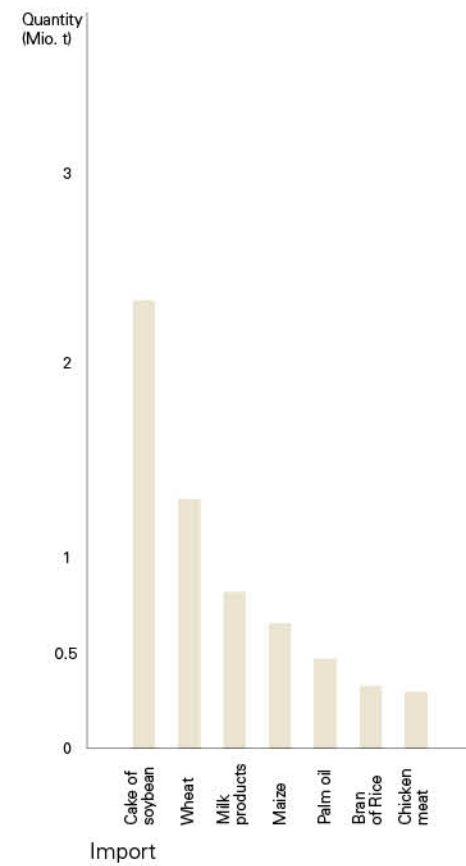
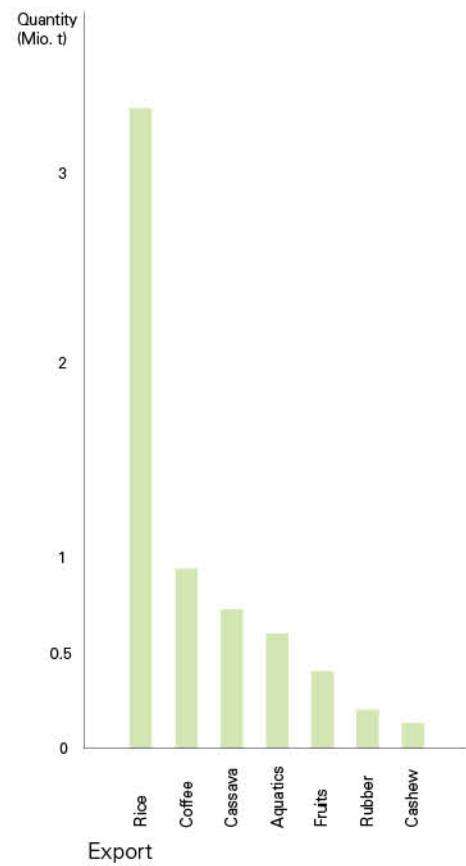
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Aquaculture production

### Competing in the world market

As a result of the increased production, Vietnam managed to get into the international competition for agricultural products. Vietnam climbed the letter to the leading export countries in rice, while rice is one of the products with very low value.

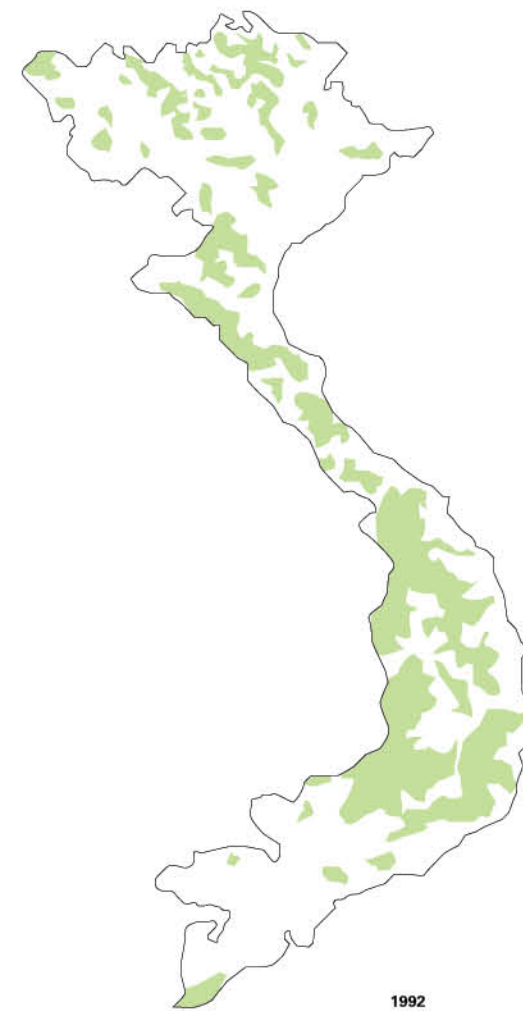
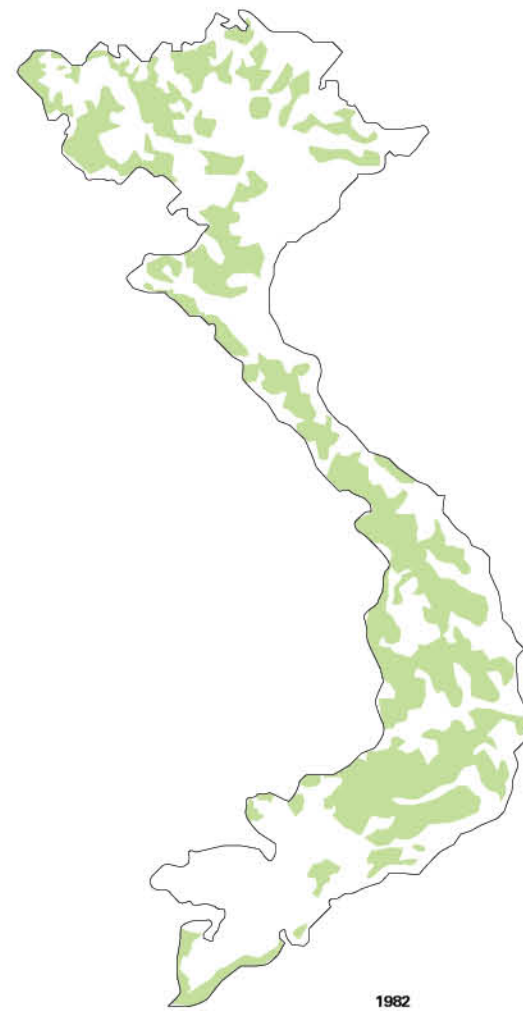
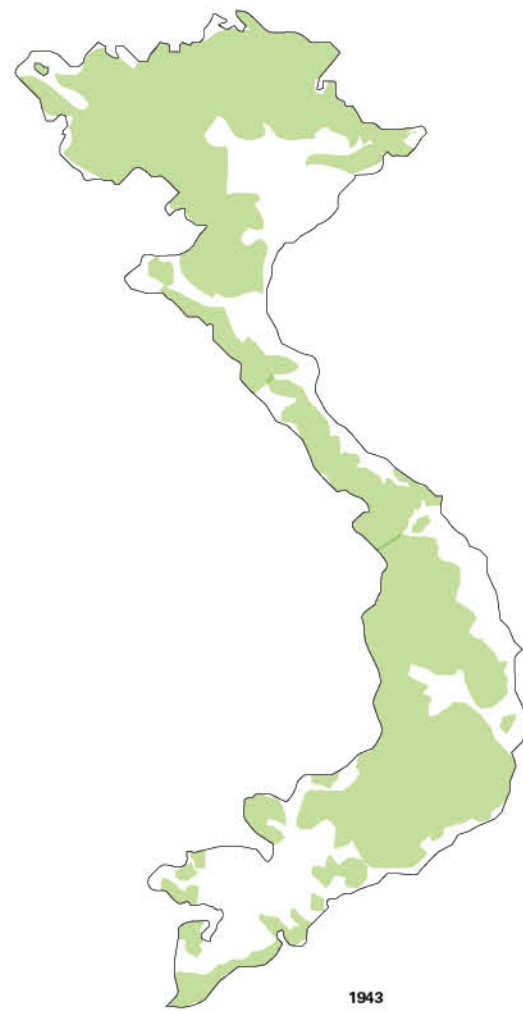


### From Import to Export

30 years ago, Vietnam was importing a lot of agricultural products. Today, the country is exporting a lot of these goods, and, looking only at agricultural products, has a positive trade balance. But still, Vietnam is importing a lot of agricultural products, specially food for animals and meat itself.

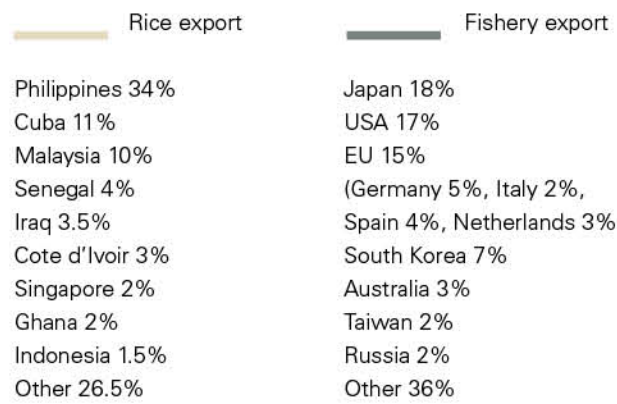


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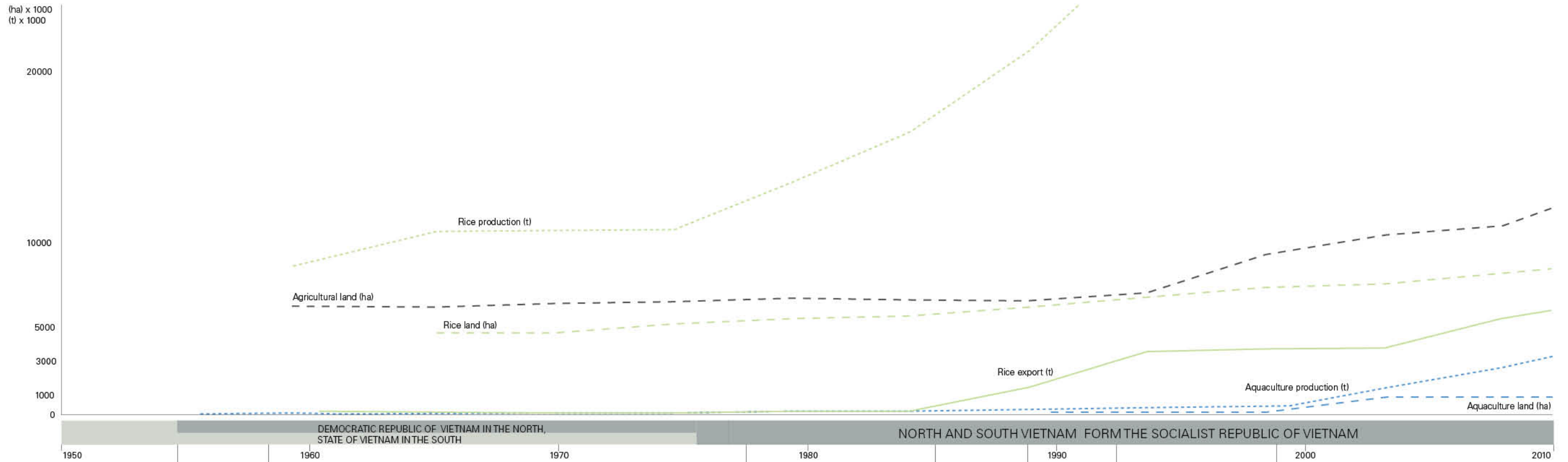
### Land gain

The increasing development of agricultural lands had its consequences on the forest heritage. For the boost of agriculture, new lands were gained, mostly on the cost of forest. The burn-and-slash way of cultivating forest lands reduced the heritage over the years. Today, new industrial zones and urban development are often on the loss of agricultural land, due to the already pushed back forest.



**Two products, different destinations**

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1955: North: reallocation of ground, people living in the city receive land, nationalization of foreign estate, economic development similar to the role model of Soviet Union

1958: North: Forced Collectivization, 50 000-100 000 dead rich farmers, 80% of agricultural land and 90% of farming households are in cooperative hands

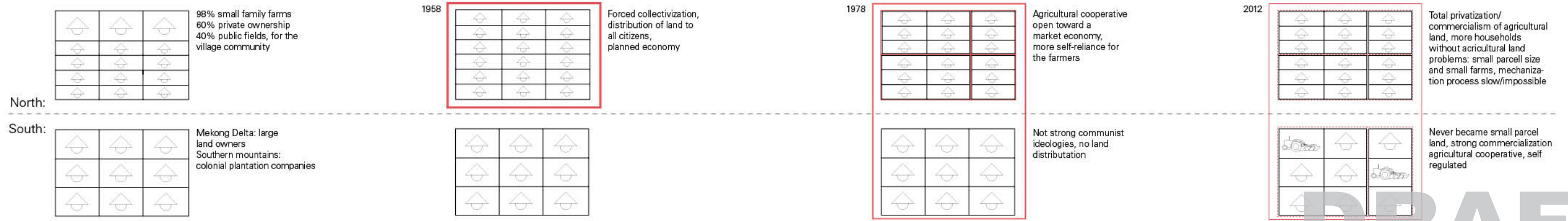
1978: First agricultural reform: Prices of raw materials and agricultural products are liberalized and were able to circulate in market from food importing country to food exporting country

1986: DOI MOI: strong new orientation. Politics focus on progress in production

1989: Decollectivization of Land. Price liberations

1993: Real estate possible for private households, mortgage on land is possible

1999: Land consolidation (Flurbereinigung)



**From collectivization to commercialism**

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### **Risk investment in export orientated cultivations**

The attraction of high profits seduces many investors to take part in the agricultural business. This leads to short-term planning in a slowly reacting system of cultivation. With big efforts large areas are transformed into aquaculture production sides. While the investors interest move on quickly, the fields are hardly cultivated and before they can develop into productiv fields, new plans are developed for new trends with even higher profits.



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## SERVING THE CITY

Hanoi as the biggest city in the Red River Delta has a huge consumption of agricultural products. But the close agricultural lands do not only supply the city with fresh daily food like vegetables and meat, the new city life-style also started to influence the cultivation lands around the city. The result is a new form of agriculture which does not give the usual supply of goods, but has a rather entertaining and serving role for the city. On the other side, these regions are often under a high urbanization pressure and have therefore a need for high profits and, as long as the city keeps growing, farmer are often confronted with expropriation.



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### City border cultivation

Agriculture within or close the city border is often in special locations, like the area of Nhat Tan, which lies in a flooding land of the Red River. Still this areas are highly productiv, as the pressure on the land is high. Food is no longer cultivated in this areas, the replacements are mostly decorative or entertaining, and work only within the short distance to the city. So the spatial relationship to the city has developed new forms of cultivation, which are unique for this areas.



Flower Farmer



**Cultivate**  
 Secret seed source form Italy  
 Main income is taking pictures for wedding couples



**Sell**  
 15'000 VND/flower  
 People buy on the field or Farmer brings them to



Peach tree Farmer



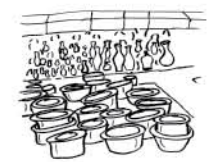
**Grow**  
 Trees are grown from former trees  
 Main use is decoration during the Lunar New Year, People return the trees after celebration to keep it growing



**Sell**  
 1 Million to 4 Million VND/tree  
 Only 30% are sold in one year  
 Trees are sold only on location



Pottery trader



**Selling**  
 Pottery is collect from surrounding villages (aprox. 20 Families)  
 Main use is decoration



**Sell**  
 100'000 to 1 Million VND/piece  
 People buy on location, some Trader buy for further selling

### Cultivation in the area around West Lake

Within the area of Nhat Tan, farmers have smaller plots than further away from the city. Because Nhat Tan is a flooding land and the plot division had to be as fair as possible, the government decide to divide the plots into long but narrow strips, so the water damage would be divided too. All of the products have a direct relation to the city, some of them aren't even a product anymore but a trading good or even a service.

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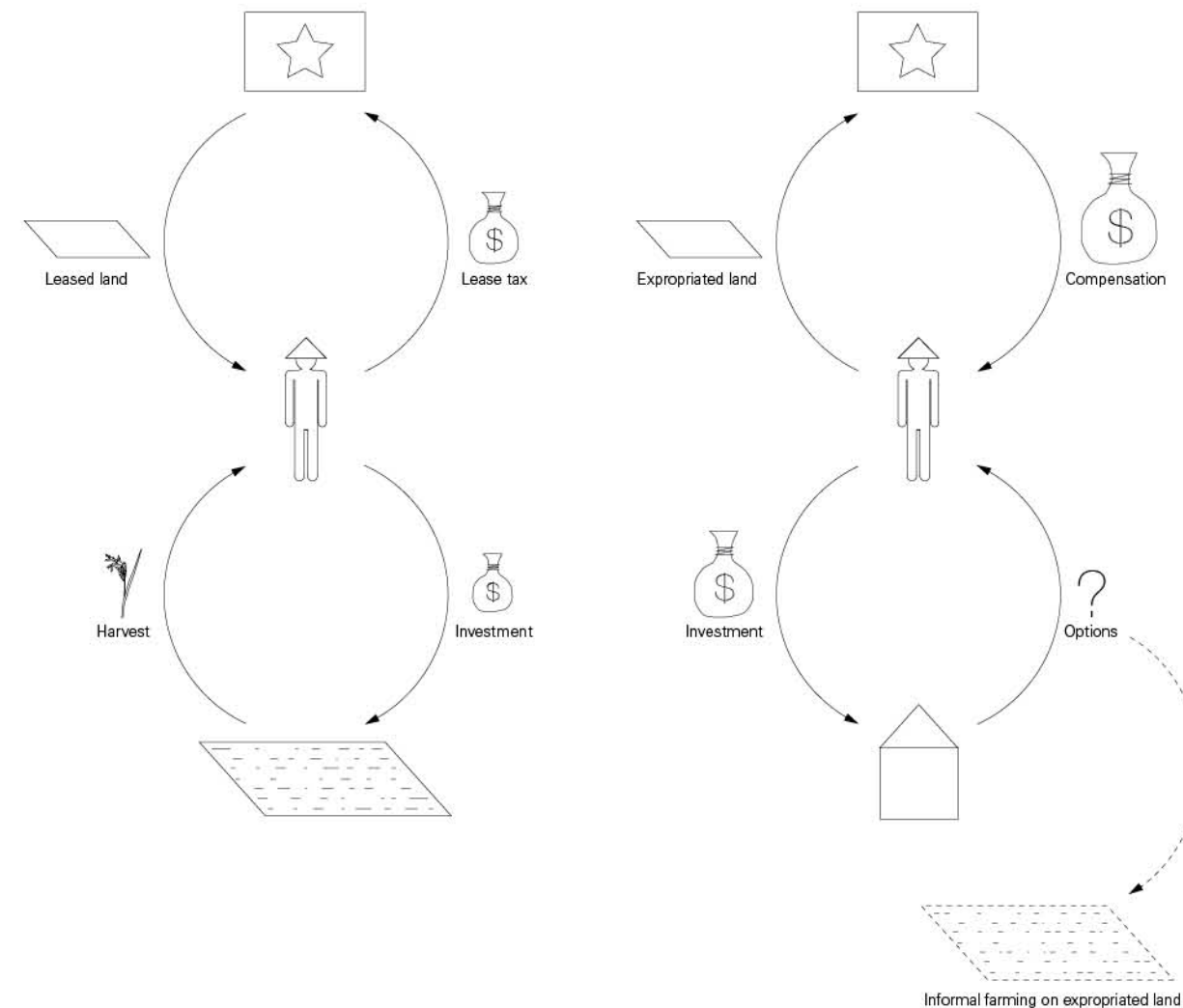
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- New housing projects, contracts for investors, infrastructures
- Farmer plots "Private" plots from farmers, rented with a longterm contract

### Expropriation of land

In the process of the city or village development, many plots are need to expand the build environment. And as there are only very little land reserves in Vietnam and the Red River Delta, it's mostly former agricultural land which is buried under the construction sites. Because all the land in Vietnam is holded by the state, the government has no problem in deciding to expropriate the farmer. To prevent the people from uprising against the government, the compensation of 128 Million VND (6'140 USD) for concerned farmer is, compared to an average income (800 USD) relatively high, but this does not solve the problem of what they do without their land.



Before expropriation

After expropriation

### Landless farmers

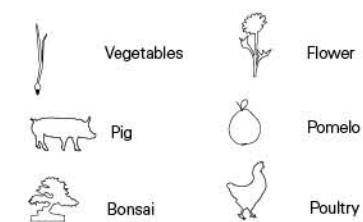
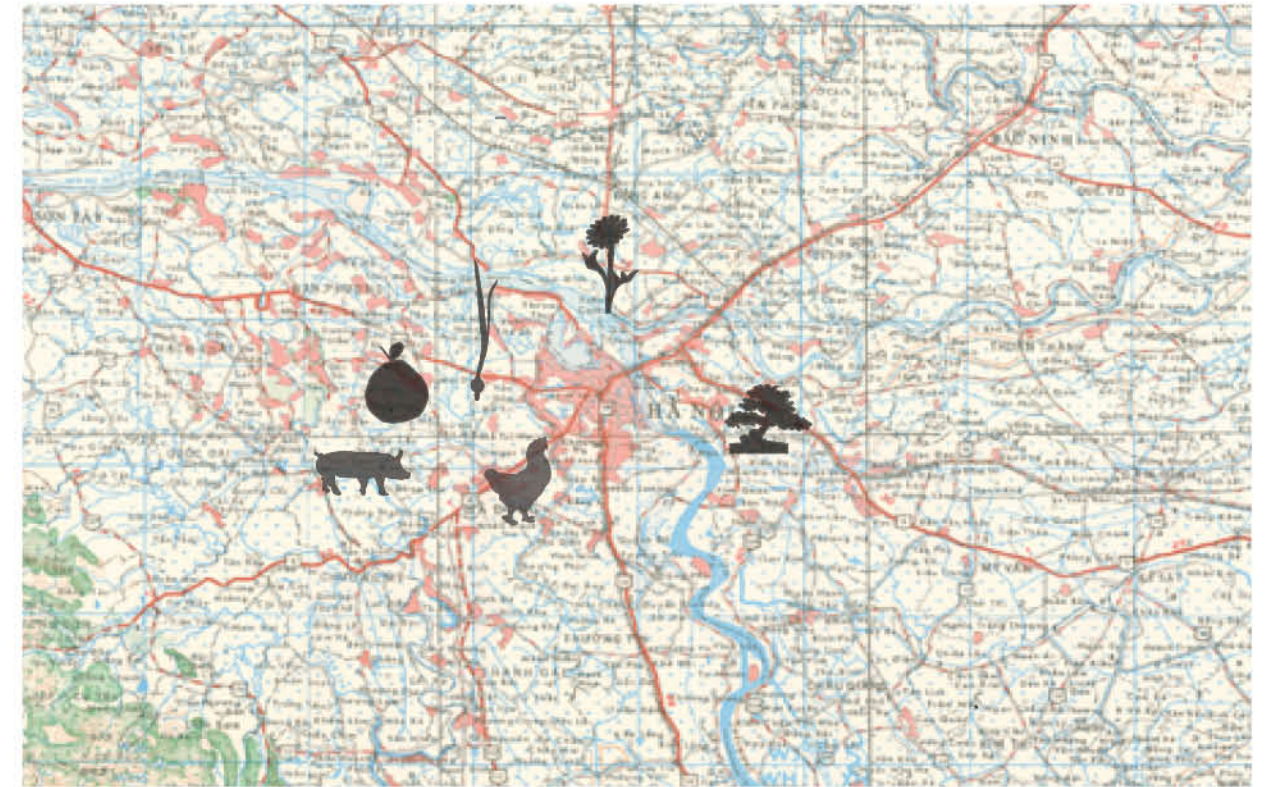
In the case of an expropriation, the farmers can and do use their rights and it comes to a trial. Around 70% of the trials in Vietnam today are about land law. Still the farmer often lose their land and get a compensation which they often "reinvest" into new houses. But the farmer tend not to cope with the new situation as their are often old and don't want to leave for new places and new jobs. In the same time, their former fields are often fallow lands for years until the constructions begin. So the farmer return to their former fields and keep cultivating in a informal way.

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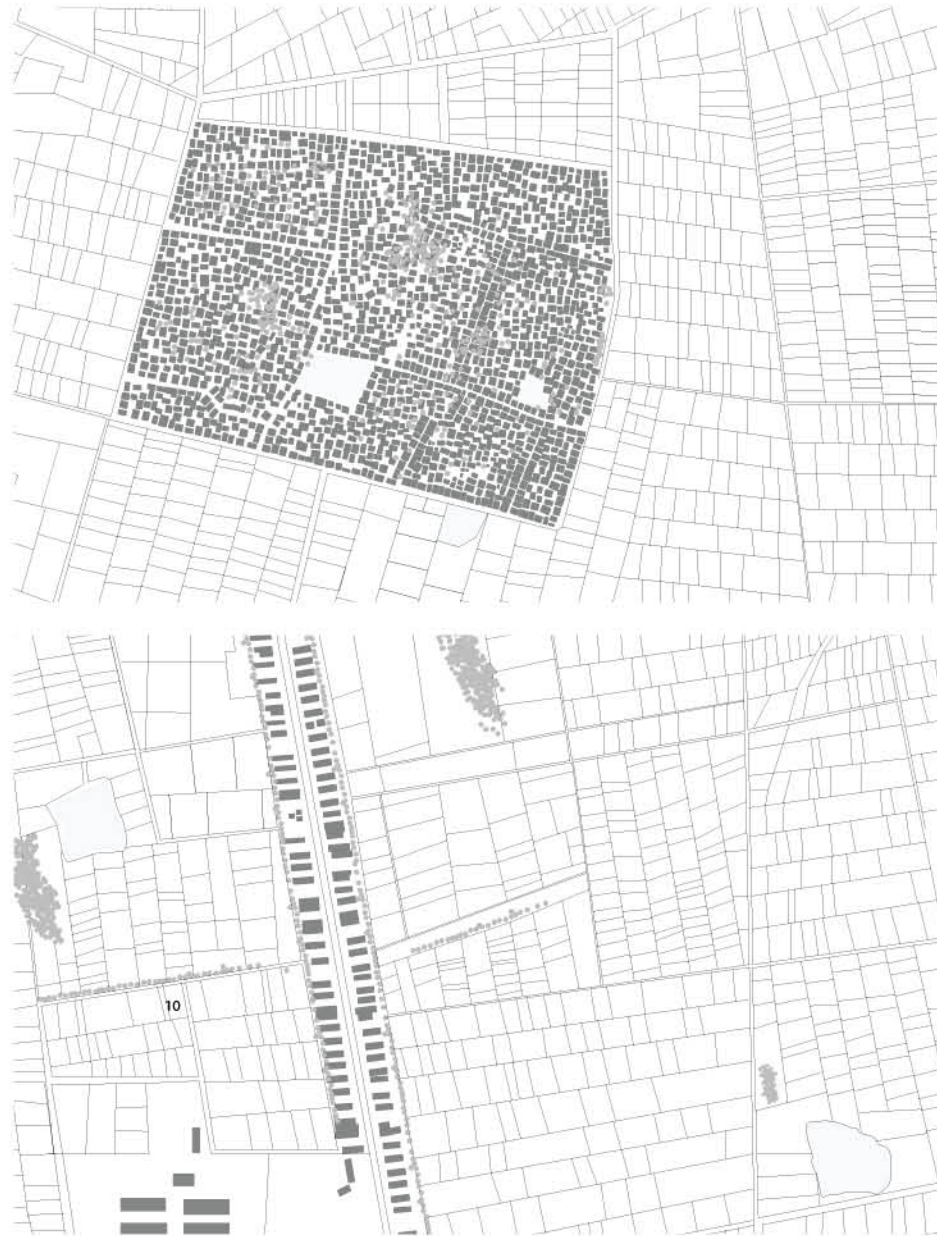


City range cultivations

### The City's Hinterland

The rural areas surrounding the city of Hanoi are primarily concentrating on the supply of the city. The diversity is high and goes from different animals over vegetables to decorative products. As the farmer produce a lot of the daily fresh food, but still operate in small family organisation, they usually deliver their products by themself to the market, by bicycle or motorbike.





### Urban structures in rural areas

The rural village structure in the area of Hanoi has a big diversity, but two kinds of structures are characteristic for small villages. On one side there is the old village, which grew over the years. Compared to for example Switzerland, the villages do not grow on the border and collect more and more of the surrounding land, but get more dense and keep a sharp border to the agricultural land. On the other side there are the new villages which grow along the new infrastructures, mostly bigger roads. The houses are built along the road, in stripes parallel to the road.



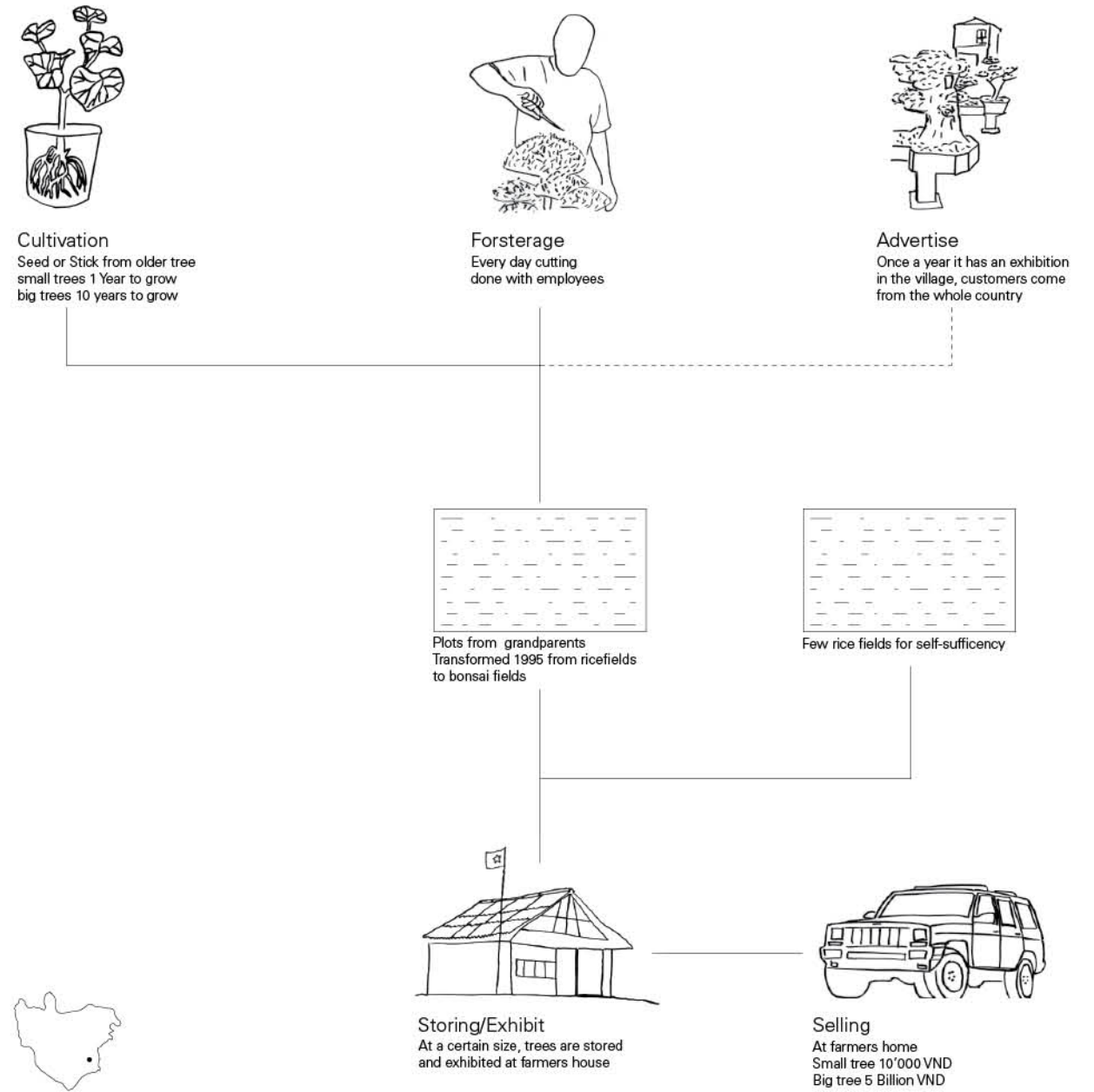
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## EMANCIPATION OF THE FARMER

After eras of predetermined cultivation in the sign of staple food, the vietnamese farmer gained back the freedom to decide what to grow on their fields. What appeared first is higher productivity, and a slightly bigger range of cultivations, now starts to transform to a new dimension. As a result of years of economic growth, a new social class has developed, whose demands go beyond the basic supply of goods. In order to find a more profitable cultivation for their fields, some farmers started to serve the new needs for luxury and decorative products and left the traditional picture of farming towards a more modern and buisness oriented way of farming.



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### The Bonsai Farmer

To start Bonsai cultivation, the farmer have to invest not only into the field transformation, but also in to seeds or small trees, to start the cultivation. Due to the relatively long cultivation time, they have a big income gap, they have to stand. Although the investment for Bonsai is high and the field taxes higher, the farmer have a bigger income than other, more traditionally farmer.

### The trend in cultivation

In the area of Hai Hau, a new cultivation started to spread, the Bonsai, a decorative tree. Like a virus the new cultivation has reached severel tousand km<sup>2</sup> of cultivation land. Usually, the Bonsai plots are transformed to rice plots, this transformation has started in the ninties and is still going on. The intense cultivation has formed some villages famous for Bonsai and the costumers are travelling to the cultivaiton sites from all over the country.

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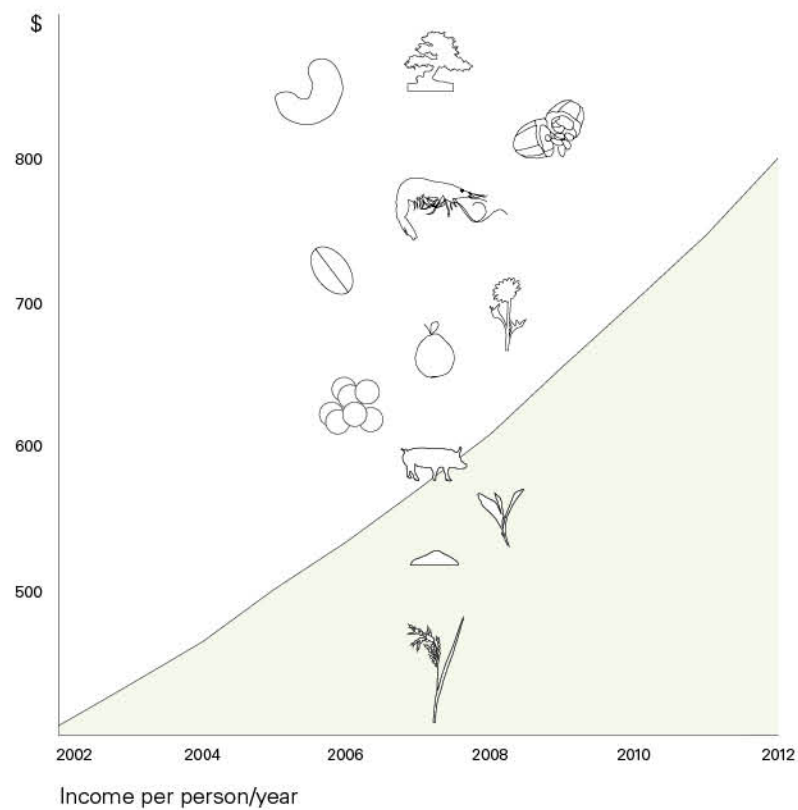
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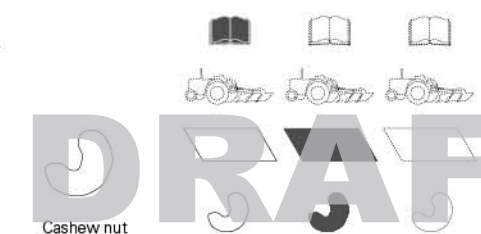
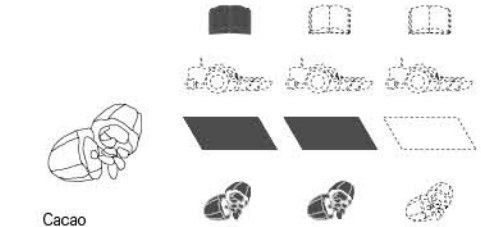
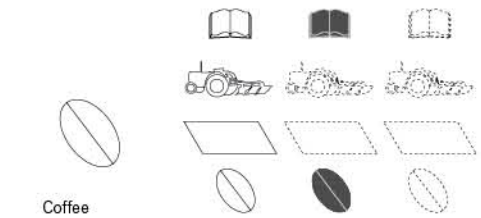
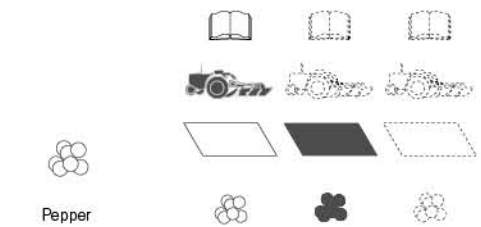
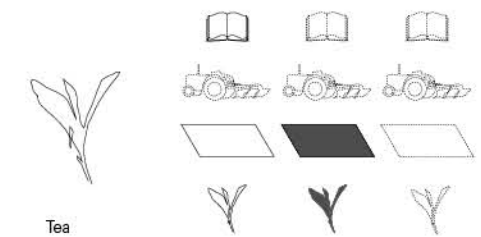
### Income related demands











The growth of the average income as well as the population growth create a pressure on new agricultural products, which are now accessible for a larger amount of people.

-  Knowledge
-  Mechanization
-  Land
-  expand production
-  Not existing
-  Situation today
-  Goal until 2020

### Demands related goals

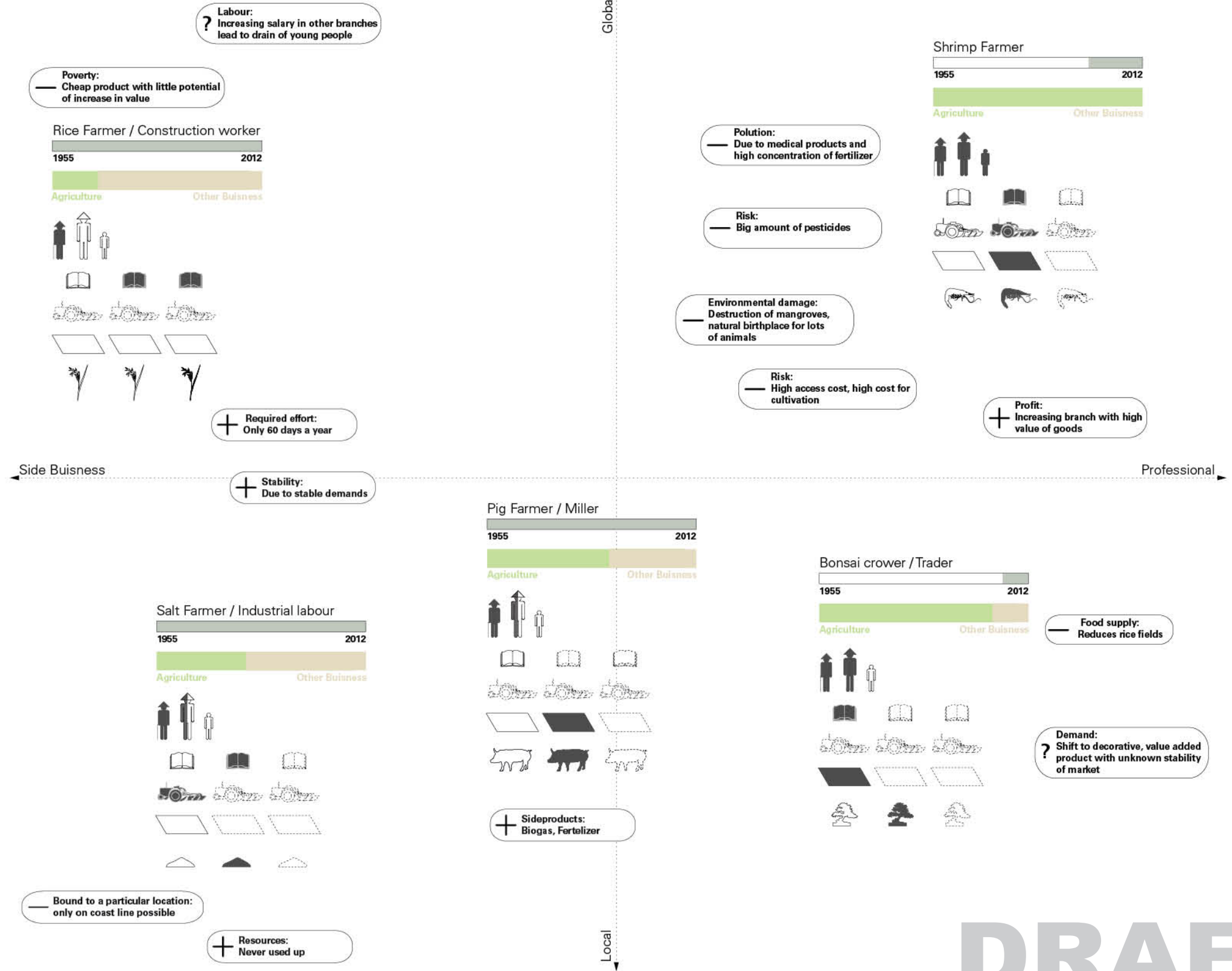
Due to lacks of production in this higher valued goods, the government has decided to support and increase the production in this cultivation, as well as start from the scratch, like cacao. This development of increased production is also related to the export market and it's need for such goods, and the governmental goals to shift from low price products like rice, to higher valued products like coffee, cashew, cacao.



-  start of cultivation
-  active level in agriculture
-  Generations
-  Knowledge
-  Mechanization
-  Land
-  Production
-  Not existing
-  Situation today
-  Goal until 2020

### Farmer and their conditions

Comparing the different types of farmer in a economic field shows how different branches developed a specific way of farming and in which phase they are. It gives also an idea, how a farmer is confronted with different criteria and consequences by the choice of his cultivation. The different amount of growth and land consumption reveals the probable suppression of some kinds of goods.



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(Short Interview to 10 other farmers)

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LOREN NGUYEN

LONG NGUYEN DUY

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