

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

growing cities – growing food

Background information:

Location: Southern Vietnam

Climate:
mean annual temperature: 27,0°C
annual rainfall: 2,000mm

Total Population: 5 million

Population Density: 2,387 pers/km²

Size of the city: 2,094 km²

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The main urban agricultural systems

Ho Chi Minh city's agriculture is based on an area of 99,164 ha, for agriculture, 34,657 ha of forestry land and 35,550 ha of open water bodies (ponds canals etc).

Of which approximately

- 80,000 ha of rice fields
- 4,000 ha of vegetables
- 6,500 ha of peanuts
- 6,200 ha of sugarcane
- 2,600 ha of rubber
- 11,000 ha of mixed gardens and orchards
- 32,500 ha is protected forest

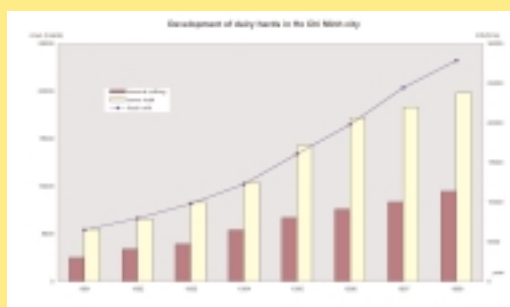
HCM City annual agricultural production (in tons):

- Paddy rice: 217,200
- Vegetables: 214,400
- Peanut: 11,500
- Sugar cane: 241,700
- Fresh cow milk: 27,840
- Pig (live weight): 24,500
- Cattle (live weight): 4,500
- Poultry (live weight): 8,700
- Fresh water fish: 2,570
- Honey: 612

For the vegetable and dairy production the green periphery plays an important role.

Creating and Developing Vegetable and Dairy Production on the Periphery of Ho Chi Minh City

- After the liberation (1975) HCM City had 3.7 million inhabitants. The population needed 250,000 tons per year of vegetables, but the production in HCM City only totaled 100,000 tons.
 - It is expected that the population will increase to 7 million people needing 450-500,000 tons. Thus only 20-30% of the vegetable requirement is produced in HCM City itself.
 - HCM City increasingly needs fresh milk, especially for children but also for milk processing factories, which currently are importing 80% of their milk.
 - While demand increases, the land available for cultivation is decreasing.
- To address these issues, HCM City developed plans for creating a periphery of vegetable and dairy production around the city of 12-15,000 ha. A modernization strategy is intended to increase the production.



Lessons Learned with Relevance to Other Cities

In order to quickly increase production levels, a concerted effort has to be made.

- The development of infrastructure (electricity, roads, irrigation) is important to create favorable conditions.
- Both local varieties of plants and animals should be improved, while some improved varieties can be imported (e.g. Lai Sind and Holstein Frisian cows).
- Package technologies like IPM and artificial insemination services to farmers need to be introduced.
- Ensure efficient use of organic waste and by-products (e.g. for feeding the cows).
- Develop and promote off-season crops.
- Provide cheap agricultural credit.
- Promote milk collecting units, farmers' association etc. to strengthen the position of farmers.