



POLICY BRIEF

Integrating a Food Systems Approach into Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Practices and Policies in Hanoi, Vietnam





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List of Acronyms

ADDA	Agricultural Development Denmark Asia
ALiSEA	Agro-ecology Learning Alliance in South East Asia
CARES	Center for Agricultural Research and Ecological Studies
CIRAD	French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DAVH	Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary
D-fish	Directorate of Fisheries
DFSH	Department of Food Safety and Hygiene
DLP	Department of Livestock Production
DMS	Vietnam Directorate of Market Surveillance
DOH	Department of Health
DOIT	Department of Industry and Trading
DPA	Department of Planning and Architecture
DPP	Department of Plantation and Plant Protection
DQPMD	Department of Quality Management, Processing and Market Development
DRD	Department of Rural Development
DUD	Department of Urban Development
EO	Environment Office
FAVRI	Fruit and Vegetable Research Institute
FFTC-AP	Food and Fertilizer Technology Center for the Asian and Pacific Region
FSWG	Food Safety Working Group
FU	Farmer Union
GA	Gardening Association
GDLA	General Department of Land Administration
GSRD	G-Star RAW's Philanthropic Arm
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
IAE	Institute for Agricultural Environment

IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
LMO	Land Management Office
MALICA	Markets and Agriculture Linkages for Cities in Asia
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MOC	Ministry of Construction
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOIT	Ministry of Industry and Trading
MoNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MSD	Market Surveillance Department
MSME	Micro-Small Medium Enterprises
NEC	National Extension Center
NFSI	Nutrition Food Safety Institute
OCOP	One Product per One Commune
OPN	One Planet Network
PC	People's Committee
PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
RAT	Rau An Toàn (Safe Vegetables)
SCPIC	Steering Committee for Planning and Investment for Construction of Hanoi Capital
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
UPA	Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture
VAAS	Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Science
VCA	Vietnam Cooperative Alliance
VFA	Vietnam Food Safety Authority
VFU	Vietnam Farmer's Union
VGA	Vietnam Farmer's Union
VUSTA	Vietnam Union of Scientific Technology Association
VVOA	Vietnam Association of Organic Agriculture
VWU	Vietnam Women's Union
VU	Women Union



1. Introduction

Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, has 335,984 hectares of natural land, of which 58.9% is devoted to agriculture¹. It has a population of about 8.53 million inhabitants, of which more than 4 million live in rural and peri-urban areas. The labour force participation rate in Hanoi's agricultural sector is 6.9% (DRD, 2023). Urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) is a long-standing feature of Hanoi, but rapid urban growth is increasing competition for agricultural land from non-agricultural uses such as buildings, industrial zones and public spaces (Lee, Binns & Dixon, 2010). Vietnam's urbanisation rate, including suburban areas, is expected to be around 40% by 2023 and 60% by 2050 (Urbanet, 2019). Shrinking farmland on the fringes of Hanoi has pushed agriculture to the outskirts of the city.

These changes have been particularly acute for Hanoi's farmers. As agricultural communes have come under city control and rice land has been allocated to developers, farmers have lost much or all of their land - often their only source of income (Lesley, 2019). The livelihoods of many peri-urban residents have shifted to non-agricultural employment, such as trading in non-commodity goods and services. This shift has also led to a transition from traditional crop production such as rice to a range of higher value products such as seedlings, fruits, vegetables, ornamental plants, aquaculture and livestock taking place on Hanoi's remaining agricultural land (Gwenn, 2015; Le & Nguyen, 2018).



Definition of Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture (UPA)

Urban and peri-urban agriculture can be defined as practices that yield food and other outputs from agricultural production and related processes (transformation, distribution, marketing, recycling...), taking place on land and other spaces within cities and surrounding regions, involving urban and peri-urban actors, communities, methods, places, policies, institutions, systems, ecologies and economies, largely using and regenerating local resources to meet the changing needs of local populations while serving multiple goals and functions (FAO et al., 2022).

An integrated approach to UPA means looking at UPA from a systems perspective, understanding how UPA can potentially contribute to multiple outcomes (environmental sustainability, nutrition, resilience, livelihoods and others), and trying to manage potential trade-offs between these outcome areas so that progress in one area doesn't come at the expense of another.

¹ This is because Hanoi's current land area comprises land that previously belonged to Ha Tay, Bac Ninh and Hung Yen provinces.

Peri-urban agriculture in Hanoi is thriving due to its high economic value, diverse production methods and wide range of crops. This not only meets the demand for safe, fresh food, but also improves the lives of local residents (Dao & Nguyen, 2022). Agricultural production in Hanoi contributes significantly to the capital's food system, providing about 65.6% of consumers' dietary needs², mainly through poultry, pork, vegetables, and rice (Hanoi DARD, 2023). UPA significantly improves the stability and efficiency of Hanoi's food supply. It has potential to provide fresh, nutritious produce at affordable prices, potentially benefiting marginalised communities and creating employment opportunities for residents displaced by urbanisation (Hoang, 2022). Characterised by small-scale and technologically advanced operations, such as the use of digitalisation to accurately apply inputs (water, bio-fertiliser, bio-pesticides, etc.) and automatic irrigation at the optimal time for the crop, UPA in Hanoi tends to have higher yields than conventional rural production (VUSTA, 2012). It supports urban services, recycles waste, reduces pollution and plays a key role in landscape design, ecological protection, sustainable resource management and air pollution reduction, thereby improving the quality of life of residents (MoC, 2020).

Driven by concerns about excessive levels of chemical residues in food (Ha, Shakur & Pham, 2021; Nguyen, Unger, et al. 2017) and given the potential of UPA to meet the growing demand for fresh vegetables, fruits, pork, and aquaculture products from residents of the capital, Hanoi People's Committee³ has strategically identified UPA as a critical component of its urban development blueprint. This commitment was formalised in Decision 17 (Hanoi PC, 2012) and Decision 731 (Hanoi PC, 2022), which endorse the 'Hanoi Agricultural Master Plan to 2020, with a Vision to 2030'. Hanoi has directed its agricultural development towards "ecological urban agriculture" that contributes to the creation of an ecological landscape, the development of eco-tourism, harmony and sustainability with the environment, and adaptation to climate change. Decision 17 aims to increase productivity and quality, ensure food safety and hygiene, create large, concentrated commodity production areas, and meet local consumption and export needs. Nevertheless, more than a decade after the Decision 17 was adopted, the concept and roadmap to increase the uptake of UPA in the capital remain undefined (Dao, 2022). Despite the clear reference to eco-urban agriculture in the Decision 17, there is ambiguity as to whether

the UPA models promoted by Hanoi's authorities are more in line with environmentally friendly agriculture or adhere to conventional practices. This lack of clarity requires further definition to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of Hanoi's UPA planning and implementation (Nguyen, 2022).

This policy brief aims to identify entry points for supporting enabling policies and governance for UPA development in Hanoi, including policy gaps, opportunities and relevant stakeholders in the city. The methodology used to prepare this policy brief includes a desk review of available literature and policies, as well as discussions with key stakeholders in Hanoi's food system.

2. UPA initiatives in Hanoi

2.1 Commercial Food Production (CFP)

Commercial Food Production (CFP) – or the practice of producing agricultural products in urban and peri-urban areas for sale – is an important contributor to Hanoi's food system, providing employment for a significant number of workers, particularly middle-aged workers and women in suburban areas. In addition to food production, CFP is a vehicle to educate Hanoi residents about environmental issues through agri-tourism. CFP initiatives are attracting the attention of government agencies, research institutions, food entrepreneurs, investors, service providers and commercial food producers such as cooperatives and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). There are several CFP initiatives with promising production practices that contribute to Hanoi's UPA.

Vietnam's safe vegetable production programmes, known as 'Rau An Toàn' (RAT), were initiated in the 1980s, with Decision 67 (MARD, 1998) marking their official introduction. The government later issued regulations for the safe production of vegetables, fruits, and tea, such as Decision 106 (MARD, 2007), Circular 59 (MARD, 2012) and Circular 07 (MARD, 2013). The popularity of RAT products in Hanoi is growing rapidly, with a wider variety and larger quantities available for purchase. This trend is particularly evident in niche shops such as 'Bac Tom' and 'Soi Bien', as well as local supermarkets, and is likely driven by growing consumer concerns about food safety (Loc, Sau and Trung, 2020).

² The evolution of this figure over time, particularly in the light of increasing competition for land, is unclear due to a lack of data.

³ The Hanoi People's Committee is the executive body of the Municipal People's Council in Hanoi city, responsible for implementing Vietnam's Constitution, laws, government documents, and resolutions of the Municipal People's Council.



The Vietnam Association of Organic Agriculture (VVOA), established through a project led by the Danish NGO ADDA, promotes sustainable agriculture throughout Vietnam, including Hanoi. It supports farmer cooperatives to adopt a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) combined with an organic standard, which is officially recognised in Vietnam by Decree 109 (Gov, 2018).

There are currently 86 medium (300-1,000 members) and large (more than 1,000 members) cooperatives in Hanoi that operate in 101 production areas to grow and process VietGAP⁴ vegetables, tubers, fruits, and rice (TCKT, 2020). This is in line with Decision 4010 of the Hanoi PC, which outlines a plan to strengthen agricultural cooperatives in Hanoi from 2022 to 2025, with a vision for 2030. Since 2018, Rikolto, together with Hanoi DARD, has been a pioneer in supporting farmers' cooperatives in peri-urban areas. As a result of this collaboration, an estimated 14% of the agricultural area dedicated to vegetable production is grown according to the Basic Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) standards, using PGS in product quality control (Rikolto Factsheet, 2023).

Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) have been applied to various types of food production and processing in Hanoi. HACCP is stipulated in Decree 15 (Gov, 2018), which details the implementation of several articles of the Law on Food Safety (Vietnam Assembly, 2010). The Hanoi PC has also stepped-up efforts to promote local products that meet the One Product per Commune (OCOP) standard under Decision 490 (Gov, 2018).

Hanoi DARD is promoting livestock and aquaculture production through high-tech, biosecure, and environmentally friendly practices such as sustainable feed sources, precision feeding,

installation of bio-digesters to reduce methane, and efficient livestock supply chains, among others. Currently, Hanoi has more than 3,150 farms, of which 130 are high-tech, operated by 42 specialised cooperatives (Hanoi DARD, 2023). The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) is supporting Hanoi through projects such as SafePORK, which uses light-touch, market-based approaches to improve pork safety while safeguarding livelihoods in the sector.

Hanoi is making significant progress in smart agriculture, with 164 high-tech models already implemented. These models integrate cutting-edge digital technologies across the entire agricultural chain, from crop and livestock farming to product processing and trade. They currently contribute 35% of the city's agricultural value by volume, and their economic importance is expected to reach 70% by 2025 (Hanoi DARD, 2023). Companies such as YWAM Mercy Vietnam and Da Ton Cooperative are leading the way in hydroponic farming.

Agrotourism, which combines agricultural activities with tourism experiences such as vegetable picking and accommodation, has also seen significant growth. There are currently 11 eco-farms offering educational experiences, attracting visitors, and boosting the city's rural economy (Hanoi DARD, 2023). In addition, many suburban families have capitalised on the growing demand for ornamental plants, both in Hanoi and across Vietnam, by converting their agricultural land into production areas. This trend is particularly evident during the Vietnamese New Year festival (Hanoi DARD, 2023).

⁴ VietGAP (Vietnamese Good Agricultural Practices) is a set of official production standards that cover food safety, traceability, the work environment and production techniques.

2.2 Home-Based Food Production (HBFP)

Household-Based Food Production (HBFP) is prevalent in both urban and peri-urban areas and is practised by a diverse group including farmers, retired people, women, and middle-aged people. These practices include small-scale livestock rearing, crop cultivation and organic vegetable production in available spaces such as backyards, residences, and government-allocated land. They also include techniques such as growing vegetables in boxes, aquaponics and vertical farming on rooftops and balconies. Many urban families, especially civil servants, have started growing sprouts in their homes. HBFP produce is largely consumed by the growers themselves, but can also be sold to local markets, collectors, speciality shops and online platforms (e.g. Facebook and Zalo).

In peri-urban areas, public institutions such as local farmers' unions and gardening associations play a crucial role in disseminating knowledge and providing guidance on gardening techniques for HBFP. Urban households often have more limited access to such channels and tend to rely more on digital resources for their information needs. They mainly seek technical information online or through specialised technical service providers such as the Center for Agricultural Research and Ecological Studies (CARES). However, challenges associated with HBFP, such as limited space, hinder the expansion of production. The financial capacity of many families to invest in systems such as aquaponics and vertical farming is often limited due to the high investment costs and complex technical requirements associated with their installation and maintenance.

2.3 Community-Based Food Production (CBFP)

Urban areas in Hanoi are bustling with CBFP, with organic and agroecological farming taking place on diverse plots such as riverbanks, roadsides, and open spaces, including community spaces such

as pagodas and even recreational areas. CBFP participants, mainly middle-aged people, ex-farmers, retirees and the unemployed, are driven by a mix of motivations - securing food for themselves, enjoying the activity and sometimes earning extra income by selling produce at local markets. They share resources and knowledge, including about efficient irrigation practices. However, a major challenge for CBFP is the insecurity of land tenure. Public institutions or investors often control these plots, which increases uncertainty as CBFP gardens are at risk of sudden reclamation without notice. This precarious situation creates an unstable environment that can discourage continued participation in CBFP. Since 2014, organisations such as The Asia Foundation have partnered with the GSRD Foundation on Sustainable Livelihoods and HealthBridge to create green spaces for public activities, promote social inclusion, and foster community building.

2.4 Institutional Food Production (IFP)

Institutional Food Production (IFP) encompasses a variety of techniques, including micro-organic vegetable and herb gardens, which are flourishing in schools, clinics and military bases in the suburbs of Hanoi. Meanwhile, research institutions such as the Vietnam Agricultural Genetics Institute (AGI), the Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS) and the Vietnam National University of Agriculture (VNUA) are leading the way in introducing advanced farming practices and hydroponics. These methods not only supplement food supplies, but also serve educational purposes by experimenting with new techniques and varieties. The land used for these institutional farming practices is usually government-approved institutional land. The workforce involved in IFP is made up of employees, volunteers and students. This not only provides an opportunity for individuals to actively participate in food production, but also serves as a knowledge platform for learning about sustainable farming practices and agricultural innovation.



3. Policy analysis

The review examines key policies that influence urban development and agriculture in Hanoi, and analyses how they affect production factors and drivers of UPA, such as governance, land rights, resource management, support for MSMEs, and technological advancement. These policies shape the infrastructure of UPA, affecting producers, consumers and urban sustainability. Table 1 summarises the impact of these policies on UPA and provides an overview of some of the key policy gaps.



Table 1 - Overview of policies influencing UPA in Hanoi and their gaps

Policy	Description	Agency in charge	Influence on UPA	Policy gap
Pathway for Hanoi Capital Development until 2030, vision to 2045 (2022)	It guides Hanoi's development and strategies until 2030, with a vision to 2045, envisioning it as a modern, cultural hub for economic growth and international integration.	Politburo	Encourages eco-agriculture, the creation of the Song Nhue green belt, the use of advanced post-harvest technology, the development of food markets and businesses and linkages between urban and peri-urban areas via value chains.	Broadly mentions UPA but does not include any specific provisions on UPA. Lacks distinct supports for MSMEs and startups in agri-value chains.
National Action Plan (NAP) for Food System Transformation until 2030 (2023)	The NAP aims to transform the food system towards transparency, sustainability and local benefits. It aims to secure food and nutrition, improve people's incomes and quality of life, combat disasters and disease, protect the environment and address climate change.	MARD	Lists actions to strengthen eco-farming, resource conservation, waste and greenhouse gas emission reduction, income for food and agricultural workers, and stakeholder collaboration to transform Vietnam's food system.	Although it applies to urban and peri-urban settings, the NAP does not explicitly recognize the role and potential of UPA in food system transformation nor does it have a specific focus on urban and peri-urban areas.
Vietnam Strategy on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development to 2050 (2022)	It aims to achieve a sustainable, efficient and productive agricultural sector by 2050, contributing to national food security, socio-economic stability, environmental protection and climate adaptation.	MARD	Aims to improve vocational training and research for eco-friendly agriculture, strengthen cooperation, value chains, and market linkages, boost peri-urban economies and UPA and create green cities and eco-urban areas.	No specific provision for UPA, although it is explicitly mentioned.

Law on Land (2013) and associated documents	It prescribes the regime of land ownership, powers, and responsibilities of the State in representing the entire people of Vietnam as owner of the land and uniformly managing it. It outlines the regime of land management and use, as well as the rights and obligations of land users.	MoNRE	Recognises the land use rights of all Vietnamese, including farmers, with distinct categories for agricultural land and the importance of multi-stakeholder processes in land governance.	UPA land classification is not regulated.
Law on Planning (2017) and associated documents	The Law oversees the creation, evaluation, and adjustment of national planning. It defines planning as the strategic distribution of socio-economic activities and resource use for sustainable development.	MPI	Establishes land classification criteria, including for agriculture and urban development.	UPA land classification and urban and peri-urban linkages are not regulated.
Law on Capital (2012) and associated documents	It stipulates the position and role of the capital city, policies, and responsibilities for building, developing, managing, and protecting the capital city.	Hanoi PC	States that urban planning must ensure a proportion of green space, taking into account the specific characteristics of the landscape.	No mention of UPA and lack of planning for agricultural development and linkages between urban and peri-urban areas.
Master Construction Planning of Hanoi until 2050 (2011)	The plan covers the development of the economy, science and technology, health, education and training, infrastructure, culture and society, land management, resources and environmental protection, national defence and security in Hanoi.	Hanoi PC	Defines urban and suburban development, allocating land for each type, including public and civil infrastructure, and establishes a 'green belt'.	Lack of development planning for agriculture.
Hanoi's Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development to 2050 (2022)	It aims at sustainable agriculture and rural development, focusing on productivity, quality, competitiveness, environmental protection and climate change adaptation.	Hanoi DARD	Promotes sustainable agricultural practices, green processing, pollution reduction, climate change adaptation, investment and market linkages. Provides a framework for urban growth, agri-tourism, business incubation, capacity building of peri-urban farmers and multi-stakeholder engagement.	No guidance on UPA practices. No reference to the specificities of urban and peri-urban settings.

<p>Hanoi's Plan on Restructuring the Agricultural Sector to 2025 (2022)</p>	<p>It aims at sustainable agriculture with improved quality and competitiveness, focusing on environmental protection, rural incomes, food security and national defence, and promoting modern, clean agriculture linked to global value chains.</p>	<p>Hanoi DARD</p>	<p>Focuses on improving production, food safety and environmental performance, with an emphasis on clean and urban agriculture, circular economy and market linkages. This includes improving living standards and food security, planning for key products, promoting short supply chains, retail systems and multi-stakeholder engagement.</p>	<p>No specific strategies, targets or plan to achieve the high-level objectives mentioned on UPA.</p>
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The recent National Action Plan on Food Systems Transformation embraces the food systems approach but falls short in explicitly addressing the important role of urban and peri-urban areas in this transformation. It also overlooks the potential of UPA as a catalyst for local action. Similarly, other national policies—such as the 2017 Law on Planning, the 2013 Law on Land, and the 2022 National Strategy on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development—recognise aspects of UPA but lack specific provisions for its management, land classification, or strategies for strengthening linkages between urban and peri-urban areas. At the local level, while Hanoi's 2022 Plan on Restructuring the Agricultural Sector and its 2022 Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and

Rural Development reflect high-level ambitions for UPA, they do not provide detailed guidance or actionable strategies for implementing a systemic approach to UPA. These documents often emphasise environmental and economic outcomes without fully articulating the connections to nutrition, health, community wellbeing, and other social benefits. Despite these gaps, the increasing acknowledgment of UPA's potential is promising. Hanoi's relatively large land resources for agriculture present a significant opportunity to harness UPA's multiple benefits, including enhanced resilience, improved livelihoods, food and nutrition security, community cohesion, and recreational opportunities.



4. Stakeholder analysis

In order to optimise the development of a more integrated approach to urban and peri-urban agriculture in Hanoi, it is crucial that all stakeholders work together in a collaborative manner. These stakeholders include the government, civil society organisations, universities, intergovernmental organisations and the private sector.

Figure 1 provides a map of the key stakeholders based on their influence on the development of UPA policy in Hanoi, while Figure 2 provides an insight into which stakeholders need to be engaged, informed, empowered and with whom to collaborate when developing initiatives related to UPA in Hanoi. For a clearer view of the figures, click [here](#) and [here](#).

Figure 1 - Map of UPA stakeholders in Hanoi

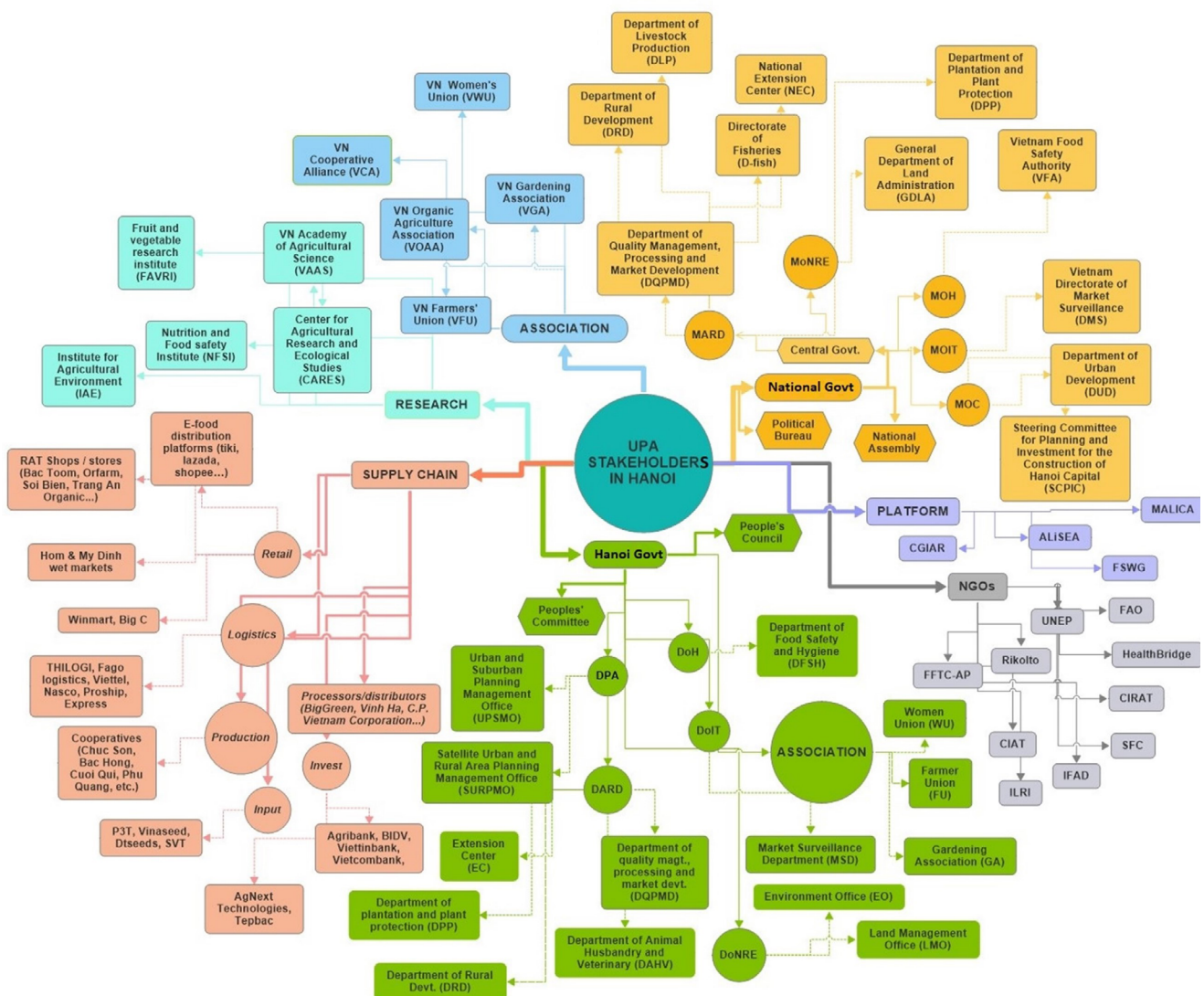
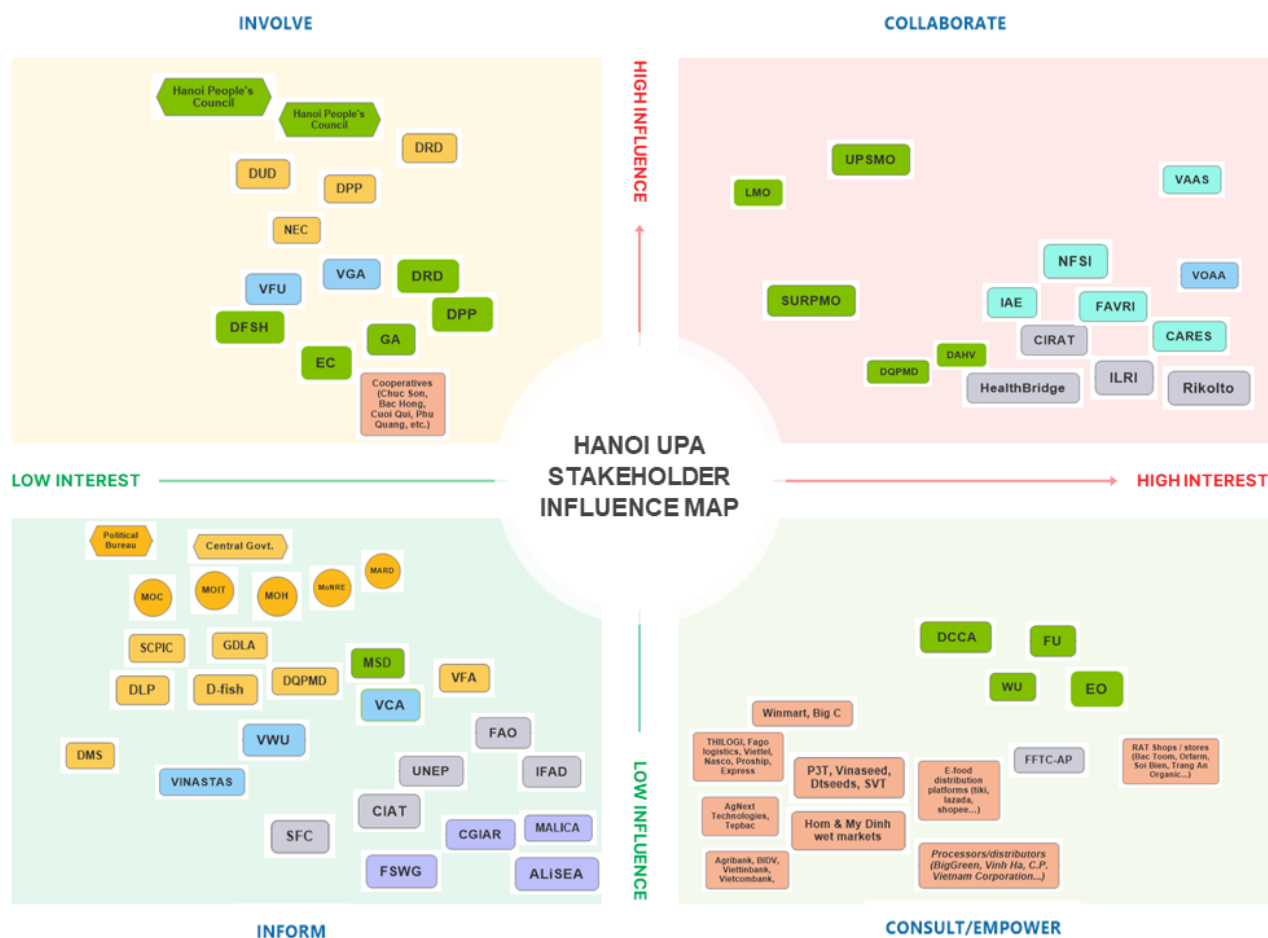


Figure 2 - Stakeholder analysis of UPA in Vietnam



Hanoi currently lacks a dedicated platform for UPA, resulting in weak connections between government agencies, food system actors, research institutions, and civil society. While the Hanoi Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), under the leadership of DRD and with technical input from VAAS, is developing a 2030 UPA plan, the process is missing participation from food system actors and civil society.

Engaging influential yet uninterested stakeholders in UPA faces several challenges: 1) Low prioritization of UPA, leading to limited participation and support; 2) Difficulty in securing essential resources such as funding, land, and policy backing; 3) Regulatory barriers due to challenges in influencing policy change; 4) Limited awareness and understanding of UPA's benefits, resulting in misconceptions and resistance; and 5) Competing priorities that make UPA seem less urgent compared to other issues.





5. Policy recommendations

The following recommendations were developed based on the policy analysis, stakeholder analysis and mapping of existing initiatives, as well as bilateral discussions with key stakeholders. The recommendations were reviewed and discussed at a multi-stakeholder workshop that brought together 60 participants from various branches of local government at city, district and provincial levels, including participants from neighbouring provinces, the private sector, civil society organisations and research institutions. The recommendations presented here reflect the outcome of these discussions.

Vietnam National Assembly

- Revise the **Land Law** to formally recognise UPA and guarantee legal and secure land for UPA practitioners. This step could encourage participation in UPA, ultimately improving food security and sustainability.
- Amend the **Law on Planning** and the **Law on Capital** to integrate UPA into urban spatial planning and socio-economic strategies. This includes the provision of necessary infrastructure, services and facilities for UPA.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)

- Develop a **national policy for the advancement of UPA**. This policy should provide guidance for integrating UPA at the local level, defining types of UPA such as Urban Agriculture (UA) and Peri-urban

Agriculture (PA) which may cover Commercial Food Production (CFB), Home-Based Food Production (HBFP), Community-Based Food Production (CBFP) and Institutional Food Production (IFP), stakeholder responsibilities, monitor UPA practices, and advocate for its inclusion in urban planning.

- Integrate UPA as a key component of the **National Action Plan for Food System Transformation**, setting clear targets and benchmarks for its development. This could pave the way for scaling up UPA practices and provide a quantifiable means of monitoring its national progress.

Hanoi People's Committee (PC)

- Integrate UPA into **Hanoi's Agricultural Master Plan** and **Land Use Plan**, as approved by the Hanoi PC. This would help harmonise urban expansion and agricultural conservation, ultimately strengthening food security and resilience to urbanisation and climate change.
- Develop an **investment policy** to stimulate public and private investment in UPA through subsidies and incentives. This policy should prioritise investment in research, innovation and knowledge sharing to increase the attractiveness of sustainable UPA practices.
- Establish a **policy to increase the participation of MSMEs, start-ups and women in UPA**. This may include financial incentives, improved access to resources

and streamlined bureaucratic processes. The policy should emphasise the importance of women's participation in UPA and other local food system activities.

Hanoi Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)

- Develop a **roadmap on UPA for Hanoi**. This roadmap should outline key milestones, implementation strategies and evaluation criteria to implement the UPA strategy currently under review by Hanoi's People's Committee. It should also define the concept and criteria for UPA and identify areas for investment and innovation, particularly in sustainable practices and technologies.
- Establish a **coordination committee** and set up a **public-private partnership** to implement Hanoi's UPA roadmap. This includes establishing protocols for joint planning, task delegation, information sharing, capacity development and inclusive decision-making to facilitate effective collaboration in implementing Hanoi's UPA roadmap and integrating it into urban planning processes.
- Develop **UPA guidelines** and integrate them into existing extension systems, accompanied by capacity building initiatives to enhance the skills of UPA practitioners. The guidelines should be comprehensive, user-friendly and tailored to the needs of practitioners.
- Develop an **evaluation framework** with criteria to assess the effectiveness and impact of UPA in Hanoi. This framework would assess UPA's effectiveness across economic, social, and environmental spheres. By providing

quantifiable data on UPA's contributions, this evaluation should improve performance measurement and inform future strategies and resource allocation.

- Invest in **strengthening local service networks** for UPA in Hanoi. These services include access to agricultural inputs, technical assistance, financial incentives (e.g., tax rebates), and marketing support.
- Build a **knowledge and policy platform for UPA**, engaging research organisations such as the Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Science (VAAS), the Institute for Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD) and the Vietnam National University of Agriculture (VNUA) to gather evidence on the benefits and challenges of UPA in the context of Hanoi, conduct joint policy advocacy and coordinate UPA activities. This evidence will play a crucial role in shaping policy development, ensuring that policies are based on sound research and tailored to the specific needs and conditions of Hanoi. This will help maximise the potential benefits of UPA while mitigating potential risks, ultimately leading to more effective and sustainable UPA practices.
- Establish a comprehensive **database on UPA** in Hanoi. This database should capture existing practices, membership structures, activities, and economic impacts. Such a resource should inform the development of city policies and strategies that support the adoption and sustainable growth of UPA in Hanoi.



Conclusion

Hanoi is currently witnessing a diverse landscape of UPA, which includes commercial, home-based, community-based, and institutional food production. This diversity underscores the important role that UPA plays in ensuring the stability and resilience of the city's food system. For the full potential of UPA to be realised, UPA practices must receive recognition in policy documents at both the central and local government levels. Such recognition would stimulate investment and participation from a variety of stakeholders, with a particular emphasis on MSMEs, youth and women.

The development of a comprehensive UPA roadmap for Hanoi necessitates a clear definition of UPA, the establishment of a robust governance framework that includes public-private partnerships, and investments in capacity building, knowledge management and evaluation. This approach acknowledges the interconnections and potential trade-offs between the nutritional, socio-economic, resilience and environmental sustainability outcomes of UPA as part of a broader systems approach.

By integrating UPA into urban planning, providing essential support services and formulating evidence-based policies, Hanoi can make significant strides towards achieving a sustainable urban food system. This approach underscores the importance of a holistic perspective that recognises the multifaceted nature of urban food systems and the role of UPA within them.

Colophon

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