

Vietnamese agriculture: One year entering the WTO

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Abstract

Vietnam became the official member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the 7th of November, 2006. Joining the WTO has brought great opportunities as well as challenges to the Vietnamese economy, especially the agricultural industry. The nation has 73.7% of its population living in rural areas. This includes 13.2 million households of which 11 millions are directly involved in agricultural production. The agricultural industry contributes 21% to the nation's GDP. This paper reviews some achievements of the industry and proposes solutions for it to overcome challenges after being a member of the WTO.

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Key words

Vietnamese agriculture, WTO, export, trade barriers

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Overview of the Vietnamese agricultural industry

Agricultural production

The agricultural sector had to face many difficulties in 2007. The winter was unusually long and severe in the north. Pestilence appeared again in the Mekong Delta and the foot and mouth disease occurred in almost every province of the country. In addition, prices of many inputs were extremely high. In spite of that, the industry still managed to achieve significant outputs.