Organic agriculture development in Vietnam in the new era: current situation, opportunities, and challenges

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Abstract: *Organic agriculture is regarded as a sustainable pathway, contributing to environmental protection, improving the quality of agricultural products, and meeting the growing demands of both domestic and international markets. Despite its significant potential, the development of organic agriculture in Vietnam still faces numerous limitations - from producers' limited awareness and small-scale production to the lack of a comprehensive support mechanism. This paper examines the theoretical and practical foundations of organic agriculture, evaluates the current state of its development in Vietnam, and identifies the challenges and difficulties associated with its implementation. On this basis, the study proposes several solutions to promote sustainable development of organic agriculture, aligning with natural conditions, socio-economic contexts, and the requirements of international integration.*

Keywords: *Organic agriculture; sustainable development; agricultural policy; food safety; international integration; agricultural market.*

1. Introduction

Development of organic agriculture has become an inevitable global trend in the context of climate change, natural resource degradation, environmental pollution, and the increasing demand for food safety. According to the United Nations and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), organic agriculture not only aims at providing safe products and protecting public health but also plays a vital role in safeguarding the ecological environment, maintaining biodiversity, and promoting sustainable development. The strong appeal and value of this sector can be seen from the fact that national standards systems and organic markets worth billions of USD have been established in various countries.

In Vietnam, although organic agriculture was first mentioned in the 1990s through several international cooperation projects, it was not until the Government issued Decree No. 109/2018/ND-CP dated August 29, 2018 on Organic Agriculture and Decision No. 885/QD-TTg dated June

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23, 2020 approving the Project on Organic Agriculture Development for the period 2020-2030 that the sector witnessed significant breakthroughs in cultivated area, output, and export value. The domestic organic agricultural market, though emerging only within the past decade, has experienced rapid growth, particularly in major urban areas, while its export markets are expanding to the United States, the European Union, Japan, South Korea and other countries.

However, the development of organic agriculture in Vietnam still faces numerous limitations, such as small-scale production, inadequate infrastructure, high certification costs, uneven awareness among producers and consumers, as well as shortages of high-quality human resources. Therefore, studying, assessing the current situation, and proposing solutions for development of organic agriculture in Vietnam carry both theoretical significance and urgent practical value, contributing to steering Vietnamese agriculture toward a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable pathway.

2. Organic agricultural production worldwide

Organic agriculture and the organic farming movement first emerged in 1939 as a response to the development of chemical-based agriculture and increasing environmental pollution. The term "organic farming" was first introduced by Lord Northbourne (Walter James) in his book Look to the Land (1939), in which he conceptualized the farm as a living organism aimed at achieving ecological balance. Over the past three decades, organic agriculture has garnered significant attention in various countries, particularly in developed ones, where concerns over food security have been alleviated while issues of food safety, agricultural quality, and environmental degradation have become increasingly critical.

According to the United Nations, organic agriculture is a farming and livestock system based on natural methods, which avoids the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, thereby reducing pollution and ensuring the health of both humans and livestock. IFOAM identifies four fundamental principles of organic production: (1) Ecology - imitating and sustaining natural systems; (2) Health - protecting the health of soil, crops, animals, and humans; (3) Fairness - ensuring equity, respect, and justice for all living beings; and, (4) Care - considering the well-being of future generations.

The 20th Organic World Congress (OWC), held in September 2021, reaffirmed the contribution of organic agriculture to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This progress is reflected in the expansion of cultivated areas, the increasing number of producers, market growth, and rising revenues. The Congress also emphasized the role of organic farming in climate change adaptation, ensuring food and nutrition security, halting biodiversity loss, and promoting sustainable consumption.

According to the Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and IFOAM (2023), organic agriculture is now practiced in 172 countries, covering a total area of 99 million hectares, which accounts for approximately 1.2% of the global agricultural land. Notably, 73% of this area is concentrated in 10 countries, including: Australia (22.7 million ha, primarily grazing land), Argentina (3.1 million ha), the United States (2.0 million ha), Spain (1.97 million ha), China (1.6 million ha), Italy (1.49 million ha), France (1.38 million ha), Uruguay (1.31 million ha), India (1.18 million ha), and Germany (1.09 million ha).

Furthermore, the World of Organic Agriculture Report (FiBL & IFOAM, 2023) indicates that global revenues from organic food and beverages exceeded €136 billion, with the largest consumer markets being the United States and Europe, followed by Asia. The FiBL

Report (2022) also notes that national organic product standards have been enacted by 84 countries and being developed by another 24 countries. Additionally, the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) are utilized by various nations to manage the quality of their organic value chains. More than 1.1 million organic producers across 77 countries have been certified under the PGS scheme.

3. Current situation of organic agricultural production in Vietnam

Organic agriculture has increasingly become an inevitable trend in global farming. In line with this trajectory, Vietnam's agricultural sector has gradually promoted organic farming as a long-term and sustainable pathway. In this context, numerous mechanisms and policies have been implemented to encourage green agriculture. Notably, Resolution No. 19-NQ/TW dated June 16, 2022, issued by the 13th Party Central Committee, emphasizes "encouraging the development of green, organic, and circular agriculture." Previously, the Government had issued Decree No. 109/2018/ND-CP on organic agriculture and Decision No. 885/QD-TTg approving the Organic Agriculture Development Scheme for the 2020 - 2030 period. These policies have enabled Vietnamese farmers to gradually adopt organic production and swiftly shift to meeting domestic and international organic standards in crop cultivation, livestock, and aquaculture. At the same time, the Government has affirmed strong support for organic agriculture as part of sustainable and eco-friendly farming, contributing to productivity gains and enhancing the competitiveness of Vietnamese agricultural products in global markets. Furthermore, advancements in biotechnology have led to the development of a wide range of biological products that meet the requirements of organic farming.

As early as the 1990s, several non-governmental organizations began studying and implementing organic farming projects in Vietnam. A notable example is the period from 2005 to 2012, when the Danish NGO ADDA supported Vietnam through the Vietnam Farmers' Union via the Organic Agriculture Development Project. The project focused on major crops, including rice, vegetables, lychee, orange, pomelo, tea, and several aquaculture species, in northern provinces. These activities not only helped farmers better understand organic farming principles and methods but also laid the foundation for the establishment of initial organic production models in Vietnam.

In recent years, organic agriculture in Vietnam has undergone a remarkable transformation, resulting in notable improvements in productivity, output, and product diversification. Production scales have expanded, allowing many organic products to penetrate large domestic supermarket chains and serve export markets. Emerging only about a decade ago, the domestic organic agricultural market has been growing rapidly, particularly in major urban areas such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Demand from high-income consumer groups, who prioritize health, continues to rise, creating market niches for organic products, including rice, vegetables, and fruits. Despite variations in statistical data regarding the market size (estimated at around USD 200 million), most assessments highlight the substantial potential of the domestic market. Rising average incomes, coupled with growing health concerns, have driven the shift toward safer and more eco-friendly food. If region-specific products are strategically focused on, Vietnam's organic agriculture, with its natural and social advantages, can effectively penetrate high-value international markets.

According to the Vietnam Organic Agriculture Association, consumer demand for organic and safe products is steadily increasing

both domestically and internationally. The pace of organic agriculture development and the conversion of land to organic farming has accelerated significantly since the issuance of the Government's Decree No. 109/2018/ND-CP. Specifically, the area under organic production and conversion rose from 76,600 hectares in 2017 to 174,000 hectares in 2022 and reached 450,000 hectares in 2023. By the end of 2023, certified organic production areas accounted for 74,540 hectares, or approximately 0.5% of the country's total agricultural land. In parallel, the number of entities engaged in organic production and business has been expanding, with about 17,174 production units, 555 processing units, and 97 enterprises. The export turnover of organic products reached approximately USD 335 million annually, representing an increase of more than 418% compared to the 2010-2016 period, with rapid growth in scale, volume, value, and product diversity.

Organic agriculture has been implemented across the country, with concentrated production regions located in Hanoi, Hoa Binh (now Phu Tho province), Lao Cai, Ha Giang (now Tuyen Quang province), Ha Nam (now Ninh Binh province), Quang Nam (now Da Nang city), Lam Dong, Ca Mau, and Ba Ria–Vung Tau (now Ho Chi Minh City). Various Vietnamese organic brands, including Ca Mau mangrove shrimp, Hoa Sua organic rice, Vinamit dried fruits, An Giang catfish and basa, Co May straw mushrooms, Betrimex coconut water and dried coconuts, as well as Vinamilk and TH True Milk's organic dairy products, have gained recognition in both domestic and international markets. To date, more than 60 Vietnamese enterprises have exported organic products to over 180 markets, including the United States, the EU, China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Russia, achieving an annual export turnover of approximately USD 335 million.

There are two main models of organic production in Vietnam. The first is the private enterprise model, which primarily applies international organic standards (such as those from the EU, US, and Japan) to produce for export while distributing a portion to the domestic market. The second is the farmer group model, which mainly applies Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) standards and focuses on serving domestic consumption. However, these groups typically operate voluntarily, lacking stable consumption contracts, and most have not registered certification with international organizations, resulting in unsustainable market access.

(1) *Crop production:* By 2017, certified organic crop areas reached 3,052.3 hectares of coconut, 538.9 hectares of tea, 489.8 hectares of rice, and 94.1 hectares of vegetables (Economics & Forecasting, 2017). Many cooperatives have implemented organic farming for years and initially generated value-added products, such as vegetable production in Luong Son (Hoa Binh, now Phu Tho), Thanh Xuan commune (Soc Son, Hanoi, now Noi Bai commune - Hanoi), Shan Tuyet tea in Bac Ha (Lao Cai), and oranges in Ham Yen (Tuyen Quang). These efforts laid the foundation for the formation of a domestic organic product distribution network. Several enterprises have successfully invested in producing and exporting organic products with international certification, such as Vien Phu company (organic rice and vegetables), Organik Da Lat Company (organic vegetables), Ha Linh Co., Ltd. (organic tea in Lam Dong), and Ecolink and Hung Cuong Companies (developing ICS systems based on Shan Tuyet tea smallholder networks in Lao Cai and Ha Giang) (Environment & Urban Magazine, 2018). These models have demonstrated the potential and value of Vietnamese organic agriculture in both domestic and global markets.

(2) *Livestock and aquaculture:* Organic livestock production in general, and organic

dairy farming in particular, remains relatively new in Vietnam. The recognition of several organic dairy farms by international certification bodies in recent years has marked a breakthrough for leading livestock and dairy processing enterprises. Notably, two large-scale organic dairy farms have been certified by Control Union, a Dutch-based international certification body: Vinamilk's organic dairy farm (initially established in Lam Dong province, with a herd of 500 organic dairy cows imported from the US) (Cornall, 2017), and TH Group's organic dairy farm (in Nghe An province, with a herd of 1,000 organic dairy cows and a projected increase to 3,000 by 2018) (Tho, 2024).

Beyond dairy farming, some enterprises and farms have developed organic pig farming based on Japanese standards, with products distributed domestically. In aquaculture, ecological shrimp farming projects associated with mangrove forest protection in Ca Mau, supported by the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), are undergoing certification by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for export to the European market. By the end of September 2015, the country's organic aquaculture area reached 20,030 hectares, including 20,000 hectares of ecological shrimp farms and 30 hectares of freshwater fish farms (Ha Tinh Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2017).

(3) *Organic fertilizer production and use:* Alongside the development of organic crop and livestock farming, organic fertilizer production and use have also made significant progress. Organic fertilizers are currently produced by approximately 250 units nationwide, with a total registered capacity of 4 million tons per year. Of these, 115 units have been licensed for production, with a combined capacity of approximately 2 million tons per year. However, the actual output is only about 1 million tons a year, accounting for 10% of total fertilizer use (Nature & Environment Magazine, 2022). Among these are 15 large-scale factories with a combined capacity of 1.25 million tons a year, such as Ajinomoto, Vedan, Miwon, Vietstar, Thien Sinh, Lam Son, and Que Lam. The remaining are mostly small-scale facilities, with a capacity of less than 10,000 tons per year (Plant Protection Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2020). The development of organic fertilizer production has played a crucial role in meeting input demands for organic agriculture, while also creating the foundation for expanding scale and improving the quality of organic agricultural products in Vietnam.

4. Opportunities for the development of organic agriculture in Vietnam

4.1. Domestic and international demand

Emerging only in the past decade, the domestic organic product market is showing strong growth momentum. Demand from high-income consumers in major cities for safe agricultural and food products has been increasing, gradually creating a market foothold for various organic products, including clean rice, vegetables, tea, and meat. Although statistical data remain inconsistent on the size of Vietnam's organic food market, most assessments agree that the domestic market potential for organic products is substantial. As Vietnamese incomes rise rapidly, coupled with growing concerns about personal and family health as well as food safety, the trend toward selecting safe, environmentally friendly food in urban areas will become increasingly pronounced.

The global organic product market continues to maintain stable growth in both value and output, with a market size of approximately USD 81.6 billion per year (FiBL & IFOAM, 2024). Premium markets such as the United States, Japan, and Europe particularly favour organic products due to both their superior qualities in health protection and a

common recognition of the significant role of organic agriculture in safeguarding ecosystems and mitigating the impacts of global climate change. Vietnamese organic agriculture will have abundant opportunities to participate in high-value, fast-growing global organic agricultural markets if Vietnam, with its advantages in natural and social conditions, can make strategic choices in product types and production regions tailored to specific markets - especially by prioritizing the development of indigenous specialty products linked to unique ecosystems in areas less affected by industrial production. Product sectors with particular prospects include vegetables, fruits, tea, coffee, pepper, spices, medicinal plants, aquaculture, and honey.

4.2. Advantages in natural and social conditions

Vietnam, as an agricultural country, possesses significant potential and advantages in natural and social conditions for the development of organic agriculture. The country lies in a tropical monsoon climate zone, characterized by high temperatures, abundant humidity, and heavy rainfall. These conditions enable rapid biomass production for organic farming, with material transformation cycles occurring at high speed, and complex organic compounds being quickly decomposed into simple minerals that crops can directly absorb. Raw materials for organic fertilizer production - such as green manure, animal manure, and agricultural by-products - are also plentiful. Biotechnology is being widely applied in the production of bio-organic fertilizers, functional microbial fertilizers, soil and water treatment agents, as well as various microbial preparations and herbal-based pesticides that can replace chemical pesticides in plant protection.

In practice, Vietnamese farmers have long employed spontaneous organic farming methods. Prior to the 1980s, farmers primarily relied on local and traditional crop varieties with low yields but limited dependence on inorganic fertilizers. Fertilization primarily stemmed from organic inputs, while the local crop varieties demonstrated relatively high resistance to pests and diseases, thereby reducing the need for plant protection products, especially chemical pesticides. Additionally, Vietnam has a large agricultural labor force with considerable experience and creativity in agricultural production. This constitutes an important advantage for developing organic agriculture, which is inherently labor-intensive in cultivation, care, and processing.

4.3. Legal framework and policies for the development of organic agriculture in Vietnam

The Government of Vietnam has consistently affirmed its strong commitment to developing a sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural sector, enhancing productivity and the competitiveness of agricultural products, including organic agriculture. One of the central solutions to promoting organic agriculture lies in improving institutions, mechanisms, and policies. A series of legal documents and standards have been promulgated in recent years, forming the foundation for the development of organic agriculture in Vietnam.

2006: The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (now the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment) issued sectoral standard 10TCN 602:2006, applicable to organic farming processes and products labeled or intended to be labeled as organic.

2008: The Vietnam Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Coordination Board introduced PGS organic standards, referenced from IFOAM's basic standards. These standards have been applied in Vietnam since October 2008, with participation from enterprises and farmer groups.

May 2012: The Vietnam Organic Agriculture Association (VOAA) was established, playing a

crucial role in connecting producers and businesses, while contributing to the development of policies for sustainable organic agriculture.

2012: The Prime Minister issued Decision No. 01/2012/QD-TTg (January 9, 2012) on policies supporting the application of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, including organic agriculture.

2013: The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development launched the Framework Program on Science and Technology Research for Agriculture and Rural Development in the period 2013-2020, which included organic fruit and vegetable production.

2015: The Ministry of Science and Technology issued Vietnamese Standard (TCVN) 11041:2015-guidelines on the production, processing, labeling, and marketing of organic food-covering crop and livestock farming, adapted from the international Codex CAC/GL 32-1999 (amended in 2013).

2017 - 2018: The Ministry of Science and Technology promulgated the National Organic Standards of Vietnam, including:

- TCVN 11041-1:2017: General requirements for production, processing, and labeling of organic products;
- TCVN 11041-2:2017: Organic crop production;
- TCVN 11041-3:2017: Organic livestock farming;
- TCVN 11041-5:2018: Organic rice;
- TCVN 11041-6:2018: Organic tea.

2018: The Government issued Decree No. 109/2018/ND-CP, which introduced preferential mechanisms and policies for organic agriculture. Organizations and individuals engaged in organic production and business are entitled to all existing policies for agricultural and rural development (such as credit incentives, agricultural extension, and support for high-tech agriculture) and receive specific support, including 100% funding for planning organic production zones, 100% of first-time certification costs, and financial support for training, workshops, and model development.

November 2018: The National Assembly adopted the Law on Crop Production, which includes a separate section (Chapter IV, Section 5) on organic farming, providing a critical legal basis for the development of sustainable organic agriculture.

2019: The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (now the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment) issued Circular No. 16/2019/TT-BNNPTNT (November 1, 2019), detailing several provisions of Decree 109/2018/ND-CP.

2020: The Prime Minister promulgated Decision No. 885/QD-TTg (June 23, 2020), approving the "Project on Organic Agriculture Development for the Period 2020-2030," aiming to guide and operationalize organic farming activities on scientific and practical grounds. In the same year, the Ministry issued Decision No. 5317/QD-BNN-CBTTNS (December 28, 2020), outlining the action plan for implementation.

In summary, Vietnam's institutional and policy system for organic agriculture has undergone progressive improvement, creating a solid legal framework and practical foundation to encourage expansion in scale, enhance product quality, and strengthen the reputation of Vietnamese organic products in both domestic and international markets.

4.4. Participation of ministries, agencies, localities, and enterprises

The trend of organic agricultural production has increasingly attracted the attention of enterprises, producers, and consumers in recent years in Vietnam, amid growing demands for food safety and environmental protection. Notably, organic food, with its broad export markets and high economic value, has

become a strong driving force encouraging many enterprises and producers to invest in this sector. Numerous enterprises have focused on safe, clean, and ecological agriculture, closely linked to organic farming, across a variety of crops and livestock. Notably, these activities have increasingly focused on developing organic agriculture for indigenous and unique products with competitive advantages associated with the specific ecological conditions of different regions.

The National Trade Promotion Program is organized annually by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Vietnam to promote organic agricultural production processes in the domestic market and also to connect and expand trade between Vietnamese enterprises and major consumption markets such as the United States, the European Union (EU), Japan, Australia, and China. In addition, the participation of localities and enterprises in the National Brand Program and the Vietnam Food Brand Program are actively supported and facilitated by other relevant ministries and agencies. These activities contribute to building and enhancing the branding of key agricultural commodities, emphasizing quality and origin, and creating an important foundation for promoting the development of organic products in the context of international economic integration.

5. Challenges and priority solutions for the development of organic agriculture in Vietnam

5.1. Challenges

Despite its significant potential and advantages, organic agriculture in Vietnam continues to face numerous obstacles. First, the planning system for organic production has not been developed as a distinct framework but largely integrated into other programs and projects, such as high-tech agriculture or agricultural product consumption linkages. Moreover, low-pollution areas that could be developed into large-scale organic production zones have not been provided with dedicated planning or protection plan for land and water resources. The availability of clean land immediately convertible to organic farming remains very limited while the conversion process in intensive farming regions requires one to three years to restore soil quality, thereby increasing initial investment costs. In addition, the market, arguably the most decisive factor in the success of organic agriculture, has not been clearly defined in terms of target consumers and distribution channels. At the same time, infrastructure, processing, and product commercialization remain underdeveloped.

Another challenge lies in the fact that organic farming is still predominantly small-scale and spontaneous, with few integrated, closed-loop production models, leading to high costs and limited competitiveness. Organic production processes, including crop and livestock cultivation techniques as well as training manuals tailored to specific species remain inadequate and modestly disseminated. Added to that, awareness among producers, consumers, and policymakers regarding the value of organic products and the strict compliance requirements for production, monitoring, and certification remains inconsistent. Most farmers are accustomed to small-scale production based on traditional experience, viewing organic farming more as a way to improve household food security than as a commercial production model.

A further obstacle is the shortage of highly qualified human resources for organic agriculture. The number of experts, technicians, and workers with the necessary knowledge and skills in this field is currently far too small compared to the actual demand. There has been neither flagship program nor sufficient investment to create breakthroughs. At the same time, accessibility and application remain

limited, and farmers still face difficulties in accessing support policies although the legal framework and national standards for organic agriculture have been gradually improved. Domestic certification organizations are but a few, leaving most enterprises and producers reliant on international certification bodies, which results in high certification costs and practical challenges, particularly for small-scale enterprises. These barriers collectively constitute significant constraints on the sustainable development of organic agriculture in Vietnam.

5.2. Core solutions

To develop organic agriculture in Vietnam in a sustainable direction, it is necessary to implement a comprehensive system of solutions that combines long-term strategic orientation with immediate priorities. First, planning and protecting organic production zones should be carried out early, based on the specific natural and socio-economic conditions of each agro-ecological sub-region. Priority should be given to planning organic livestock areas in conjunction with afforestation, forest protection, and minimally polluted or pollution-free cultivation areas. Additionally, regions favorable for crop restructuring and development of concentrated commodity production zones should be considered. Alongside planning, it is crucial to define a clear development roadmap to avoid movement-based campaigns that lack orientation. At the same time, specific policies should be issued to support land conversion, infrastructure development, and environmental protection, thereby ensuring the stability and sustainability of organic production areas.

In parallel with planning, improving the legal framework and introducing specific supportive policies also form another key solution. In addition to general policies for agricultural development, the State needs to introduce targeted measures related to credit, taxation, insurance, and land use to encourage enterprises, cooperatives, and farming households to invest in organic production. Specifically, there should be direct support for the conversion process from conventional to organic farming, including certification cost subsidies, technical training, demonstration models, and product promotion. These measures provide the foundation for motivating and strengthening the confidence of stakeholders involved in organic production and business.

Another important requirement is to enhance the application of science and technology in organic agriculture. Greater emphasis should be placed on research and breeding of crop and livestock varieties suited to organic farming conditions. Simultaneously, developing bio-organic fertilizers, microbial preparations, and herbal-based plant protection agents should be pursued to replace harmful chemicals. Biotechnology and post-harvest processing technologies can help improve productivity, quality, and value-added of organic products. In particular, the digitalization of planned production zones must be promoted, with regular updates and public disclosure of information to ensure transparency in production zone coding, traceability, and product quality certification. Applying digital technologies and innovative management solutions also contributes to brand building, enhancing reputation, and strengthening the competitiveness of Vietnamese organic agricultural products.

Developing markets and distribution systems for organic products is also a decisive task. The State needs to clearly orient both domestic and international markets, while supporting trade promotion, product marketing, and establishment of specialized distribution channels. Strengthening

connections among enterprises across the value chain - from production and processing to distribution and consumption - will reduce costs, increase efficiency, and expand market scale. In addition, e-commerce platforms, supermarket systems, and organic store chains in major urban areas should be made maximum use of, while supporting the development of national and regional brands for organic products associated with local specialties. This approach will establish a strong foundation for international integration.

Alongside market development, training and developing high-quality human resources is of critical importance for the growth of organic agriculture. Training institutions, research institutes, and universities should both integrate organic agriculture into their curricula and organize training courses for farmers, cooperatives, and enterprises. Building a team of experts and technical staff capable of supervising, advising, and implementing organic production models will facilitate compliance with proper standards. At the same time, it is critical to run awareness-raising campaigns for consumers and enterprises about the value of organic products, thereby expanding market demand and motivating farmers to adhere strictly to organic farming protocols.

Finally, the certification and quality control system for organic products must be improved and expanded. Establishing additional domestic certification bodies with competence and credibility will reduce costs and create favorable conditions for small enterprises and farming households to access organic certification. At the same time, international cooperation should be strengthened to achieve mutual recognition of certifications, thereby enabling Vietnamese organic products to penetrate high-standard markets such as the United States, the EU, and Japan. A rigorous and transparent certification and monitoring system will reinforce consumer trust, enhance the reputation, and elevate the brand of Vietnamese organic agricultural products both domestically and internationally.

6. Conclusion

Organic agriculture is a strategic pathway toward building a sustainable agricultural system, contributing to environmental protection, ensuring food safety, and enhancing national competitiveness. This sector has made notable progress in Vietnam, reflected in the rapid expansion of production areas, the growing number of participating enterprises, the increasing diversity of products, and the rising export value. Products such as Ca Mau mangrove shrimp, Hoa Sua organic rice, and organic milk from Vinamilk and TH True Milk have established strong brand positions in international markets.

However, organic agriculture in Vietnam continues to face significant challenges. These include small-scale production, the absence of closed value-chain production models, high certification costs, limitations in zoning organic production areas, protecting land and water resources, and a shortage of human resources with expertise in organic techniques. The consumer market, though promising, remains unstable due to the lack of strategic orientation and reliable distribution systems.

To overcome these difficulties, a comprehensive set of solutions must be implemented. These include planning organic production areas based on local ecological advantages, improving the legal framework and introducing tailored supportive policies, promoting the application of science and technology, supporting certification and brand development, strengthening distribution systems, expanding both domestic and international markets, and training high-quality human resources. These orientations are essential to enable Vietnam's organic

agriculture to fully realize its potential, contribute to achieving sustainable development goals, and build a green agricultural system that is effectively integrated into the global economy in the new era.

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