

A typical Vietnamese yard has several varieties of fruit-bearing trees. These are often scattered throughout the yard and bear fruit at different times during the year.

Many people use existing ponds or hand-dig trenches in which to raise fish. These fish are easy to raise and are a valuable source of protein. They also represent a large supplement to family income. Many fish-raisers sell their mature fish in the market. Rice bran is a common food for these fish. This is a part of the rice which is not usually eaten by the Vietnamese, so it makes sense to get good use out of it in this way.

Many Vietnamese raise pigs in their yards. There are several functions of pig raising. Of course, they eat the meat when the pigs are of suitable age. Also, they use the manure for two things. By allowing the waste to ferment in large plastic bags they can catch valuable methane gas which would otherwise escape into the atmosphere unused. This gas is channeled into the kitchen for a cooking gas that is cleaner and cheaper than wood. After the manure has released its gas it is used to feed the fish.

Most people grow rice on their land, but some people have found a way to get even more out of the same space. Since rice grows in water it is possible to raise fish in the rice paddies. These fish not only provide food and income, but also benefit the rice by eating the eggs of certain harmful pests. This is called Integrated Pest Management.

Ethnic minorities, who have been pushed into the less fertile highlands have been extremely resourceful in the face of the rough land's limitations. On the mountain slopes where it is difficult for anything to grow people have terra-formed, reshaped the land into terraces or shelves. These terraces are level areas which can hold water and therefore support rice growing.

Many locals in the Mekong Delta who have typically small yards which were going unused have converted them into small-scale organic gardens. These gardens help to feed the family and supplement income on top of that. These gardens beautify the landscape of the neighborhood and demonstrate efficient use of precious land. Some even grow flowers.