

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Vietnamese Leadership Transition - Appointment of the Minister of Agriculture and Environment

**Country:** Vietnam

**Post:** Hanoi

**Report Category:** Agriculture in the News

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**Report Highlights:**

Vietnam has confirmed its government for the 2026 - 2031 term following the April 2026 National Assembly session, marking the implementation phase of the 14th National Party Congress agenda. The leadership transition reflects continuity under the Communist Party of Vietnam alongside a greater concentration of authority at the top level. A streamlined Government structure has been adopted, with 14 ministries and 3 ministerial-level agencies, reduced from 18 ministries and 4 agencies in the previous term due to the merger and reorganization of certain ministries. Within this transition, the appointment of Mr. Trịnh Việt Hùng as Minister of Agriculture and Environment signals continuity in policy direction with a focus on sustainability and integrated coordination across agriculture and environmental priorities.

## Summary of Leadership Transition

Vietnam's leadership transition follows an established institutional process, beginning with the 14<sup>th</sup> Party Congress in January 2026 and formalized through the National Assembly. The 16<sup>th</sup> National Assembly convened in April 2026 to elect and ratify key leadership positions, completing the formation of the new Government.

At the national level, Tô Lâm was elected State President while continuing to serve as General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), reflecting a consolidation of leadership. Lê Minh Hung was appointed Prime Minister, bringing a technocratic and economic policy orientation, while Trần Thanh Mẫn was re-elected Chairman of the National Assembly, ensuring continuity in legislative oversight.

The cabinet ratification process followed constitutional procedures, with nominations proposed by the President and Prime Minister and approved by the National Assembly. On April 8, 2026, the National Assembly of Vietnam ratified a full cabinet lineup of 17 Ministers for the 2026 - 2031 term, including the Minister of Agriculture and Environment, following the outcomes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Party Congress. As part of the cabinet formation, Mr. Trịnh Việt Hùng, formerly Permanent Deputy Minister, was appointed as Minister of Agriculture and Environment. Given his background, which combines recent central-level experience with significant provincial leadership, his approach may support closer coordination between national policy direction and local implementation, particularly in areas such as land management, agriculture and environmental compliance.

The appointment of Minister Trịnh Việt Hùng takes place within a broader leadership transition characterized by strong central coordination under the CPV. The Government, led by Prime Minister Lê Minh Hung, has reaffirmed its commitment to implementing the strategic direction set out by the Party Central Committee, with General Secretary and President Tô Lâm at its core. As a cabinet member, Minister Trịnh Việt Hùng is expected to align closely with the overarching priorities articulated by the newly elected Prime Minister, particularly in advancing rapid, sustainable and inclusive development.

## Biography: Minister of Agriculture and Environment



Trịnh Việt Hùng was appointed Minister of Agriculture and Environment and installed in office on April 8, 2026. He is the youngest minister in the current Government. He succeeds Mr. Trần Đức Thắng, the outgoing Minister, who has recently been elected to the Politburo and appointed Secretary of the Hanoi Party Committee.

Born in Hải Phòng, Mr. Hùng holds a Doctorate in Business Administration, a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics, and undergraduate degrees in Land Management and Agricultural Economics. Mr. Trịnh Việt Hùng previously held the position of Permanent Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Environment for a short period and brings broader leadership experience, including at the provincial level.

He spent much of his early career in Thái Nguyên Province, where he served as Secretary of Đồng Hỷ District before progressing to Deputy Chairman, Standing Deputy Chairman, and subsequently Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee. He later served as Deputy Secretary of the Thái Nguyên Provincial Party Committee and Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee, before being

appointed Secretary of the Thái Nguyên Provincial Party Committee. In September 2025, he was transferred to serve as Secretary of the Lào Cai Provincial Party Committee, further strengthening his leadership experience in regional governance. In February 2026, he was appointed Permanent Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Environment. He was subsequently elected as a member of the 14<sup>th</sup> Party Central Committee and as a Deputy of the 16<sup>th</sup> National Assembly.

### **Expected Policy Direction**

The Government has set a clear objective of achieving high and sustainable economic growth over the 2026 - 2031 period, supported by innovation, digital transformation, and institutional reform, alongside a strong emphasis on green transition and climate resilience.

Within this framework, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) will play a critical role in advancing Vietnam's growth objectives while ensuring environmental sustainability and long-term resilience. Minister Trịnh Việt Hùng's leadership is likely to prioritize continuity in policy direction, with an emphasis on effective implementation rather than major structural shifts. The Minister already highlighted a shift towards green, resilient growth through integrated agricultural and environmental management supported by climate adaptation, resource security, digital transformation, stronger societal participation, and international cooperation.

As part of the leadership transition, the Minister may review and adjust the allocation of responsibilities among Deputy Ministers to align with evolving priorities. At the time of this report, MAE has nine Deputy Ministers—six overseeing agriculture and three overseeing the environment—with two of those covering agriculture expected to retire in May 2026. This transition in the leadership team may lead to adjustments in portfolio allocation and internal coordination mechanisms as the new Minister consolidates leadership within the Ministry with potential implications for policy implementation and stakeholder engagement.

The Government's broader focus on innovation, digital transformation, and green growth may create opportunities in sustainable agriculture, green financing, and environmental solutions, including improved market access for agricultural exporters through stronger compliance with international standards, enhanced traceability, and more efficient logistics and value chain integration. At the same time, stakeholders may need to monitor potential administrative adjustments following the leadership transition, particularly where these may affect regulatory processes or implementation pathways.

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments.