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Current status of research, production, limitations and solutions to develop the orchid industry in Vietnam

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According to the present updated checklist, Vietnam is home to 897 orchid species in 152 genera, representing approximately 75-80% of the orchids species likely occurring in the country. Based on our preliminary estimates, the total number of orchid species in the flora of Vietnam may be about 1000-1100 species. Vietnam's orchid export turnover currently stands at 10 -15 million USD per year, mainly relying on orchids produced through traditional vegetative propagation. However, Vietnam's ornamental flower industry imports flower seeds, pesticides and fertilisers worth an estimated 150–200 million USD per year. Although there are hundreds of thousands of large and small orchid gardens across the country, the orchid industry's development remains spontaneous and lacks organisation. The sector is still relatively small in scale, with no focused production areas, and the product quality does not meet the quality standards required by a high-value chain. Consequently, scientific and technical advancements are challenging to achieve, leading to a lack of highly competitive products and difficulty in meeting large export orders, thereby not significantly contributing to the economy's growth or modernising agricultural and rural production. If given enough attention and investment, Vietnam's science and technology sector has the potential to reach a level where orchids can be mass-produced via tissue culture, and high-quality pesticides or fertilisers can be developed for flowers and ornamental plants. By reducing import dependency, the ornamental flower industry can already realise significant profits. This talk will summarise the current state of research, breeding, and production in the orchid industry, highlighting the limitations it faces, and proposing solutions for its development in Vietnam.

Keywords: orchid, species, agricultural fertilisers