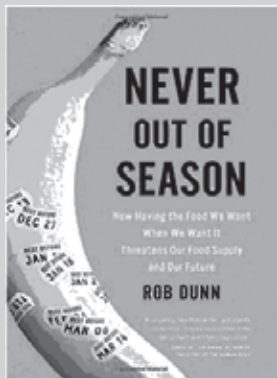


Never Out of Season

How Having the Food We Want When We Want It Threatens Our Food Supply and Our Future



Rob Dunn
Little,
Brown US ©
2017
323
pages

Review

At one time, people ate only food that was local and in season, but not anymore. Food diversity has declined. Food is now homogenized. Professor Rob Dunn examines how dependence on single species of crops threatens human survival. He writes of the Irish potato famine, “chocolate terrorism,” a desperate race to save seeds for future generations, and more. Scientists have discovered more than 300,000 plant species, but “80% of the calories” people eat come from just a dozen species. Dunn warns that pathogens, pests, wars and famine can obliterate a society’s food supply. He explains that it’s urgent for qualified scientists and farmers to study and breed different varieties of crops.

getAbstract recommends his report to consumers, food industry professionals, farmers, scientists and investors.

To buy the abstract version or the book, please visit www.getabstract.com/vnnews

getabstract
compressed knowledge

Central city looks to 2050 growth

ĐÀ NẴNG — The central city will prioritise boosting tourism, information technology (IT), sea port and logistics in 2018 to build a foundation for the next period of development in a sustainable way.

The city’s Party Secretary, Trương Quang Nghĩa, spoke at the Spring Dialogue with the participation of 500 representatives of businesses and local administration agencies on Thursday, stressing that the year 2018 will serve as a benchmark for the next development stage after 20 years of rapid growth between 1997-17.

He said the dialogue was an open discussion for local administration and businesses to share ideas ahead of the 2030-50 period.

“The city will take more positive measures supporting investors and businesses, creating more rooms for rapid and sustainable development with ‘green growth’ target,” he said.

Nghĩa added the city plans to develop the Liên Chiểu Port as the first urban port and a key cargo port in Việt Nam, easing the overloaded Tiên Sa Port.

Chairman of the city’s tourism association Huỳnh Tấn Vinh said hospitality has emerged a key industry for the city’s budget in the last decade, earning VNĐ19.5 trillion

“The city should improve high-quality labour training systems to supply enough quality manpower for investors, while encouragement policies should be offered for boosting vocational education centres.”

SATORU TAKIZAWA, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF DAIWA VIỆT NAM COMPANY

(US\$862 million) – 23.72 per cent of Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) – in 2017.

The ‘green’ industry also created 140,000 jobs, accounting for 25 per cent of the city’s labour force, and 28,000 rooms of hotel and resorts are available for hosting 10 million tourists in 2020.

Vinh, however, warned that the coastal city has faced the consequences of ‘too hot’ growth including a lack of fresh water in Sơn Trà peninsula and beach pollution due to untreated household waste water, while too many concrete sky-buildings and hotel projects have invaded natural forests and coastlines.

He also said the city should reconsider business supportive policies in order to strike a balance between big enterprises and small and medium-sized businesses.

He said nightlight entertainment and shopping areas should be rapidly developed in the coming years.

According to the association, Đà Nẵng hosted 6.6 million tourists, of which 2.3 mil-

lion were foreigners, last year.

Korean and Chinese tourists accounted for 60 per cent of total foreign tourists. Tourism promotions should be done in Russia, India, Australia, the US, Europe and Japan.

Peter Ryder, CEO of the Indochina Capital property group, said Đà Nẵng should continue its tourism development in a sustainable way and reduce the impact of construction on coastal buildings and projects.

He said improving the transparency should be considered in the development plan to attract foreign investment.

Satoru Takizawa, general director of Daiwa Việt Nam Company, said people and service are two strong points of Đà Nẵng City in attracting investment.

He said too-rapid industrialisation in the city recently set challenges for foreign investors when they struggled to recruit a skilled labour force.

Takizawa, who is also chairman of the Japanese Business Association in Đà Nẵng, said

some investors plan to move their plants to other localities due to a lack of high-quality manpower.

“The city should improve high-quality labour training systems to supply enough quality manpower for investors, while encouragement policies should be offered for boosting vocational education centres,” he said.

Port and hi-tech park

Director of Đà Nẵng Port Joint Stock Company Nguyễn Hữu Sia said Liên Chiểu Port should be soon developed as a key port and logistic centre in central Việt Nam.

In boosting Đà Nẵng as a driving force city for the central Việt Nam, the city has offered preferential policies to seek investment in the Đà Nẵng Hi-Tech Park on a 1,100ha area in Hòa Vang District, 20km west of the city.

The park, which is envisioned as a hub for green and hi-tech investors and one of three major national multi-functional hi-tech parks in the country after HCM City and Hà Nội, has attracted 10 projects worth \$249 million since 2013.

According to recent reports, Đà Nẵng has thus far attracted a total of 546 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects worth more than \$3 billion. —VNS

VN wood firms aim to up exports, enter new markets

HCM CITY — Việt Nam’s woodworking industry can expand exports but to expand market share and increase value, it needs to keep pace with market trends and capitalise on opportunities, experts have said.

Helmut Max Merkel, editor-in-chief of *Mobelmarkt* (International Interior Business Magazine) and general manager of CRP Consulting Nuremberg, Germany, said the German furniture market is “big but difficult.”

“Germans love to buy furniture.”

German consumers were not directly affected by the European crisis, and the country’s low jobless rate makes its climate conducive for private consumption, he told the Global Wood Products Market Development seminar in HCM City on Wednesday.

“German love to live in a cosy environment. So the per capita consumption of furniture is higher than in other countries.”

There was an increase demand for furniture products made from natural materials, multifunctional furniture at reasonable prices, he said.

In the past, Germans preferred harder seats compared to consumers in its neighbouring countries, but now the seat comfort has become important and modular sofa sets are becoming popular, he said.

Germany’s furniture imports were worth 9.4 billion euros (US\$11.67 billion) in January-September last year, with Poland, China, the Czech Republic and Italy being the biggest exporters and Việt Nam ranking 13th.

But not many Germans have information or know about Vietnamese furniture, Merkel said.

Juliane Lemcke, technical wood expert for the Swiss Import Promotion Programme, said demand for wooden furniture in the EU is rising slowly, with consumption steady in the larger markets like Germany, the UK, Italy and France and increasing in Spain, Poland, Sweden and the Netherlands.

There is an increase in the use of engineered wood products (EWP) for home construction, commercial buildings, industrial products and furniture, especially flat pack furniture, in the EU, she said.



Production of industrial grade wooden boards at Trường Phát Joint Stock Company’s factory in Phú Giáo District. — VNA/VNS Photo Vũ Sinh

The EWP market in Europe is still at an early stage of development but its use is growing rapidly, especially in home construction, commercial buildings, industrial products and furniture, due to its cost competitiveness.

And demand for environment-friendly packaging products to replace non-recyclable materials is on the rise.

Talking about the European home furnishing market in 2016-20, she said demand for multi-functional furniture is expected to increase, with living room and bed-

room furniture generating the majority of sales followed by the kitchen segment.

The major trend in bedroom furniture is the use of country or rustic style, involving use of pale, pastel colours and traditional styling, she said.

She also spoke about the US trends and effects on furniture.

With the number of single-person households increasing, and thus also smaller homes and apartments, demand for modular, space-saving and multifunctional furniture and furniture for storage is

high, she said.

Bjorn Henseler of Schuler Consulting GmbH said Việt Nam is good at making furniture from solid wood, but the future of the market lies in customisation.

So businesses should also grasp market trends to adopt suitable development strategies, delegates said.

They agreed that consumers’ shopping habits in the US and EU are changing with the growth in e-commerce, especially to young customers. Huỳnh Văn Hạnh, permanent vice chairman of the Handicraft and Wood Industry Association of HCM City (Hawa), said Việt Nam’s exports of wood and wooden products have increased by 12.3 per cent a year on average for the past seven years, reaching \$7.66 billion last year.

They are expected to reach \$8.5 billion this year, he said.

Co-organised by Hawa and the Swiss Import Promotion Programme, the seminar was held on the sidelines of the Việt Nam International Furniture and Home Accessories Fair being held at the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Centre from March 7 to 10. — VNS

Advertisement

ZAMIL STEEL
total steel building solutions

ZAMIL STEEL BUILDINGS VIETNAM CO., LTD
The leading steel buildings and steel structures provider
in Vietnam & Asia Pacific Region

www.zamilsteel.com.vn

T: +84 (0) 24 3837 8522 | F: +84 (0) 24 3582 0801

