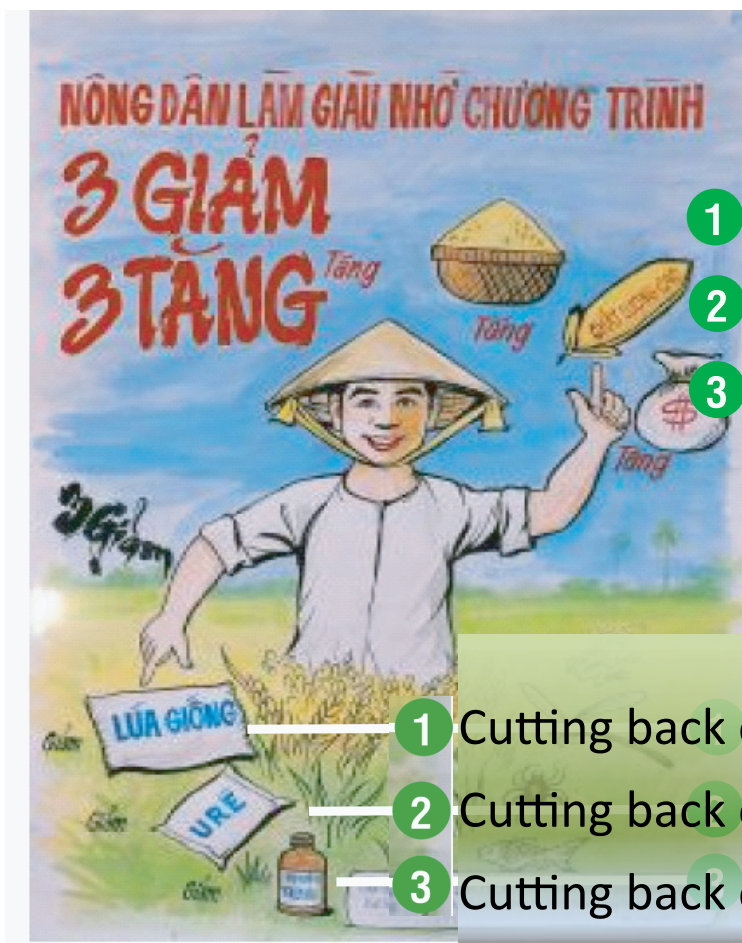


How is Vietnam preparing for the AEC?

3 increases 3 cuts



- 1 Increasing rice yields
- 2 Increasing rice quality
- 3 Increasing farmer profits

- 1 Cutting back on purchased rice seeds
- 2 Cutting back on chemical fertilisers
- 3 Cutting back on chemical pesticides

While rice yields in Vietnam are as high as 852kg / rai (Thailand averages around 448 kg/ rai) and production costs in Thailand are higher than in each of its neighbours, including Vietnam, it is Vietnam that is campaigning seriously to increase its rice yields.

So should we press ahead with the Rice Pledging Scheme or income guarantee schemes? Should we go along with the commercial strategies of the giant agri-businesses? Or should we be learning from Vietnam?