

Quarter III  
**2021**

# PSAV News Letter

Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Viet Nam - PSAV

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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## 1 PPP Task Force on Coffee:

### Partnership and sustainable development for coffee sector

On September 7, 2021, the PPP Task Force on Coffee under the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture Viet Nam (PSAV), in collaboration with the Grow Asia, and the Coffee Working Group of the Partnership for Indonesia Sustainable Agriculture (PISAgro) and the Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (PPSA) organized a Webinar Sharing and Learning Experiences on “Partnership and Sustainable Development for Coffee Sector” in Viet Nam, Indonesia and the Philippines”.

The webinar brought together more than 130 interested partners from the private sector, multilateral organizations, NGOs, roasters, coffee producers and processors, farmer organizations and other stakeholders in the sector, which are always willing and eager to exchange knowledge and experience in developing partners and promoting sustainable coffee development. The webinar was organized to create conditions for the Country Partners in Grow Asia’s network to have the opportunity to learn, share knowledge and exchange practical experiences in the coffee sector; reflect the priorities and common challenges in the “partnership and sustainable development” of the coffee sector; and seek networking opportunities among relevant partners in the three countries, as well as other countries in Southeast Asia.

Guests attending the seminar were delivered 7 presentations, divided into 3 sessions to exchange experiences by country. In addition, the partners had the opportunity to exchange and share best practices and methods, better understanding of the factors leading to the success of each specific project, as well as discuss about future cooperation opportunities in promoting sustainable coffee development in the region. The workshop was held at a very important time in the context of climate change, prolonged epidemics, and low coffee prices. The partnership is considered a fundamental solution to promote sustainable development, ensuring the coffee sector in the region to have practical and timely interventions to support smallholder farmers.

### Launching the Dialogue Series on Sustainable Coffee 2021-2022

On October 6, 2021, the Green Invest Asia Project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Global Coffee Platform (GCP) collaborated to co-host the virtual Sustainable Coffee Dialogue. This was the first dialogue in a series of 6 events in 2021-2022 to promote cooperation towards low carbon coffee production through improved land use practices, support farmer households to increase resilience and adaptation to climate change in the coffee landscape.

## 2 PPP Task Force on Livestock:

### Solutions for by-product treatment

Under the lens of the circular economy associated with green growth, by-products in agriculture, forestry and fishery must be considered a renewable resource, not a waste. This source of raw materials should be considered an important input, extending the value-added chain in agriculture.

According to the General Statistics Office, the total volume of by-products in 2020 of the whole country was over 156.8 million tons, including 88.9 million tons of by-products after harvesting from crops, crop processing (accounting for 56.7%); 61.4 million tons



The objective of the event was to raise awareness and build capacity for coffee companies to respond to climate change through promoting low-carbon agricultural trade. At the event, USAID Green Invest Asia and GCP partners provided an overview of the series of events and the results of the sector’s survey conducted to define the topics of the virtual dialogues to be held in the future.

The dialogue was attended by speakers representing important sectoral partners such as Nestlé and Jacobs Douwe Egberts (JDE) to share solutions to address climate change through the use of low carbon coffee supplies as well as the challenges and opportunities of low carbon coffee in the region.

### Enhance responsible weed management

Weed management in coffee farming is recognized as a challenge for farmers, especially in adopting responsible practices. The GCP Collaborative Initiative on ‘Responsible Use of Agricultural Supplies in coffee sector’ is addressing these challenges in Viet Nam. Up to now, the Initiative has completed the collection of basic information on the status of use and trade of active ingredients at two production areas of two key coffee provinces of Viet Nam; identify glyphosate use hotspots, collect and analyze samples of glyphosate maximum residues; cooperate with the Western Agro-Forestry Science Institute (WASI) and the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) to develop and complete the Standard Field Test Procedure. This is the foundation for developing important solutions for the sector, especially for farmers.

‘Responsible Use of Agricultural Supplies in the Coffee sector’ is a pre-competitive multi-stakeholder initiative financially supported by the Lavazza Foundation, IDH - Sustainable Trade Initiative, JDE Peet’s, Nestlé, Neumann Kaffee Gruppe, Sucden Coffee and Tchibo. The initiative is also receiving technical support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development through the Vietnam Coffee Coordination Board (VCCB).

For detailed of the Initiative’s outcomes in the period 2020 – 2021, please refer at <https://bitly.com.vn/8kx364> or scan the QR code



of cattle and poultry manure from the livestock industry (39.1%); 5.5 million tons from the forestry sector (3.5%) and about 1 million tons from the fisheries sector (10.6%). In particular, in the Southeast and Mekong Delta regions, agricultural by-products are mainly from the crop and livestock sectors, with more than 13.9 million tons in 2020 in the Southeast and 39.4 million tons in the Mekong Delta.

At the online conference on the current situation and solutions to treat agricultural, forestry and fishery by-products in Viet Nam chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on September 10, 2021, Mr. Tong Xuan Chinh, Deputy Director

General of the Department of Livestock Production, member of MARD Working Group 970, also Leader of the PPP Task Force on Livestock, said that “in the process of production, preservation, preliminary processing and processing of agricultural products, the percentage of by-products of forestry, cultivation, animal husbandry and fisheries are very large. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is currently building, completing and

replicating 4F agricultural models (Food - Farm - Foodstuff - Organic Fertilizer), open or closed circular agricultural processes so as to formulate the base for consumption of agricultural by-products in the near future. The TF is currently looking for partners to participate in building a PPP pilot model to apply and replicate this circular agricultural production model in the livestock sector”.

### 3 PPP Task Force on Vegetables and Fruits:

On October 4-5, 2021, the Crop Production Department in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Southern Fruit Research Institute (SOFRI) organized an online training course on mango cultivation techniques according to VietGAP standards for 50 agricultural technicians and farmers in two provinces of Hau Giang and An Giang.

The training course is within the framework of the project “Promoting sustainable agricultural value chains in ASEAN” (referred to as ASEAN AgriTrade) sponsored by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). At the training session, the trainees were lectured by the Southern Fruit Research Institute to share about processes such as: Mango farming applying new technical advances, pest control, flowering management and cultivation process according to VietGAP standards, aiming at safe products for consumption and export.

Within the framework of the project, representatives of



*Online training course on mango cultivation techniques applying VietGAP standards*

public and private sector partners collaborated to develop and disseminate a set of guidelines on cultivation techniques according to VietGAP standards for 10 key fruits of Viet Nam, including: oranges, pomelo, longan, litchi, pineapple, banana, jackfruit, durian, dragon fruit, mango.

### 4 PPP Task Force on Agro-Chemicals:

#### Building a pilot software to ‘catch diseases’ for rice

In the field of crop protection, application of digital transformation will help farmers access agricultural knowledge fully and accurately. Especially with the prevention of pests and diseases, the application of smart technology can easily help farmers identify harmful pests and diseases, provide control measures in the fastest and most effective way on their fields.

Accordingly, the Department of Plant Protection - Co-Chair of the PPP Task Force on Chemicals is currently promoting Public-Private cooperation, enhancing the application of smart technology to support effective management and responsible use of agro-chemicals. The Plant Protection Department is currently coordinating with Viettel to pilot the development of an App to look up pests and control measures on rice. The Plant Protection Department will provide a database for Viettel so that Viettel can build an App for smartphones to help farmers look up and take measures to prevent pests and diseases.

When checking the field, a farmer only has to open the App on his smartphone, the App will help to identify specific pests and diseases that are arising in the field, and will give the information to recommend as well as necessary preventive measures for farmers to apply.

The App product is expected to be piloted for rice farmers in some localities (the pilot is first in An Giang province). On the basis of pilot operation of the App, the two sides will continue to review and to make adjustments as well as build long-term plan while creating a premise for widespread application on other crops .

#### Experiment on pesticide spray by Drone

In September, in Hoa Binh, the Plant Protection Department collaborated with CropLife Viet Nam and the Vietnam Pesticide Association (VIPA) to organize trials, demonstrations and evaluations of the effectiveness of some types of pesticides and their effect on rice when using Drone. This was an activity in the



*Leaders of Plant Protection Department inspecting the testing of Drone spraying equipment in Chieng Chau commune (Mai Chau, Hoa Binh)*

series of testing and evaluation programs of the Plant Protection Department in order to soon provide guidance on the use of Drone to spray pesticides in preventing pests and diseases on crops.

In the past 10 years, the application of drones has developed rapidly and has been widely applied by many countries around the world, bringing great benefits to agricultural production. In Asia, the application of drones to spray pesticides is becoming more and more popular. The use of drones to spray pesticides has outstanding advantages in terms of accuracy, reducing labor costs, protecting the health of farmers because they do not have to be exposed to pesticides... Using drones has been highly effective in preventing dangerous harmful organisms such as desert locusts in recent times in some countries...

CropLife Viet Nam and its members are working closely with the Plant Protection Department, local testing centers and many equipment suppliers to organize close testing in order to soon have a foundation to build a scientific process to use drone in pesticide spraying, which ensures effectiveness and safety on different crops.



## PROMOTING INNOVATION TOWARDS A GREEN AGRICULTURE

*PSAV Plenary Meeting*

On October 8, the International Cooperation Department (ICD) chaired and coordinated with PSAV Secretariat and the PPP Task Forces under PSAV to organize the PSAV Plenary Meeting with the theme “Innovation towards a Green Agriculture” in hybrid form (both online and offline). The Meeting was attended by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Director General of the International Cooperation Department, the Managing Director of Nestlé Vietnam Co., Ltd. cum Co-Chair of PSAV, the Program Director of Grow Asia, and representatives of the PPP Task Forces, domestic and international organizations and corporations.

The Meeting participants listened to the Overview Report on FDI in Viet Nam, the report on PSAV activities and the proposal to establish a Food Innovation Hub in Viet Nam, which is being designed by PSAV in close collaboration with WEF and Grow Asia. Representatives of the public and private sectors also had the opportunity to participate in dialogue and share directly with the Minister on the development orientation of PPP activities in the agricultural sector in the coming time.

After listening to the opinions of the participants, Minister Le Minh Hoan said that there should be a deeper attention to international cooperation projects, it is necessary to strengthen the awareness and knowledge of international cooperation activities. MARD Leaders reaffirmed the power of public-private cooperation: “Understanding the power of

public-private cooperation and mutual respect is the precondition to increase the efficiency of cooperation, together reducing and minimizing problems”. Minister Le Minh Hoan hoped that cooperation programs would be more and more innovative, bringing new energy, new thinking, integrating multi-values into agriculture, and reaping many successes.

**Initiative on Food Innovation Hub**

The PSAV Secretariat is currently working closely with the World Economic Forum (WEF) and Grow Asia, studying how to implement the Food Innovation Hub Initiative in Vietnam (FIH). Dr. Nguyen Do Anh Tuan shared with the Meeting on the proposed designed FIH linked to networks, initiatives, organizations and potential partners.

The FIH initiative in Viet Nam links domestic and cross-border innovation networks to promote the application of digital technology and the development of smart agriculture value chains; scale up and accelerate the transformation of Viet Nam’s existing food systems into a green, sustainable, low-emission system.

According to the proposed operation, the FIH in Viet Nam will be built and operated as a multi-stakeholder, interdisciplinary, pre-competitive and neutral organization to strengthening the innovation system, building on the existing network and experience of Viet Nam’s food system and the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Vietnam (PSAV).

## NEGOTIATIONS OF FISHERY SUBSIDIES AT THE WTO



*Vice Minister Phùng Đức Tiến spoke at the Conference*

On July 15, 2021, within the framework of negotiations on fisheries subsidies, the World Trade Organization (WTO) organized a virtual Ministerial Conference with the participation of 104 Ministers and Heads of Delegations from 128 WTO members. This was one of the important activities to prepare for the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12), scheduled to be held in November 2021. The Vietnamese delegation was chaired by Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Phùng Đức Tiến with the participation of the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, Industry and Trade, Foreign Affairs, Justice and the Permanent Delegation in Geneva.

Speaking at the Conference, the WTO Members, including Viet

Nam, shared common determination and made maximum efforts to narrow the gap between Members with some basic contents, towards a multilateral agreement on the elimination of certain types of fishing subsidies that have adverse effects on marine resources. The Vietnamese delegation emphasized the need to abolish subsidies for IUU fishing; affirming efforts towards a package commitment, balancing between sustainable development goals associated with comprehensive and inclusive development, between obligations and implementation capacity of the Parties; protect the legitimate interests of poor coastal fishermen, small-scale and rudimentary fishing activities. On this occasion, the Vietnamese Delegation clearly stated the basic requirement, not to let any content of this document affect the rights and obligations of the Parties under other international agreements.

Vice Minister Phung Duc Tien also affirmed that establishing the principle that the elimination of fishing subsidies should be associated with sustainable fisheries management is an appropriate orientation in negotiations. He proposed that the Members considered offering satisfactory solutions to tropical, multi-species and multi-occupational fisheries in developing and underdeveloped countries and propose a number of other specific issues for the Members to consider and discuss in the near future.

The Parties recognize the need for differential treatment for small-scale and rudimentary fisheries to ensure sustainable development. No Member intends to maintain subsidies that are detrimental to sustainable development.

## VIET NAM WISHES TO BE THE FOOD INNOVATION HUB IN ASIA

President Nguyen Xuan Phuc proposed a number of solutions to ensure food security in the context of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic and said that Vietnam wanted to become a Food Innovation Hub (FIH) in the region.

In his speech, President Nguyen Xuan Phuc stated that coordination among countries, partners and actors in the food system must be for the benefit of the people. In Viet Nam, food security is the foundation for hunger eradication and poverty reduction, improving people's living standards, and an opportunity for transparent, responsible and sustainable agricultural development.

In that spirit, the President proposed a number of solutions: The first is to transform agricultural growth into multi-value integration including economic, social, cultural, and environmental values; ensure the development of green, low-emission and climate adaptable agriculture, and responding to the complicated developments of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as focusing on rural economic development, ensure food supply, reduce food loss and waste; rational use of resources and conservation of biodiversity. Along with that, the President said that countries should pay more attention to invest in agriculture and rural areas.

On September 23, State President Nguyen Xuan Phuc sent a message to the United Nations Food Systems Summit chaired by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The President stated that investment in the synchronous development of agricultural infrastructure serves both production and development of the rural economy, promoting the role of farmers, and encouraging the participation of the private sector in responsible, and creative investment,



*President Nguyễn Xuân Phúc shared that Viet Nam wants to be the FIH in the region*

application of technical advances, replication of the effective public-private partnership model; Develop and update the national nutritional balance sheet as a basis for orienting production and distribution, strengthening education and communication to create a healthy food environment, reasonable eating habits, and balanced nutrition, green consumption trend, responsible for avoiding loss and waste; Digital transformation needs to go hand in hand with social security and institutional innovation, in which farmers and consumers are the center; Viet Nam has established innovation networks and is willing to join UN cooperation frameworks and wants to develop into a regional food innovation hub.

In order to develop the food system sustainably, President Nguyen Xuan Phuc said that it is necessary to expand international cooperation in research, forecasting and building



an information system to warn the risks of natural disasters and epidemics; Sustainable management of national resources, biodiversity and forests; Management of transboundary water resources and marine resources.

In his speech, President Nguyen Xuan Phuc also shared a message that nothing is impossible, together we make the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 2030 a reality.

## VIRTUAL APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON FOOD SECURITY



**O**n the morning of August 19, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Le Quoc Doanh attended the virtual APEC Ministerial Meeting on food security in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture of New Zealand with the participation and discussion of 21 member countries.

Speaking at the Meeting, Deputy Minister Le Quoc Doanh highly appreciated New Zealand's efforts as the host economy of APEC 2021 in promoting the connection of APEC members, actively contributing to the process of recovering from the pandemic, recovery and sustainable development of regional and global food systems. In the context of the current complicated situation of the Covid-19 pandemic, this Meeting was an opportunity for APEC economies to discuss and build a common cooperation orientation from now to 2030 towards

food security in the future for the region and the worldwide.

Viet Nam is deeply aware of the need for close cooperation between stakeholders, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to create lasting and profound revolutionary changes in the global food system. On this occasion, Deputy Minister Le Quoc Doanh shared the key initiatives that Vietnam wishes to cooperate with international partners, specifically as follows:

- Connecting the entire supply value chain from production to distribution and consumption, bridging the gap in space and time based on digital platforms such as e-commerce, digitization and improving traceability systems, logistics, transportation, quality control, disease safety.
- Building a database of information on commodities and food production at regional level.
- Applying digital transformation technology 4.0 right from the level of farmers, small, medium and micro enterprises.

The Vietnamese Government has made the best efforts to realize the dual goal of drastically preventing the Covid-19 pandemic and recovering socio-economic development. The role of agriculture became especially important in the context of the new normal in terms of economy, society and environment. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam supported and committed to fully cooperate in the contents stated in the APEC food security roadmap till 2030.

## ENHANCE BIO-SAFETY IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

**O**n September 30, the National Center for Agricultural Extension (NAEC) in collaboration with the Department of Livestock Production, the Department of Processing and Market Development of Agricultural Products held an online forum with the topic "Strengthening bio-safety in livestock production to create safe and certified products".

Attending the Forum were 255 delegates from 106 online stations, including leaders of departments and institutes under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, FAO in Viet Nam, provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development, Sub-Departments of Animal Health, NAEC, partners and businesses. The Forum aimed to further strengthen propaganda and information to people, businesses and cooperatives, to discuss problems and technical barriers, to form production links, to guarantee product purchase as well as discuss how to have more livestock certifications in the near future.

At the Forum, the Advisory Board directly answered questions and discussed with business partners, focusing on 4 main groups of issues such as supporting mechanisms and policies, orientation in bio-safety livestock production; product certification requirements; livestock management; livestock production with VietGAP certification, organic production.



*Dr. Hạ Thủy Hạnh, Deputy Director of NAEC delivered opening remarks*

In the context of animal diseases such as African swine fever, lumpy skin disease (LSD), foot-and-mouth disease still happened, complicated development of the Covid-19 pandemic, the application of measures to improve safety is still a concern. Bio-diversity in livestock production is extremely urgent. Good implementation of bio-security in animal husbandry is a key task to ensure that livestock production achieves the set targets in 2021 and the following years.



## PSAV PRIVATE SECTOR'S MEETING OF THE PPP TASK FORCES UNDER PSAV

In mid-November 2021, Mr. Binu Jacob, Managing Director of Nestlé Viet Nam, Co-Chair of PSAV Private Sector will convene a meeting of the private Leaders of PPP Task Forces under PSAV. Over the past time, the Covid-19 pandemic along with economic, political and social changes have created obvious changes in the way of production, consumption, as well as the general operation of global supply chains. The pandemic has clearly revealed many difficulties accumulated in the past, and at the same time brought

along many new problems, requiring further strengthening of the coordination between the Public and Private sectors to quickly solve the bottlenecks of the industry. The meeting is organized to help the private sector partners review and summarize the specific performance of the Task Forces, evaluate the effectiveness of Public-Private cooperation, and seek opportunities for cooperation among the Task Forces and propose solutions in the new context, as well as orient the implementation plan in 2022.

## CONSULTATION TO SET UP FOOD INNOVATION HUB IN VIET NAM

**Sáng kiến Trung tâm đổi mới sáng tạo về lương thực, thực phẩm tại Việt Nam**

ĐẨY MẠNH CHUYỂN ĐỔI HỆ THỐNG LƯƠNG THỰC THỰC PHẨM

The food system involves many fields such as cultivation, animal husbandry, production, consumption and many factors such as farmers, salers, consumers, etc. The climate, especially the Covid-19 pandemic, has resulted in many supply chains to be disrupted, causing significant damage to the entire global food chain system, affecting people's lives, especially low-income people, laborers... Rural and agricultural activities, disadvantaged people are facing many difficulties. Therefore, there is a need for systemic innovative solutions. However, innovation and creativity are a difficult and challenging process that requires the synergy of all parties, methodical investment and an ecosystem to promote this process. The Food Innovation Hub

(FIH) initiated by the World Economic Forum (WEF) was created to promote the development of such an eco-system.

The PSAV Secretariat is currently working closely with WEF and Grow Asia, studying how to implement this Initiative in Viet Nam. On October 27, 2021, PSAV Secretariat will coordinate with WEF, Grow Asia, and Public-Private partners to organize a webinar for consultation to design a FIH in Viet Nam. This is an opportunity for partners to seek cooperation opportunities, agree on priority orientations, design the operating structure of the FIH in Viet Nam in order to further enhance the effectiveness to apply science and technology, promoting Viet Nam's agricultural development towards green, sustainable, low emission.

The Government has just issued Decision No. 1658/QĐ-TTg approving the **National Strategy on Green Growth for the period of 2021 - 2030, with a vision to 2050**, aiming to reduce the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions per GDP; greening economic sectors; Greening lifestyles and promoting sustainable consumption. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will be responsible for formulating and implementing effective, sustainable, low-emissions agriculture development in the direction of a circular economy, smart climate adaptation; promoting the market in the direction of linking along the product value chain, improving competitiveness for green, safe and organic agricultural products, meeting international and domestic standards; develop and implement programs and projects on the protection and restoration of ecosystems, biodiversity in agriculture, forestry, fishery and fisheries, recovery and increase of carbon accumulation in natural reservoirs ...; promoting the construction of new rural areas towards green and sustainable...

Screen QR code or download from <https://bitly.com.vn/2eplfc> for the Decision 1658/QĐ-TTg



The Prime Minister issued **Decision 29/2021/QĐ-TTg on special investment incentives**, which clearly stipulates the preferential tax rate of 7% for a period of 33 years applicable to income from new investment projects (including expansion of such newly established project), innovation centers, research and development centers with total investment capital of 3,000 billion VND or more, disbursed at least at least 1,000 billion VND within 3 years from the date of being granted the investment registration certificate or the decision approving the investment policy.

Screen QR code or download from <https://bitly.com.vn/rq6dna> for the Decision 29/2021/QĐ-TTg



Promulgating the **Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to implement the Project on development of the fruit and vegetable processing industry in the period of 2021 - 2030**. The objective of the project is that by 2030, the fruit and vegetable processing industry will develop efficiently, safely and sustainably; meet production requirements and consumption market demand; have advanced technology level associated with concentrated fruit and vegetable production areas, large commodity output; products with high quality, food safety, added value and high competitiveness; contributing to bring Viet Nam's fruit and vegetable export turnover among the top 5 countries in the world.

Screen QR code or download from <https://bitly.com.vn/xprsh3> for the Plan



**Circular 03/2021/TT-BNNPTNT** amending and supplementing a number of articles of Circular No. 16/2013/TT-BNNPTNT dated February 28, 2013 taking effect from August 6, 2021, detailing the establishment of rights and representation of rights to plant varieties; grant and re-grant of plant variety protection certificates; suspension, restoration, invalidation of plant variety protection certificates

Screen QR code or download from <https://bitly.com.vn/xg54xx> for the Circular



**Circular No. 10/2021/TT-BNNPTNT** of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development guiding the contents of investment and investment support in performing the task of "Development of seed production" under Decision No. 703/QĐ-TTg May 28, 2020 of the Prime Minister

Screen QR code or download from <https://bitly.com.vn/s3v4vp> for the Circular



**Decree No. 80/2021/ND-CP** dated August 26, 2021 of the Government detailing and guiding a number of articles of the Law on Support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), including regulations on supporting Innovative start-up SMEs.

Screen QR code or download from <https://bitly.com.vn/9holh7> for the Decree



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