

Quarter I
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PSAV News Letter

Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Viet Nam - PSAV

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

IN THIS ISSUE

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF PPP TASK FORCES

- Sharing initial results of Collective Action Initiative (CAI) on Responsible Use of Agro-Inputs for Vietnamese Coffee Sector



- Promote sustainable production and trade of Vietnamese pepper



NEWLY POLICIES TO SUPPORT BUSINESSES:

- Decrees stipulating financial management mechanism for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) investment projects and guiding the implementation of the PPP Law.
- Valuable tax policies supporting businesses to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Anti-dumping measures and temporary anti-subsidy tax on some sugarcane products originating from Thailand

UPCOMING EVENTS

- PPP dialogue to promote sustainable aquaculture development
- PSAV Annual Private Sector Meeting

PSAV SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES

- Vice Minister Le Quoc Doanh working with Managing Director of Nestlé Viet Nam



OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Public - Private Cooperation in Agricultural Extension



- Virtual forum on drone use for pesticide application



1 PPP Task Force on Coffee:

The Global Coffee Platform (GCP) is implementing the “Collective Action Initiative on Responsible Use of Agro-Inputs for Coffee in Viet Nam”. The aim of the Initiative is to make policy recommendations, share research results, and instruct farmers to use agrochemicals responsibly. Proper and responsible use of agricultural inputs is key to ensuring good growth while ensuring environment

protection and social security.

The Workshop was organized to share some initial research results on the use of agrochemicals in coffee production in Viet Nam, as well as a number of policy recommendations and solutions to promote effective agrochemical management in the sector.



Sharing Workshop of the Collective Action Initiative on Responsible Use of Agro-Inputs for Coffee in Viet Nam” organized on 25/3/2021 in Ho Chi Minh City

2 PPP Task Force on Tea



Ceremony to honor top Vietnamese producers and exporters in 2020.

In the morning of April 2, 2021, the Viet Nam Tea Association (VITAS) in collaboration with PSAV and Grow Asia co-organized a PPP Workshop to Promote Responsible Investment and Production in the Tea Sector. Attending the event were representatives from 20 top tea producing companies in Viet Nam, representatives from MARD including the Plant Protection Department (PPD), Agro Processing and Market Authority (AgroTrade), Northern Mountainous Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute (NOMAFSI), and NGOs.

The workshop mainly discussed on PPP initiatives and solutions to promote responsible investment and production in the tea sector, with a view to foster sustainable development of the sector while exploring approaches to efficiently overcome challenges in the future.

The delegates were introduced the ASEAN Guideline on Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (ASEAN RAI) and the Learning and Accreditation Program (LAP) to equip agricultural and food investors with knowledge and skills to apply ASEAN RAI in responsible investment practices. Delegates also received updates on some PPP initiatives implemented in 2020 by the Task Force such as the Program to study and conserve tea varieties in different regions, implementation results and prospect to replicate the Project granting production unit codes to tea companies.

According to Mrs. Nguyen Thi Anh Hong, General Secretary cum Vice President of VITAS: “The tea sector needs investment to improve quality, raise export prices, and especially increase price for tea growers. But the question is do we made our investment in an ethical and sustainable manner? It’s time for us to reflect and move forward with purpose and intention”.

3 PPP Task Force on Rice

Launched in September 2020, the PPP Project Supporting Smallholder Farmer Communities to Cope with Unprecedented Dual Crisis: COVID-19 Pandemic and Severe Drought and Saltwater Intrusion in Mekong Delta Region has been successfully implemented by the PPP Task Force. Specifically, the Project:

- Provided 80.000 farmers in 7 provinces in the Mekong Delta and the Southeast region with care packages (“Better Farms, Better Lives”) of seeds or plant protection products and training materials, which were tailored to the actual needs of farmers in specific localities,
- Trained 28,600 farmers (of which 12,100 are women) and 700 agricultural extension

officers through 250 training of farmers and 7 training of trainers implemented in 7 provinces.



4 PPP Task Force on Pepper:

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): “Promoting Sustainable Production and Trade of Vietnamese Pepper in the period 2021-2025” had been signed among PPD, IDH the Sustainable Trade Initiative and the Sustainable Spices Initiative (SSI) in the presence of representatives from MARD, the Delegation of the European Union to Viet Nam, the Embassy of Netherlands, Viet Nam Pepper Association and pepper producing, processing and trading companies.

In accordance with the MOU, all the parties involved showed commitment to cooperate and coordinate in the implementation of the plan to promote sustainable

production and trade of Vietnamese pepper until 2025. Specifically, PPD will play the role of the focal point to foster improvement of regulatory system and capacity in managing and guiding the responsible use of plant protection products. The goal of the partners is to support Viet Nam to produce about 60.000 tons of sustainable pepper by 2025, 75% of pepper exports meet the demand of developed markets and 25% of farmers have access to safe production models and improve their livelihoods.

In the MOU, parties commit to cooperate and collaborate to implement the plan to promote sustainable production and trade of pepper Viet Nam until 2025, in which:

- PPD will promote the development of safe pepper production links, supervision of food safety and traceability of exported pepper in order to expand pepper production scale and meet the market's standards for safe and sustainable pepper production.
- SSI will be responsible for coordinating with the European Spice Association (ESA) and the American Spice Association (ASTA) on market quality requirements and connecting member companies that invest in sustainable production supply chain in Vietnam.
- IDH will play the role of a technical advisor, financial facilitator and coordinates the support of international organizations for this PPP endeavor.



Memorandum of Understanding signed on 31/3/2021 (From left to right (front line) are representatives of SSI, PPD and IDH)

VICE MINISTER LE QUOC DOANH WORKING WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NESTLÉ VIET NAM

Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Le Quoc Doanh and Mr. Binu Jacob, Managing Director of Nestlé Viet Nam cum PSAV's Co-Chair of the private sector discussed the implementation of PSAV's Action Plan in the period of 2021 - 2025, with a vision to 2030.

Currently, the PSAV's PPP models being implemented in Viet Nam are highly valued by the World Economic Forum (WEF). MARD is directing Leaders of 8 PPP Task Forces, based on the approved Action Plan, to formulate specific deployment plans for each Task Force.

Among the 8 PPP Task Forces, Coffee is the one that has instigated the most efficient value-chain linkage between businesses and farmers (i.e. the coffee landscape models in Dak Lak and Lam Dong, which aim to reduce agrochemical use, promote water-saving irrigation, product label associated with production unit codes, quality control, and integrated pest management (IPM)).

The PPP Task Forces on rice and fruits and vegetables (F&V) are studying to establish Rice and F&V Coordination Boards to attract producers and traders promote value chain development and information sharing about effective operating models.



Vice Minister Le Quoc Doanh (on the right) meeting Mr. Binu Jacob, Managing Director of Nestlé Viet Nam, on 06/4/2021 in Hanoi.

At the meeting, Mr. Binu Jacob also shared Nestlé's global initiative on "Regenerative Agriculture" towards the goal of combating climate change in agricultural production, improving management efficiency and responsible use of agricultural inputs. Nestlé pledged to invest US\$ 1.3 billion to implement the initiative within the time frame of 2021 - 2025.

In 2021, Nestlé Viet Nam will implement the Nescafe plan and a new project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to collect baseline data on greenhouse gas emissions. The 1.5-year project is scheduled to be implemented in Indonesia and Viet Nam.

Vice Minister Le Quoc Doanh welcomed the initiative and confirmed that MARD would assign technical agencies of the Ministry to collaborate and select locations for project implementation, such as Dak Lak and other provinces with crops suitable for the project objectives. Vice Minister Le Quoc Doanh suggested Nestlé Viet Nam as the Co-Chair of PSAV encourage the private sector to actively develop supply chain models to add value and bring about practical economic and environmental effects.



Coffee capsule production line of Nestlé Viet Nam

PUBLIC-PRIVATE COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

On January 29, 2021, in Ho Chi Minh City, the National Agricultural Extension Center (NAEC) hosted the Workshop 'Strengthening public-private cooperation in agricultural extension'. Attending the event were leaders of the Department of Crop Production, PPD, ICD, leaders of Agricultural Extension Centers of provinces in the Mekong Delta and Southeast regions, as well as and representatives of Syngenta, Binh Dien Fertilizer and Nedspice Processing Viet Nam, Bo De Bac Lieu Seafood Group, Loc Troi Group, and press agencies.



NAEC leader signed cooperation agreement with businesses

As a result in implementing Decision No.162/QĐ-KN-DTHL on public-private cooperation principles in agricultural extension in 2020, NAEC has signed cooperation agreements with 14 enterprises; successfully completed the role as a Public Leader of the PPP Task Force on Rice, and an active member of PPP Task Forces on coffee

and pepper; created breakthroughs in a PPP project co-implemented with PSAV Secretariat (ICD) and Bayer Viet Nam; piloted digital and information technology in public extension through a mobile software named 'Green agricultural extension' (Khuyến nông xanh in Vietnamese) to promote cooperation in smart and sustainable rice production ...

At the workshop 'Strengthening public-private cooperation in agricultural extension', 03 dialogue sessions offered participants opportunities for direct experience exchange with many speakers on PPPs in rice, coffee, and pepper production; sharing valuable lessons and experiences on policies, principles, difficulties and advantages in production and PPPs. Through discussions, representatives of provinces and businesses better grasped the PPP principles, contributing to promoting models' implementation efficiency in the coming time.

At the workshop, NAEC General Director emphasized the importance of PPP in agricultural extension activities in effectively supporting farmers to access science and technology, market information, improving skills for extension workers, and assisting human resources development ... In the coming time, it is necessary to pay more attention to the bridging role of agricultural extension in PPPs, in assisting farmers, supporting businesses and agricultural extension to accompany farmers in production.

VIRTUAL FORUM ON DRONE USE FOR PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Drones (UAV) in agriculture production (pesticide application) is rapidly growing in popularity in Asia, for its outstanding advantages in efficiency, spray precision, and labor-savings. From 8-10/3/2021, CropLife Asia held the first Virtual Forum "Drone for Pesticide Application".

The event brought together many important industry stakeholders, including representatives from the public sector from Asian countries, representatives of businesses trading, distributing, and using pesticides, research organizations and civil society. PSAV and the PPP Task Force on Agrochemicals gave suggestions to enhance the effective cooperation between Crop Life Asia and Viet Nam in piloting and developing UAV technology for effective management of responsible agrochemical use and sustainable agricultural development in Viet Nam.

The Virtual Forum was held in 3 consecutive days, covering different topics about drone application in pesticide application such as:

- High-level policy overview of India and China on how their governments integrate and enable drone in agriculture;



Drones (UAV) in agriculture production (pesticide application) is rapidly growing in popularity in Asia, for its outstanding advantages in efficiency, spray precision, and labor-savings.

Regulatory frameworks to ensure efficiency and safety of drone technology around Asia-Pacific;

- Safety standard operating procedure for pesticide application by drone;
- R&D enablers for pesticide application by drone in practice;
- Commercial adoption of the technology in the region ...

10TH ANNUAL PLENARY OF THE SUSTAINABLE RICE PLATFORM (SRP)

From March 29 to April 2, 2021, SRP held its 10th Annual Plenary. This was an annual event of SRP members and partners to assess the progress of the initiative, discuss how to collaborate and share experiences of SRP members in applying SRP tools in order to increase the initiative's implementation effectiveness, and introduce SRP cultivation method to smallholder rice producers.

The event attracted more than 300 participants, 50 speakers from 170 organizations, 30 countries, who are members of the SRP, representatives of governments, research institutes, representatives of the private sector and civil society, as well as service providers, development partners and financial institutions. The World Business Council



Sustainable rice production program in alignment with SRP standards in Viet Nam

for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the SRP committed to strengthening cooperation to promote sustainable rice development through new financial and value chain linkage solutions. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) also joined the SRP with plans to develop partnerships for a next generation of sustainable rice projects in Asia and globally.

CONSULTATION ON GCP BASELINE COFFEE CODE REVISION

With the aim to promote sustainable coffee development, the Global Coffee Platform (GCP) has developed a Baseline principle of practices for sustainable coffee production for all industry partners to comply (GCP Baseline Coffee Code). GCP is currently in the process of updating and revising to improve this Baseline Code. The Code aims to reinforce a common

foundation that supports the sustainability, profitability of businesses in producing coffee, ensures farmers' income and well-beings, as well as nature conservation requirements. This is an opportunity for all interested parties to contribute ideas to build and develop a common foundation, and to promote the sustainable development of the coffee sector.



GCP Baseline Coffee Code (Source: GCP).

The objective of this activity is to ensure that the coffee sector develops a set of references that are consistent with the sector's overall goals of ultimate sustainability and in response to the ongoing challenges of the sector such as ensuring farmers' profits, adaptation to the climate crisis, which is now being exacerbated by impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

All actors interested in the sustainability of the coffee sector are invited to participate in the GCP's revision of this Baseline Code.



For more information about the Baseline Code, please Scan the QR code or visit GCP website <https://www.globalcoffeeplatform.org/our-work/gcp-baseline-coffee-code/>

Decree 28/2021/NĐ-CP

The Government has issued the Decree No. 28/2021/ND-CP dated March 26, 2021 stipulating the financial management mechanism of PPP projects in order to improve PPP investment policies, assisting Viet Nam to gradually align with international practices and the country's conditions, and creating a favorable and attractive environment to attract investors, who have real financial capacity.

Please scan QR code or visit <http://psav-mard.org.vn/document> for details of the Decree.



Decree 35/2021/NĐ-CP

The Government has issued the Decree No. 35/2021/ND-CP dated 29/3/2021 detailing and guiding the implementation of the Law on PPP Investment in a number of fields including transportation, power grids, power plants, irrigation, clean water supply, healthcare, education - training, information technology infrastructure.

Please scan QR code or visit <http://psav-mard.org.vn/document> for details of the Decree.



Decree 52/2021/NĐ-CP

The Government has issued the Decree No. 52/2021/NĐ-CP dated 19/4/2021 regulating deadline extension for tax payment and land rent for businesses, organizations, business households and individuals, which were negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was viewed as a practical, highly feasible solution, and useful for businesses.

Please scan QR code or visit <http://psav-mard.org.vn/document> for details of the Decree.



Decision 477/QĐ-BCT

The Ministry of Industry and Trade has issued the Decision No. 477/QĐ-BCT dated 9/2/2021 on the application of temporary anti-dumping measures and countervailing tax on some cane sugar products that have origin from the Kingdom of Thailand. The anti-dumping and countervailing tax rates for raw sugar of Thai origin is at 33.88%. This Decision takes effect after 07 days from the date of issuance.

Please scan QR code or visit <http://psav-mard.org.vn/document> for details of the Decision.



CONTINUE TO APPLY SAFEGUARD MEASURES TO IMPORTED DAP AND MAP FERTILIZERS

According to the Trade Remedies Administration, imported DAP and MAP fertilizers are subject to safeguard measures under the Law on Foreign Trade Management, in accordance with the guidelines of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Ministry of Industry and Trade decided to apply safeguard measures to imported DAP and MAP fertilizers on the basis of valid requirements of the domestic sector and after a process of comprehensive investigation and assessment of the impact of these products to the Vietnamese market in

accordance with relevant regulations.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade has issued a deadline extension for safeguard measures applied to imported DAP and MAP fertilizers. The extension of safeguard measures is applicable to imported DAP and MAP fertilizer products with HS code: 3105.10.20; 3105.10.90; 3105.20.00; 3105.30.00; 3105.40.00; 3105.51.00; 3105.59.00; 3105.90.00 according to Decision No. 715/QĐ-BCT dated March 3, 2020 effective from 7/3/2020 to 6/9/2022.

Decision 194/QĐ-TTg

The Prime Minister signed the Decision No. 194/QĐ-TTg dated February 9, 2021 approving the Project on Renovating business and consumption of agricultural products for the 2021 - 2025 period, with orientation to 2030. Accordingly, specific objectives of the project are to reorganize large-scale agricultural production, in accordance with planning and requirements of the markets, basing on application of science and technology, traceability of agricultural products, and closely linking domestic with foreign trading organizations in a modern approach.

Please scan QR code or visit <http://psav-mard.org.vn/document> for details of the Decision.



Decision 174/QĐ-TTg

The Prime Minister signed Decision No. 174/QĐ-TTg, dated 5/2/2021 approving the Project to promote the export of agricultural, forestry and fishery products until 2030. The Project sets the target export value of agricultural, forestry and fishery products of Viet Nam at about 60-62 billion USD by 2030.

Please scan QR code or visit <http://psav-mard.org.vn/document> for details of the Decision.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

PPP DIALOGUE TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE

Implementing PSAV's 5-year Action Plan in 2021-2025 period, vision to 2030, which has been approved by MARD leaders, the PPP Task Force on Fisheries is currently undergoing a restructure process (into 5 sub-groups on tuna, pangasius, shrimp, marine aquaculture, and seaweed) to enhance operational effectiveness of the Task Force.

It is expected that in the second and third quarters of 2021, a meeting of the sub-group on marine aquaculture will be held to enhance opportunities for PPP dialogue, to attract and further expand PPP projects, and to propose specific mechanisms, policies, appropriate support, and encouragement for sustainable aquaculture development.

PSAV'S ANNUAL PRIVATE SECTOR MEETING

The meeting of PSAV's private members and partners is an annual event among core members of the partnership. This year's meeting will be extended to all members and partners of the PSAV PPP Task Forces in order to:

- (i) Update PSAV's activities;
- (ii) Discuss and propose recommendations of private partners on PPP mechanisms;
- (iii) Share new initiatives to support Public-Private cooperation in agriculture and networking.

The meeting is expected to be held in the second quarter of 2021, in Ho Chi Minh City.

ICO AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COFFEE-RELATED RESEARCH



The International Coffee Organization (ICO) has just announced that it will host the 2022 ICO Award for the global coffee sector. The competition is open to all economists and researchers in the social sciences who are in the process of completing a PhD or have completed their studies in the last 5 years, who are nationals of a ICO member country or affiliated with an ICO-related organization.

For further information of the ICO Award, please scan QR code or visit "<https://mailchi.mp/ico/new-ico-document-7-april-2017-798ge8jo9q-1926107?e=94c1b0060b>".

For more information, please contact the International Cooperation Department, MARD (Mr. Ngo Duy Hai, tel: 0912658688; email: haind.htqt@mard.gov.vn)



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