



PSAV

Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Viet Nam - PSAV

PSAV Newsletter

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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UPDATES ON ACTIVITIES OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TFS

The Tea Task Force:

The project “Promoting tea farmers to join the sustainable and quality tea supply chain” (VUI) Phase 2 has been put into operation. In the second quarter of 2018, the PMU carried out survey activities at tea companies in Phu Tho and Nghe An provinces, and identified two additional companies to participate in the project, which would then be trained on the Sustainable Agriculture SAN standard. The VUI project is being implemented by IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), Unilever, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, to

provide training, technical assistance for farmers applying Sustainable Agriculture SAN standard, towards achieving the Rainforest Alliance (RA) certification. The project will support 15 plants and 16,500 tea farmers in sustainable agriculture. It is expected that about 25,000 tonnes of tea will be produced responsibly. Of these, about 15,000 tons would be certified RA to enable their access to world markets and supply to Unilever.

Tea companies in Lai Chau province have initially completed internal audits before officially registering for certification of SAN in the third quarter of 2018.



The Pepper Task Force:

Following the Consultation Workshop on 23 March 2018, the National Agricultural Extension Center and the consultant team have revised the National Sustainability Curriculum for Pepper Production (NSC), taking into account recommendations of the workshop participants. The final version of the NSC has been finalized and used as the training materials for two demo-training courses on 9-11 July in Buon Ma Thuot (Dak Lak province) and 12-14 July in Pleiku (Gia Lai province). After these two pilot trainings, based on the sharing of practical experience of the trainees, the document will be revised before being applied to the whole sector.



The Plant Protection Department (PPD), the Vietnam Pepper Association (VPA) and IDH on behalf of the Pepper Task Force selected the Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD) as the consultant to support the establishment of the Vietnam Pepper Coordination Board. PPD has sent an official letter requesting VPA to act as the focal point to collaborate with IPSARD to advise and consult with stakeholders throughout the board establishment process.

The Pepper Task Force has worked and discussed with private companies to identify future collaborative needs and design proposals. The Task Force also worked with international pepper associations including ESA, ASTA and SSI to exchange information on market trends, prices, international and domestic requirements.

The Agro-Chemicals Task Force:

The Agro-Chemicals Task Force: In the second quarter, the Task Force leaders including PPD, Croplife Asia Foundation, Croplife Vietnam, IDH and the PSAV Secretariat held a meeting to review the group's six-month activities and develop a short - and medium-term action plan. One of the Task Force's activities is to continue to monitor and support the coffee, pepper and tea sectors. The Task Force will also plan on a survey to support the Vegetables and Fruits Task Force to meet the export targets as requested by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development ■



ACTIVITIES OF THE PSAV SECRETARIAT

PSAV Plan in 2018 and preparation for the Grow Asia Forum.



On 18 May 2018, the PSAV Secretariat had a working session with Grow Asia at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the preparation for the 2018 Grow Asia Forum (GAF) and the forthcoming PSAV activities.

PSAV and Grow Asia Secretariat agreed on revision of the GAF Program and related preparations. In addition, important issues that need to be addressed urgently include: (i) the addition of a Vice Chairperson of the Private Sector to promote PSAV's activities; (ii) the attraction of more domestic companies to join PSAV; (iii) revision and supplement of the PSAV Charter; (iv) research on the possibility of establishing new Task Forces and expanding the Vegetables and Fruits Task Force; and (v) personnel addition to the PSAV Secretariat. Those issues were discussed in detail before reporting to the Vice Minister Le Quoc Doanh at his meeting with Grow Asia Secretariat.

In addition, Grow Asia will also work closely with PSAV to prepare contents and the organization of key events for PSAV in 2018 including the mid-year General Meeting within the PSAV framework and the experience sharing workshop among Task Forces under PSAV ■

Enhancing cooperation to expand PSAV activities



On 22 May 2018, representatives of the PSAV Secretariat and the Tea Task Force had a working session with CEO of Universal Robina Corporation to jointly develop public-private partnership sustainable tea projects.

At the meeting, Ms. Nguyen Anh Hong, Vice President of the Vietnam Tea Association, shared the context of the tea sector and suggested activities needed to develop the industry. Mr. Huynh Tien Dung, Country Director of IDH, pointed out the need for coordination from both the public and private sectors to support sustainable development of the tea industry. CEO of Universal Robina Corporation was committed to contribute resources of the company to further support the Task Force's operation ■

Development orientations of the Vegetables and Fruits Task Force

On 25 May 2018, the PSAV Secretariat held a tripartite meeting between International Cooperation Department (ICD), Department of Crop Production (DCP) and IPSARD to review the performance of the Vegetables and Fruits Task Force. The Task Force has engaged only in a potato project of PepsiCo Viet Nam, and there are no other vegetables and fruits companies in the Task Force. Therefore, in order to expand the range of vegetables and fruits, ICD, DCP and IPSARD agreed to call on international corporations and local companies doing business and investing in vegetables and fruits production and processing to participate as members



of the Task Force, thereby supporting the development of material production, processing, certification, connectivity and consumption of produces ■

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:

Improving agriculture labor productivity – the role of the private sector

On 20 April 2018, the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the International Support Group (ISG) in collaboration with PSAV, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and PepsiCo Viet Nam held a Policy Dialogue on “Improving agriculture labor productivity - the role of the private sector”.

The Dialogue attracted nearly 100 participants, representing the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, institutes / universities, provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development, and many participants from the private sector from different countries such as Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, etc. and Viet Nam. Presentations at the Dialogue highlighted Vietnam’s current low labor productivity and indicated the bottlenecks required addressing so as to improve the sector productivity. The high productivity models of PepsiCo Viet Nam, a member of PSAV, and the Japan-Dalat food company, have demonstrated the



high potential for increasing agricultural productivity and yield in Viet Nam with the application of advanced technologies, good agricultural management and improved farmers’ knowledge on farm intensification. Main solutions to improve labor productivity include:

- Improving land policies
- Policy for genetic improvement
- Improving investment policies for the development of good agricultural infrastructure
- Promoting the ownership of producers, applying advanced contracts in agriculture production in association with guaranteed purchase of agricultural products and market development ■

Incentive policies to attract investors into agriculture and rural sectors

The Government has issued the Decree No. 57/2018/ND-CP on incentive policies for enterprises investing in agriculture and rural areas and the Decision No. 19/2018/QĐ-TTg on the criteria, competence, order and procedures for granting of of hi-tech agricultural enterprises.

According to the regulations, enterprises entitled to incentives and supports are those established, registered and operated under the Law on Enterprises and have agricultural projects under the categories of (i) specially prioritized for

investment, (ii) prioritized for investment, and (iii) encouraged for investment.

Those enterprises will be supported by the State with land use tax exemption and reduction; rental fee exemption and reduction for land or water surface use; support for land consolidation; enabling credit access and credit support; support for research, transfer and application of hi-tech agriculture; support for human resources training, market development; facility investment support; provision of public services and investment in agricultural and rural infrastructure ■

Organize production along the value chain to best manage the use of agro-chemicals

Organizing production along the value chain to manage well the use of agro-chemicals is one of the solutions presented at the Conference “Orientations for plant protection in the current context” held on 15 May 2018 to overcome the shortcomings of plant protection today, especially in the control of agro-chemicals’ use.

According to Mr. Hoang Trung, Director General of Plant Protection Department, in recent years, climate change has become more and more evident not only negatively affecting plant growth but also causing many new harmful pests, or changes to the emergence and development rules of harmful pests, thus making it difficult for forecasting and prevention direction. In addition, in order to meet the growing demand of safe food from domestic consumers as well as the demands from the free trade agreements (FTAs) being signed, technical barriers on SPS and food safety are being raised pretty high. Thus, it is necessary to improve the capacity of staff in the plant protection field and to apply new technologies in management and forecasting.

Speaking at the Conference, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nguyen Xuan Cuong, said that the overuse of pesticides over the last time led to the price increase of agricultural products and negative impacts on the environment. He urged to reduce



the amount of pesticides, especially herbicides and highly toxic chemicals. He required the plant protection sector to coordinate with the related organizations to control and prevent chemical smuggling and strengthen the supply network of agro-chemicals, especially the intermediary agents. He guided manufacturers, distributors and users to use environmentally friendly products such as bio pesticides to gradually replace chemicals. He proposed to strengthening propaganda to bring scientific and technical advances into environmentally friendly production. It is necessary to promote the organization and implementation of production and consumption along value chains so as to ensure the good management of the use of agro-chemicals, ensuring food safety requirements for domestic consumers and meeting export requirements as well. Production linkage is also an important factor in organizing the collection of herbicide packaging after use to avoid polluting the environment ■

The Prime Minister set a target for agriculture sector to be top 15 in the world in 10 years' time

On 30 July 2018, in Da Lat City (Lam Dong province), the National Conference on "Promoting enterprises investing in agriculture" was held and chaired by the Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc.

The Conference noted many enthusiastic ideas of enterprises on the advantages, disadvantages as well as obstacles as results of the existing mechanisms and policies in investment for agricultural development, especially access to credit and land; difficulties in plant varieties and animal breeds, results of applied researches, consumption markets, agricultural insurance, land consolidation, administrative procedures for investment and business in agriculture... The

Ministries as Government members have responded, dialogued with enterprises, associations, experts on many issues, particularly agricultural enterprises - a force identified as the "key" to promote the development of agricultural production.

Speaking at the closing of the Conference, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc highly appreciated the great results that the agriculture sector has achieved in the past, and clearly pointed out the constraints that have been discussed in the Conference.

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, set a target for agriculture sector to rank the 15th in the world agriculture producers in the next 10 years ■



Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc welcome large enterprises to invest in agriculture. Picture: VGP.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

PSAV mid-year General Meeting

In preparation for the WEF-ASEAN and the Grow Asia Forum (GAF) 2018, the PSAV Secretariat in collaboration with the Task Forces' co-chairs will organize a mid-year General Meeting under the PSAV framework. The event is expected to be participated by 60-80 representatives from Task Forces; CEOs of multinational corporations as co-chairs of 7 Task Forces; the relevant agencies of MARD; related associations; PSAV members, observers; Grow Asia Secretariat; and other domestic and international organizations.

WEF - ASEAN and Grow Asia Forum 2018

The WEF - ASEAN, formerly known as the WEF - East Asia, is a major and prestigious forum in the region, attracting the participation of leaders from many countries inside and outside the region, many major international organizations and leading corporations in the world. The WEF-ASEAN 2018, themed ASEAN 4.0: Entrepreneurship and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, will be held from 11 to 13 September 2018 at the Ha Noi National Convention Center, which is one of the important foreign affairs of the country in 2018.

The Grow Asia Forum is a high-level event bringing together more than 120 senior leaders from ASEAN governments, global and regional private sector, international civil society, farmers' organizations and other key stakeholders to engage in a highly interactive program. This is the 4th annual GAF, which is scheduled to be held on 11 September 2018 on the sidelines of the WEF-ASEAN.

This year's the GAF builds on lessons learned and feedback from previous forums. The agenda combines the findings of the previous participants, with the aim of sharing information, creating new connections and learning new knowledge. With the theme "Innovation to create change: Discover and inspire," delegates will have a strong sense of purpose, progress and innovations emerging across the network of Grow Asia. Participants will be inspired to continue to commit to contributing further to the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships, promoting the development of modern agricultural and food systems, in which farmers are the basis for promoting the development of highly profitable and sustainable supply chains ■

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