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UPDATES ON ACTIVITIES OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TASK FORCES IN AGRICULTURE

The PPP Task Force on Coffee:



In the 2nd quarter, the PPP Task Force on Coffee continued to implement the agreed goals for the period 2018-2020 of the Task Force, with the following usual activities:

- Participating in the survey program and providing feedback to the Board of the High Quality Coffee Project developed by the Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD) (including the assessment of the current status of existing chain link, the meaning of quality coffee branding in supporting brand development for businesses, the situation and production capacity in the field ...).
- Continuing to update, develop, organize training to improve capacity in the system and apply guidelines on sustainable agricultural practices in coffee production. During this period, the update version of the material "Training of Trainers (ToT)" has been completed in the 2nd Quarter; The "Training of Farmers (ToF)" document will be updated and put into use in the 3rd Quarter of 2019.

The PPP Task Force on Tea:

On the morning of June 4, at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the PPP Task Force on Tea organized a meeting to discuss and agree on the Task Force's Operational Strategy for the period of 2019-2020. Attending the meeting were leaders of Department of Crop Production, Vietnam Tea Association (VITAS), Unilever Vietnam – Co-chairs of PPP Task Force on Tea and representatives of Task Force members from the public sector such as leaders of Plant Protection Department, National Agro Forestry Fisheries Quality Assurance Department, Agro-Processing and Market Development Authority, National Agricultural Extension Center, and representatives from private sector such as URC Company, VinaTea, SAP ... At the meeting, the parties approved the Operation Plan for the period of 2019 - 2020 of the PPP Task Force on Tea and came to an agreement on the three key task groups of the Task Force in the coming time including (i) Enhancing the control effectiveness of pesticide use; (ii) Improving the quality of Vietnamese tea; and (iii) Enhancing the operational efficiency of PPP Task Force on Tea.



Through discussion, the participants agreed on the need to set up a team of experts to coordinate and implement the activities of the Task Force. At the same time, the members expressed their commitment to effectively implement the Task Force 's Operational Plan in the period of 2019-2020 and continue to strengthen further the effectiveness of cooperation between the public and private sectors in the industry.

PPP Task Force on Pepper:

On April 4, in Pleiku city, Gia Lai Province, the International Pepper Association (IPC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and **the Sustainable Trade Initiative IDH organized The regional workshop to introduce sustainable pepper cultivation techniques via Vietnam Pepper Farmers app.** Attending the seminar were representatives from IPC, Indian Spices Development Institute, Indian Spices Research Institute; On the Vietnamese side, there were leaders of the Plant Protection Department, Gia Lai Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam Pepper Association (VPA), National Agricultural Extension Center, ... and representatives of agencies and nearly 200 pepper farmers from 3 key provinces in the Central Highlands. National Agricultural Extension Center introduced the main contents of the sustainable pepper cultivation technical curriculum (NSC). The material is fully updated with information relating to pepper planting, growing, processing, harvesting and preservation processes, along with information on pepper diseases, prevention and treatment, types of pesticides which are allowed to be used as well as the procedure which have been proven on their effectiveness. All of this information has been included in the mobile application named Vietnam Pepper Farmers applicable to both Android and iOS operating systems. This is a full-featured application that helps farmers cultivate pepper effectively. Farmers can also record farming logs, update information on prices, markets, weather, etc. Especially farmers can post their pepper products directly on the application from which traders, dealers or businesses can buy directly from farmers without going through intermediary channels..

On the occasion of the Holland Trade Reception on April 9-10, **the Roundtable on responsible business**, co-chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Netherlands Embassy, was organized to exchange experience



on responsible business activities in Vietnam's agricultural sectors including fruits, vegetables, pepper, etc. The event has set the stage for communication on sustainable development challenges in the agricultural sector.

Two projects on sustainable supply chain of pepper co-financed by IDH and partners and independently invested by Nedspice and Simexcodl were launched in two provinces of Dak Nong and Dak Lak in May. It was expected that the above sustainable supply chain projects would directly support 1,100 farmers in Dak Nong and Dak Lak. In addition, more than 200 other farmers will also have access to sustainable farming techniques through experience sharing activities of the project. The goal of the project is to build a leadership team and training staff for sustainable pepper production; assisting farmers to consolidate the quality management process, and build sustainable cooperation between businesses and pepper farmers with the support of stakeholders in the pepper industry.

The Technical Training Workshop on Laboratory Testing was co-organized by VPA, Plant Protection Department, IDH and IPC in cooperation with Eurofins on June 18-19. The workshop was one of the many public-private cooperation activities of the PPP Task Force on Pepper to strengthen and enhance the capacity of the testing staff in agrochemical residue testing in pepper samples.

The PPP Task Force on Fisheries:

In the second quarter of 2019, the Project "Supporting sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mekong Delta through strengthening public private partnership" was implemented by the Task Force according to the proposed plan. Specifically, a number of key activities have been implemented including:

Component 1: Promote public-private cooperation in environmental monitoring and disease surveillance in aquaculture

- Reviewing the current environmental monitoring management system, including parameters,



locations, frequency, data analysis methods and feedback mechanisms.

- Conducting analysis of collected environmental monitoring data.
- Reviewing the existing online database by the Directorate of Fisheries in cooperation with the database developers. This database will be upgraded to store conventional arithmetic data as well as provide an intuitive interface of electronic maps at the central and local levels.
- Organizing 01 consultation workshop on the database development and improvement online database

Component 2: Improve the quality of aquaculture through better management of breeds, feeds, antibiotics and chemicals

- Assessing the use of feed, breeds and chemicals as well as technical practices applied in shrimp and pangasius farms. This evaluation is expected to be completed in early July of 2019.
- Preparing proposals to improve the use of feed, breeds and chemicals as well as related technical practices to minimize disease risks and optimize the efficiency of shrimp and pangasius farming. These proposals will be finalized and piloted in Quarter 3, 4/2019.
- Reviewing and evaluating advanced technology solutions to increase the efficiency of aquaculture in Vietnam and neighboring countries, and coordinating with the Directorate of Fisheries, VINAFIS and IDH to organize 02 workshops on introducing and disseminating these technologies to enterprises, Cooperatives, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in local provinces in May and June 2019. It is expected that 5 pilot projects applying these advanced

technologies will be implemented in Q3, 4 2019 and 2020.

Component 3: Improve the traceability system of aquaculture products

- Conducting market assessment on traceability for shrimp and pangasius production including (i) Survey the traceability status of each partners in the supply chain of catfish and pangasius farming; (ii) Study and evaluate the rules and regulations of main markets (US, EU, Japan) related to traceability, compared with Vietnamese regulations to propose the contents to be adjusted and changed.
- Regarding the activity to support the participation of Vietnamese aquaculture input producers/suppliers: At the meeting on 10/6/2019, the parties agreed to hold a Workshop to introduce the PPP Task Force on Fisheries to Vietnamese seafood business community.

The PPP Task Force on Livestocks:

Acknowledging livestock's significant role in supporting the country to achieve 10 out of 17 sustainable development goals, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has issued Decision No. 1322/QĐ-BNN-HTQT dated April 22, 2019 on establishment of the PPP Task Force on Livestocks under PSAV. The objectives of the Task Force are to raise awareness of industry partners on sustainable livestock practices, attract more investment, and strengthen public-private partnerships to optimize resources in the livestock sector to achieve sustainable development goals. On July 5, 2019 in Hanoi, the PPP Task Force on Livestock cooperated with PSAV Secretariat to hold a meeting between key members and partners of the Task Force to discuss the operational plan in 2019. At the meeting, the members agreed on the need to develop a set of criteria to identify priority areas that need to be supported by the Task Force, prioritize the development of value chains in a sustainable way, associated with environmental protection and compliance with regulations on disease safety. Besides, the requirements for animal welfare are also particularly concerned by partners.



The PPP Task force on Agro-Chemicals:

On the occasion of the working visit of the Netherland Prime Minister, the PPP Task Force on Agro-Chemical cooperated with Lam Dong Provincial People's Committee, Plant Protection Department, Department of Crop Production and related parties to organize the signing ceremony of agreements between 15 public - private partners to pilot a 5000-hectare Production - Protection - Inclusion (PPI) model in Di Linh district, Lam Dong province. Accordingly, the goal of the parties to 2020 is to increase the coffee area using organic fertilizer from 27,466 ha to 32,339 ha with a total use increase of 20% compared to the present time; by 2025, increase the use of organic fertilizer in coffee growing areas to 33,440 hectares with a total increase of 30% compared to 2019. By 2020, on 23,000 hectares of coffee, no banned pesticides will be applied, and reduce pesticide use on 24,000 hectares of coffee by 10%. By 2025, on 44,300 hectares of coffee, no banned pesticides will be applied, and reduce pesticide use on 44,300 hectares of coffee by 15%.

On May 17 in Hanoi, **the Vietnam Mobile-based Pesticide App Launching** was held in the presence of delegates representing public, private sectors, business associations, international organizations,

press media agencies and especially farmers - the main users of this software. The application named "Thuoc BVTN" was built with in-depth consultation with stakeholders including farmers to ensure content design and user-friendly interface. The app is available in Android and iOS operating systems will provide farmers with information about licensed pesticides as well as detailed instructions on appropriate medicines for each pest and crop, etc. From May 2019, the software and database will be officially managed and updated regularly by the Plant Protection Department and will be upgraded continuously based on farmers' feedbacks.

After the launching ceremony, on June 11, 2019, **the Plant Protection Workshop** was organized, co-chaired by IDH and Plant Protection Department, to introduce the pesticide app in Lam Dong province and the recommended list for the active ingredients, alternatives used on coffee trees which meet sustainable standards. On the same day in Da Lat, partners cooperated to organize the workshop **"Solutions for effective use of fertilizer in sustainable coffee production in the Central Highlands"** to share public initiatives - towards improving the use of fertilizer effectively in sustainable coffee production. On that basis, the Task Force will develop an action plan for the Agro-Chemical PPP Task Force in the coming period ■

ACTIVITIES OF PSAV SECRETARIAT

Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Viet Nam (PSAV) Annual General Meeting



Vice Minister Le Quoc Doanh gave the opening speech at the meeting.

On May 17 in Hanoi, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development organized the Annual General Meeting on Sustainable Agriculture Development Partnership in Vietnam and

Public-Private Dialogue (PPP). Vice Minister Le Quoc Doanh and Ms. Marion Martinez, CEO of Yara Vietnam co-chaired the meeting.

Ms. Marion Martinez, CEO of Yara Vietnam, said that based on assessments on models potential for replication, attention should be paid to creating value chain links connecting farmers with businesses and markets, ensuring farmers to use quality agricultural inputs, with low prices, as well as enhancing other support activities, thereby addressing the over-supply situation in agricultural production, towards sustainable agriculture development.

Speaking at the meeting, Vice Minister Le Quoc Doanh affirmed that although PSAV has had many good models, the spread and



replication were still limited. Therefore, in the coming time, it is necessary to make the support of the state and local management units in developing policies faster and more effective; accordingly, to promote research and application of science and technology in production to improve value-added and sustainability; at the same time reorganize production to create value chain links that businesses play a key role, leading other partners to develop ■

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:

Viet Nam Private Sector Economic Forum 2019: Create and develop sustainable value chains of agro-forestry-fishery products for international integration.

In the framework of the Viet Nam Private Sector Economic Forum 2019, Standing Vice Chairman of the Central Party Economic Committee Mr. Cao Duc Phat and Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Mr. Le Quoc Doanh co-chaired the symposium “Create and develop sustainable value chains of agro-forestry-fishery products for international integration” on 2/5/2019 in Hanoi.

At the forum, hundreds of experts, managers, and private businesses have discussed to propose solutions to strengthen the linkages among actors in agricultural production, to develop leading enterprises to lead the production chain, implement solutions to digitize and develop big data for agricultural, forestry and fishery value chains. The presentations at the forum also proposed solutions to create favorable conditions for the private economic sector to access to resources for development, especially land resources, capital, and labor. At the same time, it



Overview of the Forum

is necessary for the private sector to have access to science and technology, to promote science and technology innovation and application in production and business. The forum took place in the context of agriculture becoming the industry providing the most essential food products for the people. The sector is also one of the industry's top concerns..

Identification system to foster traceability in coffee production

On May 23, in Hanoi, the Department of Crop Production, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in collaboration with the Global Coffee Platform (GCP) organized a workshop to announce results of piloting the identification system of coffee growing areas.

In 2018, Vietnam had 680,000 hectares of coffee plantation area with a yield of 2.5 tons / ha and a total output of 1.62 million tons. Vietnam exported 1.8 million tons with a value of 3.5 billion USD. To develop a sustainable coffee industry, meeting the requirements of international roasters and



improving the efficiency of coffee planning and management to meet the requirements of the

new Law on Crop Production issued in 2018, GCP has collaborated with partners, especially the Department of Crop Production, to pilot the coffee identification system to manage the sector and evaluate the application of sustainable practices in coffee production. The system has been piloted to collect data from more than 8,500 households growing coffee in

Di Linh district, Lam Dong province.

This software will become a digital tool to assist relevant partners in managing coffee farms with farm information, plant growth status, seed use, status of land management, water sources, irrigation systems, intercropping. All of which will help to improve the management and traceability of the coffee industry.

Draft Proposal of the Sustainable Development Project on Cashew, Pepper and Fruits in Vietnam

On July 17, in Hanoi, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development organized a workshop to discuss the draft Proposal of the Sustainable Development Project on Cashew, Pepper and Fruits in Vietnam, chaired by Vice Minister Le Quoc Doanh. The project will be implemented by a number of units under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the associations of cashew, pepper, fruits and in 15 provinces including: Binh Phuoc, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Gia Lai, Quang Tri (cashew and pepper) and Binh Thuan, An Giang, Hau Giang, Tien Giang, Soc Trang, Vinh Long, Hung Yen, Phu Tho, Son La and Tuyen Quang (fruit trees, focusing on orange, grapefruit, durian, longan, mango and dragon fruit). The project will also invest in developing logistics including warehouse system, cold storage system, cool storage of fresh fruits at the border gates with China (in the provinces of Lao Cai, Quang Ninh and Lang Son).

If the Sustainable Development Project on Cashew, Pepper and Fruits in Vietnam was approved, it would address the challenges posed to these industries of Vietnam. It is a matter of providing quality cashew, pepper and fruit trees to processing



plants at competitive costs. Besides, the project will promote the production of high quality cashew, pepper and fruits in order to meet the increasingly demanding export market.

Another benefit of the project is to improve basic infrastructure for agricultural and industrial activities such as access to energy, road networks and technology centers. Finally, it could also help to adjust the support solutions for small and medium enterprises, including facilitating access to finance, taxes and other policy adjustments, creating more jobs for young people.

The ASEAN Special Senior Officials Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry in Hue city

From August 5 to August 8, 2019 in Hue City, the ASEAN Special Senior Officials Meeting (Special SOM) of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and related conferences will be organized including the 18th meeting of SOM-AMAF+3, the 14th ASEAN-Russia Agricultural Senior Officials Meeting (ARSOMA).

The conference was organized to evaluate ASEAN agricultural and forestry cooperation activities since the AMAF40 Ministerial Conference in Hanoi. At the conference, Technical Cooperation Working Groups will report on activities within the framework of



the SOM - AMAF Working Groups and propose recommendations and discuss cooperation programs with partners including China, Japan, South Korea, Russia in order to promote and facilitate ASEAN agricultural trade ■

NEW POLICY ON AGRICULTURAL, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

Issuing a roadmap to implement Vietnam's sustainable development goals by 2030

On June 4, 2019, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc signed Decision No. 681/QĐ-TTg promulgating the roadmap to implement Vietnam's sustainable development goals by 2030. This is an activity aimed at implementing the National Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Accordingly, the roadmap to implement the goals of sustainable development in Vietnam by 2030 includes 17 main goals, in which Goal 2 clearly defines the tasks of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in hunger eradication and ensuring food security, nutritional improvement and promoting sustainable agricultural development.

Prime Minister issued a Directive on sustainable development

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc has just signed Directive No. 13 / CT-TTg on May 20, 2019 on sustainable development. The directive states that sustainable development is a consistent policy of the Party and the State. The Government has issued Vietnam's Agenda 21 (2004), Vietnam Sustainable Development Strategy for the period 2011-2020 (2012) and most recently, the National Action Plan to implement the Agenda by 2030 for sustainable development with 17 sustainable development goals and 115 specific goals for Vietnam in the period from now to 2030 in all fields of Socio-Economic Environment. Prime Minister requested to integrate sustainable development goals into socio-economic

development plans. Accordingly, the ministries, branches and People's Committees of provinces and cities directly under the central government should urgently complete the formulation of the Action Plan / Program to implement the goals and tasks assigned in the National Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda in 2019. It is also important to effectively integrate the implementation of sustainable development goals into the formulation and implementation of the Socio-Economic Development Plan at all levels, sectors and local areas. The directive also guides to promptly implement policies to support the poor, near-poor, ethnic minorities, social policy beneficiaries and other vulnerable people.

Policy to support agricultural insurance

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc signed Decision No. 22/2019 / QĐ-TTg on implementing policies to support agricultural insurance. Subjects covered by agricultural insurance premiums include: 1- Crops: Rice; 2. Livestocks: Buffaloes and cows; 3- Aquaculture: Black tiger shrimp and white leg shrimp. Regarding the level of agricultural insurance premium support, the Decision clearly states:

1. For Individuals engaged in agricultural production in the categories of poor households (including poor households according to income criteria and poor households according to multi-dimensional criteria) and near-poor households

according to the Prime Minister's Decision No. 59/2015 / QĐ-TTg of November 19, 2015, promulgating the multi-dimensional approach to poverty applied for the 2016-2020 period: Supporting 90% of fees for agricultural insurance;

2. For Individuals engaged in agricultural production who are not in the category of poor households and near-poor households: support 20% of agricultural insurance premiums;

3. For agricultural production organizations defined in Clause 3, Article 19 of Decree No. 58/2018 / ND-CP: Supporting 20% of agricultural insurance premiums when fully meeting the requirements.

Resolution No. 53 / NQ-CP on solutions to encourage and promote enterprises to invest in agriculture effectively, safely and sustainably

This Resolution is aimed to develop agriculture in a modern and sustainable direction towards 2030 with large commodity production, application of science

and technology, innovation to increase productivity, high quality, efficiency and competitiveness; improve farmers' lives; building modern civilized rural areas.

By 2030, Vietnam's agriculture aims to rank among the 15 most developed countries in the world, in which the agricultural processing industry ranks among the top 10 countries in the world. Vietnam would become a deep processing center of global agriculture, a logistics center of global agricultural trade. Some of the goals to 2030 would be the growth rate of agricultural, forestry and fishery production value reaching about 3.0% / year; The growth rate of agricultural, forestry and fishery export turnover reaching about 6-8% / year. By 2030, there would be 80,000 to 100,000 businesses having effective business investment activities, of which about 3,000 to 4,000 large-scale enterprises and 6,000 to 8,000 medium-sized enterprises.

In order to achieve this goal, the Resolution sets out specific solutions such as continuing to improve institutions and reforming administrative procedures; drastically reducing barriers to business conditions in agriculture, attracting businesses to invest in agriculture; development of production, processing and sales of agricultural products to ensure compliance with market demands, agricultural sector development plans and strategies; updating the mechanism to support enterprises to promote market expansion, step by step taking an active role in the markets; completing credit policies for agricultural projects in the direction of supporting and encouraging investment in the agricultural sector ■

SOME HIGHLIGHT EVENTS NEXT QUARTER

Vietnam Livestock Outlook Forum

Vietnam is accelerating the Agricultural Restructuring Plan. Accordingly, the livestock sector is also oriented with development steps to improve added value, develop livelihoods, protecting environment and ensure food safety. In Quarter 3 of 2019, PSAV Secretariat will coordinate with the Department of Livestock Production, the National Agricultural Extension Center and partners under the PPP Task Force on Livestocks to organize **the Livestock Sector Outlook Forum and Dialogue** with the topic: Challenges and potentials in developing dairy farming and dairy products. The event will be an open discussion for the Task force and related partners and organizations to share experiences in developing a sustainable dairy value chain as well as updating information and forecasts on potentials and impacts of trade agreements signed by Vietnam for dairy industry, thereby building an effective cooperation mechanism between the public and private sectors to develop a sustainable dairy industry.

Promoting the transfer and application of scientific and technological research in agriculture

Agriculture plays a very important role in the economies of Southeast Asian countries. However, the efficiency of transfer and application of scientific and technological research in agriculture is still relatively low in these countries. PSAV's Secretariat is currently collaborating with Grow Asia to develop and implement the Grow Asia Learning Alliance Program (GALA) with the aim of strengthening business and scientists connectivity, supporting the introduction, application, transfer of scientific and technological research into agricultural production, helping farmers and agricultural enterprises to access technology developments in agriculture, thereby enhancing agricultural economic value. The GALA consists of two main components: Strengthening the capacity of scientific researchers in the cooperation with the private sector and a series of events connecting of events connecting scientists with businesses. The GALA will be held in the 3rd quarter of 2019 in 3 countries Vietnam, Philippines and Indonesia. In Vietnam, the Program will start in early September ■

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