



PSAV

Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Viet Nam - PSAV

PSAV Newsletter

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

3rd Quarter - 2018

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Updates of PPP Task Forces' activities
- Updates of PSAV Secretariat's activities
- Other activities and events

UPDATES OF PPP TASK FORCES' ACTIVITIES

PPP Task Force on Coffee



In July 2018, the core members of the PPP Task Force (TF) on Coffee met and reviewed the TF's activities in 2017 so as to re-orient the activities for the period 2018 - 2020. Since 2017, the TF transformed to the value chain model to increase the value of Vietnamese coffee through the development of models to link together farmers in an area or a region and thereby facilitating replication of effective and sustainable coffee production models. Currently, the TF has connected over 80,000 farmers with 97,000 ha of coffee with the participation of many partners such as Nestlé Viet Nam, Yara, Bayer, EDE, ACOM, Olam, Simexco, GCP, IDH, WASI, etc. At the mid-term general meeting of the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Viet Nam (PSAV) in August 2018, the TF shared its focus for action in the coming time, including :

- Strengthen links between sustainable coffee development projects to promote linkages and value chain development;
- Professionalize information sharing and knowledge transfer processes; and
- Apply digital technology in monitoring and supervision, and formulation of plantation area codes.

In October 2018, the TF will develop a soft skills training program for the owners of plantation models and extension workers of 4 Provincial Agricultural Extension Centers in the Central Highlands, including presentation, teamwork and reporting skills. The training program is expected to help develop the skills needed to improve the effectiveness of information sharing.

PPP Task Force on Tea

The project "Promoting tea farmers to participate in sustainable and quality tea supply-Phase 2" (VUI Tea Project) is now in the final stage of completion. In August, two tea companies in Lai Chau - members of the VUI tea project - officially received the Rainforest Alliances (RA) certification, bringing the total number of companies certified in Viet Nam up to 12 companies. During the period from August to September, the remaining



six companies completed the training and final preparation for internal audits with the support of the project technical advisory board. All companies have completed the registration for formal auditing to get RA certification at the end of September. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2018.

The TF is in the process of developing and discussing a new sustainable tea project in the period of 2019 - 2020 with the participation of representatives of the public sector (Plant Protection Department) and the private sector (15 production companies and tea exporters, plant protection companies like Croplife, international purchasing companies like Vanrees, URC). The project's content will soon be finalized for implementation in early 2019. The final workshop of the VUI tea project, which will introduce a new sustainable tea project, is scheduled to be held in December 2018.

PPP Task Force on Pepper

In the third quarter, the Vietnam Pepper Association (VPA) in collaboration with the Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD) held consultations with businesses producing, trading and exporting pepper, input suppliers and related parties, in Ho Chi Minh City, Dak Lak and Dak Nong, for the establishment

of Viet Nam Pepper Coordination Board (VPCB). Consultation results will be synthesized and reported to the Co-Chairs of PSAV, PPP TF Co-chairs for further discussion of the next steps.

The TF has completed the design of the National Guideline for Sustainable Pepper Production (NSC). The NSC will be published in the fourth quarter of 2018.

The trial version of the pesticide management software has been finalized and uploaded to the play store and apps store for users to test and comment. Software can run on iOS or Android operating system. A national consultation meeting will be held in November, 2018 to gather ideas and improve the software. The software is expected to be piloted on pepper in early 2019 as part of the sustainable projects of the private sector.



Also in the third quarter, the TF held a regular meeting to report on its performance, reviewing the work plan to update and adjust the work plan in line with existing resources. At side of the meeting, a technical workshop on linkages for sustainable coffee production was organized. The workshop was attended by 40 delegates from both public and private sectors, who are members of the TF. At the workshop, representatives from private sector shared the models of their linkages with other actors in production

and development of stable and sustainable material areas.

In addition, the TF also held regular meetings

with international pepper associations, including ESA, ASTA and SSI, to exchange information on market trends, prices, international and domestic demands ■

PSAV SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES

Mid-year general meeting of Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture of Viet Nam (PSAV)

On 16 August 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) held the mid-year general meeting of the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture of Viet Nam (PSAV) in Ha Noi. The meeting was attended by over 100 representatives of PPP TFs' chairpersons and members, leaders of national and international groups and companies, related Departments of MARD, commodity associations, Secretariat of the Grow Asia and other relevant national and international organizations.

The PPP TFs had the opportunity to review and evaluate all the activities in the first half of 2018 and to discuss issues and recommendations to improve the effectiveness and coordination of the



PPP TFs. MARD committed to continue to direct, closely coordinate with private sector and facilitate all activities of PSAV.

For more information about the event, refer to the link ¹

Experience sharing among the PPP TFs

In the afternoon of August 16th, 2018, the PSAV Secretariat in cooperation with Grow Asia organized an experience sharing workshop among PPP TFs to enhance operational efficiency, improve organizational structure and the role of PPP TFs under PSAV. Grow Asia has shared many lessons learned from the five participating countries in Grow Asia, with 44 PPP Working Groups in more than 480 public-private partnerships operating in

37 agricultural value chains. Catalyzed by the World Economic Forum (WEF), Grow Asia is a multilateral cooperation forum that supports cooperation and promotes agricultural development priorities in ASEAN region. PSAV is now an active member of Grow Asia, realizing the New Vision for Agriculture: Striving to achieve the 2020 goals of 20:20:20 (20% increase in productivity, 20% reduction in poverty and 20% reduction of GHG emission).

¹<http://bit.ly/2F9bYVO>

Establishment of PPP TF on Livestock



The PSAV Secretariat in coordination with IPSARD has developed research proposal to establish the PPP TF on Livestock. In the third quarter, IPSARD organized consultations on the priorities, mechanism and activities of the PPP TF on Livestock with different partners including the Department of Livestock Production (DLP), the National Agricultural Extension Center (NAEC), manufacturing companies, processors and traders in the sector as well as input suppliers.

Appointment of Vice Co-Chair for the private sector

Pursuant to the conclusions of the PSAV Annual General Meeting on 3 March 2018 on the necessity of appointing the Vice Co-Chair of the Private Sector in PSAV, Yara Vietnam Co. Ltd has cooperated with the PSAV Secretariat to search for the institution that can take over voluntarily the position of Vice Co-Chair of the group representing the private sector in PSAV. Based on consultations with members of PSAV, including representatives from public and private sectors, IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative has been nominated and selected for this position.

As the Vice Co-Chair representative for the

Private Sector in PSAV, IDH would assist the Co-Chair of the private sector, on the Partnership activities with other PPP TFs' co-chairs and members in promoting the implementation of programs and plans, and monitor the progress. The Vice Co-Chair of the private sector under PSAV would also be responsible for representing the Co-Chair to collaborate with other private companies and partners in advocacy activities, meeting organization and promotion of relevant PSAV partners to undertake joint commitments. The term for this position is three years from the date of appointment ■

OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:

Growth Asia Forum 2018

On 11 September 2018, MARD in association with Grow Asia organized the Growth Asia Forum 2018 (GAF). The event was attended by over 200 delegates from the Ministries of Agriculture in ASEAN region, leaders of national and global corporations and companies that invest in and do business in agriculture in ASEAN region in general and in Vietnam in particular, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. The Forum was attended by Deputy



Prime Minister Trinh Dinh Dung, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Nguyen Xuan Cuong, Senator Michaelia Cash, Minister for Small and Family Business, Skill and Vocational Education of Australia, and Mr. Olivier Schwab, Managing Director, Head of Business Engagement, World Economic Forum.

With the theme “Innovations for Results: Exploration and Inspiration Innovation”, the GAF composed 18 technical sessions featuring key topics such as agricultural finance, digital innovation in agricultural production, agriculture with the technology revolution

4.0, precision technology in agriculture, low emission agriculture, technology transfer to farmers in the value chain, and conversion of agricultural labor.

At the Forum, managers, professionals and businesses shared a renewed sense of innovation in agricultural production, investment and business, the successful application of science and technology and the industrial revolution 4.0 into smart agricultural production. This is to promote the advantages of agriculture in the region, improve farmers’ living conditions and contribute to ensuring global food security in the context of climate

New regulations on the conditions for rice trade and export

The Government has issued Decree No. 107/2018/ ND-CP on 15 August 2018 on rice trade and export, which specifies conditions for rice export business. This Decree replaced the Decree No. 109/2010/ND-CP dated 4 November 2010 and removed the conditions for rice export causing difficulties for businesses engaged in rice trade and export.

According to the Decree 107 newly issued, traders can export rice when they have at least one specialized warehouse used to store paddy, rice and at least 1 milling or grinding or processing facility for rice compatible with in accordance with national technical standards and norms on paddy and rice storage, which was issued by the competent agencies in line with the Law on Technical Standards and Norms.

Warehouses, milling and processing plants for rice to meet the above conditions may be owned or leased by traders from other organizations or individuals with contracts in accordance with the legal regulations with a minimum leasing term of 5 years. Thus, the conditions on minimum storage capacity of 5,000 tons and the minimum milling capacity of 10 tons of paddy per hour have been removed. At the same time, traders also do not have to meet the regulations on the location of warehouses and milling facilities as before, and instead of owning, traders now can rent warehouses and milling facilities.

However, the Decree 107 also stipulates clearly that traders who have certificates for



rice trade and export are not allowed to lease their warehouses, grinding or processing plants, that was listed in their application, for other traders to use them for the purpose of applying for certificate. In particular, the Decree 107 opens a very flexible rules for exporters of organic rice, steamed rice or enhanced micro-nutrients rice. Accordingly, traders who only export organic, steamed or enhanced micro-nutrients rice are not required to meet the mentioned-above conditions, to have the certification, to reserve circulation stock and to have the responsibility to report according to regulations.

When carrying out customs procedures for export, traders exporting organic, steamed or enhanced micro-nutrients rice without the certificate, will have to submit to the customs office original or certified letter by competent agencies or organizations, or export rice quality certificates issued by assessment organizations according to the legal regulations on export rice and in accordance with the criteria and methods identified by MARD and Ministry of Health.

Incentive policy on organic agriculture development

The Decree No. 109/2018/ND-CP dated 29 August 2018 by the Government on organic agriculture has been in effect since 15 October 2018, which specifies policies to encourage the development of organic agriculture. Specifically, priority, in terms of budget allocation, would be given to research and agricultural extension projects on pest-resistant varieties, organic fertilizers, bio pesticides and herbal veterinary drugs.

The establishments producing and / or trading organic products or inputs for organic production shall be given priority to enjoy current incentive policies for investment in agriculture and rural areas, including: incentive policy for small and medium enterprises; policy to encourage

enterprises to invest in agriculture and rural areas; agricultural cooperative support policy; the policy of linking production with consumption of products, building big fields; vocational training policy for rural workers; credit policy for agricultural and rural development; lending policy to encourage development of hi-tech agriculture and clean agriculture.

Besides, there are the specific policies on varieties, capital and technology in aquaculture, herbal plantation; trade promotion, branding; green labelling, support to the environmentally friendly establishments; and other relevant policies. Meanwhile, the establishments can apply only one most appropriate incentive policy at a time ■

The draft Circular to issue the List of national key agriculture products, 15 products were recommended by MARD to include in the List.



In the world, many countries have identified key agricultural products to encourage development. However, up to now, there has been no uniform set of indicators to identify key agricultural products among countries in the world. Instead, depending on the natural, economic and social conditions, as well as the political and social welfare objectives of each country, countries choose the key agricultural products to focus on.

Based on the international experiences on key product identification and development, there are four main groups of criteria that most countries use to identify their key agricultural products, including: 1. Economic criteria; 2. Social criteria; 3. Environmental criteria; 4. Criteria for prioritized products.

After considering a number of products according to the set criteria, MARD proposed 15 key national agricultural products, including: 1. Rice; 2. Coffee; 3. Rubber; 4. Cashew; 5. Pepper; 6. Tea; 7. Cassava and cassava products; 8. Ginseng; 9. Vegetables; 10. Pig; 11. Cattle; 12. Chicken; 13. Pangasius; 14. Shrimp (including: black tiger shrimp, white shrimp, lobster); 15. Wood and wood products ■

The full text is posted at the link ²

²<http://bit.ly/2QqwkY>

Draft Circular on State inspection of food safety for food of plant origin for export

The draft proposed in detail the implementation of state inspection of food safety (hereinafter referred to as inspection) for food of plant origin for export under the management scope of MARD.

According to the draft, organizations and individuals demanding to inspect food of plant origin for export shall submit dossiers of registration for inspection directly or by post to the inspecting bodies (the Sub-Department of Plant Protection).

Upon receiving the inspection registration dossier, the dossier-receiving section

shall examine the dossier and issue a receipt of the dossier (for dossiers sent directly) or in 2 working days for case of receipt by post. If the dossiers are invalid, they have to notify to the organizations or individuals for supplementation of the dossiers.

It is clearly indicated in the draft Circular that within 2 working days from the date of receipt of the dossier, the inspection body shall examine the dossier and issue a notice of inspection results for the exported food of plant origin ■

Full text is posted at the link³

COMING ACTIVITIES

Enhance export capacity and food safety for agriculture products of Viet Nam

With the aim of enhancing the opportunity for exchanges and sharing of experiences, enhancing export capacity and food safety, especially issues related to MRL standards for key export crops, PSAV will cooperate with Crop Life Viet Nam to organize the workshop "Driving Viet Nam Agriculture Export and Food Safety: The Role of Crop Protection". It is expected that the workshop will be held in the fourth quarter with the participation of about 100 representatives from relevant agencies of MARD, other related Ministries, related associations, companies producing and trading pesticides, vegetables, tea, coffee, pepper, rice, PPP TF on Agro-Chemicals and other TFs under PSAV, farmers and cooperatives; PSAV Secretariat; Crop Life; other international and domestic organizations.

Workshop on Public and Private cooperation for sustainable coffee development in Viet Nam 2018

It is planned that in early December 2018, the Viet Nam Coffee Coordination Board (VCCB) will hold the "Workshop on Public - Private cooperation for sustainable coffee development in Viet Nam 2018" funded by Global Coffee Platform (GCP), Grow Asia, PSAV and HRNS/EDE Consulting. The workshop is an annual event of the VCCB, aiming to create an open dialogue between the VCCB and industry players on the status, outstanding issues, proposed solutions and follow-up actions to deliver sustainable coffee development. The 2018 workshop is expected to include five sessions on a number of issues of common interest in sustainable coffee development, such as public-private partnerships in value chain linkages, sustainable coffee development experiences, sustainable sector initiatives,

³<http://bit.ly/2SLrA4N>

potential replication initiatives, and water management issues.

Viet Nam Pepper Outlook 2018

Following the success of the Viet Nam International Pepper Outlook 2016 (VIPO 2016) in Phu Quoc, the Viet Nam Pepper Outlook 2018" (VIPO 2018) will be a special event for the Vietnamese pepper industry in 2018.

VIPO 2018 is expected to welcome more than 200 delegates including traders, importers, exporters, government agencies, finance companies, NGOs, spices associations, that are interested in the pepper made in Viet Nam and around the world.

VIPO 2018 will provide an opportunity for the parties to meet, discuss, share information and collaborate in the field of pepper through the activities of the main plenary session. In addition, VIPO 2018 also has the exhibitions by pepper exporters in Viet Nam and field visit to Ba Ria - Vung Tau, one of the key pepper plantation provinces in Viet Nam.

M&E of the PPP TFs' operation

It is planned that in November and December 2018, the PSAV Secretariat will coordinate with the PPP Task Forces' Co-Chairs to monitor the effectiveness of the TFs under PSAV in 2018. This is an annual activity

conducted for the purpose of gathering information and data of the TFs' activities in preparation for the annual World Economic Forum 2019 in Davos, Switzerland in January 2019

Development of PPP TFs' Work Plans in 2019-2020

With the aim of improving the performance of the PPP TFs, further promoting the scale and breadth of the TFs' performance, in the fourth Quarter, PSAV Secretariat will work with the Co-Chairs of the PPP Task Forces to urgently develop the TFs' Work Plans for 2019-2020. It is expected that the Work Plans will be a useful tool to support the monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the TFs in the coming time.

Meeting of PPP TFs' Co-chairs from private sector

In early December 2018, PSAV Secretariat will cooperate with Yara Viet Nam, Co-Chair of PSAV of private sector to organize the meeting of the PPP TFs Co-chairs from private sector. This will be an opportunity for the Co-Chairs the 7 PPP TFs to review and evaluate the performance and synergies of private sector and collaborative mechanisms as well as orienting the role of private sector in PSAV in the coming time ■

Contact:

PSAV Secretariat Office

Room 102 Building B4 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Address. No. 2 Ngoc Ha street, Ba Dinh district, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Phone: +84 (0) 24 3771 3071 | **Email:** psav.office@psav-mard.org.vn | **Website:** psav-mard.org.vn