



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 TASK FORCES IN AGRICULTURE

The Coffee Task Force



In 4th quarter of 2017, the Coffee Task Force in collaboration with Global Coffee Platform (GCP) and NAEC to hold consultation workshop with purpose to update the National Sustainability Curriculum (NSC). The Coffee Task Force also organized the evaluation meeting to review all activities in 2017 and develop action plan for 2018, towards the signing of a joint cooperation agreement between the public and private sectors, creating a prerequisite for the implementation of the long-term commitment.

In addition, the Coffee Task Force in partner with coffee stakeholders to organize events to share experiences

on sustainable coffee production such as “Workshop on sharing and learning experiences” on 6/12 at Dak Lak; Seminar on “Expanding the PPP model of effective cooperation, linking and sustainable development: practical experience from the coffee sector” in Lam Dong within the Vietnam Coffee Day celebration.

The Tea Task Force

In the 4th quarter of 2017, the Tea Task Force completed the draft National Sustainable Curriculum on Tea (NSC) and developing the official training materials for farmers (ToF) with the cooperation of the tea experts from the National Extension Center.



The Task Force also coordinated with relevant stakeholders to successfully organize the Tea Industry Forum 2017.

Regarding the on-field activities, the Task Force's projects had supported 08 companies to complete the training course for the latest SAN certificates; 02 companies successfully get the Rainforest Alliance (RA) Certificates and starting to connect with the Unilever Enterprise in product consumption.

The Pepper Task Force:



Members of the PPP Task Force on Pepper have completed the drafting of five components of the Sustainable Pepper Production Curriculum. The draft has been sent to the Task force members for comments; Based on these comments, the National Agricultural Extension Center will revise and organize a consultation workshop by the end of February.

The Task Force also held meetings among the members to discuss the following activities: (i) prioritize the establishment of the Coordination Committee to formalize and improve the performance of the Task Force; (ii) increase support toward sustainable production and supply chain for the tea production industry (iii) propose the allocation of counterpart funds from the state budget for public – private partnership activities.

Regarding the field project sponsored by IDH Viet Nam and McCormick Company:

the project is currently developing some pilot models for the sustainable pepper production and will replicate the successful practices in 2018.

The Agro-Chemicals Task Force

- Coordinate with the Tea Task Force to participate in the control of pesticide residue assessment through the Agri-team model; As a result, 5/12 enterprises have completely no longer found pesticide residues on tea plants, the rest are still within the permitted level of Taiwanese, United States and European markets.
- Members of the Task Force, namely the Vietnam Tea Association, continued to collaborate with the Plant Protection Department to formally set up the Guideline for the Establishment of the Concentrated Plant Protection Clusters to replicate this model across the tea sector, expected to carry out in 2018.
- IDH The Sustainable Trade Initiative in collaboration with the Plant Protection Department has developed the application of the “pesticide search software” which can be used on website or telephone interface. This software application is expected to provide information that would help farmers, pesticide trading agents and homeowners in managing and using pesticides effectively and reasonably. This software will be applied in pilot mode for the tea, coffee and pepper sectors.

The Fruits and Vegetables Task Force:

In the fourth quarter of 2017, PepsiCo collaborated with partners such as Fresh Studio, Agrico and WUF to carry out projects relating to seed transfer, knowledge and techniques, experiences for sustainable



potato plantation. Especially, the project has continued to sign the trading contract

with potato farmers as required.

The Rice Task Force:

The Rice Task Force was established in June 2017 and officially launched in November 2017. The Rice Task force is currently in the process of reviewing and strengthening its membership and discussing the task force's action plan for 2018. It is expected that three public-private partnerships will be implemented next year. ■

ACTIVITIES OF PSAV SECRETARIAT OFFICE.

The meeting of Co-Chairs of the PPP Task Forces.



The PSAV Secretariat held a meeting with Co-Chairs of all PPP Task Forces on 15th October 2017 in Ho Chi Minh city. Under the chairmanship of Vice Minister Le Quoc Doanh, the Co-Chairs updated the activities of each Task Forces and discussed the issues and difficulties that the task forces were facing in strengthening each

Task Forces. In addition, the Co-Chairs also provided comments to help the Secretariat review the rules as well as developing an action plan for PSAV in 2018. In the meeting, the Secretariat and the Co-Chairs of all Task Forces also agreed that the PSAV general meeting would take place in the first quarter of 2018.

The organization of the launching of the PPP Task Force on Rice



The PSAV Secretariat in collaboration with GIZ and Bayer Viet Nam Co. organized the launching of the PPP Task Force on Rice on 16th November 2017 in Ho Chi Minh city. The PPP Task Force on Rice was chaired by the Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural development (IPSARD) and Bayer Viet Nam Co. At the launching ceremony, the Co-Chair and members discussed the strategy and action plan for the Task Force in 2018, especially the implementation of the PPP projects in rice sector and determine the role of commitments levels of all stakeholders in implementing these projects.

The PPP Task Force on Rice will get and convey the difficulties in the product value chains to the policy makers in

order to find the solutions as well as consultation for the development of sustainable value chains for rice sector. The Task Force will also mobilize partners to develop and implement programs and projects to promote the sustainable development of rice value chains, improving rice quality and income for farmers. Other activities to focus on for the Task Force are supplying and sharing information, promoting trade and public-private partnerships and improve capacity and link actors in the value chains more effectively. At the same time, the Task Force will expand market access for businesses, offering more opportunities for companies to introduce their high quality products and expanding the sustainable rice production processes for farmers.

PPP Task Forces Monitoring and Evaluation activities

Supported by the Grow Asia and the World Economic Forum (WEF), the PSAV Secretariat, in collaboration with the PPP Task Forces in all commodities, conducted a

rapid assessment of the implementation progresses of the PPP projects. Preliminary results show that in 2017, the PPP projects have trained more than 200,000

farmers on sustainable production, and through the project activities, farmers have increased incomes by 12-14% (for coffee farmers), and 18% (for potato farmers).

Supporting the work of the PPP Task Forces

In the fourth quarter, the Secretariat continued to support the PPP Task Forces in several activities: (i) collaborate with the PPP Task forces on Pepper and Agro-Chemicals to monitor the pesticide residue warnings from Pepper importers, and (ii) connecting the PPP Task Force on Coffee and Rice to the VnSAT National project.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

The International Conference for the tea industry.



The International Conference “Vietnam Tea Outlook 2017” was held on December 6, 2017 with the aims of boosting the export of Vietnamese tea products, supporting the image of the tea industry, promoting the tea specialty products, the name of large tea plantation areas, seeking trade and investment opportunities with tea importers and traders in the world. The conference attracted delegates from tea companies, private associations from Russia, Ukraine, Singapore, Latvia, Canada, Italy, China, Australia, Japan, Sri

Lanka, Lao PDR and other countries in the world, along with 60 representatives from departments, institutes within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development of Viet Nam, tea exporting companies and relevant partners from major tea plantation regions throughout the country. During the conference, there were two Memorandum of Understanding between the Canadian Tea and Herbal Association and the Tea Master Australia Association in the field of tea trading promotion that had been successfully signed.

Workshop on “Promoting the Public-Private Partnership in pepper sector and sharing experiences in sustainable pepper production”

On November 24-25, 2017 in Dak Nong, the Plant Protection Department in collaboration with the Vietnam Pepper Association and the IDH Sustainable Trade Initiatives co-chaired a workshop on “Promoting the Public-Private Partnership in pepper sector and sharing experiences in sustainable pepper production”. About 70 participants attended the meeting with the aim of improving the effectiveness of public-private partnership in the pepper sector and to identify and agree on the work plan for the period of 2018-2020 and the prioritized activities in 2018. At the workshop, participants agreed to develop a clear mechanism for PPP activities; the Plant Protection Department along with IDH would be the Co-Chairs of the Task



Force on pepper, and will cooperate with members of the Task Force to develop the strategy to attract more companies participating in the PPP Task Force on pepper; focusing on mobilizing resources from private sectors and promoting the involvement of civil society organizations.

The Rice Outlook Forum 2017.



The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development in collaboration with the GIZ and Bayer Company organized the Rice Outlook Forum 2017 on 16th November 2017 in Ho Chi Minh city with the participation of more than 100 delegates. At the Forum, relevant partners had shared the experiences

and challenges such as climate change, shrinking cultivation areas, ineffective use of the policies on agricultural land planning, changing of consumer preferences, weak supply chain in the sector, lacking of connection between public and private sectors and the absence of an effective coordination mechanism.... The forum also provided the updates on policies of restructuring rice plantation land for other crops plantation; provided an overview and forecast the rice market in the near future. The delegates also discussed some models of sustainable rice production using the public-private partnerships.

The First Viet Nam Coffee Day.

December 10th was selected as the Viet Nam Coffee Day and the first Viet Nam Coffee Festival was held

from December 9th to December 12th, 2017 in Dalat city, Lam Dong province.



The event was started with a workshop on “The new development stage of Vietnamese coffee sector” chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural development. There were about 120 experts and guests attending the workshop and sharing the experiences and achievements of the coffee sector as well as the difficulties and challenges, while discussing some recommendations for policy makers to solve the existing issues and continue to promote the development of sustainable coffee production adapting to climate change... Besides, the experts also suggested some solutions in the near future to further promote the coffee replantation program for those obsolete, less productive areas, prioritize the development of high-yield and high-quality seeds and at the same time attracting more investment in processed coffee and instant coffee.

The Minister also stated that the orientation for coffee development in the coming time would be not to expand the plantation areas until 2030 but to focus on improving the value added and productivity and connecting all factors in the value chain and strengthening the processing area.

Another important workshop focusing

Grow Asia Participationers Workshop

The Grow Asia Participationers Workshop was organized on 11-12 October in Jakarta, Indonesia with the aim of sharing the experiences among the partner countries: Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

There were about 80 participants representing the partner countries, with the following activities: (i) exchanging

on learning and sharing the success of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models organized by the PPP Task Force on Coffee was a great activity. Speaking at the workshop, Mr. Le Quoc Doanh, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural development, emphasized that the success of these models was thanks to the strong cooperation between the public and private sectors in connecting the farmers to the global value chains. The Deputy Minister also pointed out that the PPP models would become the trend for sustainable agricultural development towards improving the quality and productivity as well as increasing income for farmers.

To celebrate the first Viet Nam Coffee Day, there were also other activities taken place such as visiting the coffee plantation areas, exhibitions and coffee tasting.



The birth of Viet Nam Coffee Day demonstrated the remarkable contribution of the coffee sector to the development of Vietnamese agriculture in particular as well as the development of the country in general.

views and experiences on pathways to scale-up effective models; (ii) better understanding digital solutions to support and connect with farmers; (iii) explore how to go beyond corporate social responsibility to inclusive and sustainable business, (iv) develop and share skills along with exchanging the Country Partnership progress and plans of partner countries.

ISG Plenary Meeting 2017: “Integrating global agricultural value chain: Promotion of food safety and market linkages”



Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development through the International Support Group (ISG) held the ISG Plenary Meeting themed: “Integrating global agricultural value chain: Promotion of food safety and market linkages” on December 11th 2017. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural development – Mr. Nguyen Xuan Cuong, Dutch Ambassador to Vietnam Nienke Trooster and Country Director for the World Bank in Vietnam, Ousmane Dione with the participation of more than 200 delegates from international organizations, donors, multinational corporations, government agencies, research institutes, universities, domestic and international agricultural experts and media agencies.

The meeting focused on the issues that Vietnamese agriculture needs to address in order to solve the difficulties in accessing the modern global agri-food chain.

Minister Nguyen Xuan Cuong said: “It is vital to develop both domestic and international markets and distribution channels, ensure both quality and food safety, gradually build strong brands, negotiate to open export markets, stabilize traditional markets, search and expand potential markets; link domestic and international enterprises in sharing information, effective and low-emission production and trade linkage models, and green and sustainable agricultural development” ■

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