

Quarter III  
**2023**

# PSAV News Letter

Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Viet Nam - PSAV

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

IN THIS ISSUE

## HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES OF THE PPP TASK FORCES (TF)

- The Public-private group on Rice established an action program



- Opportunity and chances for Viet Nam's Pepper and Spice industry



## OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Grow Asia launched the largest Public-private Financial fund on climate change to activate the 1\$ Billion in Green investment.



- Digital transformation for green and sustainable agriculture: looking to the future

## THE COMING EVENTS:

- Organize field visits to models that successfully apply green solutions to adapt to climate change in agriculture in the Central Highlands (focusing on coffee, pepper coffee, vegetables and potatoes), expected to be held in September 2023 in Gia Lai and Dak Lak;
- Organize a Workshop on the role of public-private partnership in implementing the Project "Sustainable development of one million ha specializing in high-quality, low-emission rice cultivation associated with green growth in the Mekong Delta by the year 2030", scheduled to be held in early October of 2023 in Ho Chi Minh City;
- Organize a Workshop to share experiences in strengthening the role of women in agricultural product chains, scheduled to be held on October 25, 2023;
- Organize Training to enhance the application of circular economy in the rice chain, expected to be in October, 2023 in Can Tho;
- Organize Training to strengthen the application of circular economy in the coffee chain in Son La, expected to be held in October, 2023;
- Organize the 6th Vietnam Rice Festival in Hau Giang province in December, 2023

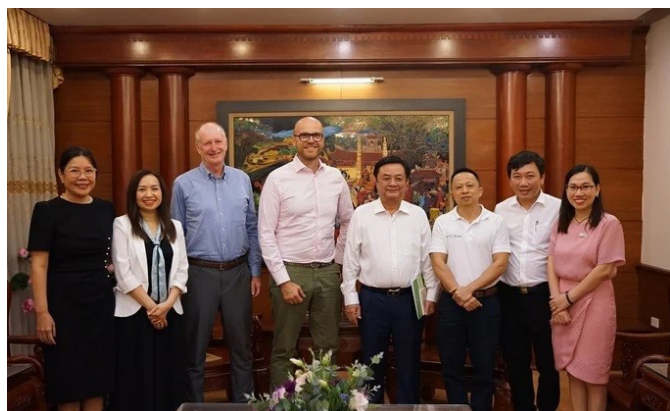
## PSAV SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES



- Cooperate with Grow Asia to find solutions for sustainable agricultural development;
- Cooperate with PSAV-UNDP: survey of Vietnam's value chain - an important step in the circular economy journey;
- Strengthen cooperation in building nature-based solutions to adapt to climate change.

### 1 PPP Task Force on Coffee:

**Viet Nam: pioneer in establishing an EUDR compliance roadmap for the coffee industry**



Minister Le Minh Hoan took photos with the Vice President in charge of Sustainability Program of JDE Peet's Laurent Alexandre Sagarra.

On the afternoon of September 27, 2023, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Le Minh Hoan had a meeting with Vice President of JDE Peet's Laurent Alexandre Sagarra on developing Viet Nam's coffee industry in accordance with EUDR regulations. At the meeting, the Minister shared, "The most difficult thing for the coffee industry is that among coffee growers there are ethnic communities, small-scale farmers or smallholder farmer groups that need to strengthen capacity and restructure". Therefore, the Minister hopes for the cooperation of JDE Peet's, IDH and partners in the coffee industry, within the framework of the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture Development in Vietnam (PSAV), will be enhanced to a higher level. In order to meet new market requirements, IDH and JDE Peet's propose to strengthen cooperation with central and local management agencies and supply chain partners. Accordingly, strengthen public-private partnership and pre-competition to deploy solutions to adapt to the requirements of combating deforestation and forest degradation, and prepare for the corporate sustainability responsibility appraisal requirements expected to be issued by the EU in 2026/2027.

As of 2022, IDH and JDE Peet's have supported thousands of farmers with training in farming techniques, fertilization, weed management, intercropping techniques and other sustainable farming techniques; 12,000 farmers received input technology support such as fertilizers, pesticides, intercropping crops, shade trees and some equipment for farming activities such as lawn mowers and protective gear, etc...

### TOT, TOF training materials and posters of NCS Arabica have been updated and recognized

NSC Arabica's TOT, TOF training materials and posters have been updated and recognized. These training materials are jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Coffee Industry Coordinating Board and partners. The training materials provide farmers, extension and technical staff with good practices and practical knowledge in

sustainable coffee and tea production, for example: land cover management, pest and disease management, prune branches and create canopy. These updated documents are also the first records since NSC Arabica was built to provide complete and detailed instruction on occupational safety and hygiene.



Handbook on sustainable Arabica coffee production in Vietnam

### Launching a waste collection movement in coffee growing areas

On the morning of July 7, 2023, in Dak Ha commune, Dak Glong district, Dak Nong province, the Global Coffee Forum coordinated with the Center for Agricultural Extension and Seeds of Agriculture and Forestry of Dak Nong province to organize a workshop with the participation of representatives of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Dak Nong province, representatives of Dak Ha Commune People's Committee, relevant Departments, mass organizations, coffee companies and more than 140 coffee farming households in the district to discuss issues related to waste collection in agriculture production and launch a campaign to clean up the environment in coffee production areas. This is an activity within the framework of "Collective Action Initiative on Responsible Use of Agricultural Materials in Coffee Production", co-sponsored by Nestle, JDE Peet's, Lavazza Foundation, Tchibo, IDH, Neumann Kaffee Gruppe, Sucden Coffee, Vietnam Coffee Industry Coordinating Board (VCCB) and Vietnam Coffee & Cocoa Association (VICOFA) and are operating in 5 Central Highlands provinces.



The workshop for waste collection movement in coffee growing areas

## 2 PPP Task Force on Pepper and Spice:

### Opportunities and challenges for Vietnam's Pepper and Spice industry



President of the Viet Nam Pepper and Spice Association – Ms. Hoan Thi Lien, spoke at the Conference

Viet Nam is one of the largest spice producers and exporters in the world, accounting for about 11% of the global market share by 2022 (according to data from the International Trade Organization (ITC). Specifically, the EU market has emerged as one of the particularly important points in Viet Nam's pepper and spice export roadmap, with an annual export proportion of about 20%. Facing the expectation and opportunities that the Free Trade Agreement between Vietnam and the European Union (EVFTA) has brought to Vietnamese agriculture. Within the framework of the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Vietnam (PSAV), the Viet Nam Pepper and Spice Association together with partners organized "Workshop on the EVFTA - Opportunities and Challenges for the Sustainable Development of Viet Nam's Pepper and Spice industry" on August 8, 2023 in Ho Chi Minh City. The Workshop focused on assessing the situation of Viet Nam's Pepper and Spice industry after the EVFTA took effect, at the same time paid special attention to the opportunities and challenges that EVFTA brings to the sustainable development of the industry.

## 3 PPP Task Force on Rice:

### The Public-Private Partnership Group on rice establishes an action program

The Workshop "Vision and dialogue on public-private partnership in Viet Nam's rice industry" took place successfully on September 7, 2023 in Can Tho city. This event was organized by the National Agricultural Extension Center, Department of International Cooperation (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) and Bayer Viet Nam, attracting the participation of important members of the PPP Task Force on Rice. Suggestions and recommendations from the Workshop will help the PPP Task Force on Rice quickly complete the plan and specific action program framework, to be ready to implement the Sustainable Development Project of 1 million hectares specializing in high-quality rice cultivation associated with green growth in the Mekong Delta.

At the Workshop, the Group divided into 3 important Coordination Sub-Groups: Market Sub-Group, Technology Sub-Group, and Policy Sub-Group. These Sub-Groups are working to develop detailed action plans for the future.



### Viet Nam Accompanying the World to Reduce Emission in the Rice Sector



According to Deputy Minister Hoang Trung, rice is one of the crops that emits the most emissions, but also has high potential to reduce emissions if good production solutions and practices are applied.

Speaking the opening speech at the "Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Supporting the PPP Task Force on Rice in Efforts to Reduce Emission" held on the morning of September 14, 2023, Deputy Minister Hoang Trung affirmed, Viet Nam is ready to call for cooperation and support from international organizations in the region and the world in efforts towards building sustainable agriculture, especially rice production in the context where the environment is threatened by climate change and the increase of greenhouse gas. In addition, with the support of the World Economic Forum and the Asian Growth Organization, Viet Nam is implementing the Food Innovation Connection Center with the PPP Task Force on Rice in transforming the industry towards lower emission; mobilizing the private sector to invest in green technology across the entire value chain; achieving a reasonable investment rate for technology and innovation. Making Viet Nam a typical low-emission rice producer in the ASEAN region.

## Initiative to help increase farmer's income



Mr. Le Quoc Thanh, Director of the National Agricultural Extension Center, appreciated the efforts of their partners and set a goal of reaching more than 100 thousand farmers to train and promote the development of high quality rice, aiming at the goal of sustainable agricultural development.

Within the framework of the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Viet Nam (PSAV), on the morning of September 6, 2023, in Thới Lai district, Can Tho city, the National Agricultural Extension Center and Bayer Viet Nam officially launched the first Bayer Forward Farm of Southeast Asia. Through participating in the Forward Farming program, Bayer and their partners such as Binh Dien Fertilizer and Saigon Kim Hong Trading and Services have introduced the most advanced farming solutions of each unit to rice farmers. The core goal is to help increase income and reduce production costs for farmers.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Rice Festival is an opportunity to evaluate Vietnamese rice

On July 25, 2023, in Ha Noi, Minister Le Minh Hoan had a working session with the People's Committee of Hau Giang province on organizing the 6th Rice Festival, expected to take place at the end of 2023. The theme of this Rice Festival is connecting Vietnamese rice with green growth, aiming to promote high-quality rice production, ensure food security and adapt to climate change in the Mekong Delta.

Minister Le Minh Hoan affirmed: The upcoming Vietnam Rice Festival is an opportunity to evaluate Vietnamese rice. Rice production according to commodity and chains and associated with green growth. The Minister pointed out many highly effective rice growing models such as shrimp-rice, rice-duck models. The Festival will orient farmers so they can access new thinking about rice production and the most optimal technologies to enhance the value of the industry. This is also an opportunity for institutes and schools to display the latest achievements in rice seed technology.



Panoramic view of the session

## 4 PPP Task Force on Agro-Chemicals



Signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Cooperation to implement the framework program for sustainable pesticide management

On the afternoon of July 11, 2023, the Department of Plant Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Asia CropLife Association signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to implement the Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework Program for the 2023-2028 period (SPMF). The goal of this Program is to protect

human health, protect the environment and optimize plant protection solutions.

According to Mr. Hoang Trung - Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, strengthening cooperation and information sharing with the Vietnamese people on the effective use of plant protection products and plant varieties of CropLife is an important step to ensure food safety and environmental sustainability in Vietnam.

CropLife Asia is committed to helping Vietnamese agricultural products penetrate the global market and ensure sustainable production according to international standards. The Association's CEO, Tan Siang Hee said "Public-Private Partnership has helped both sides become much more mature. We need to continue to collaborate to help farmers compete with the world, not only developing the economy but also strengthening trust from domestic and foreign communities, promoting green, sustainable agricultural transformation."

The SPMF promises to mark an important step forward in protecting health, the environment and sustainable plants in Vietnam, while helping farmers improve efficiency and use resource effectively.

## Developing and sharing initiatives on smart agriculture, reducing environmental impact and protecting soil health

Syngenta Vietnam successfully organized a Training Conference on the safe and effective use of pesticides using drones for 197 pilots/services teams in the Mekong Delta area at Syngenta's Agricultural Technology Transfer and Development Center in Vinh Long on Jun 26, 2023.



## 5 PPP Task Force on Livestocks:

### Deploy solutions to promote pig farming development in the new situation

On July 27, 2023, in Hanoi, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development organized a conference in implementing solutions to promote the development of pig farming in the new situation. Deputy Minister Phung Duc Tien chaired the Conference. Many domestic and foreign enterprises continue to invest in this field. According to statistics, in 2022, there were 81 FDI enterprises investing in livestock with a total capital of 2.2 billion USD, accounting for 12% of total FDI capital invested in Vietnam. In the first 6 months of 2023, the export value of livestock products reached 232 million USD, an increase of 26.5% over the same period last year. For pork, the main export product is frozen suckling pork with more than 19,000 tons, worth over 18.4 million USD, an increase of 103.0% in volume and 117.0% in value compared to the same period in 2022. Hong Kong (China) is Vietnam's largest frozen suckling pork export market, with exports increasing by 13.0% in volume and 43.6% in value over the same period in 2022.

In addition, fresh, chilled or frozen Vietnamese pork is being exported to Papua New Guinea, Laos, and Malaysia markets. For live pigs, in 2022, Vietnam exported 21,560 pigs, but in the first 6 months of this year, only 6,833 pigs were exported.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Phung Duc Tien requested the livestock industry to closely follow 5 priority projects to implement the Livestock Development Strategy for the 2021-2030 period, with the vision towards 2045.



Deputy Minister Phung Duc Tien emphasized: The current pig farming industry cannot only serve the market with 98 million domestic consumers but also must aim at export. To export, businesses must invest in technology, promote deep process and diversify products to sell in many different markets.

## 6 PPP Task Force on Fruits and Vegetables:

### Building a linked value chain model:

August 14, 2023: Syngenta and PepsiCo jointly organized a Workshop to plan to build a sustainable potato production model and a plan to coordinate activities to organize technical Workshops, early crop Workshops and farmer training on safe and sustainable potato production in the 2023-2024 potato season in Dak Lak, Gia Lai, Lam Dong and a pilot model of potato production in Northern area with the expected area of 40 ha

### Deploy models and train farmers for sustainable potato production in production areas

Organized field activities, deploy models and train farmers in sustainable potato production areas under the project "Cooperation on sustainable potato production in Vietnam" between Syngenta and PepsiCo in the Central Highlands region (Lam Dong, Gia Lai and in the North for the 2023 winter potato season) in the fourth quarter of 2023 - first quarter of 2024

Launching the Cropwise application platform to help farmers take care of crops, diagnose and manage pests and disease of crops more effectively (including: mangos, citrus, tomatoes, melons...)

## COOPERATE WITH GROW ASIA TO FIND SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

In the third quarter of 2023, the PSAV Secretariat and Grow Asia collaborated to conduct qualitative research interviews on rice and coffee chain in Vietnam. The Research aimed at understanding typical examples and best practices in food innovation and challenges in the value chain. At the same time, the research also looks for technology solutions and necessary information for the Event expected in the first quarter of 2024 with important topics for the future.

## STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN BUILDING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

August 17, 2023. The PSAV Secretariat held a meeting with SNV to update the implementation progress of the project "Vietnam's nature-based solution to adapt to climate change in agriculture through private sector transformation (VN-ADAPT)". Through this project, PSAV will coordinate with SNV to carry out activities to promote sustainable development in Vietnam's agricultural sector and effectively respond to climate change through creative solutions focusing on: empowering woman, training on sustainable development, sharing knowledge on NbS and EbA solution with SNV.

## PSAV-UNDP COOPERATION: SURVEY OF VIETNAM'S VALUE CHAIN - AN IMPORTANT STEP IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY JOURNEY

In the third quarter of 2023, the PSAV Secretariat worked closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to conduct an important survey of participants in the value chain. The objective of this study is to prepare for the Value Chain Capacity Building Program, which aims to accelerate the circular economy (CE) transition in Vietnam. The survey will focus on identifying specific issues, barriers and opportunities in different value chains, from production to distribution and consumption. PSAV hopes that through this activity, specific measures to promote CE and contribute to the sustainable development of Vietnam can be proposed. This program promises to make important contributions in promoting green and sustainable economic development.

## DEPLOY THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE VIETNAM FOOD INNOVATION CONNECTION NETWORK WEBSITE.

The Government of Vietnam attaches special importance and is committed to implementing the transformation and development of a transparent - responsible - sustainable Vietnamese food system in the context of the "new normal". Promoting innovation and science and technology is one of the very important topics, ensuring the successful transformation of countries' food processing systems and is also a priority topic that Vietnam is actively promoting in the process of transforming and restructuring the agricultural sector. PSAV Secretariat deploys the construction of a website dedicated to the Vietnam Food Innovation Network. The website will be a platform to share experiences and advanced solution to promote the application of science and technology, promote innovation in the process of restructuring the agricultural industry and building a sustainable food production system, ensuring food and nutrition security, contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## GROW ASIA LAUNCHES THE LARGEST CLIMATE CHANGE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FUND TO ACTIVATE THE 1 BILLION DOLLARS IN GREEN INVESTMENT



At the Asian Development Investment Forum on September 19, 2023, Grow Asia announced its largest impact fund, including the first mixed loaning facility for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Launched at this year's Asian Development Investment Forum, the Grow Beyond Fund is designed to leverage up to \$1 billion in climate finance through a mix public-private financing model. The new fund will unlock inclusive financing for small agricultural businesses over the next 10 years, targeting the more than 70 million SMEs in Southeast Asia that are at the Forefront of the climate crisis. With the

agri-food industry generating more the 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions, the Fund will prioritize investments in climate-smart agriculture, regenerative methods and innovative technologies that address urgent climate challenges which farmers and rural communities in Southeast Asia are facing. During this event, the PSAV Secretariat, as a strategic partner representing the Southeast Asia region, had the opportunity to share valuable insights, initiative and important information on smart agriculture as a strategic solution to the challenges posed by climate change.

## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

**H**anoi, August 17, 2023 - The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the United Nations Development Program organized a Digital Transformation Conference towards green agriculture and sustainable development.

During the conference, Deputy Minister Hoang Trung emphasized the important role of digitalization in improving productivity and efficiency of Vietnamese agriculture. Vietnam has participated in many free trade agreements and needs to promote technology to meet the strict requirements of the international market.

Vietnam's agricultural and rural development strategy also emphasizes innovation and taking advantage of the achievements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to move towards ecological agriculture and modern rural areas. Although the potential of agricultural digitalization is huge, Vietnam still faces many challenges such as poor digital infrastructures, limited scale of digital application, and lack of highly specialized human resources. UNDP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development have collaborated to build an electronic traceability system to track greenhouse gas emissions in dragon fruit and shrimp production. In the future, this system could be expanded to manage carbon footprints for other export industries. This will help Vietnam's agricultural products comply with international quality standards on



Deputy Minister Hoang Trung spoke at the conference

environment and food safety. UNDP also proposes to establish an Agricultural Center for Green Agricultural Products in Vietnam, to connect data and information for all farmers and businesses. This will help Vietnam's agricultural industry become more competitive and help consumers trace the origin of products in a more transparent way. Digital transformation in agriculture not only helps production become more efficient but also contributes to the goal of protecting the environment and making Vietnam's agricultural economy increasingly sustainable and greener.

- Organize field visits to models that successfully apply green solutions to adapt to climate change in agriculture in the Central Highlands (focusing on coffee, pepper coffee, vegetables and potatoes), expected to be held in September 2023 in Gia Lai and Dak Lak;

- Organize a Workshop on the role of public-private partnership in implementing the Project "Sustainable development of one million hectares specializing in high-quality, low-emission rice cultivation associated with green growth in the Mekong Delta by the year 2030", scheduled to be held in early October 2023 in Ho Chi Minh city;

- Organize a workshop to share experiences in strengthening the role of women in some agricultural product chains, scheduled for October 25, 2023 in Dak Lak;

## INCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Organize training to enhance the application of circular economy in the rice chain, expected in October 2023 in Can Tho city;

- Organize training to enhance the application of circular economy in the coffee chain, expected in October 2023 in Son La

- Organizing the 6th Vietnam Rice Festival in Hau Giang province, expected December 15, 2023

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