

Quarter III  
**2024**

# PSAV News Letter

Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Viet Nam - PSAV

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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### PSAV SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES



- Public-private partnership promoting circular economy and innovation in rice value chains in An Giang province



- Field visit to sustainable agricultural adapting to climate change model

### THE COMING EVENTS:

- PSAV 2024 Plenary Conference with the Theme: Public-private partnership promoting development of the food innovation ecosystem
- Workshop in decarbonization solutions, finance, and climate-smart approaches from Canada in agriculture and fisheries
- Grow Asia digital training – Introducing the top 10 innovators



### 1 Highlighted Activities of the PPP Task Forces

#### Viet Nam strengthened traceability to comply with EU regulations

Vietnam is making efforts to comply with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) by implementing measures to enhance traceability for key exports products such as coffee, wood, and rubber. This not only meets the EU's market's requirements but also opens up opportunities for Vietnamese producers to access high-standard markets. Dr. Nguyen Do Anh Tuan - Director General



*Dr. Nguyen Do Anh Tuan: "Vietnam is ready to meet EUDR requirements"*



*Simexco Dak Lak's coffee region has been certified for compliance with the EUDR*

of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, emphasized that complying with the EUDR will help Vietnam's agriculture develop sustainably and promote green growth. Vietnam has implemented the EUDR Adaptation Action Plan since July 2023, and is currently rolling it out in various localities.

In the coffee sector, pilot solutions to meet EUDR requirements have been implemented in Dak Lak and Lam Dong province, through the cooperation of the PPP Task Force on Coffee - Department of Crop Production, Nestle, and JDE. A public-private alliance was also established in February 2024 to develop forest systems and production areas that comply with EUDR, with plans to expand into Gia Lai.

Additionally, Vietnam is mobilizing international resources to support adaptation to the EUDR, with co-funding from the EU and BMZ for projects such as SAFE, supporting deforestation-free coffee supply chains, and projects to raise awareness about the EUDR in Southeast Asia.

### 2 PPP Task Force on Fruits and Vegetables:

#### Promoting sustainable agriculture through key activities of the PPP Task Force on Fruits and Vegetables in quarter III/2024.

In the third quarter of 2024, the PPP Task Force on Fruits and Vegetables carried out several key activities to promote sustainable agricultural production. The project "Sustainable Durian Production, including Organic Fertilizer Application", was launched in Dak Lak in collaboration with the Plant Protection Department, and the Soils and Fertilizers Institute. The Task Force has selected two pilot models, conducted soil sampling to assess soil health, and organized two training sessions for farmers. It is expected that in quarter IV/2024, the Task Force will manage nutrients, fertilization of the models based on analysis results, organize an opening event to introduce the project, and host two more training sessions for local technical staffs and agricultural material dealers.

Additionally, within the "Sustainable Potato Supply Chain" Project with PepsiCo, the Task Force participated in five farmer training sessions and collected soil samples for analysis to assess soil health before the planting season. The Force also organized a seminar on "Soil Health Assessment" with the Department of Crop Production and evaluate the results of the "Improving the Quality of Vietnamese Fruits" Project, in collaboration with Land Water Food (Netherlands) and the Vietnam Farmer's Union. Over the three years of implementation, four crop models (dragon fruit, pomelo, and mango) have been implemented in the Mekong Delta and Binh Thuan, with 36 farmers training sessions, 12 "Fruit Innovation Day" events, over 60 field visits, reached out to 1,000 farmers, and connected buyers with farmer groups.

#### Training on developing organic durian growing areas

On July 10-11, 2024, in Gia Lai, within the framework of the PPP Task Force on Fruits and Vegetables, the National Agricultural Extension Center, in collaboration with the Gia Lai Agricultural Extension Center and CARE Vietnam, organized a training class on "Developing Durian Cultivation Areas Following Organic Practices". The class was attended by 45 trainees, including agricultural extension officers, cooperative management boards, key cooperative members,



*Students exchanging ideas with lecturers*

and farmers from the Agricultural Extension Center of Gia Lai province, and the following districts: Dak Doa, Chu Se, Chu Prong. This activity was part of the “Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing” framework - sponsored by PepsiCo. The training aimed to provide knowledge on organic durian farming techniques, pest management, effective use of fertilizer, and irrigation. Experts also discussed opportunities and challenges faced by rural women in durian production and business, emphasizing the importance of gender equality in household economic development.

### 3 PPP Task Force on Fisheries:

#### Adapting to impacts of climate change in the fisheries field

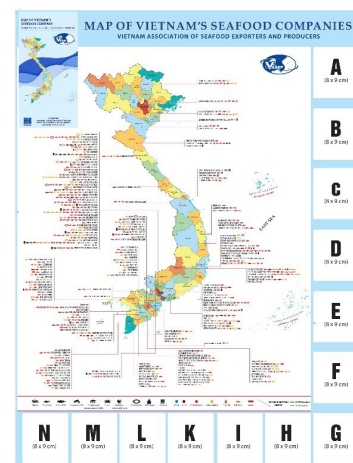
The Department of Fisheries recently organized the “Regional Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation in Fisheries and Aquaculture” in Da Nang from August 19-20, 2024. The event brought together representatives from 9 ASEAN member countries, the ASEAN Secretariat, international experts, and representatives from Vietnam, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural



Department of Fisheries.

#### Launching the Vietnam Seafood Enterprise Map 2024

In an ongoing effort to promote public-private partnership, the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP) has released the “Vietnam Seafood Enterprises Map 2024”. This publication not only provides updated information about seafood processing and export companies by region but also serves as an effective promotional tool, helping businesses quickly identify and expand their networks. Designed to be compact yet comprehensive, the Map has been widely distributed both domestically and internationally, receiving praises from business communities and partners. The collaboration between VASEP and the Vietnam Publishing House of Natural Resources Environment and Cartography in reissuing and updating this publication demonstrates a strong commitment to support and promote the seafood industry, thereby facilitating trade connections and showcasing Vietnamese seafood products to global markets.



### 4 PPP Task Force on Rice:

#### Public-private partnership in rice research: The need for a clear legal framework

Public-private partnership is opening up new opportunities in rice research and trade, with rice varieties from research institutes being transferred to businesses, driving commercialization and export. However, the dependence on Decree: 70/2018/ND-CP of the Government, which regulates “The management and use of assets formed through the implementation of scientific and technological tasks using state funds”, is diminishing ownership rights of businesses over rice varieties, even when businesses contributed to the research process.

Previously, both businesses and research institutes were very proactive in public-



Students, lecturers and model owners share experiences in organic farming right on the field

Development, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and the Da Nang

At the Workshop, countries exchanged information on policies, strategies, and action plans to address climate change in the fisheries sector, while sharing practical experiences and lessons learned. Participants discussed the critical role of evaluation indicators in supporting the development and implementation of management strategies, helping to track the effectiveness of management measures in relation to set goals. A notable topic of discussion was the public-private partnership model, aimed at promoting investment and technological innovation in aquaculture and fisheries. Delegates emphasized that public-private partnership could enhance climate change adaptation by mobilizing resources and sharing risks among stakeholders. The Workshop also made recommendations for building climate change adaptation indicators, stressing that these indicators should be defined based on objectives and focus of the program, and should be simple, practical for ease of data collection and analysis.





private partnerships, but the lack of a clear legal framework with only production and business rights. This has led to demands from businesses for relevant authorities to establish specific policies and guidelines to clarify ownership rights and collaboration procedures, aiming to optimize technology transfer and fully utilize the potential of public-private partnership in agriculture.

### Accelerating the implementation of the 1-million-hectares of high quality rice Project

On July 17, at the Government Headquarters, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Luu Quang chaired a meeting on the progress of the 1-million-hectares of high quality rice Project - linked to emission reduction and green growth in the Mekong Delta by 2030.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is working with World Bank and 12 localities to finalize the loan project "Support for Infrastructure and Techniques for High-Quality, Low-Emission Rice in the Mekong Delta". To date, 7 pilot models were implemented in the provinces of Can Tho, Dong Thap, Kien Giang, Tra Vinh, and Soc Trang. By the 2025 winter-spring season, the results will be summarized to establish emission coefficients for rice production. Initial assessments of rice cultivation models under the Project during the summer-autumn season of 2024 in Can Tho have shown positive results, reducing total input costs by 10-15%, increasing rice yield to 6.13-6.51 tons/hectare, and generating higher profits

## 5 PPP Task Force on Agro-Chemicals:

### Promote safe and sustainable use of pesticides in Vietnamese agriculture

On September 9, 2024, the PPP Task Force on Agro-Chemicals of PSAV held an important meeting to discuss developments and action plans for 2024. The meeting focused on reviewing legal frameworks related to registration and management of plant protection products, while proposing strategies for the development of biological plant protection products by 2030 to ensure safety and sustainability in agricultural production. One of the highlights was the signing of a program for safe, effective, and responsible use of plant protection products in Dong Thap province for 2024-2025. This program not only supports farmers in managing and using those products efficiently, but also raises awareness about environmental protection.

In addition, the Task Force is collaborating with relevant authorities and digital service providers to develop an online training platform on the use of plant protection products. Technical infrastructure and content for the first module are expected to be completed and undergo trial testing by the end of 2024. This is a significant step towards enhancing knowledge of local officials and farmers in safe and effective use of plant protection products.



*Training session on safe, effective, and responsible use of plant protection products for farmers in Thap Muoi district (Dong Thap province)*



*Vice Prime Minister Tran Luu Quang concluded the meeting*

by 1.3-6.2 million VND/hectare compared to control models. To ensure progress and achieve objectives, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development proposed that Vietnamese Government should present a Resolution to the National Assembly on special policies related to ODA funding and preferential loans from donors at the October 2024 Session. Vice Prime Minister Tran Luu Quang emphasized the importance of public-private cooperation in promoting sustainable agriculture while improving income for farmers and businesses.

### Sharing global experiences in managing plant protection product packaging.



*Mr. Huynh Tan Dat – Director of the Plant Protection Department, spoke at the conference*

Sáng 4/9/2024, tại TP. Hồ Chí Minh, Hiệp hội CropLife Quốc tế On the morning of September 4, 2024, in Ho Chi Minh city, CropLife International, European Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam (EuroCham), and CropLife Vietnam (CLV), inaugurated the 2024 International Conference on Plant Protection Product Packaging Management (CMS2024). More than 50 leading global experts in packaging management, along with many officials from plant protection regulatory agencies and associations from Southeast Asian countries, participated in the Conference. Over three days, the Conference updated policies in Asia and Vietnam, shared successful models from Europe, North America, and pilot programs in Asia. Delegates also discussed the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), packaging management technologies, and visited a Global G.A.P certified farm collection model.

## 6 PPP Task Force on Livestock

### Promote sustainable development of pig farming industry

On August 14, in Hanoi, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development held a conference to promote sustainable pig farming, chaired by Vice Minister Phung Duc Tien. According to a report from the General Statistics Office, as of July 2024, the total pig population nationwide reached over 25.5 million, an increase of about 2.9% compared to the same period of 2023. Pig farming is primarily concentrated in the Northern midlands and mountainous regions, accounting for approximately 22.9% of the total pig population. Many localities have developed strong pig farming in recent years, notably Dong Nai, Hanoi, Binh Phuoc, Bac Giang, Thanh Hoa, Binh Dinh, and Gia Lai. In Hanoi, pig population growth rate has remained stable, with a total of over 1.48 million.

In the context of pork output exceeding 4.8 million tons in 2023, an increase of 6.7% compared to the previous year. Deputy Minister Phung Duc Tien emphasized that pig farming is a key sector in Vietnam, currently transitioning from small scale to large scale, concentrated operations. However, this sector also faces significant challenges, including disease outbreaks, climate change, and environmental management. Despite achieving many positive results, Vietnam's livestock industry continues to grapple with these challenges. Mr. Phung Duc Tien - Deputy Minister stressed the need for improved environmental management and the strengthening of value chain production linkages. As the year



Deputy Minister Phung Duc Tien chaired the conference

ending and the upcoming Lunar New Year 2025 approach, food consumption demand will increase. Therefore, Department of Livestock Production, Department of Animal Health, and localities need to proactively implement solutions to ensure a stable supply of pork. The Deputy Minister also called on relevant units to carry out priority projects under the Livestock Development Strategy for 2021-2030 period, with a vision toward 2050, aiming for sustainable development of the livestock sector in general and pig farming in particular in the near future.

## PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND INNOVATION IN RICE VALUE CHAINS IN AN GIANG PROVINCE

**PSAV**, in collaboration with Science Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), organized a training course on "Circular Economy and Innovation in Rice Value Chains" from July 10 to 12, 2024, in An Giang province. This training program is part of efforts to promote public-private partnership, aiming to help farmers, stakeholders, and related parties transition from traditional linear economy model, which depletes resources and causes environmental pollution, to a circular economy model.

## PSAV SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES



Session at Phu Thanh Cooperative



"Circular economy not only helps reuse and reduce waste but also opens up opportunities to create added value from available resources. This is an inevitable trend and a key focus for the province, guiding sustainable and green development. Circular economy contributes to the implementation of the 1-million-hectares of high quality, low emission rice project in the Mekong Delta, positioning it as a hub for high-tech agricultural development" - Mr. To Viet Chau, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.



## FIELD VISIT TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MODELS

Under the framework of project “Enhancing capacity and sharing experience of public-private partnership models for sustainable development”, organized by the PSAV Secretariat in collaboration with the National Agricultural Extension Center, a field visit took place from July 29 to August 1, 2024. The visit focused on showcasing models applying green solutions to adapt to climate change in the Central highlands. Prominent models such as coffee, pepper, vegetables, and potatoes were introduced.

The field visit aimed to explore how green solutions operate and their impacts on agricultural production, helping Central Highlands farmers improve their resilience to climate change. Additionally, lessons learned from sustainable farming models have contributed to the conservation of natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. Notably, this activity also raised awareness among businesses about the importance of stakeholder collaboration through PSAV, to implement innovative initiatives and develop climate-smart agricultural value chains. As a result, starting points have been identified to develop actions, expand, and promote successful models.

This event also reinforced the importance of public-private partnership in agriculture as an essential tool for attracting investment and developing sustainable value chains. This is a strategic direction for Vietnam to restructure its agricultural sector, shifting from a “production mindset” to a “economic mindset”. The tight coordination between stakeholders is key to driving positive changes for the entire industry.



## REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF ACTIVITIES OF PSAV



On the morning of September 9, 2024, PSAV held a review and evaluation meeting. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Nguyen Do Anh Tuan - Director General of the Department of International Cooperation/ Director of PSAV, with the participation of over 30

delegates. These included Co-chairs of the PPP Task Forces, relevant agencies from the Ministry, domestic and international associations.

The main goal was to review and evaluate PSAV's activities in the first nine months of 2024, while also proposing activities for the final three months. The meeting introduced the Advisory Board and plans to coordinate the implementation of Food Innovation Hub Vietnam (FIH-V). PSAV's PPP Task Forces have recorded numerous efforts and positive achievements, contributing to increased added value for agricultural products, promoting sustainable development, and improving farmers' livelihood. However, the meeting also pointed out that some Task Forces still face operational challenges, requiring more timely and effective solution to enhance performance. Dr. Nguyen Do Tuan Anh expressed his gratitude to the delegates for attending and emphasized the importance of unity in their shared efforts. He confidently stated that, with determination of all stakeholders, PSAV will continue to achieve further successes in the near future.

## COMPILATION OF INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS IN VIETNAM'S AGRICULTURE

PSAV Secretariat is actively compiling and uploading innovative solutions in the agricultural sector to the website of FIH-V. This initiative aims to create a rich information platform, enabling PSAV members and partners to easily access and share ongoing innovative projects. Through this, PSAV Secretariat encourages members and partners to kindly provide solutions or information related to agricultural innovation projects. To ensure complete and accurate updates, organizations and individuals can submit via email or contact PSAV Secretariat directly. This compilation not only raises awareness of innovative solutions in agriculture but also fosters collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders, driving sustainable agricultural development in Vietnam.

## ESTABLISHING THE PPP TASK FORCE ON FOOD INNOVATION

On September 16, 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development officially issued Decision: 3101/QĐ-BNN-TCCB regarding the establishment of the FIH PPP Task Force. This is an important step to promote innovation in food supply chains, contributing to enhancing sustainability and efficiency in the national agriculture sector.

The Task Force will take lead in developing and implementing mechanisms and strategic policies to support innovation in the food sector. These initiatives will align with goals of PSAV, thereby facilitating farmers and businesses in adopting technology to enhance productivity and quality of agricultural products.

Not only focusing on policy formulation, the PPP Task Force will also play a crucial role in proposing policy adjustments and solutions to overcome challenges. By mobilizing resources and integrating with government action programs, the Task Force will create breakthroughs, maximizing potential of innovation to promote the comprehensive development of food systems.

The Task Force will also coordinate, monitor, and encourage departments and agencies under the Ministry, along with specialized task forces, to ensure that initiatives are not just theoretical but are implemented in practice. The ultimate goal is to build a sustainable, smart, and climate-adaptive agricultural system that meets Vietnam's future food requirements.

## REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RICE VALUE CHAINS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION AND EXPERIENCE SHARING



**I**n the current context, with growing challenges related to food security and climate change, the Regional Forum “Low-emission rice farming - Realizing the vision at landscape scale” took place from September 9 to 12, 2024, in Hanoi. This event was organized by the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development in collaboration with The Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR) under the World Bank.

The Forum saw the participation of over 120 delegates, including 70 international representatives from FOLUR member countries such as the UK, India, Bangladesh, the US, and many others. The delegates, representing United Nations agencies, international organizations, businesses, experts, scientists, and other stakeholders, gathered to discuss and seek feasible solution to address challenges in developing sustainable rice value chains.

FOLUR is a \$345 million program, spanning seven years, supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) - the largest multilateral trust fund aimed at enabling developing countries to invest in nature. This program plays a crucial role in improving the sustainability of food value chains and contributing to the creation of sustainable landscapes for both people and the planet.

Currently, the world produces about 524 million tons of rice annually, providing approximately 20% of global caloric intake

and playing a crucial role in food security. The rice sector is not only a primary source of food but also generates employment for millions, particularly smallholder farmers, who accounted for 80% of global rice production. However, rice production also contributes to about 4.3% of global GHG emission, making emission reduction in this sector an urgent task.

The forum was held over three days of meetings in Hanoi and one day of field visits in the provinces of Thai Binh and Nam Dinh, aimed at exploring sustainable, low-emission rice value chains. Delegates had the opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences, and visit cooperatives and businesses involved in rice production. This was an important opportunity to build a collaborative network and foster consensus within the international community on the sustainable

development of the rice sector.

Vietnam has made strong commitments to implementing sustainable development policies at various international forums, including pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and participate in global climate initiatives. Notably, the “Sustainable development of 1-million-hectares of high quality, low emission rice” project has been approved by the Prime Minister, aiming to improve production efficiency and enhance the livelihoods of rice farmers.

Dr. Nguyen Do Anh Tuan, Director General of the Department of International Cooperation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, emphasized that to successfully implement these projects, Vietnam needs support not only from the government but also from the business community, producers, and international organizations. Moreover, access to financial resources will play a crucial role in enabling businesses and farmers to invest in new technologies, improve production processes, and enhance economic efficiency.

The regional forum is not only an important event for the rice sector but also a testament to Vietnam’s commitment to promoting international cooperation, sharing experiences, and seeking sustainable solutions for the future of agriculture.

## THE COMING EVENTS

- The PSAV 2024 Plenary Conference, themed “PPP to promote the development of food innovation Ecosystem”, will cover important topics such as the launch of the FIH PPP Task Force, Vietnam’s science and technology development strategies aimed at green growth and low emission. The Conference will introduce FIH, its members and partners, the Advisory Board, while presenting the plan and roadmap for implementing FIH. Additionally, opportunities and challenges in Vietnam’s digital agriculture will be discussed, along with digital transformation in agriculture, resource development, and solution building. Finally, the role of agricultural businesses in the digital transformation process

will be emphasized, creating opportunities for stakeholders to meet, share, and establish collaborative relationships for sustainable development in the food sector.

- In collaboration with the Canadian Embassy, a workshop on “Decarbonization Solutions, Finance, and Smart Climate from Canada in Agriculture and Aquaculture” will be held on October 18, 2024, in Ho Chi Minh City.

- The Grow Asia Digital Training Series will feature 10 leading innovators who are revolutionizing small-scale farming through climate-smart technologies and digital solutions.

**1. Decision 2487/QĐ-BNN-CN 2024** on the Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to implement the Project on Developing the Livestock Breeding Industry to 2030

The Decision will take effect from 19/07/2024



Scan the QR code to view the full context of the Decision:

**2. Decision 2488/QĐ-BNN-CN 2024** on the Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to implement the Project on developing the animal feed processing industry to 2030

The Decision will take effect from 19/07/2024



Scan the QR code to view the full context of the Decision

**3. Decision 3217/QĐ-BNN-CN** on the promulgation of the Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to implement the Project on Sustainable Development of the Bee Industry to 2030

The Decision will take effect from 23/09/2024



Scan the QR code to view the full context of the Decision

**4. Directive 6656/CT-BNN-TT 2024** to strengthen soil health management towards sustainable crop production issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

The Directive will take effect from 09/09/2024



Scan the QR code to view the full context of the Directive

**5. Decision 3101/QĐ-BNN-TCCB** on the establishment of the FIH PPP Task Force

The Decision will take effect from 16/09/2024



Scan the QR code to view the full context of the Decision

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