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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)

- Viet Nam proactively adapts to European Union's Deforestation Regulation: EUDR & opportunities for the coffee industry

ĐẢNG CỘNG SẢN VIỆT NAM QUANG VINH MUÔN NĂM



- International conference "Science, technology and innovation in rice"



PSAV SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES

- Consulted and completed the PSAV operating plan in 2024



Approved the Project to establish the Food Innovation Hub in Viet Nam (FIHV)

NEW POLICIES TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES:

- Decision 4385/QĐ-BNN-HTQT
- Decision 4243/QĐ-BNN-HTQT
- Decision 4244/QĐ-BNN-HTQT
- Decision 4245/QĐ-BNN-HTQT
- Decision 1490/QĐ-TTg
- Decision 5430/QĐ-BNN-HTQT

THE COMING EVENTS:

- Organize the PSAV Plenary 2024 Meeting with the theme "Business vis Green transformation: Greener and Lower Emission Agriculture";
- Organize the Talking on "Public Private Partnership to promote innovation, implementing the Project of 1 million hectares of high-quality, low-emission rice";
- Organize the Co-Leader Meeting of PPP Task Forces on Commodities of the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture Viet Nam (PSAV).

1 PPP Task Force on Coffee:

Viet Nam proactively adapts to European Union's Deforestation Regulation: EUDR & opportunities for the coffee industry

On November 4, 2023, in Ha Noi, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development organized a Conference to deploy the Action Plan to comply to European Union's Deforestation Regulation. Minister Le Minh Hoan chaired the Conference.

Speaking at the Conference, Minister Le Minh Hoan said: Viet Nam is very proactive in complying to changes, including new EU's regulations on combating deforestation and forest degradation. This is also an opportunity for Viet Nam to restructure industries related to forestry such as coffee, rubber, wood and wooden products. Fighting deforestation and forest degradation is not only an EU regulation, but a world trend in Green Growth, towards a transparent, responsible and sustainable economy in general and agriculture in particular. Viet Nam hopes to be a partner accompanying the EU in actively and effectively implementing the EUDR. Immediately after the information about the EUDR was officially approved, members of the PPP Task Force on Coffee quickly reviewed and assessed the actual situation to make specific forecasts and action plans to help the coffee industry to develop in the right direction.



"Every change has difficulties, but if there is no change, it will be even more difficult, industry associations understand that. Whether we are successful or not depends on whether we have systematic thinking and actions. There must be cohesive thinking between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and other Ministries and Branches; between Viet Nam and international partners; between the Central Government and localities, between two very large actors: businesses and the community of people producing goods related to this regulation."

On May 16, 2023, the European Commission approved the European Union's Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). EUDR was issued to ban the import of products and goods that cause deforestation and forest degradation after 31/12/2020. Among them, coffee, rubber, wood and wooden products are Viet Nam's main industries affected by this regulation. EUDR will be applied from January 2025, for small businesses EUDR will apply starting from June 2025.

2 PPP Task Force on Pepper and Spice:

Launching the PPP Sub-group on Cinnamon



"The linking of processing and exporting enterprises with cinnamon farmers have not yet been developed even though Viet Nam has more than 600 companies operating in the spice sector but mainly in trade. The supply chain has not been organized and implemented effectively, and especially the formation of cooperative groups and cooperatives to connect with businesses"

Ms. Hoang Thi Lien, President of the Viet Nam Pepper and Spice Association

On November 15, 2023, the Department of Forestry, the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) and Viet Nam Pepper and Spice Association organized the National Workshop "Sustainable development of Viet Nam's cinnamon industry. The Workshop aimed to inform the decision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to adjust the PPP Task Force on Pepper into the PPP Task Force on Pepper and Spices and launch the PPP Sub-Task Force on Cinnamon; At the same time, introducing the Co-chair of the PPP Sub-Task Force on Cinnamon include: Department of Forestry, Viet Nam Pepper and Spice Association and the IDH. The PPP Sub-Task Force will carry out main activities including: Developing strategies, visions, goals, a 5-year and annual operating plans for the Sub-Task Force; Deploy and monitor the implementation of the plan, promptly adjust activities and periodically report to the Standing Secretariat of the Viet Nam Pepper and Spice Association and Leaders of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Annual Conference of the PPP Task Force on Pepper and Spice 2023

In order to evaluate the activities in 2023 of the PPP Task Force on Pepper and Spices, as well as set out directions for activities in 2024-2025, on November 23, 2023, in Ho Chi Minh City, the Department of Plant Protection in coordination with VPSA and IDH Viet Nam organized the Annual Conference of the Public-

Private Partnership (PPP) Task Force on Pepper and Spice 2023. In 2023, there were many big changes affecting pepper production. The PPP Task Force always accompanies businesses and farmers to promote the building of a sustainable pepper industry from growing areas and perfect the process of

product traceability and production in the direction of reducing irrigation water and GHG. The goal is that by 2025, 75% of Viet Nam's pepper products will meet market standards; 25% of pepper farmers will have a 20% increase in income; 25,000 farmers received training and access to agriculture services; 75,000 tons of pepper are produced sustainably.

In the first 10 months of 2023, the total volume of Vietnamese spice exports reached over 355,500 tons, worth more than 1.126 billion USD, there was a 5% decrease in value, and a 24.9% increase in volume. Of which, pepper reached over 223,500 tons, an increase of 14.6% in volume, but a decrease of 11.7% in value, reaching only 751 million USD; Cinnamon reached 74.7 tons, increased 19.2% in volume and decreased 1.3% in value... However, achieving an export output of over 355,500 tons is the effort of businesses and farmers to gradually adjust towards sustainability. It is expected that by 2024, Vietnam's spice export output will reach about 400,000-500,000 tons and the value of goods will also increase, if there are efforts from all stakeholders in the pepper and spice industry supply chain.

3 PPP Task Force on Rice:

International Conference "Science, Technology and Innovation in Rice"

On the afternoon of December 13, 2023, in Hau Giang province, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development coordinated with the People's Committee of Hau Giang province to organize the international conference "Science, Technology and Innovation in rice". The Conference is one of the events within the framework of the International Festival of Vietnam Rice Industry - Hau Giang 2023. The Conference aims to share information, connect the results of scientific research, innovation and technology transfer in rice in Viet Nam and around the world. Exchange and share experience on applying mechanization, advanced farming processes to adapt to climate change, new varieties that are resistant to pests, drought, salinity, and have good productivity, quality and low emissions. Applying new technology to create value-added products from rice, straw by-products, developing circular agriculture form by-product etc. to reduce costs



Deputy Minister Hoang Trung spoke at the Conference

and improve the value chain. Promote the application of technology solution groups along the rice production chain to develop green, sustainable, low-emission production and increase income for farmers.

South-South cooperation supports food system transformation

Attending the conference were Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Le Minh Hoan, Secretary of Hau Giang Provincial Party Nghien Xuan Thanh, Deputy Director of GIZ Viet Nam Oemar Idor together with representatives of Leaders of line Ministries, Branches, Leaders of People's Committees, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of provinces and cities; representatives of international organizations, scientists, businesses and representatives of agricultural agencies of African countries.

This event was an opportunity for the parties to exchange practical cooperation, identify effective methods of exchanging technical knowledge and experience in food system development and agricultural transformation between Viet Nam and a number of African countries. The main content of the Conference was to discuss mechanisms to promote cooperation in science and technology suitable to African conditions; strengthen the connection between the South-South agricultural and food value chain; promote South-south cooperation for rice trade and global food security; technical cooperation between Viet Nam and African countries in efforts



Minister Le Minh Hoan spoke at the Conference

to transform food system and share experiences in promoting sustainable rice development in South-South Cooperation from the Project "Centers of Change" green innovation - GIC".

With its experience and the help of international donors, Viet Nam is always ready and committed to expanding South-South Cooperation to support African countries in ensuring food and nutrition security, aiming for green growth, sustainable development and prosperity.

Implementing the Project of 1 million hectares of high-quality, low-emission rice from the winter-spring crop



The Project "Sustainable development of 1 million hectares specializing in high-quality, low-emission rice cultivation associated with green growth in the Mekong Delta", will be implemented from 2024 with about 200 thousand hectares based on the area of rice areas under the VnSAT Project implemented in previous years.

On October 2, 2023, in Ho Chi Minh City, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and a number of organizations and businesses organized a Workshop on the role of Public-Private Partnership in implementing the Project "Sustainable development of 1 million hectares specializing in High-quality, low-emission rice cultivation associated with green growth in the Mekong Delta until 2030" (referred to as the 1 million hectares of high-quality rice project).

According to Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Tran Thanh Nam, the main solution to help ensure profits for farmers at over 40% by 2025 and over 50% by 2030 is to sell carbon credits from low-emission rice production. The World Bank has committed to buying carbon credits at 10\$/ton, and 1 hectare of rice can be sold for credits at about 10 tons of carbon, equivalent to 100 USD. Therefore, building a Vietnamese rice brand to reduce emissions will bring many profits to rice farmers. Besides, it is to promote the exploitation and use of water and by-products from rice to increase the value and economic efficiency in rice production. To successfully implement the "1 million hectares of high quality rice" Project, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) plays a very important role. Therefore, at the Conference, experts and businesses focused on discussing the development motivations and potential of Public-Private Partnership in the rice industry.

4 PPP Task Force on Agro-Chemicals:

Conference on development of production and use of biological plant protection drugs

On November 2, 2023, in Ho Chi Minh city, the Department of Plant Protection organized the Conference "Development of production and use of biological pesticides" in a combination of in person and virtual, under the Chairmanship of Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Hoang Trung.

The Conference reported progress and difficulties in implementing the Program "Development of production and use of biological pesticides in the period 2021-2025". To date, the whole country has 99 qualified pesticide production facilities, including 85 facilities that produce biological pesticides, producing nearly 30 different types of biological pesticides, including many advanced and safe form for human such as water-dispersible granules, water-dispersible oils, water-soluble concentrates, granulated. The report also points out difficulties and challenges in developing the production and use of biological pesticides, such as the lack of incentive policies, unfavorable production conditions, and the habit of using chemical pesticides, etc. and propose some solutions to fix it.



Directing at the Conference, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Hoang Trung requested that the Department of Plant Protection coordinate with institutes, departments, and experts to continue to review and propose the development of specific policies to encourage and support organizations and individuals to invest in developing the production and use of biological pesticides. At the same time, strengthen Public-Private Partnership, digital transformation, building and digitizing the database on pesticides from central to local levels.

Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Cooperation towards developing sustainable agricultural products in Viet Nam



Panorama of the Signing Ceremony

On December 4, 2023, in Ha Noi, the Department of Plant Protection, Soil and Fertilizers Research Institute (SFRI) and Yara Viet Nam held the Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Cooperation for the 2024-2026 period, to strengthen coordination and cooperation between the parties for the purpose of supporting the development of sustainable agriculture in Viet Nam. In the signing, all three units recognized the importance of coordination, cooperation and promoting the strengths of the parties with the purpose of improving agricultural production efficiency in a sustainable and adapt to climate change in Vietnam. Accordingly, the parties work together to develop sustainable crop production models, with priority given to the application of appropriate crop nutrition management solution (using "5 right" fertilizers: right soil type, right plant type, right dosage, right time and right way; with an effective combination of organic and inorganic fertilizers. The first crop to be applied is the model using fertilizer in sustainable durian production in Dak Nong province.

5 PPP Task Force on Livestock:

Public-Private Partnership to prevent and combat antibiotic resistance in livestock production



"The event shows a change in the way participatory systems are managed and operated. A standard, comprehensive operating system should apply a one health approach. That means everything is a process, a chain of links, interacting closely with each other, with no component left behind and less important. Therefore, the private sector is always one of the important groups in rural agricultural development. The systematic investment of agricultural enterprises increases the value of agricultural products, the quality becomes increasingly better, meeting food safety regulations, domestic and export market needs", Deputy Minister Phung Duc Tien emphasized.

Responding to World Antibiotic Resistance Week, on the afternoon of November 18, 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - the main presiding agency of the "One Health on preventing and combating zoonotic disease" together with other members of the PPP Task Force on Livestock - organized a rally to call on all parties to join hands to cooperate in preventing and combating antibiotic resistance in agriculture, responding to WHO's call for antibiotic resistance prevention. Currently, Viet Nam still has many shortcomings in the supply and control of antibiotic use, the antibiotic resistance monitoring system is not yet completed. This requires all levels, sectors, and economic sectors in Viet Nam to continue to strengthen coordination with each other in prevent and control antibiotic resistance, with an emphasis on coordination private partners in the prevention and control of antibiotic resistance in agriculture, especially in livestock. At the Event, businesses all affirmed their commitment to joining hands with the Government to practice good antibiotic resistance prevention in agriculture, considering this a part of their responsibility to public health.

6 PPP Task Force on Fishery:

Public-Private Partnership in Fishery processing-circular economy, reducing emissions

In Can Tho, the Department of Fishery - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in collaboration with the Viet Nam Pangasius Association organized the Workshop "Public-Private Partnership in fishery processing - circular economy, reducing emissions in the pangasius chain in Viet Nam". The circular economy model will encourage the application of technical advances in processing, preserving and transporting seafood, reducing post-harvest losses to utilize and save input materials, and encourage research and production of economically valuable products from by-products to reduce emissions and utilize resources. The pangasius industry has been and is one of the key seafood export industries. Currently, Vietnamese pangasius products are present in 140 markets in the world, export turnover in 2022 brings in more than 2.4 billion USD. The large pangasius farming in the Mekong Delta is concentrated in some localities of An Giang, Dong Thap, Can Tho, Ben Tre and Vinh Long with an area of about 6,000 hectares.

The PPP Task Force on Fishery was established in 2020. By 2022, the Department of Fishery issued a Decision approving the establishment of 6 Sub-Task Forces including the pangasius industry. PPP on Fishery is



Director General of the Department of Fishery Tran Dinh Luan said that to sustainably develop the pangasius chain in the direction of promoting a circular economy, Public-Private Partnership is a good approach, due to its ability to connect equally, appropriately according to the capacity and needs of all stakeholders, from central management agencies to related businesses throughout the chain, connecting scientists and researchers to participate in research and implementation.

based on a voluntary, sustainable basis between the private sector participating in investment, production, business, and providing services in the seafood product chain and the public sector (state) including relevant state agencies, management organizations, and public service units.



APPLY SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS IN BIOLOGICAL CONSERVATION

On December 15, 2023 in Ha Noi, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (PSAV Secretariat) cooperated with partners to organized a Workshop aimed at raising awareness about the importance of Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) in supporting the development of sustainable supply chains, facilitating international trade in biodiversity-based products and promoting the adoption of these standards in Viet Nam's agricultural sector. One of the expected outcomes is to identify the appropriate legal framework to facilitate widespread application of these standards in Viet Nam. The Workshop was conducted within the framework of the Global BioTrade Facilitation Program with financial support from the SECO. Papers

and reports at the Workshop include examples of good practice in sustainable agriculture (including coconut, rice and cinnamon sectors), provide updates on regulations and share knowledge of international standards as effective tools to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and support livelihoods. The discussion that follows addresses the challenges and opportunities in applying VSS standards, and offers a series of recommendations and proposed solutions to facilitate enhanced Public-Private Partnership to promote the integration of sustainability standards in supply chains and develop national legal frameworks to promote the integration of sustainability standards into supply chains, allowing the use of VSS in certification processes.

CONSULT AND COMPLETE THE PSAV OPERATING PLAN IN 2024

On December 28, 2023, the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Vietnam (PSAV) held a meeting to summarize activities in 2023 and plan activities for 2024. The meeting was attended by members of the Secretariat. In 2023, PSAV has continued to be the focal point connecting parties in the value chain, promoting Public-Private Partnership to carry out many activities to support farmers, businesses and communities in applying sustainable agricultural production methods, minimizing the impact of climate change and increase income. In 2024, PSAV will continue to expand and develop existing activities, while focusing on developing the Food Innovation Hub Viet Nam as a platform to promote innovation and application of science and technology in agriculture to contribute to the sustainable development of Viet Nam's agricultural industry.



APPROVE THE FOOD INNOVATION HUB VIET NAM (FIHV)

On December 19, 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development approved FIHV in Decision 5430/QĐ-BNN-HTQT. The implemented FIHV will contribute to the rapid and sustainable development of the agricultural sector, not only achieving economic, social and environmental goals but also help responding to climate change and connect with the global food system towards “transparency,

responsibility, sustainability”. Food innovation Hub Viet Nam helps meet the goals of the Project on restructuring the agricultural sector towards increasing added value and sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. An Advisory Board will be established in early 2024 to carry out tasks and coordinate members and partners of this Network.

THE COMING EVENTS

- Organize the PSAV Plenary 2024 Meeting with the theme “Business vis Green transformation: Greener and Lower Emission Agriculture” scheduled to be held in the first quarter of 2024. The goal of the meeting is to exchange information, share experiences, promote cooperation, increase investment, emphasize the role of businesses and the contribution of the private sector in the development of green agriculture - enhance added value;
- Organize the Talking on “Public Private Partnership to promote innovation, implementing the Project of 1 million hectares of high-quality, low-emission rice” scheduled to be held in the first quarter of 2024. The

discussion will determine how to effectively implement the project of 1 million hectares of high-quality, low-emission rice; Identify the roles of relevant parties and actors in the rice chain; Comment and agree on the action plan to implement the 1 million hectares’ rice project in the Mekong Delta;

- Organize the Co-Leader Meeting of PPP Task Forces on Commodities of the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture Viet Nam (PSAV) scheduled to be held in the first quarter of 2024. The meeting will focus on discussing and providing development directions for PSAV to adapt and meet new requirements in sustainable agricultural development.

Decision 4385/QĐ-BNN-HTQT dated October 25th, 2023 on the Approval of the Project to promote the export of agricultural, forestry and fishery products to the European Union (EU) market until 2030

The Decision will take effect from 25/10/2023



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

Decision 4243/QĐ-BNN-HTQT dated October 16th, 2023 on the Approval of the Project to promote the export of agricultural, forestry and fishery products to the Japanese market until 2030

The Decision will take effect from 16/10/2023



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

Decision 4244/QĐ-BNN-HTQT dated October 16th, 2023 on the Approval of the Project to promote the export of agricultural, forestry and fishery products to the Chinese market until 2030

The Decision will take effect from 16/10/2023



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

Decision 4245/QĐ-BNN-HTQT dated October 16th, 2023 on the Approval of the Project to promote the export of agricultural, forestry and fishery products to the US market until 2030

The Decision will take effect from 16/10/2023



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

Decision 1490/QĐ-TTg dated November 27th, 2023 on the Approval of the Project to develop one million hectares of high quality rice in the Mekong Delta

The Decision will take effect from 27/11/2023



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

Decision 5430/QĐ-BNN-HTQT dated December 19th, 2023 on the Approval of the Project to establish a Food Innovation Hub Vietnam

The Decision will take effect from 19/12/2023



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

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