

Quarter I  
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# PSAV News Letter

Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Viet Nam - PSAV

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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## THE COMING EVENTS

- Tổ chức tham quan thực địa các mô hình áp dụng thành công giải pháp xanh thích ứng với biến đổi khí hậu trong nông nghiệp tại Tây Nguyên.
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- Tổ chức Tập huấn tăng cường áp dụng kinh tế tuần hoàn trong chuỗi cà phê tại Sơn La, dự kiến tổ chức vào tháng 4/2024.
- Tổ chức Tập huấn tăng cường áp dụng kinh tế tuần hoàn trong chuỗi lúa gạo, dự kiến tháng 4/2024 tại Cần Thơ.

## OTHER RELEVANT EVENTS

- Deputy Prime Minister Tran Luu Quang held a meeting to direct the implementation of the 1-million-hectare Project



- National Investment Forum: Inclusive Business in Agriculture and Food Systems

## PSAV SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES

- Agricultural Breakthrough: Project of 1 million hectares of high quality, low emission rice in the Mekong Delta



- Agricultural Breakthrough: Project of 1 million hectares of high quality, environmental friendly rice in the Mekong Delta





## 1 PPP Task Force on Coffee:

**Project “Sustainable coffee farming using the agroforestry model” implemented by Nestle along with partners: PUR Project, WASI and Tay Nguyen University**

The project “Sustainable coffee farming using the agroforestry model” is an initiative of Nestle in collaboration with PRU Project, WASI and Tay Nguyen University, has begun implementing training sessions for farmers from the first quarter of 2024. The goal of these training sessions is to inform and educate farmers about the benefits of intercropping coffee with other crops. At the same time, the Project has also begun the process of receiving registration and distributing seedlings, expected to be completed in the second quarter of the year. Launched in June 2023, the Project aims to both contribute to economic value, create more income for farmers, and support the improvement of coffee farming conditions, especially increase the ability to resist insects and adapt to climate change, natural disasters (drought, storms, etc.), improve soil quality and biodiversity. It is expected that the project will help absorb and store about 480,000 tons of CO2 over a 5-year period (2023-2027), contributing to the transition to ecological agriculture in coffee farming in the Central Highlands.

### Applying technology and digitalization in coffee farming:

In the first quarter of 2024, the NESCAFÉ Plan Program continues to support more than 2,000 Vietnamese farmers to participate in the website connecting and sharing information on sustainable agriculture production built by Nestle, with the

## 2 PPP Task Force on Fruits and Vegetables:

### Enhancing the Value of Vietnamese Agriculture Products through Public-Private Partnership

In a context where Vietnam’s agriculture is rapidly transforming, linkages between stakeholders in the industry are the key to promoting sustainable development. A typical example of this cooperation is the event summarizing 2023 activities and planning for 2024 of the PPP Task Force on Fruits and Vegetables, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Gia Lai on February 27, 2024. The Workshop highlighted significant achievements in enhancing the value of Vietnamese fruits and vegetables, especially through the linked model of sustainable potato production. The Project is within the framework of cooperation between Syngenta, PepsiCo and other partners and has brought many practical benefits. To date, the Project has expanded to more than 5,000 farmers in Lam Dong, Dak Lak and Gia Lai provinces, potato productivity has increased three times compared to traditional farming, and farmer’s income has increased nearly three times. The success of this Model is not only demonstrated through impressive productivity and income figures, but also through significant water saving and ensuring products meet quality requirements. This proves that Public-Private Partnership can be a powerful tool to promote the development of the agricultural sector in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner. The Ministry



goal of building a community connecting farmers through social networks and websites, helping to exchange, update, and share information quickly and conveniently.

### Training on safety, labor hygiene and Labor Law for coffee farmers

In addition to the annual activities in the NESCAFÉ Plan Program, during the first quarter of 2024, the Program continues to train coffee farmers on contents related to hygiene and labor safety to help farmers ensure health in farming and at the same time disseminate regulations related to the Labor Law so that farmers clearly understand them. The goal of the Program is to help raise awareness and practice in ensuring safe working conditions for workers participating in the coffee production chain, especially in the fields of labor safety, labor health, access to social welfare as well as ensuring gender equality. The Program’s activities will directly contribute to the ILO’s Decent Work Action Program in Vietnam to support the informal labor sector participating in the coffee value chain. The Program is jointly implemented by ILO Vietnam, Nestle and Zero Fund.



of Agriculture and Rural Development commits to continue supporting and promoting dialogue with businesses, to resolve arising problems and perfect policies to attract investment in the agricultural sector, especially the fruits and vegetables industry. This is part of the Government’s Project to develop the fruits and vegetables processing industry for the 2021-2030 period, aiming at the goal of sustainable and effective agricultural development.

With these advances, Vietnam is gradually asserting its position on the world agricultural map, while contributing to improving the lives of farmers and protecting the living environment. Public-Private Linkage in agriculture is not only a trend, but also an important strategy to achieve sustainable and comprehensive development.

### 3 PPP Task Force on Pepper and Spice:

#### International conference on Vietnam's pepper and spice industry: Connecting export businesses

On March 8, in Hanoi, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development coordinated with the Ministry of Industry and trade and the Vietnam Pepper and Spice Association to co-organize the Vietnam International Pepper and Spice Outlook - VIPO 2024.

The Vietnam International Pepper and Spice Outlook (VIPO 2024) was an important trade promotion activity for the industry, within the framework of the National Trade Promotion Program hosted by the Pepper and Spice Association, coordinated with relevant Ministries, branches and agencies to organize with the goal of creating a discussion forum, sharing export market information, identifying opportunities and challenges, and assessing production, processing and trade capacity of the pepper and spice industry to meet the requirements of export markets, promoting concerns for sustainable development of the world's pepper and spice industry.

This is the 4th time the Vietnam Pepper and Spice Association has organized the Vietnam International Pepper and Spice Outlook, to promote the export of Vietnamese spices, increase market connections, domestic export businesses with foreign buyers, especially in potential markets such as Europe, the United States,



the Middle East, and Asian countries such as China, India.

At the Outlook, Mr. Huynh Tan Dat, Director General of the Plant Protection Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said, Vietnam is considered a country with high biodiversity with many valuable crops, in which pepper and spice have contributed significantly to national GDP, improving farmer livelihoods and help position the Vietnamese brand in the world market. However, the development of the agricultural industry, especially in the field of pepper and spice production, still faces many challenges. Uneven development, high investment costs and technology application are still areas that need improvement. This issue raises the question: how to attract more businesses to boldly invest in high-tech agriculture, thereby creating a sustainable and effective supply chain.

### 4 PPP Task Force on Rice:

#### Roles and Tasks of community agricultural extension in the 1-million-hectares project specializing in high-quality and low-emission rice cultivation



Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Tran Thanh Nam spoke at the Conference

On March 15, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development coordinated with the People's Committee of Tra Vinh province to organize a Workshop on the roles and tasks of agricultural extension, and community agricultural extension to implements a project of 1-million-hectares specializing in high-quality and low-emission rice cultivation. Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Tran Thanh Nam; Leaders of the Departments

of Agriculture and Rural Development of Kien Giang, Bac Lieu, Ca Mau, Long An, Hau Giang, and Dong Thap provinces; Science experts from institutes and universities across the country attended the Workshop. The delegates discussed in depth about coordination with the agricultural extension system to implement the Project of 1-million-hectares of high-quality, low-emission rice. At the same time, clarify the role of agricultural extension forces, from central agricultural extension to community agricultural extensions as well as the problems and inadequacies in the current activities of community agricultural extension forces.

Deputy Minister Tran Thanh Nam emphasized that this is a very large project, to achieve the set goals, great determination and efforts of the entire political system are needed, close coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development with Ministries and central branches, and especially the proactive involvement of the Mekong Delta provinces. In which the agricultural extension system, especially the community agricultural extension force, plays a pivotal role in the implementation process, accompanying farmers, helping farmers reorganize production, and provide training to improve ability and serve as a bridge between farmers and businesses.

Currently, the World Bank has agreed to buy carbon credits in the Project of 1-million-hectares specializing in high-quality, low-emission rice at a price of about 10 USD/ton, for 1 hectares of rice, farmers have an additional income of about 100 USD from selling carbon credits.

#### Demonstration model "Smart rice farming, low emissions associated with green growth in the Mekong Delta"

Can Tho's Agricultural Service Center in collaboration with



Binh Dien Fertilizer Joint Stock, Saigon Kim Hong, Bayer Vietnam, VinaRice has just organized the implementation of a demonstration model “Smart rice farming, low emissions associated with green growth in the Mekong Delta” at Mr. Le Thanh Tung’s household in Thoi Hiep 2 hamlet, Dong Thang commune, Co Do district (Can Tho city) with an area of 3.2 hectares in the winter-spring rice crop of 2023-2024, of which 1.2 hectares are implementing smart rice cultivation model fields. The remaining 2 hectares are used as control fields for traditional farming.

The rice varieties used in the model are certified rice varieties of good quality provided by VinaRice, suited for the local seed structure and export needs. In the sowing stage, cluster seeding machines from Saigon Kim Hong Trading Service are applied to reduce the amount of seeds compared to current practices (from 120 - 180kg/hectare) to 40 - 60kg/hectare. Next, the application of the salty - alum Dau Trau fertilizer at the beginning of the season and use specialized fertilizer on rice according to the fertilizer formula of Binh Dien Fertilizer Joint Stock to increase rice production efficiency.

In addition, the model applies synchronous production techniques and integrated pest management (IPM) measures to reduce pesticide use, pest management according to Bayer Vietnam’s Much More Rice solution process in rice production; Implement alternating wet and dry watering techniques to save water and other synchronous techniques.



Through evaluation of production results, the smart rice cultivation model field achieved a yield of 9 tons/hectare, profit of over 52 million VND/hectares. The control field had a yield of 8.23 tons/hectare, profit of over 41 million VND/hectare. Thus, model fields help farmers reduce costs, increase productivity, and increase profits compared to control fields

### Deputy Prime Minister Tran Luu Quang directed the implementation of the 1-million-hectare Project



Speaking at the conference, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Luu Quang asked central Ministries, localities, and businesses to pay attention to 10 words to implement the Project “Sustainable development of 1-million hectares of high-quality, low-emission rice associated with green growth in the Mekong Delta by 2030”, including: “Wholeheartedly, Compliant, Flexible, Cooperating and Control”

On February 5, in Kien Giang, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development coordinated with the People’s Committee of Kien Giang province to organize a Conference to deploy the Project “Sustainable development of 1-million hectares of high-quality, low-emission rice associated with green growth in the

Mekong Delta by 2030”. Deputy Prime Minister Tran Luu Quang; Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Le Minh Hoan; Chairman of Kien Giang Provincial People’s Committee Lam Minh Thanh; and Leaders of central and local Ministries in the Mekong Delta region attended.

Vietnam’s Mekong Delta region, famous for its rice production, is witnessing steady progress towards sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture. According to Mr. Le Minh Hoan the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, this area contributes more than 55% of rice output and 90% of the country’s rice exports, at the same time, creating jobs and stable income for millions of households. Advanced programs and projects have been implemented, aiming to promote sustainable rice production, increase farmers’ income, improve resource usage efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance the competitiveness of Vietnamese rice in the international market. Another important step is the approval of the Project “Sustainable development of 1-million hectares of high-quality, low-emission rice associated with green growth in the Mekong Delta by 2030”. This Project emphasizes the connection and cooperation between rice farmers, cooperatives and businesses, aiming to transform sustainable rice farming methods.

The Project is implemented in twelve Mekong Delta provinces: An Giang, Kien Giang, Dong Thap, Long An, Soc Trang, Can Tho, Bac Lieu, Tra Vinh, Hau Giang, Ca Mau, Tien Giang and Vinh Long.

This development is not only positive news for Vietnam’s agricultural sector but also a testament to the country’s commitment to promoting green growth and sustainable development. This is a significant step forward in ensuring food security and strengthening Vietnam’s position on the global agricultural map.

## 5 PPP Task Force on Agro-Chemicals:



### The Plant Protection Department and CropLife Vietnam signed an agreement to develop and implement the program “Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework” in 2024

January 11, 2024 - The Plant Protection Department and CropLife Vietnam signed a cooperation plan to implement the “Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework” - marking the first year of realizing the contents of the cooperation framework to implement this program for the period (2023-2028) between the Plant Protection Department and CropLife Asia. The event was attended by Mr. Huynh Tan Dat - Director General of the Plant Protection Department, Mr. Dang Van Bao - President of CropLife Vietnam, Leaders of Departments and members of the Association.

The signing of the cooperation program “Sustainable Pesticide Management Framework” in 2024 marks that the two sides will officially concretize and implement activities under this

cooperation framework. The main contents to be implemented in 2024 include: reviewing, evaluating and consolidating the policy system for management and using pesticides in a scientific, advanced way, in harmony with international standards and regulations of countries; Promote the application of advanced solutions for pesticides; Building platforms, training, and innovating approaches to improve the effectiveness of responsible, safe and effective use of pesticides; Promote communication about the role of pesticides, application of new solutions and results of cooperation between the Department and CropLife Vietnam in implementing a sustainable pesticide management framework.

Expected results from this Program will contribute to developing agricultural sector capacity, ensuring the achievement of goals in the sustainable development strategy of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. This includes technology transfer, specialized training for farmers, improving management, promoting digital transformation, and building a team of leading experts.

## AGRICULTURAL BREAKTHROUGH: PROJECT OF 1-MILLION-HECTARES OF HIGH-QUALITY, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY RICE IN THE MEKONG DELTA



The Food Innovation Hub Vietnam (FIHV) will play an important role in expanding the scale and accelerating the transformation process of Vietnam’s agricultural sector, helping the country become a green, sustainable and low-emission agricultural powerhouse.

## PSAV SECRETARIAT’S ACTIVITIES

In the recent discussion that took place on January 30, 2024 at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Minister Le Minh Hoan emphasized the important role of Public-Private Partnership in promoting innovation and implementing the Project of 1-million-hectares of high-quality, low-emission rice associated with green growth in the Mekong Delta region by 2030. The discussion was co-chaired by Minister Le Minh Hoan, Mr. Jaya Ratman - Singapore Ambassador in Vietnam, Mr. Paavo Eliste - East Asia and Pacific Regional Director in charge of agriculture and food at the World Bank, and Ms. Beverley Postma - Managing Director of Grow Asia.

Minister Le Minh Hoan stated clearly that to develop such a large-scale project, Vietnam needs to mobilize



resources and make technical advances. Among them, an important tool is the “Food Innovation Hub Vietnam” (FIHV) established to connect domestic and international innovation networks, promoting using digital technology to develop smart agricultural value chains. In addition, the participator of Public-Private Partnership, along with the efforts of state agencies in developing policies and creating favorable conditions, was emphasized by Minister Le Minh Hoan as a

key factor to success of the Project. Mr. Paavo Eliste of the World Bank also emphasized that the implementation of this project offers great potential to promote innovation activities and attract private sector’s participation.

Support from partners along with effective Public-Private Partnership is considered and important key to making this Project successful in the coming time, contributing to the sustainable development of Vietnam’s agricultural industry.

## AGRICULTURAL BREAKTHROUGH: PROJECT OF 1 MILLION HECTARES OF HIGH QUALITY, LOW EMISSION RICE IN THE MEKONG DELTA

On January 31, 2024, in Hanoi, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development organized a plenary Meeting of the 2023 PPP Task Force within the framework of the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture Vietnam (PSAV). With the theme “Enterprises with Green Transformation and Innovation in the Agricultural Industry”, the Meeting attracted large participation from government agencies, businesses and international organizations.

In his opening speech, Deputy Minister Hoang Trung emphasized the special role of the agricultural sector in Vietnam’s comprehensive development. With agricultural GDP growth reaching its highest level in many years and export turnover increasing, Vietnam is not only one of the leading countries in agricultural production but also one of five countries surpassing carbon emission reduction milestone according to the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target.

This prompted the Vietnamese Government to make a strong commitment at COP26 to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. To realize this commitment, the transition to an ecological agriculture, towards carbon neutrality and protecting food security is more urgent than ever.

An important step in this journey is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issuing the Decision approving the Project to establish the Food Innovation Hub Vietnam (FIHV) in December 2023.



*Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Hoang Trung*

This project not only aims to develop green and sustainable agriculture but also ensures transparency, responsibility and sustainability in the food supply chain.

At the Meeting, businesses also shared successful models in applying innovation and promoting the development of green and low-emission agriculture. In particular, Mr. Bino Jacob, CEO of Nestle Vietnam and Ms. Beverly Postma, CEO of Grow Asia, spoke up to appreciate the efforts of the Government and the businesses community in ensuring food security and reducing carbon emissions.

At the end of the Meeting, Deputy Minister Hoang Trung expressed his deep gratitude for the contribution of the business community. He hoped to continue to receive this valuable support in the journey of bringing Vietnam’s agricultural industry to the international level and contributing to the country’s sustainable development goals. The Meeting affirmed that, only through close cooperation between government, businesses and international organizations, Vietnam’s goal of building a green and sustainable agriculture can become reality.

## NATIONAL INVESTMENT FORUM: INCLUSIVE BUSINESS IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

The morning of March 15, 2024, the Department of Enterprise Development - Ministry of Planning and Investment organized the National Investment Forum: Inclusive Business in the field of Agriculture and Food Systems.

The National Investment Forum for Inclusive Business in the field of Agriculture and Food Systems aims at the following goals: To share practical knowledge and tools that will help inclusive business enterprises gain recognition, access resource, and grow their impact; Provides networking opportunities between investor, Government agencies, development partners and businesses; Introducing inclusive business models in agriculture and food systems in Vietnam and internationally.

In Part 1 of the overarching business landscape in Vietnam, Ms. Nguyen Cam Thuy - PSAV Coordinator was honored to be the moderator of the discussion session. The panel discussion focused on the challenges and opportunities investors has to face and look for prospects in inclusive business (IB) as well as the importance of promoting inclusive business across the agriculture and food systems sector in Vietnam.

To meet the goals of the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the private sector will play a large role. Inclusive businesses are businesses that: “provide goods, services and livelihoods on a commercially viable basis, at a large or scalable scale, to people with low as they become part of the value chain in the core business as a supplier, distributor, retailer of customer”.

On the morning of March 15, 2024, the Department of Enterprise Development under the Ministry of Planning and



Investment chaired the National Investment Forum with the theme “Inclusive Business in the field of Agriculture and Food Systems”. This event is an effort to promote recognition, access to resource and increase the influence of businesses operating under inclusive business models in the agricultural industry.

The Forum has set three main goals: sharing knowledge and useful tools for businesses, facilitating connections between investors, government agencies, development partners and businesses, and introducing successful inclusive business models from Vietnam and internationally. In the first part of the forum, Mr. Nguyen Cam Thuy, PSAV Coordinator led the discussion session, the challenges and opportunities for investors in the inclusive business sector were discussed in depth.

The highlight of the Forum is the emphasis on the role of the private sector in achieving the goals of the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Inclusive business enterprises, defined as those that provide goods and services to low-income people through their being part of the corporate value chain, are expected to make a major contribution in promoting Vietnam’s sustainable development.

## THE COMING EVENTS

- Organize the Workshop “Public-Private Partnership (PPP) to serve the implementation of the sustainable development Project of 1 million hectares specializing in high-quality, low-emission rice” expected in early April 2024. The Workshop will be chaired by the PPP Task Force on Rice with the goal: To determine the role and position of the public and private sectors in implementing the sustainable development project of 1 million hectares specializing in high-quality, low-emission rice; Propose solutions, policy mechanisms, and cooperation mechanisms between parties; Share and introduce processes, technologies, products, models and coordination plans of a number of partners to serve the implementation of the Project.

- Organize field visit 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 June 2024 in Gia Lai and Dak Lak.

- Organize training to strengthen the application of circular economy in the coffee chain in Son La, expected to be held in April 2024;

- Organize training to enhance the application of circular economy in the rice chain, expected in April 2024 in Can Tho;

- Organize the Co-Leader Meeting of the PPP Task Force on Coffee under the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture Vietnam (PSAV) scheduled to be held in the Second Quarter of 2024. The meeting will focus on discussing and providing development directions for the PPP Task Force on Coffee in the coming time, including: Task Force’ structure; The Task Force’s participation in the Food Innovation Hub Vietnam (FIHV).

**1. Decision 431/QĐ-BNN-TT** in 2024 approving the “Project for developing key industrial crops until 2030” (Including trees: coffee, rubber, tea, cashew, pepper, coconut) issued by Issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

The Decision will take effect from



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

**2. Land Law No. 31/2024/QH15** was approved by the 15th National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The Document will take effect from



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

**3. Circular 01/2024/TT-BNNPTNT** HS code table for the list of goods under the state management authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the list of exported and imported goods subject to specialized inspection in the field of agriculture and rural development

The Circular will take effect from



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

**4. Consolidated document 15/VBHN-BNNPTNT** year 2024 consolidates the Circular regulating the classification of wood processing and exporting enterprises issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

The Consolidated document will take effect from



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

**5. Decision 467/QĐ-BNN-TT** Plan for transforming crops on rice land nationwide in 2024 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

The Decision will take effect from



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

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