



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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Ha Noi, 11 October 2023

To:

Subject: Invite to join in implementation of the Programme on Sustainable development of 1 million hectares of high-quality rice, with low emission and in connection with green growth in the Mekong delta

Dear Sir / Madam,

The rice sector plays a very important role in the socio-economic development of Viet Nam in general and the Mekong Delta region in particular. Rice production not only ensures national food security, but also contributes to the country's sustainable economic development. To promote sustainable agricultural and rural development in the Mekong Delta and proactively adapt to climate change, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has coordinated with domestic and international experts, relevant ministries, provinces and cities in the Mekong Delta region to develop the *Programme on Sustainable development of 1 million hectares of high-quality rice, with low emission and in connection with green growth in the Mekong delta until 2030*. The program is currently being submitted to the Prime Minister for consideration and approval to enable its implementation by MARD.

I would like to send herewith the draft Program so that domestic and international organizations and companies, aligned with your specialized mandates and activities, can support the implementation of the Program immediately after the it is approved. You are kindly requested to register to participate in implementing specific activities in the Program and send your Registration to the International Cooperation Department best before October 30, 2023 to enable our formulation of an Action Plan to implement such important Program.

For more information, please contact Mr. Le Minh Tuan, phone 0981626888, email: tuanlm.htqt@mard.gov.vn

Thank you for your kind support towards sustainable development of agriculture sector of Viet Nam.

Yours sincerely,



Tran Thanh Nam
Vice Minister

The Program on Sustainable development of 1 million hectares of high-quality rice, with low emission and in connection with green growth in the Mekong delta

The rice industry plays a vital role in the socio-economic development of Vietnam and the Mekong Delta region. Rice production ensures national food security and contributes to the country's economic development. Carrying out the task of promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development in the Mekong Delta and proactively adapting to climate change, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has focused on research and coordinated with domestic and international experts, relevant ministries, branches, provinces, and cities in the Mekong Delta develop a Program “*Sustainable development of 1 million hectares of high-quality rice, with low emission and in connection with green growth in the Mekong delta*” with specific information as follows:

1. Program objective

a) General objective

The goal of the program is to establish one million hectares of high-quality specialized rice farming areas with low emissions, linked to the restructuring of the production along the value chain system. This involves implementing best agricultural practices to increase the value and sustainable development of the rice industry. It aims to improve the efficiency of production and business, raise incomes and living standards for rice farmers, protect the environment, adapt to climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to Vietnam's international commitments..

b) Specific objectives

By 2025

- Regarding the scale: The cultivated area of the high-quality and low-emission rice growing area reached 300,000 hectares.

- Regarding sustainable farming: In areas specializing in high-quality and low-emission rice cultivation, reduce the amount of rice seeds sown to 80-100 kg/ha, reduce the amount of chemical fertilizers and pesticides of chemical origin by 20 percent, and reduce 20 percent of irrigation water compared to traditional farming, 100 percent of the area applies one of the sustainable farming processes such as 1 must 5 reduction, SRP, alternate dry irrigation and good agricultural practice standards certified and given a growing area code.

- Regarding reorganization of production: There are 100 percent of production areas in high-quality and low-emission rice cultivation areas with links between businesses and cooperative groups, cooperatives or farmer organizations in product production and consumption; The synchronous mechanization rate reached over 50 percent; Over 300,000 farming households apply sustainable farming processes.

- Regarding environment protection and green growth: Post-harvest loss rate is less than 10 percent; 70 percent of straw in specialized farming areas is collected from

the fields and processed for reuse; Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by over 10 percent compared to traditional rice farming.

- Regarding rice growers' income, added value: Added value in the rice chain increased by 30 percent, of which the profit margin of rice growers reached over 40 percent.

- Brand building and export: The amount of high-quality and low-emission rice exported reaches over 20 percent of the total rice export volume of the entire specialized farming region.

By 2030

- Regarding the scale: The cultivated area of the high-quality and low-emission rice growing area reached one million hectares.

- Regarding sustainable farming: Reduce the amount of rice seeds sown to 70 kg/ha, reduce the amount of chemical fertilizers and pesticides of chemical origin by 3 percent, and reduce the amount of irrigation water by 20 percent compared to traditional farming. 100 percent of the area applying one of the sustainable farming processes such as 1 must 5 reduction, SRP, alternating dry irrigation, and good agricultural practice standards is certified and given a growing area code.

- Regarding reorganization of production: There are 100 percent of production areas in high-quality and low-emission rice cultivation areas with links between businesses and cooperative groups, cooperatives, or farmer organizations in product production and consumption; The synchronous mechanization rate reached over 70 percent; Over 1,000,000 farming households apply sustainable farming processes.

- Regarding environment protection and green growth: Post-harvest loss rate is less than 8 percent; 100% of straw is collected from the fields and processed for reuse; Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by over 10 percent compared to traditional rice farming.

- Regarding rice growers' income, added value: Added value in the rice chain increased by 40 percent, of which the profit margin for rice growers reached over 50 percent.

- Brand building and export: The amount of rice exported under the Vietnamese brand of high quality and low emissions accounts for over 20 percent of the total rice export volume of the entire specialized farming region..

2. Program sites

The program is deployed in 12 provinces and cities in the Mekong Delta and divided into 2 phases:

- Phase 1 (2024 - 2025): In 2024, the sustainable farming practices will be implemented on approximately 180,000 hectares within the VnSAT project. Based on the VnSAT project area, expansion and achievement of 300,000 hectares will be targeted in 2025.

- Phase 2 (2026 - 2030): The project will expand with the aim of reaching one million hectares of high-quality, low-emission rice cultivation in the Mekong Delta by 2030.

3. Tasks and key solutions for the program implementation

Six (06) groups of tasks and key solutions:

- (i) Selection and establishment of program participation sites;
- (ii) Review, apply, and enhance technical packages to ensure sustainable development criteria;
- (iii) Production restructuring and capacity building, training;
- (iv) Infrastructure Investment and Upgrading in Specialized Rice Cultivation Areas;
- (v) Mobilizing Resources and Technical Support;
- (vi) Complete mechanisms, policies, and prioritize credit programs to support the implementation of links in production, processing, and consumption of high-quality, low-emission rice products, and build a credit payment mechanism to- results-based carbon for high-quality, low-emission rice growing areas.

4. Priority programs and tasks

There are 5 priority programs/tasks until 2030:

- (i) Capacity building program for cooperatives and businesses participating in the Program;
- (ii) Credit program to support links in production, processing and consumption of high-quality, low-emission rice products in the Mekong Delta between cooperatives and businesses;
- (iii) Production infrastructure modernization program for one million hectares of high-quality and low-emission rice associated with green growth in the Mekong Delta;
- (iv) Results-based carbon payment pilot program for one million hectares of high-quality and low-emission rice cultivation associated with green growth in the Mekong Delta;
- (v) Develop legal documents related to the Program.