Capitalisation of PGS Experiences in Vietnam for Upscaling & Institutionalisation
OUR MISSION

• Rikolto envisions a world with production and consumption systems that allow poverty and hunger to be eradicated and that do not burden our planet more than it can bear.
Programme overview

• “Supporting Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural Value Chain Development Benefitting Smallholder Farmers in Vietnam”
• Focus on 2 commodities
  – Rice
  – Vegetables
• Cross-country interventions through “clusters”
  – Food-Smart City cluster
  – Rice cluster
Programme strategies

1. Building partners’ capacity for collective action
2. Fostering an enabling environment
3. Promoting innovation
Objective: **Inclusive, sustainable & safe food policies** tackling safe vegetables production, consumption and marketing are implemented in Vietnam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>509 farmers</td>
<td>1100 farmers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmer orgs.</td>
<td>10 orgs.</td>
<td>21 orgs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provinces</td>
<td>4 provs. (Da Nang, Ha Nam, Phu Tho, Vinh Phuc)</td>
<td>5 provs. (+ Hanoi)</td>
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</tbody>
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Safe vegetables - 3 interventions

1. Build evidence of the benefits of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) as a tool to foster inclusive and sustainable value chains for safe & organic vegetables
   - Set up new PGS systems, including capacity building for farmers
   - Foster inclusive business relations with safe vegetable buyers
   - Build capacity for marketing, production planning, business planning, organisational management, gender & youth inclusion
   - Document case studies and develop a PGS toolbox for practitioners

2. Foster a more enabling environment for inclusive & safe vegetables value chains, including the adoption of the PGS by the Vietnamese government and business actors
   - Set up provincial PGS networks
   - Advocate authorities for the adoption & official recognition of PGS
   - Support consumer protection organisations to better represent consumers on food issues
3. Support Da Nang municipality to become a food-smart city where smallholder farmers are included in safe food value chains and consumers have easy access to safe food
➢ Conduct consumer campaigns on right to safe food
➢ Expand the Safe & Organic Food Finder platform
➢ Support Da Nang to develop safer and more sustainable urban food policies
Objective: The mainstreaming of inclusive business models and practices for sustainable rice across the Vietnamese rice subsector.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>800 farmers</td>
<td>5400 farmers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organisations</td>
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<td>6 farmer organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provinces</td>
<td>2 provinces (Phu Tho and An Giang)</td>
<td>2 provinces (Phu Tho and An Giang)</td>
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Sustainable rice value chains - 5 interventions

1. Enable Rice FOs to engage in inclusive business relationships
   - Capacity building on business & production planning, marketing, organisational & financial management, branding, and quality assurance

2. Improve the sustainability, gender-sensitiveness and youth inclusiveness of rice value chains
   - Support for the implementation of sustainable production practices
   - Training on climate-smart practices
   - Development & implementation of a gender mainstreaming and youth inclusion action plan

3. Test the feasibility of using Participatory Guarantee Systems as a quality assurance mechanism for rice produced according to the SRP standard
   - Pilot PGS together with the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) standard,
   - Analyse & document PGS as a quality assurance mechanism for SRP rice
4. Develop Long-term **inclusive business relationship** between companies and farmers
   - Improve rice companies and supermarkets’ relationship with farmers through innovative methodologies (SenseMaker & LINK)
   - Document best inclusive practices
   - Engage local government in inclusive business development

5. **Scale out and up** inclusive and sustainable practices for rice value chains, domestically and internationally
   - Disseminate case studies and lessons learned with rice sector stakeholders, including through Rikolto’s International Rice Cluster
   - Implement an advocacy strategy for the adoption of successful models & practices by Vietnamese stakeholders (government, state-owned companies, supermarkets)
Context of Alisea funded project

- Intensive usage of pesticides and fertilizers;
- Consumers are becoming more concerned with safety and quality but do not trust safe food sold in markets;
- To access higher value markets, small-scale farmers are required to obtain quality assurance certification;
- VietGAP: promoted by government but inaccessible to smallholders; National organic standards are not available yet;
- PGS: alternative quality assurance certification system with the application of BasicGAP/ Organic standards recognized by IFOAM, suitable to smallholders, not formalized yet
Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)

PGS is a **participatory certification system** that enables smallholder farmers to tap into the growing demand for safe and organic vegetables **AND** contributes to building **consumers’ trust** in the vegetables supply chain.

- PGS is a **quality control system**, NOT a third-party certification, developed by IFOAM
- **Participation** of all stakeholders, particularly producers and consumers
- **Affordable & applicable** for smallholder farmers, **reliable** for consumers
Project Information

- **TITLE:**
  Capitalization of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) experiences in Vietnam for upscaling & institutionalization

- **OBJECTIVES:**
  Support the upscaling, official recognition and institutionalization of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) for safe vegetables in Vietnam

- **PARTNER:**
  Department of Food Processing Technology, VNUA
PART 1 - PGS assessment study and case studies

• Activity 1: Literature review on domestic PGS experiences & PGS recognition abroad
• Activity 2: Methodology and questionnaire development for field data collection
• Activity 3: Field visits for data collection on PGS systems in Vietnam
• Activity 4: Analysis of existing PGS systems in Vietnam
• Activity 5: Development of practical recommendations for the future development of PGS in Vietnam & final assessment report
• Activity 6: Development of PGS case studies
• Activity 7: Development of a policy brief

PART 2 - PGS for sage vegetables toolbox

• Activity 8: PGS handbook for farmers
• Activity 9: PGS factsheets
• Activity 10: Training of trainer manual
• Activity 11: Toolbox summary for decision-makers

PART 3 - Communication and dissemination

• Activity 12: Design and printing of project deliverables for communication & advocacy
• Activity 13: Dissemination of toolbox, policy brief & study summary with external stakeholders
• Activity 14: National workshop on PGS for SV & OV
• Activity 15: Sharing of project updates on partners’ social media, websites and newsletters
Achievement to date

• Literature review almost completed;
• Questionnaires tested and finalised (despite a strong commitment by the partner, there were some delays due to frequent travel by the leader of the research team and delayed approval of the project by MARD)
• Here's the plan for data collection:
  - Loc Thuan and An Hoa Tay, Ben Tre: 15 - 20/11
  - Cam Thanh, Hoi An: 21-24/11
  - Luong Son, Tan Lac, Hoa Binh: 6 -9/11 or 28 -30/11
Challenges faced

• The project need to be approved by MARD under which VNUA is in order to receive money from ALiSEA.
• PGS is a new concept to the VNUA team
• Participation and Cooperation by different stakeholders of PGSs
Contribution to the agroecological transition/knowledge sharing

- The project will address the upscaling of safe farming practices by smallholder farmers.
- The project will contribute to have the Vietnamese government officially recognise PGS as a quality assurance mechanism for safe vegetables production.
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