



**Project: Aus4Skills Small Grants Fund Round 2-2018-SGF-R2-00064-Developing partnerships between Australia and Vietnam for organic agriculture movement: training and workshop in two countries**

## **The 1<sup>st</sup> Mekong Delta Forum on Developing Partnerships Between Australia & Vietnam for Organic Agriculture Movement**

**An Giang University, 14-15<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

### **Background and Aims**

The aim of the project is to develop a new link between Australian and Vietnam for promoting organic agriculture movement through training and workshop. The project has four work packages (WP). The WP1 is to build capacity building for three Australian Awards Scholarship (AAS) Alumni from An Giang University (AGU) about experience and practices of organic agriculture development in Australia, provided by Organic Agriculture Association (OAA), National Association of Sustainable Agriculture Australia (NASAA), Canberra Organic Grower Society (COGS), Fenner School of Environment & Society, the Australian National University. In WP2, the AAS alumni team from AGU (Dr Nguyen Van Kien, Mr Nguyen Van Thai, Mr Le Ngoc Hiep) will develop an organic agriculture research Hub/Center/Institute entitles “Mekong Organics Hub” to promote linked agriculture - nutrition - public health in the Mekong Delta Region. For WP3, the Hub will partner with An Giang Department of Agriculture & Rural Development and An Giang People’s Committee to organize the first Mekong Delta Forum on Developing Partnerships Between Australia & Vietnam for Organic Agriculture Movement. The aims of the forum are to share the experience of organic agriculture research and development to organic growers, organic agriculture associations, farm extension staffs, local governments, business sectors, and NGOs and to develop a partnership for organic industry development in two countries: Vietnam-Australia. The WP4 is piloting home-based organic vegetable farm with Khmer women farmers in An Giang province to promote nutrition and population health outcomes for the communities.

This workshop (WP3) aims to develop partnerships between Australia & Vietnam for Organic Agriculture Movement. The forum is co-funded by Aus4Skills Small Grants for AAV alumni & An Giang People’s Committee (Department of Agriculture & Rural Development) & An Giang University.

### **Contact Details (AAV team, recipients of the AAV Small Grants from Aus4Skills)**

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2. Mr Le Ngoc Hiep, Faculty of Agriculture & Natural Resources, An Giang University: [lnhiep@agu.edu.vn](mailto:lnhiep@agu.edu.vn)
3. Mr Nguyen Van Thai, Research Center for Rural Development, An Giang University: [nvthai@agu.edu.vn](mailto:nvthai@agu.edu.vn)

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### Key partners

- An Giang University (AAV Alumni team, small grant from Aus4Skills)
- Mekong Organics (in-kind contribution)
- Research Center for Rural Development (in-kind contribution)
- Organic Agriculture Association (OAA) Bairnsdale, Victoria, Australia (in kind contribution)
- University of New England Australia (in-kind contribution)
- Organic businesses in the South of Vietnam

**Key donors:** The forum is co-funded by Aus4Skills Small Grants Fund Round 2-2018 (AAV Alumni), An Giang People’s Committee & An Giang Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, and An Giang University.

### AGENDA

**14-15 JANUARY 2019**

**Venue: TRIG Conference Room,  
Level 2, An Giang University, New  
Campus: 18 Ung Van Khiem Street,  
Long Xuyen, An Giang, Vietnam**

**AN GIANG UNIVERSITY (AGU) & AN  
GIANG DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Day 0 (13/01/2019) Registration 3-5pm**

Day 1 (14/01/2019)	Registration (continue)
7:00-7:30 am	
7:30 – 7:40 am	<b>Welcome speech</b> <b>A/Prof Vo Van Thang</b> , Rector of An Giang University
7:40-7:50 am	<b>Organic agriculture movement and policy in An Giang</b> <b>Mr Tran Anh Thu</b> , vice Chairman of An Giang People’s Committee
7:50 – 8:00 AM	<b>Organic Agricultural Perspectives in An Giang</b> <b>Mr Si Lam</b> , Director of An Giang Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, An Giang province
8:00 – 8:30 AM	<b>Developing linkages between Australia &amp; Vietnam and Asia on organic agriculture movement</b> <b>Dr. Nguyen Van Kien</b> , AAS Alumni, ANU Research Fellow, Researcher AGU, Mekong Organics Foundation Show a video show about the Mekong Organics’ activities–AAS-Alumni team;

8:30 – 9:00 AM	<b>The development of organic farming in Australia and the role of Organic Agriculture in supporting organic locally</b> <b>Mr Alan Broughton</b> , Vice President, Organic Agriculture Association Inc., Australia.
9:00 – 9:30 AM	<b>Sharing of Organic standard, market– Australia – lessons for Vietnam</b> <b>Associate Professor Paul Kristiansen</b> , University of New England, Australia.
9:30 – 9:50AM	Tea break
9:50 – 10:20 AM	<b>Organic agriculture movement in Vietnam: Opportunities and Challenges of PGS (Participatory Guarantee System) development in Vietnam (2008-1018)</b> <b>Mrs Tu Tuyet Nhung</b> , Team Leader of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), Ha Noi, Vietnam
10:20 – 10:35 AM	<b>Organic shrimp development on rice farm in Ca Mau province</b> <b>Mr Duong Vu Phong</b> , technical expert of the Minh Phu Mangrove Shrimp Social Enterprise, Ngoc Hien District, Ca Mau province
10:35-10:50	<b>Ecological rice on rice-shrimp farm in Ca Mau province – experience from Ca Mau province</b> <b>Mrs Duong Thu Thao</b> , Director of The Ong Tho Rice Company Ltd., HCM City
10:50-11:30	Group Discussions
11:30 – 1:30 PM	Lunch & break
1:30 – 1:45 PM	<b>Ecological rice – Experience from the Tam Viet Farm in Dong Thap</b> <b>Mr Vo Van Tieng</b> , Tam Viet Farm in Hong Ngu District, Dong Thap province, Vietnam
1:45 – 2:00 PM	<b>Recovery of traditional local rice in Chau Thanh District, Kien Giang province</b> <b>Mr Le Quoc Viet</b> , head of Chau Thanh Sub-Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
2:00 – 2:15 PM	<b>Small scale organic vegetable farm (Ech Op) in Long Xuyen City, An Giang Vietnam</b> <b>Mr Truong Thanh Dat</b> – Ech Op Farm, Long Xuyen, An Giang
2:15 – 2:30 PM	Mekong Youth Farm <b>Mr Ly Quoc Dang</b> , Can Tho University
2:30 – 2:45PM	Large scale of organic farming in the Southern Vietnam <b>Piloting the small scale home-based organic vegetables garden for Khmer Women Farmer Groups in O Lam Commune, Tri Ton District, An Giang Province (Small grant AAV alumni, WP 4.</b> <b>Mr Nguyen Van Thai &amp; Mr Truong Thanh Dat &amp; Mr Dat Pham–RCRD/AGU</b>
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Tea Break
3:00 – 3:15:00 PM	<b>Post-harvest and processing of organic products: Experience from Thailand and Vietnam.</b> <b>Mr Le Ngoc Hiep</b> , Faculty of Agriculture & Natural Resources, An Giang University
3:15-4:00	Group Discussion

4:00- 4:45	<b>Panel Discussion</b> Mr Tran Anh Thu, Mr Si Lam, Dr. Nguyen Van Kien, Mr Alan Broughton, Prof Paul Kristiansen, Mrs Tu Tuyet Nhung
4:45 – 5:00 PM	Conclusions Dr Nguyen Van Kien

## **Day 2: 15 January 2019 (Field trip)**

### **1. Visit Ech Op Farm in Long Xuyen city An Giang province, Vietnam**

#### **Participants (expected 100-150 participants)**

1. Australian Embassy in Hanoi (Aus4Skills Team), DAP team in HCM city
2. NGOs working in organic agriculture (AliSEA, Seed to Table, Oxfam, DAP in HCM City; IUCN, WWF)
3. Researchers and students from An Giang University, Can Tho University and other universities in the region.
4. Leaders and staffs from An Giang Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, and District level
5. Leaders of District's People Committee
6. Leaders of Department of Environment & Natural Resources
7. Leaders of Women & Famers Association
8. Leaders and members of An Giang Associations of Science & Technology
9. Organic farmers in An Giang, and other provinces (Dong Thap, Soc Trang, Vinh Long, Ca Mau, Kien Giang...) in the Mekong Delta
10. Organic agriculture business/shops in An Giang, provinces in the Mekong Delta, and in HCM city (Ong Tho Rice Company Ltd.; Hong Ha Agriculture Company Ltd; Vineco, Coop mark, Satra, Công ty TNHH Thuận Phong, Antesco in An Giang, Vien Phu Organic Farm in Ca Mau; Nang Tri Organic Rice in Ben Tre; Tam Viet Farm in Dong Thap, My Loc organic rice cooperative in Tam Binh, Vinh Long;
11. Media (An Giang TV, newspapers), other newspapers (Vinh Long, Lao dong, Saigon Times) and regional television (Vinh Long Television, Can Tho Television)
12. Department of Agriculture & Rural Development of Mekong Provinces (Dong Thap, Long An, Tien Giang, Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Long An, Soc Trang)