

A close-up photograph of a woman with a joyful expression, wearing a vibrant, patterned headscarf and a white shirt with black polka dots. She is holding a large bunch of fresh green beans. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor market setting.

rikolto
VECO

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.

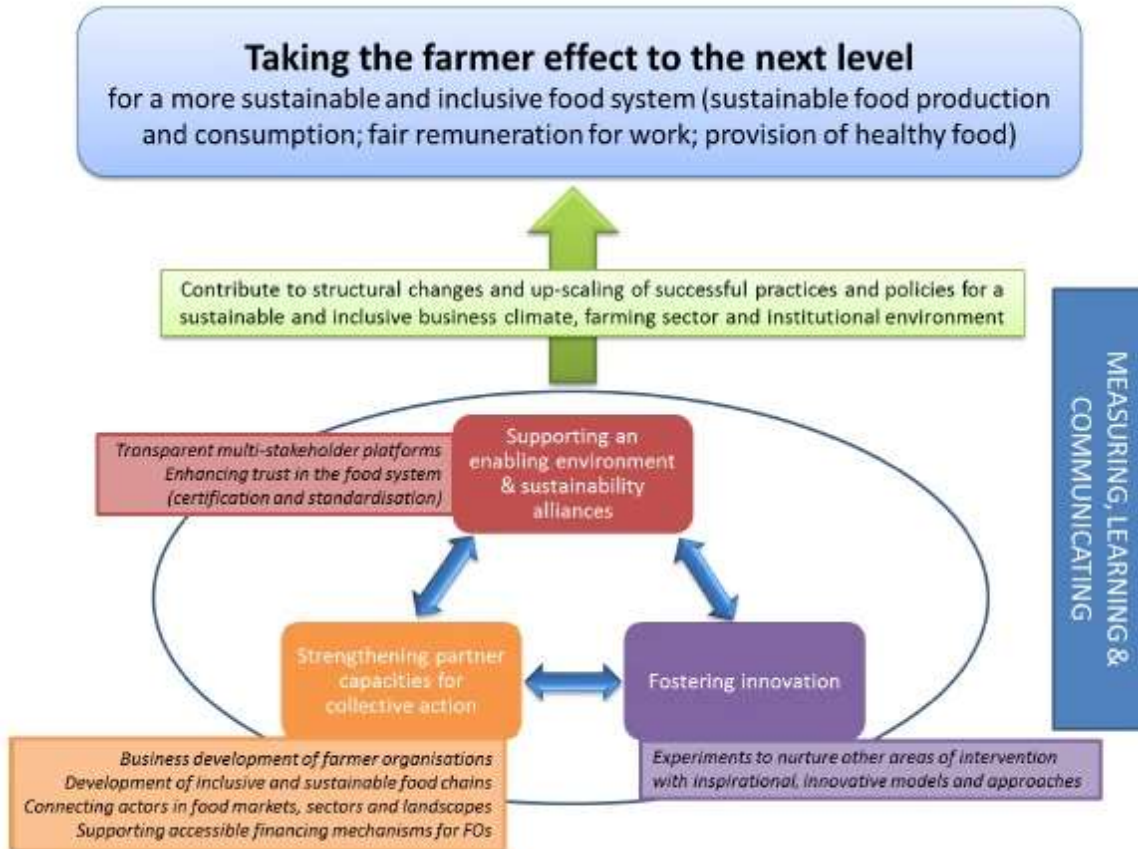


Programme overview

- “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



(1) Programme overview - Safe vegetables

Objective: **Inclusive, sustainable & safe food policies** tackling safe vegetables production, consumption and marketing are implemented in Vietnam

2017	2021
509 farmers	1100 farmers
10 farmer organisations	21 farmer organisations
4 provinces (Da Nang, Ha Nam, Phu Tho, Vinh Phuc)	5 provinces (+ Hanoi)



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



Food Smart City - Partnership with Da Nang

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



(2) Programme overview - Sustainable rice

Objective: The mainstreaming of **inclusive business models** and practices for **sustainable rice** across the Vietnamese rice subsector.

2017	2021
800 farmers	5400 farmers
2 farmer organisations	6 farmer organisations
2 provinces (Phu Tho and An Giang)	2 provinces (Phu Tho and An Giang)



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



Sustainable rice value chains - 5 interventions

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 for safe
vegetables



PGS for organic
vegetables

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



Activities

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
 - Tu Xa, Tan Viet, Phu Tho, Soc Son, and Trac Van : early December.



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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What will we eat tomorrow?



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