



Agribusiness

Improving livelihoods in Myanmar and Vietnam through vegetable value chains



Overview

In Vietnam, the project team works with smallholder vegetable farmers in Moc Chau and Van Ho in the northwest highlands to apply sustainable and inclusive smallholder vegetable value-chain models and the VietGAP quality assurance system, which provides access to lucrative modern retail markets in Hanoi.

A typical farmer from the Van Ho district (Mr Sa) says his income has increased 10 fold as a result of the project, 10 million VND to 100 million VND (\$6300 AUD) per year. The vegetable production in Moc Chau and Van Ho in 2021 is approximately 140,000 tonnes per year, a seven-fold increase from an estimated 20,000 tonnes when the project started in 2017.

In Myanmar, two new vegetable value chains have been established, supplying high-quality GAP certified vegetables from the Taung Boet Gyi and Pindaya villages in Shan State, to Yangon. Retailers regularly purchase up to 5 tonnes per month (3100 viss) of tomato, capsicum, cauliflower, cabbage and snow peas at triple the price of local traditional markets. The project's local coordinator forecasts demand from retailers and yields from the 87 farmers to maintain a consistent value chain.



KEY FACTS

ACIAR Project No. AGB/2014/035

Duration: March 2017 to January 2022
(4 years and 10 months)

Target areas: Vietnam and Myanmar

Budget: A\$2,078,076

Project Leader

Dr Gordon Rogers, Applied Horticultural Research

Key partners

- University of Queensland
- Northern Mountainous Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute, Vietnam
- Department of Agriculture, Myanmar
- Fresh Studio Vietnam
- Centre for International Agricultural Research for Development, Joint Research Unit, Montpellier Interdisciplinary Centre on Sustainable Agri-food systems
- Yezin Agricultural University

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Howard Hall

Objective

The aim of the project is to improve farmers' incomes and livelihoods by developing sustainable and inclusive vegetable value chains in Vietnam and Myanmar.

The objectives are to:

- Identify new market opportunities for smallholder vegetables produced under quality assurance systems.
- Develop sustainable and inclusive smallholder farmer group governance models.
- Develop sustainable and inclusive smallholder vegetable value-chain models and quality assurance systems.
- Scale out and evaluate the smallholder vegetable value-chain models and quality assurance systems to new farmers and villages.

Expected scientific results

- Development and evaluation of models for farmer group governance and the development of a scalable model for production, marketing and supply of high-quality vegetables in Vietnam and Myanmar.
- Rigorous evaluation of value chains in Myanmar and an assessment of the economic impact of supplying accredited high-quality vegetables to markets in Vietnam.
- Validated protocol for the implementation of a sustainable value chain for high-quality vegetables in the target countries.

Expected impact/outcomes

- Development of sustainable methods to engage smallholder farmers in modern vegetable value chains.
- Development and implementation of a model value chain in Myanmar for the economically viable supply of high-quality vegetables to consumers.
- Assessment of pesticide levels and other quality factors at the point of sale, to provide data for the redesign of vegetable production standards and protocols.
- Assistance provided to Myanmar government agencies analysing alternative safety protocols.
- Increased skills, knowledge and ownership of processes for local male and female farmers.
- Increased incomes for farmers supplying the high-value vegetable value chains, and related increases in health and livelihood standards.

