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Editorial notes

Dear valued readers,

We are excited to share with you the latest edition of the ACIAR in Vietnam Newsletter, highlighting new milestones and on-going collaboration between ACIAR and our Vietnamese partners.

This issue highlights the ACIAR Vietnam Program 2025–2026, with 27 active and pipeline projects that reflect our shared commitment to supporting Vietnam's agricultural development. Through these projects, and through the ACIAR–Vietnam Partnership Dialogue 2025, we continue to prioritise country-led initiatives and research that respond directly to Vietnam's needs.

You'll also find inspiring stories of innovation, from transforming rice value chains in the Mekong Delta and exploring carbon credit opportunities for farmers, to developing more sustainable aquaculture feed and strengthening digital solutions for fruit growers in the Northwest. Together, these stories showcase our ongoing efforts to align ACIAR-supported research with Vietnam's priorities for agricultural transformation.

We are also delighted to feature the 2025 ACIAR Vietnam Alumni Meeting, share updates from three new John Alwright Fellows, bid a warm farewell to Ms Nguyen Thi Thanh An and a welcome to Mr Tran Nam Anh as ACIAR Vietnam Country Manager, along with new members joining ACIAR in Canberra.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition and exploring the people and projects driving sustainable change in Vietnam's agriculture and rural communities. As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions at aciarvietnam@aciar.gov.au.

Warm regards,
ACIAR Vietnam Team

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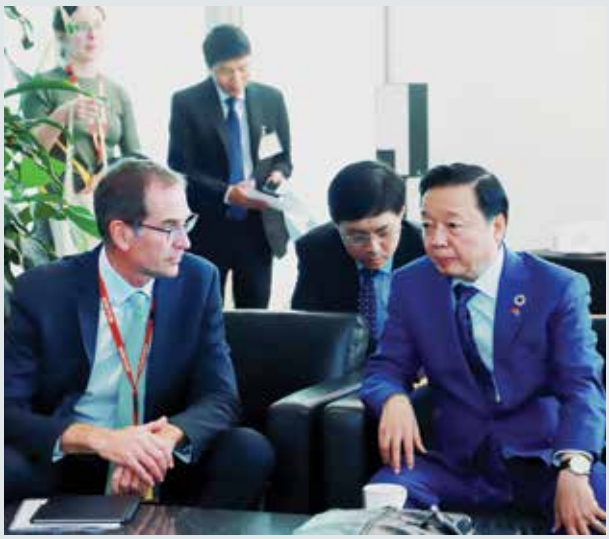
High-level discussion at The Parliament House, Canberra 25 November 2025. Photo: Linda Hac, ACIAR

Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha meets ACIAR leaders to strengthen agricultural research collaboration



ACIAR Acting CEO Nick Austin and Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha at the Parliament House, Canberra 25 November 2025. Photo: Viet Nga, VOV.

A high-level meeting between ACIAR leaders and a Vietnamese delegation led by H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha took place on 25 November 2025 at the Parliament House in Canberra, reaffirming the strength of the Australia–Vietnam agricultural research partnership.

For more than three decades, ACIAR and Vietnam have built a trusted collaboration grounded in mutual respect and shared priorities. Over this period, ACIAR has invested more than A$186 million in more than 260 agricultural research projects in Vietnam, supporting the development of the country's more sustainable and resilient farming systems for smallholder farmers.

During the meeting, both sides discussed priority areas for future research cooperation, with a focus on strengthening innovation, climate resilience and sustainable agricultural development.

In the context of the Australia–Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, ACIAR reiterated its ongoing commitment to working with Vietnamese partners to advance climate-resilient agriculture and help farmers thrive in an economy increasingly driven by science and technology.

ACIAR – Vietnam partnership dialogue 2025: prioritising country-led initiatives

ACIAR and Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) reaffirmed their long-standing partnership at a dialogue in Sydney on 22 August, setting a new direction with a stronger focus on Vietnam-led research priorities.

A key outcome of the Partnership Dialogue was the signing of a four-year, A$2.3 million (approx. VND 35 billion) project on digital monitoring of VietGAP compliance in smallholder fruit value chains from northwest Vietnam. Co-led by the Fruit and Vegetable Research Institute (FAVRI) and Applied Horticulture Research (AHR) in collaboration with the Northern Mountainous Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute, and the Vietnam National University of Agriculture, the project will support farmers in Vietnam's northwest region to use digital tools in their production, helping them to access high-value markets and strengthen the country's position in global fruit value chains.

Importantly, MAE will also contribute financial support to scale the pilot use of digital tools, increasing the project's impact. This co-investment reflects the equal partnership between Vietnam and Australia and demonstrates both countries' commitment to shared priorities.

'ACIAR has been a proud partner of MAE for over 30 years,' said ACIAR CEO Professor Wendy Umberger. 'We are pleased to see the integration of agricultural and environmental priorities, which will support Vietnam in addressing pressing challenges through a more comprehensive approach. ACIAR is committed to supporting Vietnam-led initiatives, from identifying research needs to developing new projects that benefit the Vietnamese people.'

Vice Minister Tran Thanh Nam of MAE emphasised Vietnam's vision: 'We wish to collaborate closely with Australia in general, and ACIAR in particular, to achieve Vietnam's goals of green growth, digitalisation, and innovation in the agriculture sector, leveraging both Australia's and Vietnam's strengths and advantages.'

The dialogue, co-chaired by Vice Minister Tran Thanh Nam and Professor Umberger, also supported ACIAR's bilateral partnerships with the Ministry of Education and Training and the Ministry of Science and Technology. Participants from both countries represented diverse expertise in science, policy, human resource development, and trade.

The event reinforced the commitment between ACIAR and MAE to a trusted, accountable, and mutually beneficial partnership, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two parties in March 2024.

A highlight of the event was the signing of the Digital VietGAP monitoring project to boost digital and climate-smart growth in Vietnam's fruit value chains. Sydney, 22/8/2025. Photo: ACIAR.

From lab to field: Inside Australia – Vietnam research collaboration

In the summer of 2025, Australian journalist Chris McLennan travelled to Vietnam to witness firsthand the robust partnership between Australian and Vietnamese researchers. Accompanied by Cathy Reade from the Crawford Fund, he met with leading researchers across a range of agricultural sectors. His resulting media stories told how the researchers are working together for food security, biosecurity and the livelihoods for many Vietnamese smallholder farmers.

In Hanoi, Chris met with Dr Nguyen Thi Hoa at the VINALICA breeding livestock centre. Dr Hoa shared her mission to build a sustainable national cattle herd, as Vietnam's fast-growing middle class develops a taste for beef. While Australia already sends thousands of live cattle to Vietnam, her work, supported by an ACIAR-funded collaboration between the National Institute for Animal Science (NIAS) and the University of Tasmania, focuses on helping smallholder farmers capture opportunities in this growing market.

From livestock to forestry, Chris also learned about the shared biosecurity challenge across South East Asia. At the Vietnam Academy of Forest Sciences, Dr Dao Ngoc Quang explained that as a tropical country, Vietnam faces significant pest threats. To combat this, he and his colleagues are collaborating with Australian experts from the University of Tasmania to establish a coordinated approach to pest management and biological control in forestry across the region.

Chris McLennan photographing NIAS cattle breeder Vet Nguyen Thi Thu Hoa (right) with cattle researcher Dang Thi Duong. Photo: Cathy Reade.

Visiting a casava processing factory in Tay Ninh Province. Photo: ACIAR

The team also met Dr Estelle Biénabe and Nguyen Thi Tam Ninh from CIFOR-ICRAF, who are leading another ACIAR-funded project to make robusta coffee and black pepper farming in the Central Highlands of Vietnam more sustainable and profitable for smallholders. Chris's stories explored the 'growing pains' of these crops, which have seen a significant decline in recent years. To support farmers, the research team has set up field experiments to illustrate the benefits of better soil management and pest control. They also support several farmer-led cooperatives to produce premium Robusta blends for higher returns.

Travelling to the south, Chris joined Dr Jonathan Newby, the cassava program leader of the Alliance of Biodiversity International - CIAT, along with his colleague Cu Thi Le Thuy and a young researcher team from the Hung Loc Agriculture Research Centre. They visited a cassava processing factory and new variety trials in Tay Ninh Province. The team is tackling emerging diseases, boosting yields for a crop that is a vital food and starch source worldwide.

ACIAR thanks all collaborating research partners for helping organise this successful trip and showcase ongoing research outcomes to the world.

Chris has published a series of feature stories across some Australian rural outlets as listed below. They are behind a paywall but the titles provide a good idea of the range and focus of the stories. Contact ACIAR Vietnam if you are interested in learning more about this activity:

Chris McLennan learning about producing high-quality Robusta coffee from Tam Ninh and Estelle Biénabe. Photo: Cathy Reade.

- Australia backs Vietnam's small farmers in climate-resilient rice push. (11/7/2025)

- Growing pains for Vietnam's world-leading coffee and pepper crops . (11/7/2025)

- Australia joins a biosecurity battle being waged across South-East Asia. (10/7/2025)

- Learn how an Aussie is working to rescue one of the world's biggest crops. (19/7/2025)

- Meet the woman helping shape a nation's cattle future. (8/7/2025)

Transforming rice value chains: from local change to global recognition

In the heart of Vietnam's Mekong Delta, a transformation is taking root in the rice fields.

For Ms Tran Ngoc Chau, Deputy Director of Angimex-Kitoku Co., Ltd. (AKJ) in An Giang Province, change did not begin with new machines or export deals, but with a shift in mindset.

'I've run a rice business for 15 years. Before, I pushed farmers to meet production targets, prioritising quantity to fulfil export orders. But then I changed my priorities,' said Ms Chau.

Through the project 'Transforming rice value chains for climate resilient, sustainable development in the Mekong Delta' (TRVC), Ms Chau gained a deeper understanding of low-emission farming practices and how they strengthen the environment and the long-term resilience of rice value chain.

'I've also changed the way I lead. Now I see business growth and social, environmental impact as deeply connected. I want to grow my business together with the farmers I work with,' said Ms Chau.

Her company is one of the 10 pioneering rice companies that have joined TRVC project since June 2023. This AUD $17 million Australia-funded project promotes the adoption of climate-smart technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emission while improving rice quality, farmer incomes and social inclusion.

By August 2025, participating farmers and companies had reduced over 129,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent and produced 34,000 hectares of low emission rice.

Farmers transporting low-emission rice produced. Photo: TRVC project.

Ms Chau proudly showcasing her company's low-emission rice. Photo: TRVC project.

Remarkably, 8 companies were awarded the new 'Green and Low Emission Rice' label by Vietnam Rice Industry Sector Association (VIETRISA)—the country's first certification for green and low-carbon rice. Among them, Trung An Hi-Tech Farming JSC successfully exported 500 tons of this certified rice to Japan, marking Vietnam's first global shipment of its kind.

These milestones signal a paradigm shift in Vietnam's rice sector—from localised sustainability efforts to global recognition. TRVC contributes directly to the national goal of cultivating 1 million hectares of high quality and low emission rice, positioning Vietnam as an emerging global actor in sustainable rice market.

Equally important, TRVC highlights the role of social inclusion in climate-smart rice production. All participating companies shared their prize earnings with farmers. Ms Chau's company allocated 95% of its award from the TRVC project to the farmers it works with, reinforcing its commitment to long-term partnerships and equitable growth.

'We shared as many resources with our farmers as possible because we believe in growing together,' said Ms Chau.

Learn more about how TRVC is empowering changemakers across Vietnam's rice sector at www.trvc.vn

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Photo: ACIAR

Unlocking green growth: Vietnam's farmers gain new pathways to carbon credits

By the project team from the Australian National University. ACIAR project: SSS/2024/108

A forward-looking research project on agricultural policy, funded by ACIAR, has offered policymakers, agricultural enterprises, and farmers in Vietnam timely insights into pathways for the country's rice sector's sustainable growth.

Rice production is central to Vietnam's food security and rural livelihoods, but also a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, particularly methane. The government has set an ambitious goal to transform one million hectares of the nation's rice-growing area through low-emission farming techniques. Until now, however, there has been limited understanding of how to align these technical solutions with the economic and social realities faced by millions of smallholder farmers.

This project addressed that gap. A research team from the Australian National University (ANU), using data provided by the former Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment, conducted an extensive analysis of more than 14,000 rice-producing households, alongside policy reviews and stakeholder consultations. The findings are helping to shape national policy discussions and will inform the design of Vietnam's emerging carbon market for agriculture.

From technical solutions to economic viability

The research confirmed that low-emission farming techniques, such as improved water management and reduced input use, can boost yields by 9% while cutting emissions by 20%. However, these gains often come at a cost. For many farmers, higher production expenses outweigh the additional income from increased yields, reducing overall profitability.

This insight is critical: technical solutions alone will not secure Vietnam's green growth. To achieve lasting change, they must be paired with strong policy packages that provide financial incentives and social support for farmers who make the transition.

Paving the way for carbon credits

A core focus of the project was exploring how farmers could generate and trade carbon credits. The analysis mapped out the requirements for meeting international standards, identifying barriers including complex verification processes, high compliance costs, and low awareness among farmers.

By laying out clear strategies—from training programs and farmer networks to the creation of national carbon credit standards—the research offers a practical blueprint for enabling rice farmers to benefit from carbon markets. These measures could help Vietnamese rice gain recognition in premium climate-friendly markets, both domestically and abroad.

Policy recommendations with impact

The project's key recommendations for policymakers include:

- developing national carbon credit standards
- establishing a state-managed rice carbon market
- providing targeted financial support for farmers adopting low-emission farming techniques; and
- enhancing capacity building through training, technical assistance, awareness campaigns

These measures could deliver environmental benefits, boost farmer incomes, and strengthen Vietnam's competitiveness under trade measures such as the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

A timely boost for Vietnam's green ambitions

With Vietnam's carbon market regulations taking shape and its climate commitments under increasing scrutiny, these findings offer actionable solutions that balance productivity, profitability, and sustainability.

Building a vibrant rice carbon market is both an environmental imperative and an economic opportunity. For enterprises, it opens avenues to invest in generating carbon credits while strengthening supply chains. And for farmers, it provides a tangible incentive to adopt practices that secure both livelihoods and living environment.

The project underscores the importance of combining technology, economic incentives, and social support to ensure Vietnam's green growth in agriculture. With decisive action, the country can lead by example in pioneering a low-emission agricultural economy in Southeast Asia.

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A Famers' Field Day organised by Hiep Loi Cooperative in the Summer-Autumn cropping season 2024. Photo: Can Tho University.

High value rice for global reach: How Mekong Delta farmers accessed international markets

By Nguyen Hong Tin, Nguyen Truong Huu Thoai, Gomathy Palaniappan, and Jaquie Mitchell.
ACIAR project: AGB/2019/153.

From a modest farming group in An Giang Province to a trusted supplier of high-quality Japonica rice for international markets, Hiep Loi Cooperative shows how Mekong Delta farmers can thrive in premium rice value chains. Its transformation was made possible through the Sustainable Mekong Rice project, co-funded by ACIAR and SunRice. The project demonstrates how smallholders can enter demanding export markets through mindset change, technology adoption, and trust-based collaboration.

Changing the way rice is grown

Before the project, most of the cooperative's 35 members knew little about Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) or recordkeeping. With training from Can Tho University and SunRice agronomists, farmers learned to track pesticide use, apply safe or bio-inputs, follow pre-harvest intervals, and keep detailed field logs. Today, nearly all of the cooperative's rice area meets MRL standards, consistently passing SunRice's quality tests.

From Mekong fields to international contracts

In 2023, Hiep Loi signed its first contract with SunRice, supplying around 600 tons from 75 hectares. Just one year later, this expanded fourfold to about 2,500 tons from nearly 300 hectares, all fully compliant with MRL standards.

Beyond its members, the cooperative also supports contract farming for another 600 hectares of non-member farms, supplying close to 5,000 tons to SunRice and other buyers. Altogether, nearly 9,800 tons of fresh paddy were delivered to the SunRice mill under cooperative management, ensuring traceability and strict pre-harvest sampling.

For farmers, the benefits are clear. They now earn 200–300 VND/kg more — adding up to about 25% more in overall profits. The cooperative also enforces internal control regulations and owns testing equipment, enabling members to verify rice quality before delivery. Together, these improvements and centralised collection reduce losses and risks, boosting farmers' confidence and market credibility.

Project team visited SunRice's Lap Vo Mill in Dong Thap Province during the End of Project Review, December 2025. Photo: ACIAR.

Women taking the lead

When joining the project in 2022, the cooperative had 30% women members; by early 2025, women accounted for 35% of its 75 members, with more waiting to join. Women now play key roles in supervising production, managing records, weighing paddy, and liaising with buyers. Training in management, health care, household economics, and financial analysis has both attracted more women and delivered tangible benefits.

Women have strengthened transparency in cooperative transactions, applied household health and nutrition practices to improve family well-being, and managed family finance capital more effectively for production investments. These outcomes reflect the project's strong commitment to Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI).

Scaling up sustainably

Hiep Loi plans to expand contract farming to 300-350 hectares for members and over 750 hectares for external farmers. It will establish a local advisory centre and input supply hub for safe and bio-pesticides, and formalise a three-party model linking cooperatives, enterprises, and universities. In this model, enterprises guarantee markets, universities provide research and technical support, and cooperatives organise farmers and farming practices. This structure is attractive to farmers because it ensures stable buyers, fairer prices, and access to better farming knowledge and services.

A model that travels

Hiep Loi's journey from a traditional rice group to a trusted supplier for global markets offers a replicable model for the Mekong Delta and beyond. With the right training, market access, and recognition, smallholders can move beyond production to become valued partners in premium global value chains.

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Tackling citrus greening is a top priority for Vietnam's citrus industry

By Nguyen Van Liem.
ACIAR Project: HORT/2023/179

An ACIAR-funded initiative led by the Plant Protection Research Institute has identified key research priorities for the sustainable development of the citrus industry in Vietnam. The project's findings are a critical step toward saving this vital industry and benefiting thousands of smallholder growers.

A vanishing industry

Vietnam's citrus industry, a vital part of the country's fruit sector, is facing a severe nationwide crisis. With nearly a quarter of the nation's total fruit tree area dedicated to citrus, this decline has a strong impact on the economy. A new project, funded by ACIAR, was launched in 2024 to investigate the root causes and find solutions for everyone involved, especially the smallholder farmers whose livelihoods depend on these crops.

A survey conducted by the project in 2024 revealed the problem scale: citrus orchards are rapidly declining across the country, with up to 45,000 hectares already degraded. Over the past few years, thousands of hectares of citrus trees have been cut down and replaced with other

Fruits in a traditional market in Vietnam. Photo: ACIAR.

Mr. Myles Parker and Mr. Andrew Creek from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development of New South Wales, Australia, surveying an orange farm in Phu Tho Province. Photo: Nguyen Van Liem.

crops. This trend has caused significant concern for farmers and local agriculture officers who are desperate for solutions to stop the decline and restore the orchards.

Investigating the causes

In 2024, a team of Vietnamese and Australian experts set out to find the root causes of the decline. They travelled to major citrus-growing regions, from the northern provinces of Tuyen Quang and Phu Tho to Nghe An in the central coast and the Mekong Delta.

The team collected samples of soil, water and pest. They also held discussion with growers, technical officers and managers of local agriculture management authorities to understand their daily struggles and aspirations for the future. By combining this on-the-ground investigation with an analysis of data from various sources, the study provided a complete and thorough perspective on the problem.

The researchers found a mix of issues contributing to the decline, including poor quality seedlings, degraded soil health and improper nutrient management, unsuitable farming techniques, and especially pest and diseases.

Tackling the biggest threat

Of all the problems identified, the citrus greening disease (also known as Huanglongbing), was found to be the most significant cause of the decline. This disease is considered the most serious threat to citrus worldwide. Its symptoms were found in every region surveyed in Vietnam.

Lab analysis confirmed the severity of the problem. More than 50% of the leaf samples collected from orchards tested positive for citrus greening. The disease is spreading fast, and all experts involved in the project agreed that fighting it must be the top priority.

To effectively and sustainably manage citrus greening in Vietnam, future research needs to focus on:

1. A comprehensive pest management program tailored for Vietnam's specific conditions.
2. Developing disease-resistant citrus varieties.
3. Improving the system for producing and supplying disease-free seedlings to farmers.

This project, and the vital research collaboration between Vietnam and Australia, has laid a foundational evidence base for future essential research to save the significant industry and secure livelihoods for thousands of smallholder farmers.

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New project to help Vietnam's fruit farmers go digital and reach high-value markets

ACIAR Project: AGB/2022/114

Mango and dragon fruit sold in a local wet market in Northwest Vietnam. Photo: Project team.

Our previous research shows that customers value quality and safety in fresh produce. Trusted information about product integrity, including certification, brand names, and production region is important in building trust.

Professor Gordon Rogers from AHR

A new ACIAR-funded project launched to help smallholder fruit farmers in Northwest Vietnam adopt digital tools, an important step to escape volatile markets and reach high-value customers. The move is driven by the rapid expansion of fruit production in the region which has led to oversupply, causing prices to drop by as much as 50% and pushing many farmers' returns below their production costs.

The 4-year, A$2.34 million project, led by Australia's Applied Horticulture Research (AHR) in partnership with Vietnam' Fruit and Vegetable Research Institute (FAVRI), focuses on dragon fruits, mangoes and longans and aims to equip growers with the digital tools they need to prove their compliance with the Vietnamese Good Agricultural Practices (VietGAP).

The project team will also help farmers improve the quality and consistency of the fruit they supply to these markets, opening access to premium domestic and export markets that demand food safety, product quality and reliable traceability. Notably, Vietnam is the 3rd largest exporter of vegetables and fruits, including mango, dragon fruit and longans, for Australia.

This new effort builds on solid evidence from decade-long ACIAR-funded projects on safe vegetables value chain and digital traceability, which helped Northwest vegetables growers increase their net income 15-fold and secure contracts with modern retailers in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam.

'Our previous research shows that customers value quality and safety in fresh produce. Trusted information about product integrity, including certification, brand names, and production region is important in building trust,' said Professor Gordon Rogers from AHR, the project leader.

'A simple QR code linking to this product information can open new, highly profitable retail markets for our farmers.'

The project will identify the specific quality requirements of modern retail markets in Hanoi and then work directly with farmers to improve traceability, post-harvest handling, and cool-chain practices. Farmers will test and apply affordable, easy-to-use digital tools to replace paper-based records, helping to cut costs, and reduce post-harvest losses.

'Once farmers can successfully supply these high-value domestic markets, we will support them in exploring export opportunities,' said Professor Rogers.

Dr Jack Hetherington, ACIAR Research Program Manager, Agribusiness, said 'This project builds on two decades of ACIAR investment to develop resilient agri-food chains in Vietnam's Northwest, where smallholders are empowered to access high-value markets. We are confident this partnership will help raise the business profile of the Northwest fruit sector and sustainably impact the livelihoods of the thousands of smallholder farmers, who produce 20,000 hectares of mangoes in the region'.

Dr Nguyen Quoc Hung from FAVRI, who coordinates field research, added: 'Digitalisation is central to Vietnam agriculture's future aspiration. But it requires strong digital readiness. This research collaboration will build the capacity Vietnam needs to catch the digital wave in agriculture.'

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Mangos and dragon fruits in Vietnam's modern retail market.

Photo: ACIAR

Traders are the 'glue' making Vietnam's beef supply chains inclusive

By Le Thi Thanh Huyen and Stephen Ives
ACIAR Project: AGB/2020/189

Mrs Anh is a fodder trader in Nghe An Province. On any given day, she's out collecting sugarcane tops, elephant grass and corn, depending on the season, to sell to local beef farms and companies. But what she does is more than selling feed. She is also a crucial connector, helping farmers access credit, improved sugarcane varieties and livestock training.

'Feed is more than just grass or maize, it's a lifeline for farmers and their cattle. If I can keep it flowing year-round, everyone benefits,' said Mrs Anh.

Mrs Anh's role in the supply chain exemplifies the focus of an ACIAR-supported project entitled 'Integrating smallholder households and farm production systems into commercial beef supply chains Vietnam'. It aims to help Vietnam's smallholder cattle farmers participate in a modern and equitable beef supply chain. The project is led by a strong partnership between Australia and Vietnam, through the University of Tasmania, National Institute of Animal Science, Center for Rural Development in Vietnam, Vietnam National

Collecting elephant grass in Nghe An Province. Photo: Han Anh Tuan, NIAS.

University of Agriculture, and private company FocusGroupGo Asia Pacific will also play a role.

The challenge facing smallholder farmers

While Vietnam imports more than half of its beef, small-scale family farms still provide a significant portion of the domestic supply. These farms are crucial for both food security and rural livelihoods. Yet, they face major challenges that go beyond farming techniques. They struggle with seasonal shortages and depend on low-nutrition feed like untreated rice straw. Weak market connections make it difficult to find buyers, and high transportation and storage costs cut into their profits. Since many smallholder farmers work alone, it's difficult for them to secure good deals or long-term contracts.

The unsung heroes

The project's research, conducted in Hưng Yên, Quảng Trị, Nghệ An, and Thanh Hóa Provinces, has uncovered a surprising truth about traders like Mrs Anh: they are not middlemen to be cut out of the equation. They act as crucial service providers. They negotiate contracts, extend credit, share market information, and connect farms to feed sources. For many farmers, these informal relationships are what keep their business running.

As one provincial livestock officer explained: 'Without traders, many smallholders would struggle to sell their cattle or source quality feed. They are the glue holding the chain together.'

Collecting sugar cane tops in Nghe An Province. Photo provided by project team.

Collecting sugar cane tops in Nghe An Province. Photo provided by project team.

A path to more stable future

Successful small-scale farmers require more than just technical upgrades. They need stronger organisation and market connections. While larger farms may be more economically viable, smallholders can improve their position through better governance and organisation.

The current 'market-based' governance, built on informal relationships, leaves smallholders vulnerable to price volatility. Cooperative models could help, but they face barriers like low trust, limited management skills, and weak policy support.

Building equitable supply chains means creating a future where even the smallest producers can meaningfully engage with larger enterprises, share the value and contribute to the sustainable growth of Vietnam's beef sector. It requires inclusive approaches that recognise the diverse capacities and constraints of rural households and ensure that no one is left behind.

About the project

The project 'Integrating smallholder households and farm production systems into commercial beef supply chains in Vietnam' is a collaborative initiative between Australian and Vietnamese institutions. It aims to enhance the participation of smallholder farmers in inclusive and commercially viable beef value chains. The research team is investigating and testing best practices and business models that enable smallholders and commercial stakeholders to work together in mutually beneficial and sustainable ways, helping improve farmers' livelihoods and the industry's productivity.

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Feeding the future: Can Vietnam's grouper farmers shift from trash fish to more sustainable feed?

By Simon K Das, Pham Duy Hai, Nguyen Van Nguyen, and Leo Nankervis
ACIAR Project: FIS/2022/148

Vietnam's southern coastline is thriving with the promise of hybrid grouper farming. These fast growing, disease-resistant fish are becoming a key focus of the country's marine aquaculture sector. But behind this success lies a hidden challenge: what they're being fed.

Most farmers rely on 'trash fish'—small, low-value species like scad and sardines that are fed whole or chopped up, at around 50–60 kg per 1,000 groupers daily. While this traditional practice is cheap, it is inefficient and unsustainable. It takes up to 10 kilograms of trash fish to produce just one kilogram of grouper, creating waste and environmental strain. The supply is also unreliable, with frequent shortages during monsoon season.

Gaining traction for a more sustainable solution

A new ACIAR-supported project, led by James Cook University and Vietnam's Research Institute for Aquaculture No.2 (RIA 2), is helping farmers

A grouper farm in Khanh Hoa Province. Photo provided by project team.

find a better path. Researchers from RIA 2 surveyed 21 small and medium hybrid grouper farms in Ba Ria Vung Tau, Kien Giang, and Ca Mau Provinces. This has confirmed the reliance on trash fish but also revealed a growing interest in pellet feeds as a sustainable alternative. These manufactured pellets are more efficient, reduce water pollution, and lower disease risk.

But the road to adoption is rocky. Farmers worry about high pellet prices, the extra effort needed for weaning fish to accept them and the fact that most commercial feeds are not specifically designed for nutritional need of hybrid groupers.

The survey also highlighted the crucial role women play in this industry. They are often the primary workers, handling the day-to-day tasks of chopping and distributing trash fish. They also help purchase feed and manage household budgets, giving them significant stake in feed-related decisions. Empowering these women with targeted training and extension services is essential for any successful shift toward a new feeding method.

The future starts today

The good news is that farmers are willing to change if they get the right support, including training, access to affordable, high-quality pellets, and practical demonstrations.

The project is already conducting on-farm feeding trials to create a custom pellet formulation for hybrid grouper. These trials aim to improve feed palatability, growth performance, and economic viability. Early results are promising, with some formulas showing better acceptance and growth rate than existing commercial options.

The transition won't happen overnight, but a more profitable and environmentally friendly future is within reach. By developing affordable, high-quality pellets and providing practical training, researchers and farmers can work together to ensure Vietnam's grouper farming sector is both resilient and sustainable for years to come.

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Researchers surveyed hybrid grouper farms in 2024. Photo: APOTEC, RIA 2.

Critical loss points in Pangasius value chain revealed

By Nguyen Thi Bich Hien, Tran My Huyen, Vo Tat Thang, Trinh Thi Lan, Tong Yen Dan and Nguyen Van Kien
ACIAR Project: CS/2020/209

Inside a catfish processing factory in Vietnam. Photo: ACIAR

A research project, co-funded by ACIAR and IRDC, has conducted a systematic review analysing 19 studies and provided the first comprehensive assessment of food loss and waste throughout the Pangasius (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*) value chain, offering crucial insights for improving efficiency across the Mekong region.

The research partners include Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, the University of Economics HCM City, the University of New England, Swinburne University, University of Adelaide, the Australian National University, An Giang University – Vietnam National University, Cambodia's Royal University of Agriculture and Laos' National University, as well as leading Pangasius processing and export enterprises in Vietnam.

This mixed-methods systematic review examined food losses from production to consumption stages. The findings reveal significant opportunities for intervention that could transform both farmer livelihoods and industry sustainability.

Three critical loss hotspots identified

The research team identified three primary areas where losses reach concerning levels. At the production stage, technical efficiency is low and physical losses during grow-out range from 30-50%. Environmental challenges proved particularly

Photo: ACIAR

significant, with combined effects of low water pH and high salinity creating mortality rates up to 80%. Bacterial diseases, in particular, can cause high mortality rates, leading to major economic setbacks for farmers.

Processing emerged as the most significant loss stage, requiring 2.8 kg of raw material to produce 1 kg of commercial fillet, representing a 65% loss. The industry also fails to effectively use about half of all by-products, representing 276,000 tonnes of untapped potential annually.

Distribution losses occur primarily through cold chain instability, with spoilage a major concern when temperatures fluctuate during transport.

However, the research identified promising intervention strategies. Adding seaweed extract or using probiotic supplements, for instance, has dramatically increased survival rates and improved fish growth. Similarly, optimising logistics can significantly reduce losses and spoilage of aquatic products during harvest and sale.

Untapped by-product potential

The research highlighted significant opportunities in by-product utilisation. Given annual production exceeding 300,000 tons, Vietnam could potentially accumulate over 69,000-81,000 tons of Pangasius bones annually as raw material for high-value products like gelatine. However, overall utilisation rates achieve only 48% of potential, indicating substantial room for improvement.

Building regional research capacity and future directions

Beyond immediate findings, this project enhanced research capacity across Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. The study developed an innovative integrated analysis matrix combining FAO's food loss classification framework with comprehensive value chain analysis.

The systematic review identified important knowledge gaps. While most research has focused on economic and physical losses, critical areas like nutritional losses, distribution and consumption have received far less attention.

These findings provide essential evidence for policymakers working to enhance food security while reducing environmental impacts. With Pangasius playing a crucial role in regional food security, these research outcomes provide a science-based roadmap for building more efficient, sustainable value chains that benefit stakeholders from production to consumption.

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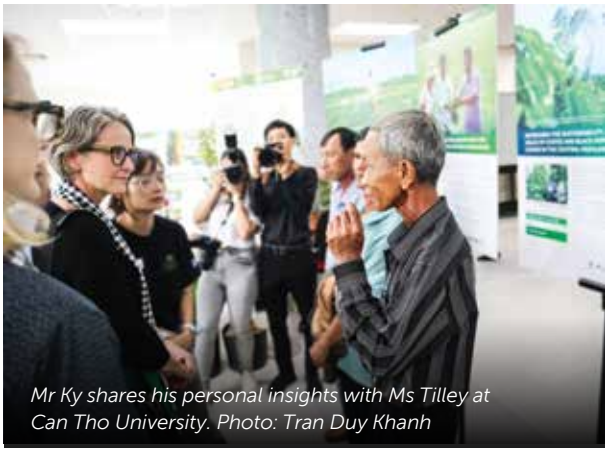
Turning salt into success: an engineer-turned-farmer's story

By Tran Duy Khanh
ACIAR project: SLAM/2018/144



Mr Ky shares his personal insights with Ms Tilley at Can Tho University. Photo: Tran Duy Khanh

After more than two decades in the construction sector, civil engineer Le Thanh Ky made a life-changing choice. In 2012, he returned to his rural roots in Vinh Long Province (formerly Soc Trang) and took up farming. Drawing on his mechanical background, Mr Ky designed and built his own farm machinery, cutting labour costs and boosting productivity. But as coastal salinity intrusion worsened and dry seasons grew harsher, his innovation was challenged. He asked 'What can we grow if we can't grow rice in the dry season?'.

That question led him to the project 'Farmer options for Crops under saline conditions' in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam (FOCUS), funded by ACIAR. Through training and close collaboration with Australian and Vietnamese agriculture experts, he learned how to assess soil and water salinity, improve soil health, and experiment with alternative crops suitable for saline and drought-prone conditions.

One of the most promising solutions introduced was beetroot (Beta vulgaris), a salt-tolerant, short-cycle crop that could grow in off-season paddy fields. Although beetroot was unfamiliar in the local context, Mr Ky embraced the challenge. In the 2025 dry season, he planted it on previously fallow land. With careful soil preparation and efficient irrigation, the beetroot thrived, using little water yet delivering encouraging yields. To further build resilience, he also intercropped with other short-cycle vegetables, helping diversify his income while enriching the soil.

'You don't have to wait for perfect conditions. Start with what you have,' Ky said.

Mr Ky's story goes beyond personal adaptation. He has actively shared his knowledge with agricultural researchers and policymakers. At the Australian Alumni Climate Change Symposium held at Can Tho University in April 2024, he met with Ms Kristin Tilley, the Australian Ambassador for Climate Change, where he confidently shared his insights and commitment to sustainable change.

His journey shows how knowledge and innovation can empower farmers. With access to training, support to experiments, and close collaboration with scientists, farmers can become true agents of change in building climate-resilient agriculture. The FOCUS project will continue working with farmers like Mr Ky to scale up these solutions, paving the way for a resilient future in the Mekong Delta.

Dr Dang Duy Minh, lecturer at Can Tho University (first from left), discusses beetroot and soil management practices with Mr Ky (second from left). Photo: Tran Duy Khanh.

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Photo: ACIAR.

ACIAR Vietnam Alumni 2025 Annual Meeting

The 2025 ACIAR Vietnam Alumni Meeting, held in Da Nang on 4–5 August 2025, created a valuable space for connection, learning and collaboration. Designed as a dynamic and participatory event, the program revolved around three themes: Re-connect, Re-charge and Re-imagine. This captured the spirit of the ACIAR alumni community.

A highlight of the meeting was the panel discussion titled 'Strengthening collaboration with ACIAR and alumni in agricultural research, innovation and development'. The session brought together Ms Sarah Hooper (Australian Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City), Dr Kim Wimbush (CSIRO Counsellor), Dr Suzie Newman (ACIAR General Manager for Partnerships) and Dr Nguyen Van Bo (ACIAR Policy Advisory Council member). Their conversation explored ways to deepen cooperation in agricultural research, food systems innovation and digital transformation.

Speakers agreed that strong, multi-stakeholder partnerships are crucial to tackling complex agricultural challenges. The broad Australian Awards Schorlarships (AAS) alumni community, including ACIAR's one, was recognised as an important bridge between research, education and business. They connect communities, enterprises and policy makers so that research addresses real-world needs and delivers practical impact.

The discussion also reaffirmed the importance of capacity development through fellowships, training and skill-building for both researchers and farmers to sustain innovation and drive long-term change.

Looking ahead, proposed collaboration opportunities between ACIAR and alumni for 2025–26 showed strong enthusiasm for joint research, co-investment and cross-sector partnerships focusing on climate change, digital transformation and sustainable agrifood systems. Alumni feedback revealed a shared vision for practical, inclusive and scalable solutions that combine alumni expertise, local networks and ACIAR's global partnerships to deliver meaningful results.

Field visits to Tra Que and Cam Thanh villages in Quang Nam province brought these ideas to life. Participants saw how community-based collaboration, cooperative leadership and

Alumni visiting eco-tourism and agriculture Tra Que and Cam Thanh villages in Hoi An. Photo: ACIAR.

innovation are helping local farmers strengthen climate resilience, diversify incomes and preserve cultural heritage through agri-tourism. Reflections from the visits highlighted the need to build digital skills, branding, e-commerce and cooperative management capacity, particularly for young and aging farmers.

Alumni also called for long-term, multi-stakeholder collaboration that connects public, private and community actors to ensure digital transformation and AI deliver tangible benefits for Vietnam's food system. Priorities included localising technologies for different agro-ecological conditions, improving digital literacy among farmers, youth and women, and piloting projects in disadvantaged areas to demonstrate impact. Together, these ideas point to policy-aligned approach where ACIAR can leverage its networks and expertise to link technological innovation with practical and scalable adoption across Vietnam's agriculture and food systems.

As the meeting concluded, all participants, including the invited AAS alumni, looked ahead with energy and commitment. Many alumni expressed interest in contributing to the 2026 gathering, offering to share research, lead technical discussions, facilitate sessions and support logistics. Research topics ranged from sustainable agriculture and forestry to the use of AI in timber identification, reflecting the breadth of alumni expertise and their passion for knowledge sharing.

The 2025 ACIAR Vietnam Alumni Meeting truly embodied the spirit of Re-connect, Re-charge and Re-imagine, showcasing an engaged community of changemakers committed to advancing Vietnam's sustainable and innovative agricultural future.

Meet our JAF Fellows

ACIAR is excited to welcome our newest John Allwright Fellows to our global research network. We look forward to supporting their learning journeys in Australia and can't wait to see the impact they will bring back to Vietnam's agricultural research and development.

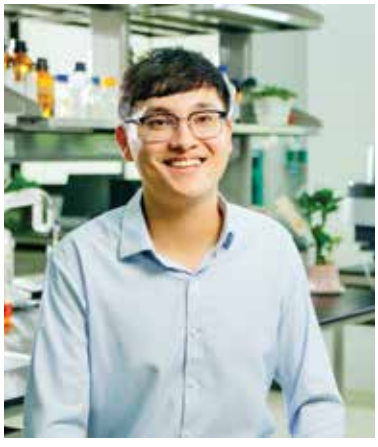
Đặng Nhật Quang

Master by Research in Agricultural Science, University of Tasmania

Hi, I'm Quang. I graduated from the Vietnam National University of Agriculture with a degree in Animal Science and have been working as a researcher at National Institute of Animal Sciences (NIAS), contributing to ACIAR projects for about seven years.

My master's research, supervised by Associate Professor Dr Stephen Ives and Dr Apeh Omede, looks at ways to reduce methane emissions from cattle.

Studying in Australia means a lot to me. It's a chance to learn from great mentors, connect with others in my field, and bring back knowledge to improve livestock production in Vietnam.



Cao Đình An Giang

PhD candidate, Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga

Hi, I'm Giang. I'm a researcher at Can Tho University and have been involved with the ACIAR-funded FOCUS project since 2020.

My PhD research looks at soil microbial interactions and how they affect greenhouse gas emissions and soil health across different rice systems in the Mekong River Delta.

This fellowship gives me the chance to strengthen my research and leadership skills, collaborate with leading scientists, and contribute to Vietnam's goal of sustainable, low-emission rice production.

Đặng Thị Lan Anh

Master by Research, University of Tasmania

Hi, I'm Lan Anh. I'm a Project Coordinator at the Center for Rural Development in Central Vietnam (CRD), where I've spent over a decade promoting gender equality and sustainable livelihoods for rural and ethnic minority communities.

My master's research explores how gender-transformative approaches can empower women in cattle farming and strengthen their climate resilience.

This fellowship is more than a degree for me. It's an opportunity to deepen my research and policy skills, connect with experts globally, and bring home insights that support inclusive, climate-resilient rural development and women's leadership in Vietnam's agricultural sector.

Interview with a researcher

Meet Ms Bui Chuc Ly, Head of Planning Department, Centre for Agricultural Breeds and Extension of Soc Trang Province.

From rice paddies to PhD research, Ms Ly embodies the new generation of Vietnamese agricultural leaders, bridging science and local realities. Her journey with the ACIAR-funded Sustainable Mekong Rice Value Chain project shows how collaboration and curiosity can drive real change in rural communities.

Hello Ms Ly! Could you introduce yourself to ACIAR readers?

Hello! My name is Bui Chuc Ly, and I'm the Head of the Planning Department at the Centre for Agricultural Breeds and Extension of Soc Trang Province. I'm also pursuing a PhD in rural development at Can Tho University, exploring opportunities for Mekong Delta farmers to adopt sustainable rice practices to improve their livelihoods and adapt to climate change.

How did you join the Sustainable Mekong Rice Value Chain project? What do you like most about it?

In 2020, Soc Trang suffered a severe drought and saltwater intrusion that devastated our rice fields. Seeing farmers' losses firsthand pushed me to look for solutions for sustainable and climate-resilient rice production.

When I began my PhD study at Can Tho University in 2022, I started the idea of researching sustainable rice value chain with the hope of applying it to Soc Trang. This was

also the starting point for me to join the ACIAR-funded Sustainable Mekong Rice Value Chain project. I work with fellow PhD students from the University of Queensland to study the rice value chain in the Mekong Delta and help farmers apply Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) standards.

What I love most is working directly with farmers and other actors in the value chain, learning from their native experiences and helping them test new fertilisers, improve input use, and apply SRP standards.

What is the most important lesson you learned from the project? What experience or skill did you learn from the project and apply it to your work and life?

The biggest lesson I have learned is that real change only happens when people work together, like a rice chain is formed with the participation and connection of many different actors. Through this project, I have seen companies, research institutes, universities and the local agricultural officers collaborate to achieve a shared goal.

I have also learned a lot from Dr Jaquie Mitchell, the project leader. She has persistently aligned partners' different interests toward consensus. Her example has helped me in managing my team and improve collaboration with other departments in my centre.

Could you tell us about your PhD research?

My research is titled 'Assessing the feasibility of SRP standard in rice cultivation in the Mekong Delta'. I have analysed the feasibility of the SRP standard in many different aspects, from farmer readiness and policy landscape, to the market needs.

The findings have highlighted the suitability and what adjustments are needed to ensure applicability. I've also proposed specific solutions to promote the expansion of SRP application, contributing to enhancing economic efficiency, livelihoods and developing sustainable rice for the Mekong Delta.

Can you share a happy memory when participating in the project?

The memory that I remember most is the first time I visited the field of Mr. Do, Director of Hiep Loi Cooperative. To reach his rice plot, we had to cross the canal on a small homemade raft and I almost fell into the canal! This always made me worried when visiting the experiment there.

But when I returned one year later, the cooperative built an iron bridge across the canal. This symbolised increase income and the consensus among members, where everyone agreed to create a bridge to help farmers in the neighbourhood travel safely and conveniently. This is a beautiful impression and memory for me about the farmers here.

Researchers and farmers work together on the field. Photo provided by the project team.

Interview with a farmer

Meet Mr Trinh Thanh Danh, Chairman of Hiep Loi Agricultural Cooperative in My Thanh Commune, An Giang Province.

From a small group of farmers in An Giang Province, Hiep Loi Cooperative has grown into a trusted supplier of high-quality Japonica rice for international markets. The cooperative's story is a vivid example of how farmers in the Mekong Delta can thrive when integrated into high-value rice value chains. This transformation has been made possible through the Sustainable Mekong Rice project, co-funded by ACIAR and SunRice.

What do you like most about participating in the project?

What I like most is that the project has created a truly effective value chain, helping our cooperative to collaborate with SunRice. Thanks to that, our farmers have stable market access and better value for their rice.

What is the most important thing you have learned from the project?

We have learned a great deal from the project's training activities, from farm management, field demonstrations, management of pesticide residues to women's health sessions. After each training, I share the lessons with our cooperative members so we can apply them together. As the benefits became clear, more and more farmers in the community also joined us.

What are Hiep Loi Cooperative's development plans?

We plan to continue expanding our market. The past year has seen many positive results, and we hope to keep working with the project to grow further. We also look forward to participating in new initiatives, such as developing OCOP products and exploring opportunities in the carbon credit market.

Can you share a memorable moment from your participation in the project?

One memorable experience is when the project holds its annual meeting. Many local farmers join us on that occasion, creating a lively and cheerful atmosphere. It's not just a meeting but also a valuable opportunity for networking, learning, and strengthening community bonds.

Do you have anything further to share?

I hope the project will continue to expand into new activities, especially in supporting rice straw management and guiding farmers to produce low-emission rice aligning with the government's 'One million hectares of high-quality, low-emission rice' program. I believe that collaboration between the project, cooperatives, and farmers will become even more effective and sustainable in the years ahead.

Farewell to An and welcome to Nam Anh as ACIAR Vietnam Country Manager

Ms An at her farewell dinner with valued ACIAR's partners in Vietnam. Photo: ACIAR

Ms An handed over the role of ACIAR Vietnam Country Manager to Mr Tran Nam Anh at the ACIAR-Vietnam Partnership Dialogue in Sydney, August 2025. Photo: ACIAR.

After 17 years of dedicated service to ACIAR Vietnam, Ms Nguyen Thi Thanh An has completed her tenure as Country Manager, with Mr Tran Nam Anh now taking forward the partnership she helped build.

Nam Anh has been part of the ACIAR Vietnam team for seven years as Assistant Country Manager and now takes on the role of Country Manager. We warmly congratulate him and wish him every success in this new chapter.

Over nearly two decades, An has been at the heart of building a strong and enduring ACIAR–Vietnam partnership—one that has grown deeper and more impactful over time. The presence of so many ACIAR partners and alumni at her farewell dinner, including leaders from Vietnam's most respected agricultural research institutions, speaks volumes about the trust and collaboration she has helped foster.

An played a pivotal role in strengthening the foundation of this partnership. She contributed to shaping the 10-Year ACIAR–Vietnam Strategy and advancing key Memoranda of Understanding—between ACIAR and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (now the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment), and with the Ministry of Science and Technology. These agreements continue to serve as cornerstones of an effective, equal, and long-term collaboration between Australia and Vietnam.

An's professionalism, leadership, and unwavering commitment have left a legacy. Her outstanding contribution was recognised by the Australian Government with the Public Service Medal, a prestigious honour. But perhaps the greatest testament to her impact is the deep respect, pride, and affection she inspires among her colleagues and partners.

Welcome New ACIAR Staff

We are delighted to welcome several new colleagues who have recently joined ACIAR in Canberra. Some are familiar faces who have worked closely with Vietnam for years, while others are bringing new expertise and perspectives to our community. Their work connects deeply with ACIAR's collaboration with Vietnam and across the region.

Dr Suzie Newman – *General Manager, Partnerships*

Dr Suzie Newman leads ACIAR's Partnerships team, overseeing multilateral and strategic collaborations, impact evaluation, and outreach. Before joining ACIAR, she founded and led the International Development Unit at New Zealand's Plant and Food Research. With a strong background in agribusiness and horticultural research, Suzie brings deep international development experience from government and academic sectors. From 2009 to 2016, she was based in Hanoi leading ACIAR-funded projects in Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

Dr Steven Crimp – *Research Director*

Joining ACIAR from the Australian National University's Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions, Dr Crimp brings rich experience in climate risk management for primary industries. His research has explored practical solutions for farmers and agri-businesses in Australia and around the world, helping improve resilience to climate variability.

Dr Ingrid Van Putten – *Research Director*

Dr Ingrid Van Putten comes to ACIAR from CSIRO, where she led research in marine and fisheries management across Australia, the Pacific, Asia, South America and Africa. With a PhD in Economics and a Master of Environmental Studies from the University of Tasmania, she brings extensive experience in economics and an interest in applying behavioural science, and natural resource management. She has published more than 180 peer-reviewed papers and serves as topic editor for several journals.

Dr Leigh Vial – *Research Program Manager, Crops*

Dr Leigh Vial joined ACIAR in 2025 as Research Program Manager for Crops. Leigh has worn many hats—farmer, researcher, and board director—combining practical and academic experience across the region. He has led ACIAR projects in Lao PDR and Timor-Leste, managed the Experiment Station at the International Rice Research Institute, and earned a PhD from the University of Queensland focusing on diversified rice systems in Laos.

Dr Sandra McDougall – *Acting Research Program Manager, Horticulture*

Dr McDougall's career began with a passion for agroecology during her studies at the Australian National University, leading her to a PhD at UC Berkeley. For nearly three decades, she has worked in integrated pest management and crop research with New South Wales (NSW) Department of Primary Industries, collaborating closely with farmers to develop practical solutions. She joined ACIAR in August 2024, bringing deep expertise and field-based insight to our horticulture program.

Dr Johnvie Goloran – *Research Program Manager, Soil and Land Management*

Dr Johnvie Goloran brings a strong background in soil science and sustainable land management. He has worked with the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines and later led regenerative agriculture initiatives at Dole Sunshine Company. His work focuses on improving soil health and crop productivity as part of broader efforts toward carbon neutrality and sustainable farming systems. He has a PhD in soil sciences from Griffith University.

Dr Jack Hetherington – *Research Program Manager, Agribusiness*

Dr Jack Hetherington joined ACIAR after several years at the University of Adelaide's Centre for Global Food and Resources, bringing extensive experience in food systems, agribusiness, and inclusive value chains. His work has taken him across Australia, the Asia–Pacific, and sub-Saharan Africa, exploring ways to deliver more nutritious diets with fewer resources. Jack previously served at ACIAR from 2015 to 2017, concluding as Agribusiness Program Coordinator.

Sticky Rice with Corn

Ingredients

200 g	glutinous rice
2 (150 g)	white corn
100 g	roasted peanuts
1 tsp	salt

Method

- Soak the glutinous rice into cold water for 3 hours. Shuck the corn.
- Boil water in a steamer pot for 10 minutes.
- Mix glutinous rice and corn with 1 teaspoon of salt.
- Place the mixture in the steamer pot. Steam for about 25 to 30 minutes or until it is cooked.
- Crush roasted peanuts gently in a mortar then mix well with salt.
- Place hot sticky rice on a plate and serve with the mixture of salt and roasted peanuts.

Recipe by Chef Nguyen Manh Hung
Photo: Vu Bao Khanh

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is part of Australia's international development cooperation program. Its mission is to achieve more productive and sustainable agricultural systems for the benefit of developing countries and Australia. ACIAR commissions collaborative research between Australian and developing-country researchers in areas where Australia has special research competence. ACIAR also administers Australia's contribution to the international agricultural research centres.

ACIAR Vietnam is one of the 11 country/regional offices and we have been active in Vietnam since 1993.

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