

**TOWARD PROMOTING
SUSTAINABLE SAFE
CROPS BY
STRENGTHENING
THE VALUE CHAIN**

The Project for Strengthening Safe Crop Value Chains in Northern Vietnam



Message



Dr. Le Quoc Thanh
Director General
National Agriculture
Extension Center

During the 50 years of cooperation between JICA and the Vietnamese government, many projects in the field of agricultural and rural development have been implementing. Many of them bring outstanding, meaningful and impactful effects on the economy, society and environment.

Currently, many provinces/cities in Vietnam have focused on sustainable agricultural production. This is an inevitable trend. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the capacity of participants in the production chain. I believe that the project “Strengthening Safe Crop Value Chains in Northern Vietnam” will continue to be a highlight in promoting sustainable crop production in the localities. The project supports staffs in the agricultural extension system, cooperatives and producers to access and develop quality and effective agricultural production models to meet the increasing demand for safe food in Vietnam.

As the focal organization of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in technology transfer, training, and model replication into production, the National Agricultural Extension Center implements the Project with the cooperation of JICA to promote sustainable agricultural production in Vietnam.

In Vietnam, the demand for safe and reliable food is increasing, especially among middle-income people in urban areas, due to rapid economic growth and rising incomes. On the other hand, the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers in agricultural production is increasing, and ensuring the safety of agricultural products has become an urgent issue. In order to ensure the safety of agricultural products, it is necessary to work on technical guidance on the proper use of pesticides and fertilizers, as well as inspect agricultural products and impose penalties on agricultural products that do not meet safety standards.

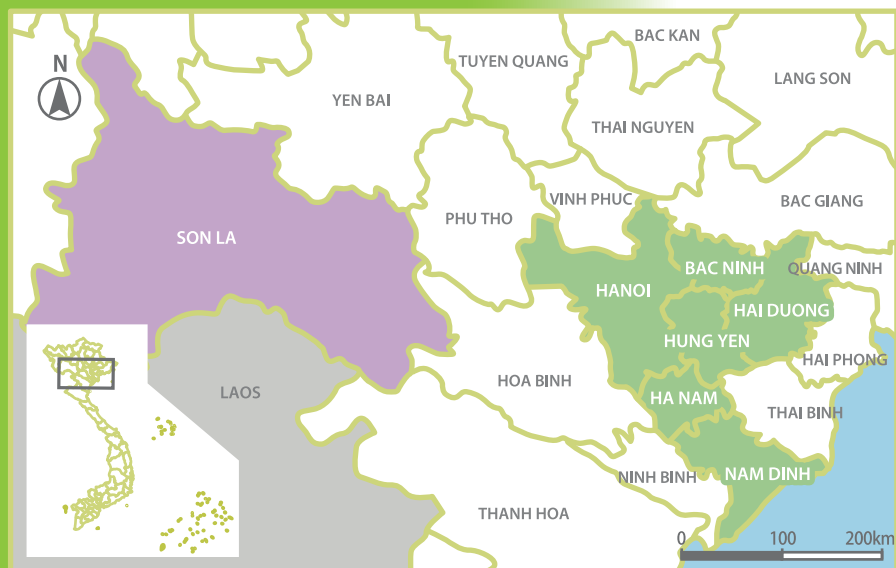
Through technical cooperation, JICA Project has been formulated and provided guidance on BasicGAP, which focuses on 26 items essential for safe crop cultivation, which is easy for farmers to practice and does not require certification costs. The Project developed sales channels for safe crops, promoted understanding of safe crops, and conducted awareness-raising activities aimed at consumers. As a result, the target farmer group’s safe crop cultivation technology has improved and the cultivation area has increased.

In this Project, in addition to guidance on appropriate cultivation techniques based on GAP and marketing, training for agricultural extension workers and supports, survey of market needs by the target agricultural cooperatives, formulation of cultivation plans, understanding of issues related to the promotion of safe crops, and formulation of action plans, the Project aims to strengthen the management capacity of agricultural cooperatives and to sustainably promote safe crop value chains. We hope that these efforts will contribute to the further promotion and development of Vietnamese agriculture.

Mr. Kubo Yoshitomo
Senior Representative,
JICA Vietnam



Project Overview



Project Purpose: Value chains of the safe crops (fruits/vegetables) are strengthened in the project area.

Implementation period: May 10, 2022 to May 9, 2026 (4 years)

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Agriculture Extension Center (NAEC)

Implementation structure: Central Project Management Unit (CPMU), City/Provincial Project Management Unit (Provincial Project Management Unit (PPMU) are established to be responsible for project implementation and management and activity monitoring.

Project area: 1 city and 6 provinces (Hanoi, Hung Yen, Ha Nam, Nam Dinh, Bac Ninh, Hai Duong, and Son La)

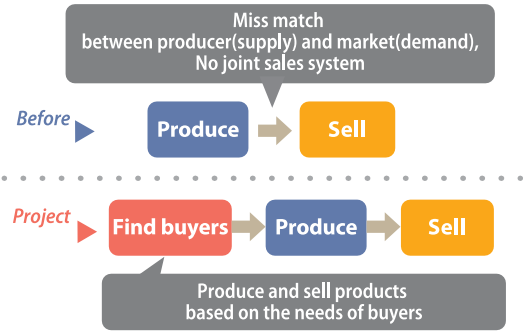
Project Approach

Market-oriented thinking, from “product-out” concept of “selling what you produced” , to “market-in” concept of “grow to sell” . Strengthen agricultural cooperative functions and improve management capabilities through the introduction of a joint sales system.

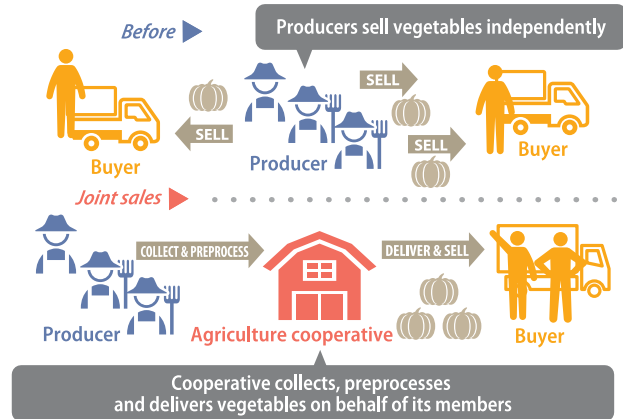
The Project aims to goal of promoting safe crops and it requires a wide range of guiding skills, including GAP and marketing, cultivation and post-harvest processing techniques based on needs, as well as management skills such as farm management planning and joint sales system construction. In the Project, by formulating a comprehensive training curriculum and manuals, we will support the creation of a mechanism that facilitates the extension workers' guidance to strengthen the management capacity of the target agricultural cooperatives.

Agricultural cooperatives acquire three important abilities. (1) sales ability to select buyers who evaluate safe crops and promote sales, (2) production ability to meet the needs of buyers, and (3) management ability such as production planning and joint sales. We aim to increase their profits by having the target agricultural cooperatives produce safe vegetables according to GAP and develop sales channels such as modern markets.

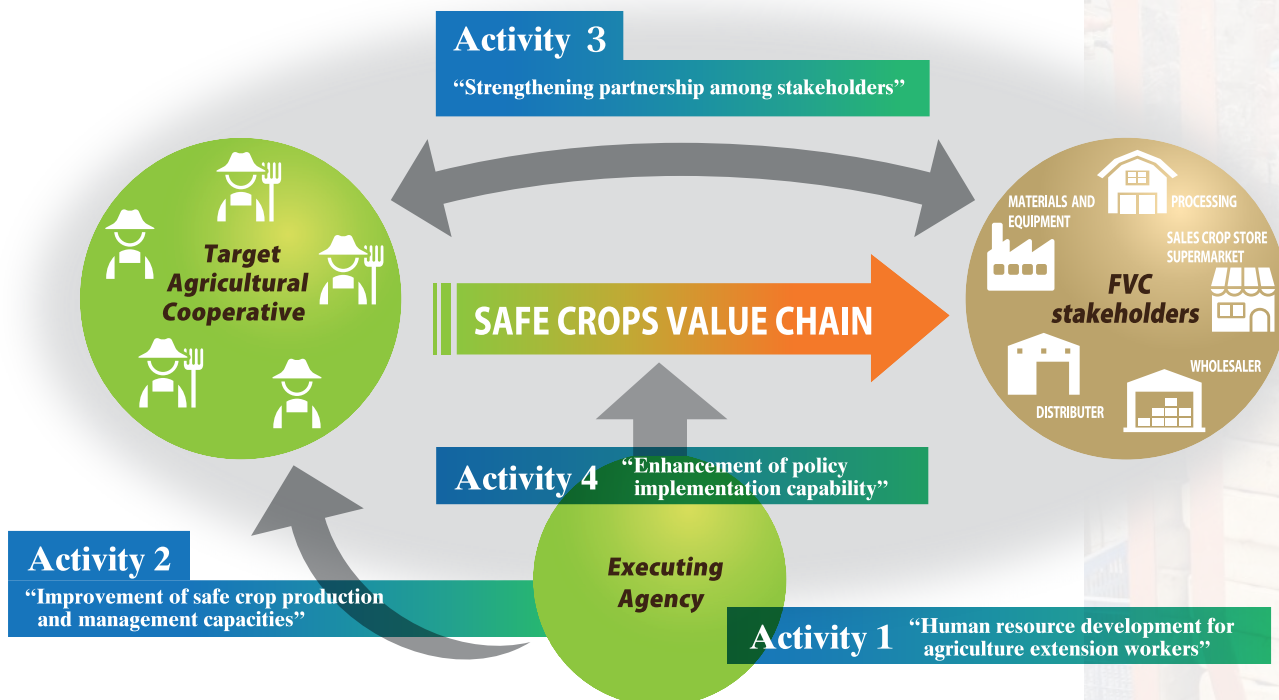
MARKET-ORIENTED AGRICULTURE, GROW TO SELL



INTRODUCTION OF JOINT SALES SYSTEM



Project Activity



Activity 1 “Human resource development to promote extension of safe crops”

The Project conducts technical training such as market needs survey, farming plan creation, GAP application, and organizational strengthening support. By creating manuals and teaching materials, human resources for the target City/Provincial Extension Center is to be developed and training guidance to the target agricultural cooperatives is to be provided.



“Improvement of safe crop production and management capacities of the target cooperatives”

Activity 2

Extension workers conduct training on market needs surveys for the target agricultural cooperatives.

The experience of the advanced agricultural cooperatives with other agricultural cooperatives is to be shared. Creation of farm management plan for safe crops, and guidance on safe crop cultivation techniques is to be supported for farmers.



Activity 3 “Strengthening partnership among value chain stakeholders”

The issues and lessons learned related to strengthening the value chain of safe crops are understood, shared, and disseminated. Extension workers make plans and implement activities to address the issues.



“Enhancement of policy implementation capability for ensuring food safety”

Activity 4

Stakeholders involved in the safe crops value chain create, implement, and monitor action plans based on Japan's experience in promoting safe crops.



Overview of Project target area

Hanoi city

- Agricultural Population: 605,108 ○ Number of agricultural cooperatives: 2,021
- Farmland area: 260,096ha of agricultural area, in which cultivating area of annual crops is about 228,568ha
- Safety certification area: 14,000ha of safe vegetables.
- Main agriculture products: rice, all kinds of winter vegetables, fruit trees such as orange, pomelo, banana, longan, guava, flowers and bonsai
- Production volume of main crops: food crops: more than 1 million tons; vegetables: more than 737,000 tons



Ha Nam Province

- Agricultural Population: 115,600 ○ Number of agricultural cooperatives: 256
- Farmland area: 50,704ha
- Safety certification area: 41.63ha of area with VietGAP certificate.
- Main agriculture products: Rice, corn, sweet potato, soybean, peanut, vegetables, banana, pumelo and longan
- Production volume of main crops: Rice 363.2 thousand tons; Corn 30 thousand tons; Sweet potato 4,837.9 tons; Soybean 1,110.6 tons; Peanut 1,218.7 tons; Vegetables 172.7 thousand tons; Banana 22.7 thousand tons; Pumelo 6.2 thousand tons and Longan 6.2 thousand tons



Hung Yen Province

- Agricultural Population: 47,800 ○ Number of agricultural cooperatives: 361
- Farmland area: Longan: 4,776ha; Litchi: 1,267ha; Banana: 2,735ha; Orange: 1,970 ha; Pumelo: 2,019ha; Rice: 53,653ha; Vegetables: 11,665,43ha
- Safety certification area: 3,737.308ha with VietGAP certificate.
- Main agriculture products: rice, longan, litchi, orange, pumelo and banana
- Production volume of main crops: Longan: 44,862 tons; Litchi: 12,874 tons; Banana: 72,985 tons; Orange: 35,594 tons; Pomelo: 30,582 tons; Rice: 339,086 tons and vegetables: 285,708 tons



Nam Dinh Province

- Agricultural Population: 302,519 ○ Number of agricultural cooperatives: 378
- Farmland area: 111,194ha ○ Safety certification area: 1,436ha of rice, 104ha of vegetables. In which 95ha of VietGAP.
- Main agriculture products: Rice, corn, sweet potato, soybean, peanut, vegetables, and beans
- Production volume of main crops: Rice: 874,029 tons; Corn: 15,361 tons; Peanut: 21,522 tons; Sweet potato: 10,652 tons; Vegetables: 263,910 tons; Soybean: 1,757 tons; Beans: 2,032 tons



Bac Ninh Province

- Agricultural Population: 88,400 ○ Number of agricultural cooperatives: 529
- Farmland area: Cultivating area of annual crops (rice, vegetables and industrial crops): 72,519.3 ha and perennials: 2,615.7 ha
- Safety certification area: 53.0 ha with certificate of safety conditions and 26.6ha of VietGAP vegetables.
- Main agriculture products: rice, corn, potato, peanut, soybean, vegetables
- Production volume of main crops: Rice 391,822.7 tons; corn 5,675.2 tons; potato 32,038.6 tons; peanut 1,324.4 tons; soybean 512.4 tons and vegetables 222,865.4 tons



Hai Duong Province

- Agricultural Population: 394,680 ○ Number of agricultural cooperatives: 377
- Farmland area: 106,577 ha ○ Safety certification area: 1,500ha of VietGAP and Global GAP and about 150ha following organic-oriented production.
- Main agriculture products: winter crop vegs such as cabbage, kohlrabi, mustard greens and all kinds of vegetables; food crops; fruit products including litchi, longan, bananas, oranges. In particular, Hai Duong's litchi has been exported to major markets around the world
- Production volume: 483,420 tons of vegetables (winter crop 2022)



Son La Province

- Agricultural Population: 377,000 ○ Number of agricultural cooperatives: 658
- Farmland area: cultivating area of annual crops: 216,775ha and perennials (including medlar): 113,589ha ○ Safety certification area: 5,917ha
- Main agriculture products: rice, corn, maize, sugar cane, rubber tree, fresh tea bud, coffee, fruits and medlar.
- Production volume of main crops: Rice: 209,813 tons; Corn: 313,382 tons; Cassava: 550,828 tons; Sugar cane: 681,588 tons; Rubber tree: 4,560 tons; Fresh tea bud: 54,045 tons; Coffee: 29,649 tons; Fruits and medlar: 362,140 tons



Project office: R. 601, 16 Thuy Khue St., Tay Ho Dist., Hanoi
 JICA Project website: <https://www.jica.go.jp/project/vietnam/063/index.html>
 NAEC HP: <https://khuyennongvn.gov.vn/>