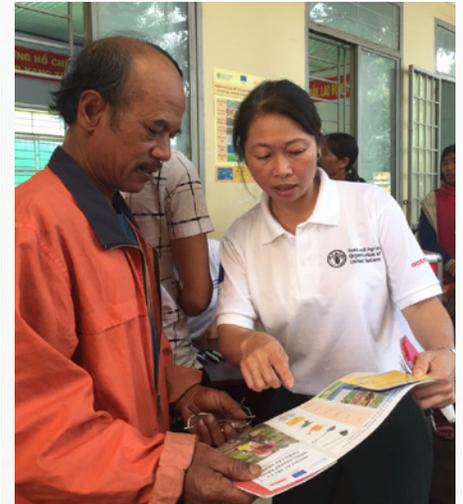




# FAO IN VIET NAM



**FAO strengthens resilience  
of Vietnamese farmers  
through EU funded project**

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Climate change affects the most vulnerable groups, and since 2015, farmers in Viet Nam have been no exception. Viet Nam was drastically affected by the impacts of El Nino in 2015-2016 with the regions of the Central Highlands, South Central Region and Mekong Delta experiencing their most severe drought for the past 90 years. As a result the government declared a state of emergency in 12 provinces during its peak time. The livelihoods of 1.75 million people were affected and over 660 000 ha of crops were severely damaged due to drought and salt water intrusion.

With the financial support from the EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Viet Nam, in collaboration with Action Aid Viet Nam (AAV), is rolling out the project 'Restoring food security and provide livelihood support to poor rural communities affected by the drought in the Central Highlands Region of Vietnam', which aims to assist 25 725 people in the central highlands with unconditional cash transfers, agricultural vouchers and post-harvest equipment. The project will also target an estimated 93 000 people in the Central Highlands and the Mekong Delta with extensive awareness raising activities through coordination and trainings to safeguard livelihoods of communities from potential climate change induced disasters.

As activities have been underway since September, delegates from ECHO, FAO Viet Nam and AAV visited the cash and voucher distribution site in Dang Kang Commune in Dak Lak Province on 2 November. From 2 to 3 November in this commune, 259 households received a voucher worth 2 500 000 Vietnamese Dong (US\$112) and 65 households received the first of 2 unconditional cash transfers of 1 100 000 Vietnamese Dong (US\$47) to enable them to secure the coming season's production, restore their food security and build their resilience.

FAO will continue to distribute cash and vouchers to households in Dak Lak, Dak Nong and Gia Lai Provinces throughout November and aim to support a total 5 145 households in Viet Nam. With predictions of climate change impacts becoming the "new normal", FAO Viet Nam is planning to collaborate with local authorities and partners in the Central Highlands and in the Mekong Delta to ensure that early warning messages reach rural communities in time and that communities are informed of the best actions they can take to protect their livelihoods and assets in the event of a sudden or slow onset disaster. The project will also distribute post-harvest equipment to minimize post-harvest losses due to climate change induced disasters.

## Vietnamese Farmer receives FAO award

A Vietnamese farmer received award from FAO Asia Pacific Region in recognition of her outstanding agricultural production achievements in the context of increasing climate change challenges.

Pham Thi Huan, from Long An province, received a "Model Farmer" award along with others from Fiji, Mongolia, Pakistan and Thailand to mark FAO's annual World Food Day (WFD) celebrations in the Asia-Pacific region. This year, the awards, was presented in Bangkok on behalf of FAO regional office by Thailand's Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, recognize achievements under the theme "Climate is changing, food and agriculture must too". This World Food Day 2016 theme highlights how food and agriculture need to adapt to climate change to feed a growing global population in a sustainable way.



Ms. Pham Thi Huan, one of FAO-selected Model Farmer in Asia-Pacific region ©FAO

Ms Huan, also known as "Ba Huan", has been rewarded for her support of Mekong Delta households to move from crop production to duck raising, egg production and distribution as a result of difficulties in growing rice and other crops due to climate change impacts. As a result, she has created jobs for many female farmers and enhanced women's standing in respective communities.

Ba Huan, whose contributions have also been recognized by the Vietnamese Government, has engaged in numerous other local support programmes such as "Support Association for People with Disabilities and Orphans" and "Everyone is Equal". She has also participated in Ho Chi Minh Television's "Dream House" programme during the past decade to help farmers with initial capital to establish businesses.



Ms. Pham Thi Huan receiving medal from Thailand's princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn ©FAO

## World Food Day 2016 Celebration in Viet Nam



During World Food Day celebration in Ninh Tuan Province ©FAO

Ninh Thuan - The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Viet Nam celebrated the 36th World Food Day in Ninh Thuan province on 14 October with the theme "Climate is changing, food and agriculture must too" and also marked the 71st anniversary of FAO.

FAO Representative in Viet Nam Mr. JongHa Bae; MARD Vice Minister Mr. Le Quoc Doanh; Ninh Thuan People's Committee's Vice Chairman, Mr. Tran Quoc Nam; staff from FAO and MARD; representatives from Ninh Thuan Department of Agriculture



During the farmer field school visit ©FAO

and Rural Development and some neighbouring coastal provinces; institutes; students and local farmers participated in this event.

This year's theme is especially meaningful for Viet Nam as this is the first year its agriculture has experienced negative growth for the past 30 years due to natural disasters. Especially, rice production has been dramatically reduced.

It is particularly pertinent that this year's WFD ceremony was held in Ninh Thuan where recent drought has critically affected crops, livestock and people who had to suffer water shortage for domestic use. The province has been being supported by the international community and implementing a FAO-funded project on nutrition and food security for the children and vulnerable groups.

To mark the event, an FAO publication "Farmer Field School Guidance" was also launched to showcase FAO's work to combat climate change impacts and create more sustainable agriculture and food systems.



Visiting FAO project site on 'Integrated Crop Management Cultivation for Fresh Cooking Hybrid Maize Crop on Paddy Land' ©FAO

After the ceremony, the FAO and MARD delegations visited the Demonstration on Integrated Crop Management Cultivation for Fresh Cooking Hybrid Maize Crop on Paddy Land in Cong Hai commune, Thuan Bac District in Ninh Thuan. This is a site of a FAO technical assistance project funded by the joint Government - UN programme on integrated nutrition and food security.

## World Food Day 2016 - Poster Competition for UN Staff's Children

Apart from global FAO's Global World Food Day poster contest, the poster contest for UN Staff's children was opened during the week of World Food Day Celebration. UN Staff's Children were invited to use their imagination and artistic talent to create a poster illustrating the World Food Day theme: "Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too".

20 posters were selected and displayed at the lobby of the Green One UN House to share children's message and creativity within our UN Viet Nam community.



Poster of Nguyen Mai Phuong; child of UNIDO staff ©FAO



Poster of Le Minh Quan; child of UNDP staff ©FAO



Poster of Dang Dinh Gia Bao; child of UNHABITAT staff ©FAO



Poster of Nguyen Vu Thu Anh; child of FAO staff ©FAO

# Final Workshop of FAO Project “Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income”

Hanoi, Viet Nam. FAO and Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS) was jointly organized the final workshop on 25- 26 October 2016 in Hanoi, including a field visit to Phu Tho province on the first day, followed by presentation and discussion on the second day of the workshop.

“Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income” Project was initiated in October 2014 under FAO Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) and implemented in Cambodia, Nepal and Viet Nam. The project has been jointly undertaken by relevant government agencies in collaboration with other stakeholders. Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS) was assigned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to be the local counterpart in Viet Nam.

The main outcome of this TCP is to strengthen the regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity of the three pilot countries on forest tenure. The ultimate beneficiaries are forest-dependent communities whose livelihoods and income depend on their access to and use of forest resources. In the long run, those communities are expected to have more secure and stronger forest tenure as a key prerequisite for ensuring the contribution of forests to their livelihoods and income. The activities of the TCP were built on previous and existing work of FAO in this topic, including, for example, various awareness raising activities conducted in the past, training on the tenure based on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT), training on conflict management.

The key objectives of the workshop are to: Share main results and findings of the TCP intervention, and lessons learnt for future; Share and discuss proposed action plans to address the gaps identified in existing forest tenure policies and institutional capacity; Discuss and agree on the way to move forward so as to implement the action plan and strengthen forest tenure in the pilot countries.

Participants in the workshops were representatives from the State management agencies of the project countries, international partners, domestic and international organizations working in the fields of forestry and land tenure, research institutes; and experts, consultants as well as staff from FAO.



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