



PRESS RELEASE

Catalyzing knowledge sharing – Grow Asia launches the Grow Asia Exchange

Singapore, 27 July 2016 – Grow Asia, a multi-stakeholder partnership platform that catalyzes action on inclusive agricultural development in South East Asia, today announced the launch of the Grow Asia Exchange (the ‘Exchange’), a new online knowledge repository and learning hub dedicated to inclusive value chain projects.

Accessible at exchange.growasia.org, the Exchange seeks to improve access to knowledge of agricultural best practices amongst Grow Asia’s partners, agricultural practitioners and the wider sustainable development community through the sharing of a wide range of resources.

Designed with the user in mind, the Exchange aggregates resources that are categorized to facilitate cross-expertize learning, such that users will be able to access best practices across sectors, countries and disciplines. The Exchange houses a carefully curated selection of resources including case studies, policy papers, training curriculums, value chain analyses, impact assessments and toolkits. The portal will also provide academics, civil society and farmer organizations access to research and insight that is comprehensive and relevant to implementing value chain projects.

The Exchange was created following consultation with Grow Asia’s partners who identified a need to enhance access to knowledge about innovative solutions that support smallholder farmers. Besides serving as a repository of information, the Exchange also allows Grow Asia’s partners to join the portal’s online communities and engage in interactive discussions on crop-specific issues, providing further opportunities for practitioners to learn from and connect with one another.

Alison Eskesen, Grow Asia’s Director for Knowledge and Innovation said, *“The Grow Asia Exchange is just one of the tools that Grow Asia is developing for its partners to easily access relevant knowledge. Something that is for the community and by the community, the Exchange and its collaborative nature will help bridge expertise across a range of agriculture related disciplines.*

“Giving our partners the chance to learn from each other’s research and experiences, the Exchange will be a one-stop shop for partners’ queries and to share best practices across countries and crops. It will also enable other stakeholders to gain access to practical and relevant knowledge on Grow Asia’s range of inclusive value chain projects that are taking place across our five country partnerships.”

Organizations interested in contributing to the Grow Asia Exchange may contact exchange@growasia.org.

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The Grow Asia Partnership

Grow Asia is a multi-stakeholder partnership platform that aims to reach 10 million smallholder farmers by 2020, helping them access knowledge, technology, finance, and markets to increase their productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability by 20%. Grow Asia brings together South East Asia's smallholders, governments, companies, NGOs, and other stakeholders, to develop inclusive and sustainable value chains that benefit farmers. It launches and supports locally-driven Country Partnerships, helping them define their strategy and focus, bring on-board new partners, and develop innovative solutions.

Grow Asia enables stakeholders from different disciplines to leverage one another's expertise, share insights and learn from regional experiences. Today Grow Asia collaborates with 261 partners across five Country Partnerships, reaching nearly half a million smallholder farmers.

The Grow Asia Secretariat was established by the World Economic Forum, in collaboration with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat, to convene, facilitate, and help scale action-focused partnerships. The Grow Asia Secretariat builds on the experience and success of the Forum's New Vision for Agriculture (NVA) initiative, which facilitates multi-stakeholder partnerships across the world focused on agriculture development to deliver food security, environmental sustainability, and economic opportunity.