



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Grow Asia signs new Memorandum of Understanding with the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture of Vietnam (PSAV) to accelerate food systems transformation in Vietnam through Public-Private Partnerships**

- The agreement will strengthen collaboration between Grow Asia and PSAV to deliver on national and regional priorities for food systems transformation.
- The two organizations will collaborate to drive the adoption of climate-smart technology, integrate gender-inclusive approaches in value chain development, promote best practice on inclusive finance, and accelerate knowledge transfer.
- The agreement also will pave the way for the establishment of ASEAN's first Food Innovation Hub to be launched in collaboration with the World Economic Forum.

**Hà Nội, 5 December 2022** - Grow Asia - an entity established by the World Economic Forum and the ASEAN Secretariat to build partnerships for more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems – has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with [the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture of Vietnam](#) (PSAV) – a body under Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) overseeing value chain development of key agricultural commodities. The agreement will allow both parties to strengthen collaboration and deliver on national and regional priorities for food systems transformation.

Under the new agreement, the two organizations will collaborate to deliver results in four main areas:

1. Driving the adoption of climate-smart technology and farmer-centric digital solutions, with support from Grow Asia's Agri-Food Innovation flagship program;
2. Integrating gender-inclusive approaches, supported by Grow Asia's Women's Economic Empowerment flagship program;
3. Developing policies and best practice on inclusive finance for businesses and governments, supported by Grow Asia's Responsible Investing flagship program;
4. And accelerating climate change adaptation and knowledge transfer, supported by Grow Asia's Climate Change Resilience flagship program.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding formalizes and strengthens the ongoing relationship between the two organizations, building on seven years of partnership and cooperation. The MoU also paves the way for the establishment of ASEAN's first [Food Innovation Hub](#) to be launched in the coming months in collaboration with the World Economic Forum. The agreement will allow Grow Asia and PSAV to mobilize additional public and private sector investment for the co-development of multi-stakeholder case studies, research projects, and value chain programs that are designed to boost the economic value of Vietnam's vital agricultural sector while supporting the development of sustainable and climate-smart food systems.

At COP26 in Glasgow last year, Vietnam announced its national commitment to be carbon-neutral by 2050. The agricultural sector plays an important role in laying the foundations for this goal while ensuring sustainable pathways for the nation's long-term food security.

“Vietnam’s agricultural sector serves not just the 100 million Vietnamese but is also among the top 15 agricultural exporters in the world, reaching 190 countries. The new global economy demands agricultural outputs to be produced responsibly, especially in preserving biodiversity and reducing emissions to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change”, said **Le Minh Hoan, Minister of Vietnam’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**. “I believe with coordinated efforts from both public and private spheres, and with the support of important regional delivery mechanisms such as Grow Asia, Vietnam can overcome challenges that come with being an emerging economy and truly champion sustainability in our agricultural sector”.

“Grow Asia is grateful for Vietnam’s commitment to food systems transformation, epitomized by Minister Le Minh Hoan’s leadership at the recent Forty-Fourth Meeting of The ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry, COP26, and the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021. We commend the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture of Vietnam for laying a solid foundation for successful multi-stakeholder partnerships in ASEAN. Together, we can confidently scale high-value projects and build impactful national and regional pathways through the power of public-private collaboration in Vietnam and beyond”, said **Beverley Postma, Executive Director of Grow Asia**.



From left to right: H.E. Lê Minh Hoan – Minister of Vietnam’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr. Nguyễn Đỗ Anh Tuấn – Director of PSAV Secretariat, Ms. Beverley Postma – Executive Director of Grow Asia, and Mr. Binu Jacob - Chairman & CEO of Nestlé Vietnam at the Signing Ceremony on Monday, 5 December 2022.

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**About Grow Asia:**

Grow Asia is a multi-stakeholder platform established in 2015 by the World Economic Forum and the ASEAN Secretariat to cultivate more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems in Southeast Asia. Grow Asia does this by brokering commercial and non-profit partnerships between the global and regional public, private, civil society, academic and farmer organizations that make up the Grow Asia Network, creating an ecosystem that supports knowledge sharing, collaboration, innovation, and policy change.

Grow Asia comprises the regional Grow Asia Secretariat in Singapore; 6 Country Partnerships; and 44 Working Groups, organized around specific cross-cutting issues (e.g., agritech) or value chains (e.g., corn). Today, Grow Asia engages over 600 partner organizations through its Country Partnerships in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and Viet Nam, reaching close to 2.5 million smallholder farmers.

In 2020, Grow Asia was accredited as an Entity Associated with ASEAN due to the important role Grow Asia plays in the region, particularly in facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable agriculture development.

Learn more: [www.growasia.org](http://www.growasia.org)

**About PSAV:**

The Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Viet Nam (PSAV) was established in 2010 under the World Economic Forum's "New Vision for Agriculture" initiative, which focused on increasing agricultural productivity, reducing poverty, and reducing emissions through Public-Private Partnership. Currently, PSAV has eight PPP Task Forces, including Coffee, Tea, Vegetables and Fruits, Fisheries, Rice, Spices and Pepper, Livestock, and Agro-Chemicals. These Task Forces are formed and operated with the participation of 120 organizations, including government agencies, companies, industry associations, research institutes, and international and non-governmental organizations.

Learn more: <https://psav-mard.org.vn/index.php/lang-English/>