



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Grow Asia appoints Grahame Dixie as Executive Director

**Singapore, 22 November 2016** – Grow Asia, a multi-stakeholder partnership platform that catalyzes action on inclusive agricultural development in South East Asia, today announced that Grahame Dixie has been appointed as Executive Director with immediate effect.

Mr. Dixie brings over 35 years of professional experience as a practitioner of agricultural development in over 75 countries, including an early career in the private sector. For the past decade he served as the World Bank's lead agribusiness advisor where he led the design and implementation of over 150 projects, leveraging public and private investment, innovative finance, and research on key issues. He advised World Bank teams globally on project design, emerging good practices and key trends in the food and farming sector, with a focus on market-orientated farming and multi-stakeholder partnerships. More recently, Mr. Dixie has served as an advisor to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Mr. Dixie will take the helm of Grow Asia, a unique regional partnership, launched in 2015 by the World Economic Forum and ASEAN Secretariat, which is already generating impact through national-level initiatives in five countries. Grow Asia has set an ambitious goal of reaching 10 million smallholder farmers by 2020 through inclusive and sustainable value-chains.

“We welcome Grahame’s substantial knowledge of agribusiness and international development as he takes on the role of leading Grow Asia’s continued growth in South East Asia,” said **Sarita Nayyar, Managing Director, World Economic Forum**. “We look forward to Grahame’s contribution to strengthening and building Grow Asia partnerships.”

“Through its multi-stakeholder approach, Grow Asia is well positioned to enable and empower smallholder farmers in South East Asia to grow agricultural production in a sustainable manner,” said **Grahame Dixie**. “I believe that Grow Asia’s market-based, farmer-centric, partnership-driven approach has enormous potential to help South East Asia achieve its goals for food security, environmental sustainability, and economic growth through agricultural development.”

Leaders of the Grow Asia partnership expressed confidence in Mr. Dixie’s selection. “Grow Asia has demonstrated real impact on the ground and as a resource for expertise and knowledge exchange. We are looking forward to working closely with Grahame to maintain this momentum and realize Grow Asia’s 10-20-20 goal,” said **Franky Widjaja, Chief Executive Officer of Sinar Mas in Indonesia, Co-chair, Grow Asia Business Council**.

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**Media contacts:**

<b>Spurwing Communications</b>
Emma Thompson / Stephanie Tan / Jessica Bridges
<b>T:</b> +65 6340 7287
<b>E:</b> <a href="mailto:growasia@spurwingcomms.com">growasia@spurwingcomms.com</a>

**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.

Grow Asia 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. Grow Asia 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.