

Reduction of agrochemical use in Vietnamese ornamental value chain

SMP project, presentation at SMP 14 december 2023

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Purpose, consortium, approach

- Purpose of this Seed Money Project

“The objective is to investigate how to support ornamental producers to adopt good agricultural practices that can improve the efficiency and sustainability of farm management, cut exposure to (food/human) safety risks, and comply with legislation on food safety and environment.”

- Project organisation: WEcR, NV Horti Business Platform, Onings Holland Flowerbulbs.
- Approach;
 - desk research
 - instruction movie (<https://youtu.be/57Id-uiZ8JQ> safe use Crop Protection Products)
 - meetings at mission in Vietnam

Findings from field visit to Vietnam, Sept 2023

Major topics that needs improvement:

- Restructuring of government legislation and supervision needed
- Training, education and license exams in the use of crop protection needs improvement
- No incentive for change in growers' practices



Restructuring government legislation and supervision needed

- Positive response from Vietnamese government for follow-up
- Restructuring certification and accreditation
- Restructuring authorisation, supervision, advice, sales and use of agrochemicals



Training, education and license exams in the use of crop protection needs improvement

- VNUA (Vietnam National University of Agriculture) is already educating students in crop protection
- Education and training growers for safer and less use of agrochemicals
- Periodic contact and exams for continuity of knowledge in crop protection, introducing permits



No incentive for change in growers' practices

- Growers are not aware of health issues and risks of agrochemicals
- Costs of crop protection with biological predators are high, chemical use is easier and cheaper
- Dalat Flower Association together with growers are open for IPM trials and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
- Large domestic market, but export is a driver for certification and GAP.



Follow-up

- Vietnam & The Netherlands are interested in collaboration:
 - Delegations to NL, including government
 - Visit Prime Minister Rutte 2023 and visit Dutch king in 2024
- Year plan Dutch embassy Vietnam in process, not published yet
- Several activities are in process:
 - Embassy aims for further progress: impact cluster (RVO)
 - NV Horti Business Platform aims for PIB (Partners for International Business)
 - NLWorks (RVO) investigates possibilities for protected cultivation

Onings Holland Flowerbulbs, Paul Onings

- It gives Onings more insight into how its customers are dealing with this subject and thus confirms that this is not a priority.
- With a view to the image and future of Vietnamese floriculture, Onings wants to create a spark that makes flower growers take safety and sustainability seriously.
- A successful outcome also opens doors to more export opportunities for Vietnamese flowers.

Thank you for your attention

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