





**Signed partnership agreements**

42

**Number of women joining networks**

4,249

**Number of women trained**

2,206

**New jobs created for women**

55

**Women-led collective groups**

127

**New production area expanded**

229 ha

## Project Highlights



## Australia's Former Ambassador Taking Cinnamon to New Heights to Vietnam Craig Chittick visited GREAT partners in Lao Cai

The visit to Lao Cai was an opportunity for the Australian Ambassador to see first-hand how GREAT is creating economic opportunities for ethnic minority women living in the mountainous north west of the Country. This included meeting women entrepreneurs and partner companies Son Ha Spice and Flavourings - the largest cinnamon and star anise exporter in Vietnam and Duc Phu Agriculture Forestry - a pioneer in exporting benzoin which is an ingredient in perfumes to the European market. The Ambassador also visited Bac Ha Tea Company - a local manufacturer and exporter of shan tea, one of the most exotic tea varieties in Vietnam.

[Read more](#)

Driving with the windows down into the mountainous village of Nam Det 1 in Bac Ha District, Lao Cai, the sweet smell of cinnamon is in the air. This village is dependent on cinnamon with few other livelihood options.

Cinnamon, or more precisely, *Cinnamomum Cassia*, is indigenous to Vietnam and brings economic benefit to many other ethnic minority areas in the Country. Vietnam ranks third worldwide in cinnamon production after Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Cinnamon from Vietnam is exported to India, the Middle East, Japan, Korea, the US and the EU.

[Read more](#)



### Case Study: Le Thi Giang Nhung

Overcoming different challenges, a young woman built up her career in the shan tea industry in Bac Ha District, Lao Cai, with products now being exported to premium markets in the Europe and United States.

[Read more](#)



*Thai ethnic tea growers, Vina Tea Company's Green Technology Tea project in Moc Chau District, Son La Province*



*Red Dao women, Culture and Information Department's Community Based Tourism project in Sapa District, Lao Cai Province*



*Tay ethnic female ginger grower in Van Ban District, Lao Cai Province receiving technical support from Duc Phu District, Son La Province Company*



*Mong woman working with Greenfarm's VietGAP Vegetables project in Moc Chau District, Son La Province*

## Where We Are

### Key Past Activities

- May 2019 - Inception training for second and third wave of Partners
- May 2019 - Former Australian's Ambassador's visit to Lao Cai
- May-July 2019 - Scoping Access to Finance
- June 2019 - Launch of 12 projects in Son La and five projects in Bac Ha, Lao Cai
- July 2019 - Launch of Management Information System for partner reporting
- July 2019 - Launch of six projects in Van Ban, Lao Cai
- July 2019 - Steering Committee Meeting with PMU Son La
- July-August 2019 - Project level baseline assessment in Son La and Lao Cai
- August 2019 - Launch of five tourism projects and sector steering meeting in Sa Pa, Lao Cai

August 2019 - Cinnamon Sector Steering Meeting  
August 2019 - Longitudinal study in Son La and Lao Cai

## Key Upcoming Activities

September 2019 - Second Steering Committee Meeting  
September 2019 - Present business case with potential bank partners in Son La  
September 2019 - Sector Steering Meeting in Vegetables, Medicinal Plants, Tea and Fruits  
September 2019 - Launch of Innovation Funding Scheme  
September 2019 - Results Based Management Training  
September 2019 - GESI Workshop  
September 2019 - Communications Training  
October 2019 - Women's Day event  
October 2019 - Media trip  
November 2019 - Partner Reflect and Refocus Workshop

## Key Quotes

### Growing Ramie

"Like other female growers in the Cooperative, I'm glad to see the business growing everyday together with the ramie plants. I hope that the business model can be upscaled to bring more opportunities for the local women." - **Mrs. Tran Thi Duyen, Ramie grower in Van Ban, Lao Cai,**  
May 2019

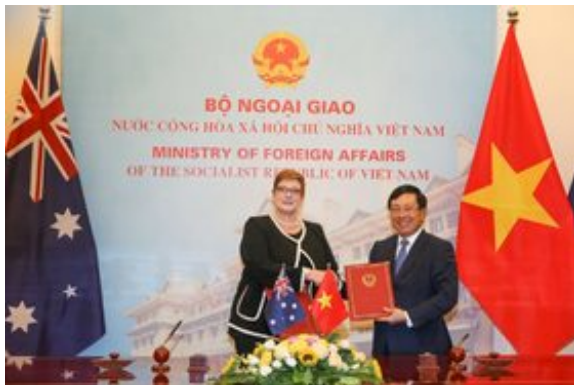


### Handicrafts

"We do not see female workers as employees, but the treasure of our Company. Without them, we cannot reach further."  
- **Mr. Vo Van Tai, Director of Lan Rung Company,** at Inception training workshop, May 2019

## Bamboo shoots

"With the innovation introduced by the project, more than 80% of labor and firewood cost is reduced" - **Mrs. Vi Thi Sang, team leader of Bamboo shoot Production Group in Buot Village, Tan Xuan Commune, July 2019**



## Foreign Minister

"The empowerment of women and girls is a priority for Australia's development assistance and a key focus of Australia's economic partnership with Vietnam," **Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women, Marise Payne**, during visit to Vietnam, June 2019

## Ambassador's visit

"Although it is still at the very early stage of projects implementation, it's already delivering some significant and meaningful results." - **Former Australian's Ambassador to Vietnam, Mr. Craig Chittick**, during visit to Lao Cai, May 2019





Vui lòng gửi yêu cầu về địa chỉ [great@Aus4Equalityvn.org](mailto:great@Aus4Equalityvn.org) nếu Quý vị cần bản tiếng Việt của bản tin này

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7th Fl. Vinapaco Building, 142 Doi Can St., Ba Dinh Dist., Hanoi, Vietnam

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