Gender Responsive Equitable Agriculture and Tourism (GREAT)

Volume 3

November 2019

Key Figures

Disbursement Lao Cai
AUD $5,859,182

Disbursement Son La
AUD $4,771,636

Private sector co-investment
AUD $2,878,674
### Project Highlights

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<th>Signed partnership agreements</th>
<th>Women joining business networks</th>
<th>Number of women trained</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>46</td>
<td>10,284</td>
<td>13,519</td>
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<th>Women with productive access and inputs</th>
<th>Women-led collective groups</th>
<th>New production area expanded</th>
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<td>4,919</td>
<td>2,160</td>
<td>690 ha</td>
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#### Innovation Fund Launched

The Innovation Fund aims to help resolve identified issues/challenges of GREAT partners to engage with women beneficiaries or to address sector market systems issues through testing or applying appropriate technologies and but there are more sustainable uses. The

#### The Sweet Smell of Benzoin

Mountainous Van Ban in Lao Cai Province is home to significant plantation of bode trees, or more correctly Styrax tonkinensis. The tree has often been exploited by local people for its timber but there are more sustainable uses.
innovative approaches that will directly benefit local women.

The Innovation Fund is a maximum of AUD 1,000,000 with approximately AUD 500,000 allocated per province. The Fund intends to focus on a limited number of high potential opportunities and will take a staged approach by providing initial seed funding with the potential for a second round of funding for promising innovations.

There is increasing demand for benzoin from European countries such as France and Germany. Over a ten-year period, Vietnam’s neighbour Laos has exported approximately 60 tons per year, accounting for 70% of total export volumes of benzoin to Europe.

A GREAT Story: Nguyen Thi Tram

Ms. Nguyen Thi Tram - Chairwoman of Van Ban District Women's Union in Lao Cai, has considered Van Ban as her second home after living on the local community for more than 20 years.

Read her story to better understand about how in partnership with GREAT and the Van Ban Women's Union she has created opportunities for local ethnic minority women.
SAVE THE DATE

Don't miss our event "From Village to Markets: Empowering Ethnic Minority Women" on December 6th 2019!

See agenda

Thai ethnic husband and wife, homestay owner in Vat Village, Moc Chau District, Son La Province, AOP's Community-Based Tourism project

Cinnamon growers in Bac Ha, Lao Cai attending training on sustainable cinnamon farming techniques led by the Agriculture Extension Service Center and SNV
Where We Are

Key Past Activities

September 2019 - Second Annual Steering Committee Meeting
September 2019 - Sector Steering Meeting in Vegetables, Medicinal Plants, Tourism
September 2019 - Results Based Management Training
October 2019 - Launch of Innovation Fund
October 2019 - Women's Day event with CRED in Van Ho, Son La
October 2019 - Training on farmer group formation for selected business partners
October 2019 - Development and distribution of GESI mainstreaming guidelines to partners
November 2019 - Selection of potential banks for pilot cash flow based lending to households through selected GREAT value chains in Son La
November 2019 - Meeting with “gender targeting” partners to share approaches and learning
November 2019 - Joint Monitoring Mission

Key Upcoming Activities

November 2019 - Business survey in Lao Cai for the District and Department Competitive Index projects
December 2019 - Business survey in Son La for the District and Department Competitive Index projects
December 2019 - From Village to Markets Event in Hanoi
December 2019 - Reflect and Refocus Workshops in Lao Cai and Son La
December 2019 - GESI Training in Lao Cai
December 2019 - Screening of first round of innovation concepts
January 2020 - GESI Training in Son La
Key Quotes

**Bamboo Shoots**

“My wife and I got the first prize for the most understanding couple in the competition on gender equality. With the knowledge gained from today, we will care and share more with each other to develop the family’s economy together.” - **Lo Van Thin and Vi Thi Loi, Bamboo grower in Van Ho, Son La**, on “Gender Equality Day”, October 2019

**High Value Tea**

“Organic tea production has brought a huge economic value, so many farmers want to join us. However, at this early stage, we choose to work with the most hard-working, trustworthy and collaborative farmers.” - **Mr. Nguyen Xuan Truong, Operating Director of Chieng Di Company**, October 2019

**Community-Based Tourism**

“We have always wanted to try community-based tourism but didn’t know where to start. With the project’s support, we have been trained with lots of hands-on experiences.” - **Mrs. Vang Thi Lieng, Bac Ha, Lao Cai**, August 2019
Clean Vegetables

“This is the first project where we have flexible management. When we see something that needs changing, we have the flexibility to adapt.” Mr. Do Duc Hung, Deputy Head of Van Ho Section of Agriculture and Rural Development, October 2019

Annual Steering Committee

“There are a lot of opportunities for women to improve their economic outcomes. By empowering women and giving them greater economic opportunities, we can create benefits not only for the women but also for their families and communities.” - First Secretary of Australian Embassy, Kellie Raab, September 2019

Vui lòng gửi yêu cầu về địa chỉ great@Aus4Equalityvn.org nếu Quý vị cần bản tiếng Việt của bản tin này

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