

Signed partnership agreements

45

Women joining business networks

12,197

Number of women trained

19,981



Women with productive access and inputs

6,787

Women-led collective groups

303

New production area expanded

1,555 ha

Project Highlights



Partnership with Lien Viet Post Bank

GREAT has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Lien Viet Post Bank to develop collateral free lending models based on cash flow modelling and risk



Reflect and Refocus Workshop

In December 2019, the GREAT Program organised Reflect and Refocus workshops in Son La and Lao Cai. At the two workshops, the latest findings from GREAT's beneficiary study were shared

profiling of farmers within targeted value chains. This will help address key market constraints of farmers not being able to access loans without land title certificates and the high transaction costs for banks to “onboard” farmers given the relative loan size.

A scoping study conducted by VietED and Financial Access found that 60% of vegetable and passion fruit producers and 33% of tea producers are seeking finance.

[Read more](#)

and GREAT partners proactively discussed the challenges faced in project implementation as well as the root causes and potential solutions.

Particularly for women in some ethnic groups, a lack of literacy in Vietnamese is a barrier to access information. An estimated 78% of Mong women beneficiaries cannot read and write Vietnamese compared to 35% of Mong males.

[Read more](#)



Vegetables Sector Profile

The Gender-Responsive Equitable Agriculture and Tourism (GREAT) Program is working to build the vegetable sector in Son La and Lao Cai provinces. With our partners, we are focused on addressing a range of challenges, such as building a local seed industry, building the technical capacity and know-how of farmers and also convincing them to switch from low-earning crop production, such as rice, to vegetables, which have the potential to generate higher incomes but requires a significant investment.

[Read more](#)



FROM VILLAGE TO MARKETS EVENT

The "From Village to Markets: Empowering Ethnic Minority Women" event was held in Hanoi on 6 December 2019. Please enjoy the highlights video to better understand GREAT's approach to link ethnic minority women to domestic and international markets!

[Watch video](#)



Growers of ginger from the Tay ethnic minority in Van Ban, Lao Cai attending training on organic farming techniques led by Duc Phu Company



Ramie growers in Van Ban, Lao Cai attending a sharing session on gender equality led by Van Ban District Women's Union



Initial harvest of vegetables in the first greenhouse set up under the High-Value Vegetables Seedlings project led by Fresh Studio in Moc Chau, Son La



Reward payment ceremony held for organic cinnamon growers in Bac Ha, Lao Cai led by Son Ha Company and Lao Cai Extension Service Center

Where We Are

Key Past 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 - Screening of first round of innovation concepts

December 2019-February 2020 - Applying MSD in reviewing some interventions with 08 NGOs

December 2019-February 2020 - Internal audit with 09 projects in Son La and Lao Cai

January 2020 - Farmers' market at the Vietnam Trail Marathon Event in Moc Chau

January 2020 - Support the Inputs to National Target Program Workshop led by MOLISA

February 2020 - Support the Inputs to National Target Program Workshop led by MARD

Key Upcoming Activities

March 2020 - Vegetable, tea and passionfruit sector steering meetings

March-April 2020 - Access to Finance Inception Workshop

April 2020 - Moc Chau Tourism Inception Workshop and tourism sector group meeting

March-April 2020 - DCCI Result Release in Son La and Lao Cai

April 2020 - Project Annual Work Plan

June 2020 - Reflect and Refocus Workshop in Hanoi

June-July 2020 - Project level mid-line assessment

Key Quotes

Shared Decision-Making in Tourism

"Previously, in our village, men were the major decision maker in the family. However, after attending the project's sharing sessions on gender equality, husbands and wives have started to share the role of making decision together in many families." - **Dinh Thi Thuan, Homestay owner in Vat Village, Moc Chau, Son La**, January 2020



Improved Services

"After five years of regular visits to Vat Village, I find that the local women are much more confident and professional now, especially in communication and homestay services." - **Mr. Tam, Homestay guest at Vat Village, Moc Chau, Son La**, January 2020

High Value Tea

"We believe that women with good financial management skills will have a better voice in the family. Therefore, we pay them directly so that they can have greater voice and influence in the

family and society." - **Le Thi Giang Nhung, Bac Ha Tea Company,**
December 2019



Visit to Moc Chau

"It's really exciting to come and see how commercial enterprises are looking to support farmer groups." **Justin Baguley, Counsellor, Economic and Development Cooperation, Australian Embassy in Vietnam,**
January 2020

Profiling Event

"The partners showcasing their products today are just a snapshot of the work that GREAT is doing. It was fantastic to talk to enterprises that are headed by ethnic minority women as well as large enterprises that are connecting ethnic minority women farmers to global supply chains." - **Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, Robyn Mudie,** December 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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