



Aus4Equality|GREAT Partnering for Change



Ramie Market System Development

Crop Production and Plant Protection Sub-Department of Son La Province

Opportunity

Ramie has long been used as a textile material in Vietnam and internationally as it is one of the world's strongest natural fibres. Ramie is also a relatively easy-to-grow crop, which requires simple tending, for much higher economic returns than traditional crops. With the increasing land degradation due to the production of cotton and maize, there is a need for diversification.

This project will support the development of the ramie sector in degraded sloping land in Son La that is not economically feasible for other cash crops.

Growing ramie on sloping lands will help prevent against erosion. Parts of the ramie plant that are not used for textile production will be utilised as organic fertiliser to help improve the soil that has been damaged through maize production.

Expected Results

- » **Increased income** for 1,323 women, including 1,170 from ethnic minority groups
- » Minimum 80% of participating women report **increased confidence**

Challenges

For women to effectively engage in ramie production, they require access to quality seedlings, training and processing equipment. They also need to be convinced of the potential return on investment of the crop.

Creating strong links between the lead firm, Vinafi, and farming households through establishing farmer groups and cooperatives, as well as supportive government policy, will help the sector flourish.

Solutions for Change

- » Establish model farms to train farmers in seedling production, improving productivity and good harvest and post-harvest practises
- » Facilitate a business partnership model between Vinafi and low-income women through organising farmers into 20 collective groups and cooperatives with 5 warehouses to be built
- » Develop extension services to be provided by the Crop Production and Plant Protection Sub-Department
- » Establish mechanisms and policy to support ramie market development

