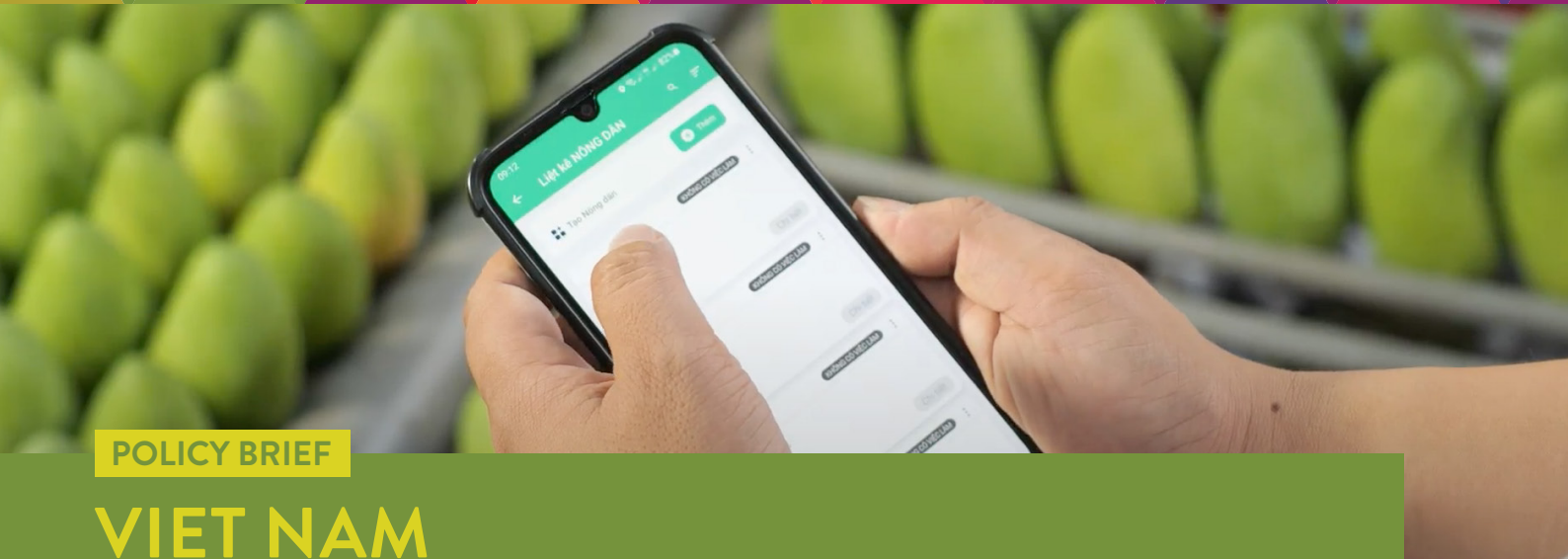
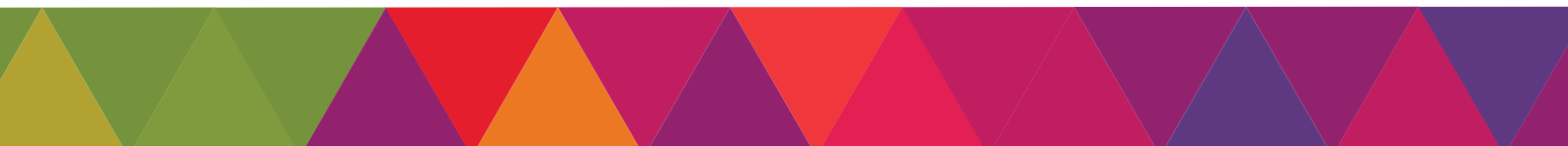




POLICY BRIEF

VIET NAM

TRACEABILITY IN THE HORTICULTURE SECTOR

Many horticulture products are necessarily treated with pesticides at different stages, to prevent loss of the crop. When product is found on the market or during export with pesticide levels in excess of the Maximum Residue Limits set by regulations, a traceability system can provide a key tool for improving compliance. Codex Alimentarius defines traceability as “the ability to follow the movement of a food through specified stage(s) of production, processing and distribution”. This is an essential element of any system to ensure safe and compliant food for consumers, by allowing operators and authorities to determine the origin of any non-compliance, correct the circumstances which gave rise to the problem, and put in place systems to prevent it happening again, as well as being able to recall non-compliant products which have already been consigned.

In Vietnam traceability of goods is a requirement under Decision No.100/QĐ-TTg Approving The Project On Implementation, Application And Management Of Traceability System. Mango and other horticulture operators typically sell in bulk to traders and packhouses. Product from different producers is consolidated at all levels of the supply chain, but few keep any records at each transaction or when batches are mixed, thus losing the opportunity for implementing one-up and one-down traceability. This also undermines official controls, since when product is rejected due to lack of compliance with standards, there is no means of identifying the suppliers and taking appropriate action.

INCREASING QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMPLIANCE CAPACITY OF MANGO AND POMELO VALUE CHAINS IN THE MEKONG DELTA RIVER

AT A GLANCE - PHASE 1

Main counterparts	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Ministry of Science and Technology
Duration	3.5 years, starting Jan 2020
Executing Agency	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Donor	Switzerland, through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
Budget	EUR 1,040,270



GQSP advised a two pronged approach – strengthening regulatory controls and capacity building of sector operators. New regulations were drafted and MARD issued circular 17/2021/TT-BNNPTNT titled regulations on traceability, recall and treatment of non-safe food fall under the management the MARD. This circular (effective from 2-Feb-2022) from aims to strengthen traceability to allow swift recall in case of food safety incidents. Producers and packhouses supplying export markets are required by this regulation to implement a one-up and one-down traceability system as a condition of receiving their Production Unit Code (PUC) or Pack House Code (PHC). The functionality of the system will be confirmed by inspection and checks in the supply chain. Secondly, a set of Standard Operating Procedures were developed and published, setting out all of the necessary steps to establish and operate a generic traceability system. These formed an integral part of a wider set of SOPs distributed and disseminated to the mango sector in training and workshops, and to be adopted as industry guidelines (e.g. by future sector associations). GQSP also supported the development of model digital traceability software for the private sector operators, through the design of a farm diary mobile phone app, and advised on the development of a pilot external traceability system for mango and pomelo value chains.

BENEFITS

In conjunction with the development of a farm diary system undertaken by GQSP (to record conditions during production) the traceability requirements will enable mango chain operators to meet international requirements, both mandatory (since some international markets require identification and approval of exporting farms) as well as voluntary certification systems such as GlobalGAP. The Vietnamese MARD will be able to use traceability tools to strengthen validity of guarantees issued through official certification of compliance.

VALUE CHAIN OPERATORS

Farmers and distributors will benefit through improved market confidence in the quality and safety of Vietnamese mango.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure effective application, the Government of Vietnam is recommended to:



1. Establish systems for undertaking track and trace within official inspection and control activities



2. Include a system of ex-post traceability checks on a risk-based sampling of export consignments



3. Extend the approach to traceability piloted with mango to the entire horticulture chain



The farm diary saves us from using paper log book. It also saves time for us to record information because it includes the official list of permissible pesticides, that helps us to select the right one quickly.



A cooperative in An Giang



The data collected through the farm dairy is available in realtime, which help us to monitor activities in production areas. This enables us to have effective management on production unit codes.



Plant Protection Department

