JULY, 2021 | PROJECT BULLETIN NO.1

V-SCOPE

Enhancing smallholder livelihoods in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam through improving the sustainability of coffee and black pepper farming systems and value chains

World Agroforestry

Internal project launching meeting

A project launching meeting was held online on two consecutive days, 07th and 08th of June 2021, which allowed all V-SCOPE team members to meet for the first time since the project officially started. The meeting mainly focused on discussing the project implementation plan and synergies across four work packages activities. The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) Viet Nam is providing overall coordination of the project as well as expertise in Work Packages 2,3 and 4, and cross-cutting components.



V-SCOPE internal launching meeting, June 2021.

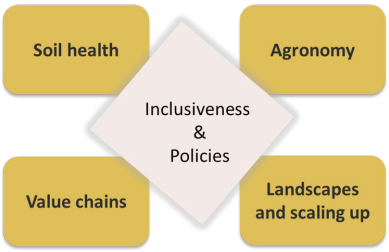
This project is a significant example of international and inter-organizational cooperation even amid pandemic time to achieve the ultimate shared goal of improving smallholders' livelihoods and strengthening the sustainability local farming systems and value chains.

Dr. Estelle Bienabe, V-SCOPE project coordinator and CIRAD researcher associated with ICRAF, who has a wide experience in managing international multidisciplinary projects, facilitated the meeting. Attending the meeting were Dr. Nguyen Quang Tan - Country Coordinator of ICRAF in Viet Nam, project work package leaders and other team members, representatives from ACIAR, ICRAF, the Alliance Biodiversity International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the Western Highlands Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute (WASI), the Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural development (IPSARD), the Plant Protection Research Institute (PPRI), National Institute of Agricultural Planning and Projection (NIAPP), University of Sydney, Deakin University, Tay Nguyen University (TNU) and consultants who are involved in the project.

V-SCOPE project aims to enhance smallholders' livelihoods in the Central Highlands, including vulnerable populations, through improving the sustainability of coffee and black pepper farming systems and value chains, funded by **Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)**.

The World Agroforestry (ICRAF) Viet Nam along with international and Vietnamese research partners as well as provincial stakeholders and private sectors have a vision of contributing to food security and reducing poverty among smallholders, while managing natural resources and producing food more sustainably.

- **Timeline:** Feb 2021–Sep 2024
- **Locations:** Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Dak Nong in Central Highland Vietnam
- **Participating farming households: at least** 250 to 300 (still under design)



V-SCOPE project viewed through its 4 interconnected work packages and a cross-cutting topics

The meeting was viewed as a workshop for all team members to learn more about others' works and plans and think more thoroughly about interlinkages. Thus, ensuring better alignment and synergies across activities and workpackages. On the first day of the workshop, participants were formally introduced to the four work packages and walked through different sub-objectives, groups' work plans and activities. The whole team also discussed about project governance approach and transversal tools related to repository and internal communication. On the second day, the discussions focused on project theory of change, monitoring and evaluation system, gender empowerment, ethnic minority, and capacity development assessment. As part of it, the team explored the connection across outputs in each work packages and among all work packages.

Four newly recruited field technicians

By June 2021, four new field technicians were recruited. They will be based in Central Highlands and frequently travel to project sites, assisting in developing and implementing impactful experiments and value chain interventions for smallholder farmers, documenting and analysing outcomes and possible impacts. They will work with scientists and multiple value chain stakeholders including private companies that source coffee and pepper in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam, local collectors, farmers and cooperatives, and input providers.



Western Highlands Agriculture & Forestry Science Institute (WASI), in Buon Ma Thuot, Dak Lak where the four field technicians will be hosted. Photo: WASI

Three surveys to examined over 600 households

As July 2021 ends, three surveys were fully designed and ready to be conducted with smallholder farmers and other stakeholders. The first one is a baseline survey, the Rural Household Multi-Indicator Survey which covers farming practice, crops and livestock, incomes, food security and poverty indicators, gendered decision making, greenhouse gas emissions, and household demographics. The second one focuses on characterization of current farmers' practices of coffee and black pepper cultivation, to identify leverages for livelihoods enhancements and environmental sustainability advancement. Unlike the first two surveys, the third one involves not only farmers but also local collectors, input providers, private partners as it aims to fill the existing research gap highlighted in district coffee and pepper value chains report in Small Research Activity. It will provide initial inputs for co-design value chain interventions mapping.



Conduct a survey in Central Highland. Photo: WASI/Chau Thi Minh Long

800,000 USD in co-funding

Even before the project kicked off last June 2021, the objectives of V-SCOPE project have interested a good amount of partners coming from both private and public sectors. In addition to the public co-funding from CIRAD complementing the core funding from ACIAR, private companies are also active in funding and implementing the project such as Jacobs Douwe Egberts, Tchibo, MGIL, ECOM/ LDC and others. Up until now, the estimated total amount of co-funding is 800,000 USD. with over 500,000 USD in-cash contributions. Beyond the number committed, the willingness of partners encompasses sharing their databases and opening up their experimental farms to foster the implementation of V-SCOPE.



V-SCOPE team meeting and setting up the irrigation system measurement with private partner and expert at a coffee field in Central Highlands, Viet Nam. In the picture: Dr. Phan Viet Ha (deputy director of WASI), co-leaders of work packet 2 - Dr. Clement Rigal (second right) and Ms. Chau Long (fourth right), Dr. Dave from TchiBo (first left) and Dr. Philippe from CIRAD (second left). Photo: WASI

Upcoming activities

Project activities	Location	Expected time
Developing data management plan	Online	Jul - Dec 2021
Conduct baseline survey - Rhomis (Work package 4), household survey (Work package 2) and market value chains mapping survey (Work package 3)	Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Dak Nong	Aug - Oct 2021
Classify agro-ecological zones	Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Dak Nong	Jun 2021 - Jan 2022
Review of regional development priorities in the Central Highlands		June 2021 – April 2022

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

Dr. Estelle Bienabe
Project Coordinator
Email: estelle.bienabe@cirad.fr

Dr. Nguyen Mai Phuong
Deputy Coordinator
Email: n.maiphuong@cgiar.org

World Agroforestry (ICRAF) Viet Nam
13th Floor, HCMCC Tower, 249A Thuy Khue Street,
Thuy Khue Ward, Tay Ho District, Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Tel & Fax: +84 24 37834644/45 | http://worldagroforestry.org/country/vietnam