



Farming
the
Future

East-West seeds helps Vietnamese smallholders increase productivity

Focus theme: increasing production of high quality, safe and nutritious food.

Increasing smallholders farmers' productivity greatly contributes to meeting the global demand for healthy and nutritious food. Dutch tropical vegetable seed company, East-West Seed has provided millions of smallholder farmers in Southeast Asia with high-quality hybrid seeds, improving their productivity and livelihood.

Empowering smallholder farmers

In the Mekong Delta, Vietnam's main rice producing region, agriculture is impacted by drought and salinisation and food loss is high. Boosting the productivity of small-scale farmers is vital for meeting the food demand of Vietnam's growing population now and in the future.

But many smallholder farmers live in hunger due to the poor harvest resulted from low quality seeds they saved from the previous season. To remedy this, East-West Seed provided the farmers with high-quality seeds, so that they can increase productivity and transform their lives.

Seeds that transform lives

EWS, active in Vietnam since 1997, is one of the few global companies that produce and distribute local seeds. They develop hybrid seed together with local partners, taking into account local conditions and challenges. With the seeds, farmers can grow climate-resistant crops that are healthier and more nutritious. The crops require less water, protection and fertiliser, allowing shorter production cycles. This enables, for example, farmers in Cho Gao (Tien Giang) to exchange rice farming for sweet corn production. The switch resulted in better crops, higher yields, and a more stable income.



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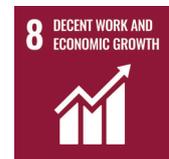
Partnership for rural development

Better seeds is just the beginning of the story: training is just as important. EWS partners with local and international NGOs to offer training and educate tens of thousands of farmers annually in good agronomic practices and vegetable farming. A special foundation is dedicated to raising the knowledge and income levels of local farmers, and their children can get special scholarships to study agriculture-related topics at university.

To improve the lives of millions of smallholder customers, EWS also partners with Dutch and Vietnamese governments, farmers groups and research institutes. For example, the company collaborated with The Vietnam Farmers' Union, Nong Lam University, Land, Water & Food Consult, and Wageningen University to define successful strategies and technologies to prevent salinisation and drought in the Mekong delta.

EWS also takes part in the public policy dialogue to make better quality seeds available to small farmers. They have been able to reach 20 million farmers each year.

Farming the Future is an international campaign, devised jointly by the Dutch public and private sector, to accelerate the global transition towards a sustainable agriculture. With the advanced knowledge of the Dutch agrifood, horticulture, and fishery sectors, the Netherlands aims to support potential partners in developing sustainable and smart solutions, locally and globally. Let's join forces and inspire the world how, together, we can farm a sustainable future.



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