



About NFPP



Nedspice believes that backward integration and sustainability are some of the main challenges for the food industry in the years ahead. To ensure that spice farming remains financially attractive and offers a sustainable livelihood for farmers Nedspice has initiated the development of backward integration programmes for farmers in the countries it works in. This ambition is laid down in the Nedspice - Farmers Partnership Programme (NFPP) which defines the approach, key principles as well as the expected results. In this update you will find information about the latest NFPP activities for pepper in Vietnam.

Crop stage



- The crop is in its ripening stage, with some areas already harvesting the Indian variety. The latter variety contributes only ~5% of the total production in the NFPP area.
- Due to the lower price levels and less favourable yields this year, farmers are considering to shorten the harvesting periods by harvesting everything in one time, instead of multiple targeted harvests (2-3 times depending on the ripening situation), to save labor costs.
- This practice may cause quality issues and the harvesting season can be expected to finish earlier.

Climate development in NFPP area (2017/18 season)¹

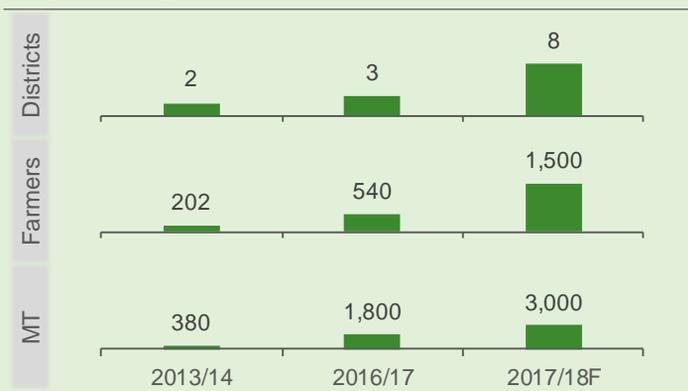
Stage	Period	☀️ C°	mm ☁️ days	📅	
Vegetative	May – Jun	(4%)	+7%	+0%	✓
Spike formation	Jun – Aug	(2%)	+12%	+44%	✗
Berry setting	Aug – Oct	+1%	(10%)	(12%)	✗
Berry ripening	Oct – Feb	0%	(35%)	(41%)	
Harvesting	Feb – May				

Developments



- NFPP started in 2014 in 2 districts within the Binh Phuoc province, involving 202 farmers and delivering 380MT volume.
- Nedspice expanded the programme to 540 farmers in 2016/17, more than quadrupling the volume.
- Since the 2017 crop, more than 1,000 new farmers in 5 new districts joined the NFPP, increasing coverage to the whole Binh Phuoc province.
- The total number of NFPP farmers is c. 1,500 this season, almost tripling versus last year.
- This expansion will be the basis to grow the NFPP 2017/18 crop volume to a target of ~3,000 MT.

Programme impact and evolution



Pepper harvest



- Low yields and price levels are causing farmers to shorten the harvesting period, in order to save labor costs.



NFPP area overview



¹) Stages are indicative for the Vinh Linh variety (largest variety). The percentages represent the change versus the same period last year, considering data till 27-Jan-18. Rainy days are defined as days with >15mm rainfall. Temperature is based on the average of day maximum temperatures over the period.



- 26th December 2017 – 15th January 2018: Pre-harvesting, harvesting and post-harvesting activities' trainings held for 1,500 farmer members in 60 farmer clubs in Binh Phuoc province.
 - The training aimed to remind farmers not to use any pesticides at these stages, to use the proper packaging and to ensure all harvesting equipment, personal protection, etc. is in good working conditions.
- 9th January 2018: General meeting for “Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Vietnam”.
 - Chaired by Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), and worked on by Vietnamese Pepper Association (VPA), IDH and MARD. Priority is with pesticide management and controls to ensure compliance of Vietnamese pepper.
 - Nedspice, as spokes person at the meeting of the VPA on pesticides policy advised to ban the most critical agrochemicals (5) and proposed enforcement at retail as the most effective level.
- 25th January 2018: Minister of MARD joined the meeting about “Promoting sustainable pepper production”.
 - The meeting addressed issues as new plantings, use of chemicals, diseases, climate change, pesticide residues, etc.
 - Actions agreed upon in the meeting were to focus on controlling of new plantings and replacement of dead pepper, promoting best practices, such as organic-oriented production, farmer group production and certified sustainable production such as NFPP.

Meeting on sustainable production



Pre and post harvesting training



What's next?



- Quick-scan on pepper quality of 2018 crop in February 2018:
 - Some pre-harvesting pepper samples are being collected, which together with the testing results of early buying lots in beginning of 2018, will be analysed to evaluate the crop quality as well as to map out the quality by area.
- Holidays commencing:
 - Lunar new year is starting 16th February 2018, with the long holidays in Vietnam following from 14th to 20th February 2018.
- ToT (training of trainer) on the updated pepper cultivation technologies:
 - Training will be organized by National Extension Central/MARD to train officers in both public and private sectors on the updated pepper cultivation technologies developed in the project “National Sustainability Curriculum for Pepper”, sponsored by Nedspice, IDH, National Extension Central/MARD and other partners.

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