



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 harvest has just finished in the project area. Also, the rainy season started this month which, after many dry days, provided energy for pepper vines to start a new season. Rainfall distribution will be important during the upcoming period to trigger the spike formation stage.
- Farmers invest less in their pepper farms as local market prices remain at low levels. Meanwhile, farmers are intercropping pepper with other crops such as coffee and durian to maintain their income.

Climate development in NFPP area (2018/19 season)¹

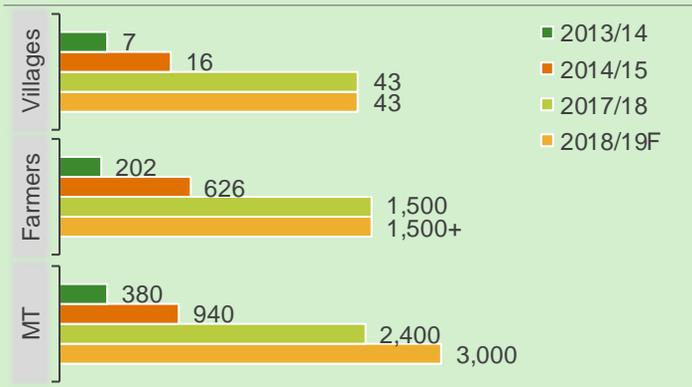
Stage	Period	☀️ °C	mm ☁️ days	📅
Vegetative	May – Jun	1%	(12%) 25%	✓
Spike formation	Jun – Aug	(1%)	117% 169%	✓
Berry setting	Aug – Oct	(2%)	33% 37%	✗
Berry ripening	Oct – Feb	3%	32% (17%)	✓
Harvesting	Feb – May	3%	220% n.a	✓

Developments



- The NFPP started in 2014 in 7 villages within the Binh Phuoc province, involving 202 farmers and delivering 380 MT of pepper.
- After 4 years, over 1,500 farmers now participate in the programme, with 510 farmers renewing the Rainforest Alliance (RA) certificate.
- For the 2018/19 crop, Nedspice launched the NFPP Franchise Programme which enabled more local collectors and farmers to cooperate with Nedspice, ensuring to deliver qualified products with traceability from farm level. A volume of c. 800 MT was procured from this channel for the YTD May-19.

Programme impact and evolution



New intercropping farm



- Pepper is intercropped with durian in a NFPP farm.



NFPP area overview



¹ Stages are indicative for the Vinh Linh variety. The percentages represent the change versus the same period last year, considering data till 11-May-19. Rainy days are defined as days with >15mm rainfall. Temperature is based on the average of day maximum temperatures over the period



- 10-Apr-19: Nedspice signed a Memorandum of Understanding to expand the NFPP project:
 - Agreed with Binh Phuoc Local Government to continue the current NFPP project and develop to a higher level in terms of farmer network, sustainable practices and certification;
 - Agreed with Dak Nong Local Government and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) to start a new project: "Increasing of pepper production and market access capabilities for farmers and farmer groups in Dak Nong province". The project is going to start in May-19 and will last for 2 years.
- 25-Apr – 10-May-19: Meeting with farmer club leaders to review the crop results:
 - Procurement volume achieved 2,000 MT for the YTD May-19 and great quality achievement of above 90% EU MRL compliance;
 - From NFPP Franchise channels: 800 MT was collected which significantly contributed to improve track and trace volumes.

NFPP project expansion event



NFPP collecting activities



What's next?



- May-Jun-19: NFPP agronomists to conduct farmer training on cleaning pepper farms, applying soil nutrition and disease prevention practices when starting the new crop.
- Jun-19: Workshop on "Safe Pepper" project will be organised in Binh Phuoc province:
 - The workshop is going to gather relevant partners and farmers to discuss the impacts of environmental factors on pepper quality (MRL) and Good Agricultural Practices.
- Jul-19: Meeting in Binh Phuoc province to review crop results of the 2018/19 season and plan for the upcoming season:
 - The meeting involves Nedspice and related stakeholders from Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, District Agricultural Extension Station and village authorities. The key target is to increase the NFPP farmer network within province and plan to certify 1,000 farmers as Rainforest Alliance.

Nedspice

Netherlands: +31 10 2801 380

United States: +1 843 443 4007

Vietnam: +84 274 37 18 005

India: +91 484 22 23 286

spices@nedspice.com

<http://www.nedspice.com/>

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