



Nedspice- Farmers Partnership Programme

Update April 2016



Nedspice believes that backward integration and sustainability are the main challenges for the food industry in the years ahead. In the spice sector many, often aging, smallholder farmers move to high intensive crops. Not only does this affect the scarcity of spices, it also has negative effects on the environment. 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 Vietnam and India and other countries we work in. This ambition is laid down in the Nedspice-Farmers Partnership Programme which defines the approach, key principles as well as the expected results. Below an update on the latest activities for the NFPP projects in Vietnam and India.

Vietnam Pepper

Objective: To assist 500-700 farmers and develop the sustainable pepper supply chain in the Binh Phuoc province in Vietnam. Thereby contribute to the improvement of the farmers' social and environmental impact.

Plan 2015/16: 540 certified farmers to produce 1500 tons of sustainable pepper (compared to 1200 tons in 2015). Harvest has started from the middle of February (after Tet) and the peak time is in March-April. The harvesting rate at the end of March was about 40-60%. The seasonal concerns in this period are the labour for harvesting and irrigation water which is a concern not only for this dry season but also for years ahead.



By monitoring and visiting the farmers, we help to strengthen the farmer relationship, farmer loyalty and to increase the farmer awareness about the company's purchasing policies at the early stage of pepper commerce (that factor was recognized as the key factor for inefficient buying by 10% of farmer members). Apart from the good relationship with farmers this helps us to collect market information effectively. Other areas are on-going implementation: sending the daily purchasing price to all farmers by SMS and convincing some targeted farmers to apply bank transfer payments.

Farmers in Binh Phuoc are now requesting to join NFPP. There are 200 new farmers registered to our program until now. We have planned to collect pepper from these new farmers and we will provide them with the necessary training and supporting programs for next crop (from next May onwards). This year we also connected with other partners (universities, farmer associations, extension center) in different locations such as Mang Yang-Gia Lai, Bu Dang-Binh Phuoc and Phu Giao-Binh Duong province to seek opportunities for sourcing the qualified pepper as well for expansion purposes in the future.

Nedspice and its local partners such as AEC (Agricultural Extension Center) and pepper crop cultivation experts are now providing the training and supporting programs for farmer members to improve their crop for both sustainability and pesticide compliance. The main ground activities focus more on IPM (Integrated Pest Management) to monitor the pesticide usages at the early stages for farmer members. At the same time, the good agricultural practices (following RA standard) are continued to improve to reach a compliant level for the 3rd year (meet 90% of all criteria of RA standard). In addition to this the partnerships with key local stakeholders (especially the public sector) are extended to promote sustainable production practices to the community. The public-private-farmer partnership approach seems to be the suitable approach for sustainable production. While Nedspice and farmers see the mutual benefits to develop sustainable pepper production, the public stakeholders see the benefits in improving capability building and knowledge management to capture the changing demands of both the private sector as well as farmers.

This year the additional SAN CoC (chain of custody) standard was applied to our sustainable production system, next to the current SAN RA standard. The CoC standard aims to manage the traceability through the whole supply chain (from farm to processing/exporting). The final audit report will come out in the next few weeks.

India Cumin



Objective: To produce food safe Cumin (meeting MRLs and allergens of various import countries) through sustainable agricultural practices with specific focus on IPM.

Plan 2015/16: Expanding to 4 zones in 2 districts of Rajasthan.

NFPP Activities: Area selection is completed, scaling up to 4 zones with 600 farmers, a target area of 4400ha, 34 villages and production for 2016 estimated at 1200mt.

Farmer selection and enrolment was done, pre-sowing training programmes covering soil preparation, seed selection, seed treatment, basal fertilizer doses, soil & water sampling have all been done. Farm extension workers have been appointed and training programme for the staff was conducted.

Survey of the agro chemicals in the growing zones is in progress to identify chemicals and to train the farmers on the same. Pest and weather monitoring stations have been established and data will be tracked throughout the season. Trials of last year are to be continued in multiple locations in order to strengthen the Good Agricultural Practices and to provide customized and customer centric GAPs to the farmers.

Farmers were trained on Integrated Pest Management, Field Staff were trained on sampling and traceability of the IPM Cumin and on practices related to soil health management and crop management. Demonstrations on sustainable agricultural practices are in progress.

The Smart Farm Tool (SFT) was introduced on a trial basis in 200ha, where all the farm activities are entered through a Smart Farm Tool mobile application and the data can be centrally monitored via the internet. Crop management practices upload was done and traceability and inventory management will follow in the next months.

Quality of the new crop is good compared to last year, and crop is expected to be higher by 25-30% in Rajasthan.



A video impression of our NFPP cumin project can be viewed on our [website](#).

India Better Turmeric Initiative



Objective: Implement sustainable agricultural practices with specific focus on the Better Turmeric Initiative. The overall aim is to encourage farmers to make cultivation practices more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, integrate producers into long term cooperation with Nedspice's value chain, and ultimately to provide good quality turmeric to meet increasing customer demand.

Plan 2015/16: to produce 250mt of Turmeric with 30 farmers in 3 villages, with a target area of 100ha.

NFPP Activities:

During 2013 Sustainable Turmeric Farming was taken up in two districts of Andhra Pradesh. All farmers included in the Better Turmeric Initiative will be assisted in good agricultural practices. This will improve their productivity which increases their income and thereby contributes to the improvement of their livelihoods. They are also introduced to water saving techniques and taught how to release less nitrogen into the atmosphere, which will improve their living conditions and reduce investment costs. Finally, farmers will receive a price premium from Nedspice.

Farmer training on Integrated Crop Management practices is completed with focus on IPM and Nutrient Management. Awareness programmes on occupational health and safety are in progress. Campaigns on safe storage and handling of pesticides are also being conducted.

Field Staff training on Sustainable Agricultural Practices and documentation of the field observations and follow up activities completed. Training programmes on Biodiversity, Natural Resources Management and Occupational health are completed. Campaigns on safe storage and handling of pesticides are in progress. Demonstrations on Pesticide handling and after wash measures were conducted. Activities of Better Turmeric Initiative have begun and Farmers are advised to clean the product immediate after harvest.

Crop is at harvesting stage, yields are expected to be lower by 10-15% due to rain fall shortage and increased dry weather.

