



Vietnam towards sustainable coffee and pepper production: the V-Scope project

H. Transitioning to a Viable Development

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Context: The rapid expansion of coffee and pepper in the Central Highlands between the 80s and 2000s has secured Vietnam as the world largest producer of Robusta coffee and black pepper. These two crops support more than 1 million livelihoods in Vietnam. Yet, the region remains among the poorest. It is home to marginalized ethnic groups. Furthermore, intensive farming practices have resulted in critical environmental degradations, jeopardizing rejuvenation and the overall sustainability of coffee and pepper production. In this context, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) commissioned a research team led by the World Agroforestry (ICRAF) to support the coffee and pepper sectors in the Central Highlands. Objective: aligning with priorities of the Vietnamese central government and agribusiness strategies of lead coffee and pepper companies, the V-Scope project aims to increase the sustainability of coffee and pepper farming systems and value chains. The project will more specifically address the following: - Improved soil health and soil-borne pests and diseases control; - Improved sustainable farming practices with higher resource use and economic efficiency; - Improved local value chains and national public-private dialogue; - Improved capacity to implement up-scaling strategies, ensure long-term adoption of sustainable farming systems accounting for climate change adaptation needs, especially for indigenous ethnic minorities and women, and operate at landscape level through multi-stakeholder partnerships. Method: Activities will take place in Dak Lak (Krong Nang district), Gia Lai (Dak Doa district) and Dak Nong (Dak Song district) Provinces. They will include working on demonstration plots and within farmer networks of partner coffee and pepper companies, to harness the potential to work with the private sector in driving changes and achieving impacts at scale.