

# RELIABLE AND VALID TESTING SERVICES TO BOOST EXPORT OF MANGOES IN MEKONG DELTA

## VIETNAM

Vietnam is the 10th largest mango producer worldwide with a total mango growing area of 87,000 hectares, nearly half of which is in the Mekong Delta. However, the total export turnover of Vietnam's mangoes accounts for roughly 1.5% of the world's (USD 12.34 billion in 2020).

Mango exports in Vietnam have increased dramatically—driven by cross-border trade with China—accounting for 95% of exports. China's cross-border trade restrictions make the export industry particularly vulnerable. Diversifying into other export markets would reduce the risk for Vietnamese exporters and help them reach high value markets.

However, the weak compliance of Vietnamese producers to international standards, especially for the management of pesticides, has affected the entry of mango and other horticultural exports into high value international markets. There is limited knowledge of unregistered compounds and excess levels of registered ones for exporting, largely due to under-developed systems for ensuring validity and reliability of testing laboratories, and an insufficient and fragmented residue-monitoring programme.

The GQSP Vietnam works with partners to build a reliable testing service to boost mango export in Mekong Delta, which is primarily achieved through capacity building for residue testing labs and developing a residue-monitoring programme for mangoes.


Hands-on training and technical support have strengthened the capacity of pesticide testing laboratories networked across Vietnam. Two testing labs also have been selected to receive intense training to increase accuracy. Key pesticide residue laboratory staff now have a greater appreciation of modern approaches to internal quality control, implementing sampling principles and practices, and interpretation of pesticide residue analytical results, following the European Plant Protection Organization's complete set of standards.

Most importantly, a scientifically valid residue-monitoring programme was developed for commonly exported mango varieties in two Mekong Delta provinces, providing a model for roll-out to the remaining horticulture sectors. Overall, the GQSP Vietnam has assisted in unlocking global markets for Vietnamese mango exports.

The Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP) is a global initiative to strengthen the export competitiveness of twelve partner countries, supported by Switzerland through the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).



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