

Promoting organic food certification & trade between Australia and Vietnam

On 15th September 2021

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1st September 2021

FROM
JULY 1st 2021

TO
MAY 31st 2022

Project value
AUD\$99,000

15 best organic farming processing, certification and trade practices

Certified organic rice, pepper, coffee, vegetables, eggs, beef, dairy products, tropical fruits, tropical vegetables, cinnamon, cashew nut, cacao beans, honey, herbs, tea, coconuts, catfish, shrimp, mangrove-shrimp, rice-shrimp, rice-fish, PGS certified vegetables, processed foods, small scale partnership, local grower groups, and the cooperatives, organic food import-export.

4 Australia-Vietnam Organic Food Trade Forums (24 business showcases)



Sponsors & Partners



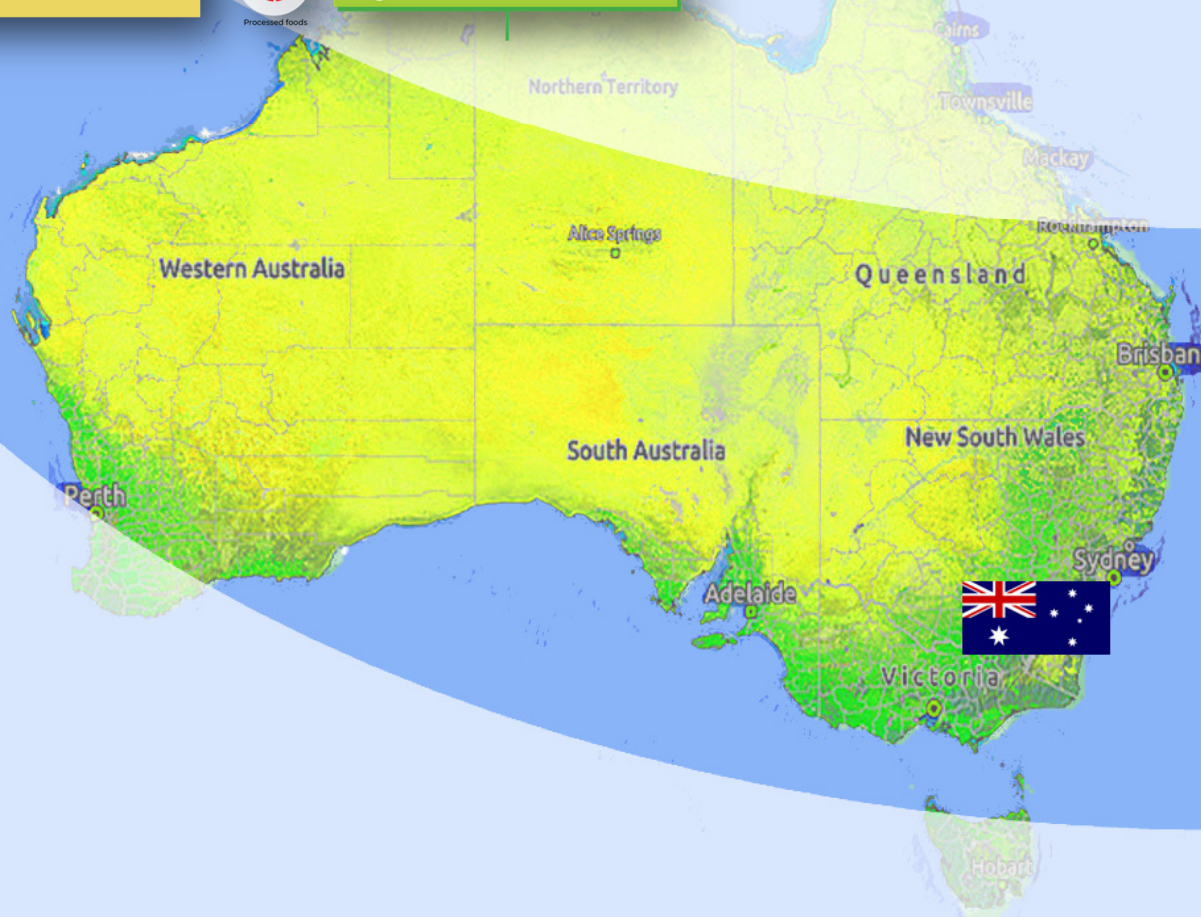
37 Three-hour Online Sections

Training on organic food production, certification and trade

- 1 Global, regional, and local organic agriculture movement
- 2 Health of soils, animals and plants
- 3 Aquaculture
- 4 Certification (NCO, USDA, EU, JAS, ICS, PGS)
- 5 Processing food
- 6 Marketing & Trade
- 7 Case studies



Organic Business Platform



A background map of Australia and Vietnam. A red star is placed in the northern part of Vietnam. The map shows the geographical context of the project, which aims to enhance economic engagement between the two countries.

This project, funded by the [Australia-Vietnam Enhanced Economic Engagement Grant \(AVEG\) Program](#), is managed by Mekong Organics Pty Ltd, with partners in Australia and Vietnam.

Organic farming in Australia dates back to the 1940s with the formation of the first organic farming organisations. Organic certification commenced in 1987 and supply has grown by about 15% per year. There are about 2000 certified farms, some of which are very large, plus certified organic retailers, processors and input suppliers. Domestic retail and export sales, in 2018, amounted to AUD 2.6 billion. Main products are fruit, vegetables, nuts, meat, grains and eggs. Australia's organic exports include beef, fruit, vegetables, dairy products and wine.

The organised organic industry in Vietnam is much younger. Organic standards were developed in 2017. However, there is now strong support from governments at national and provincial level to greatly expand the industry for environmental, health and economic reasons. Latest figures (2019) show 62,000 ha of farmland certified organic, comprising 17,000 producers. The number of retail outlets is growing rapidly. A lack of organic farming information is a barrier which Mekong Organics is addressing.

The purpose of the Grant is to enable Mekong Organics Pty Ltd to promote organic food production, certification and trade between Australia and Vietnam. Both Australia and Vietnam are keen to diversify their trading relations, so there is great potential for mutually beneficial exchange. Vietnam already imports Australian organic beef – this can expand and include milk products, wine and wheat. Vietnam can supply organic rice, shrimps, herbs, cashew nut, coconut, pepper and coffee. Mekong Organics is well placed to facilitate this exchange as it has excellent contacts within the Australian and Vietnamese organic business community and governments.

One of the main activities designed to expand organic production and trade in Vietnam is the provision of training for 200 Vietnamese participants, including farmers, organic farming cooperatives, university students, government staff, NGOs, and traders and other businesses. The training comprises **37** three-hour online sessions, **4** Australia-Vietnam Organic Food Trade Forum with (**24** businesses showcases), and **15** case studies covering organic farming techniques, organic certification, processing and marketing, using expertise from both Australia and Vietnam. The training and forum will start on 1st November 2021 to March 2022.

The project will also develop an online web-based trade platform on the Mekong Organics website to promote trade in organic food, and certification and technology between Australia and Vietnam. The web-based platform and webinars are created for individual certified organic farms, cooperatives and businesses to promote links for their organic food businesses between Australia and Vietnam.

Project website is [Promoting organic food certification & trade between Australia and Vietnam – Mekong Organics](#).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Van Kien Nguyen'.

Dr Van Kien Nguyen
Director of Mekong Organics PTY LTD

