



HORTIDALAT

TRANSITION FACILITY NEWSLETTER
16 November 2015



Dear partners of the Transition Facility project “Accelerating the development of a modern greenhouse vegetable production sector in Vietnam”,

Through this news letter we like to update you regarding the progress of the project. All 6 pilot greenhouses are in production now and a brand has been developed for the pilot farmers. All in all the project is going very well and the first crops are looking good so far. It is also nice to see that the pilot farmers start to get a much better understanding how to manage their crops. One pilot farmer had serious disease and management problems with his first crop of tomato, but we are confident that he has learned from this experience and he will improve for his next crop. The next time we will update on the yield results achieved by the pilot farmers. We like to thank you all for your support so far and we are looking forward to continue the cooperation to show Vietnamese farmers what is possible with modern greenhouse technology.

On behalf of the project management team,

Huub Schepers / Flip van Koesveld
René van Rensen
Sigrid Wertheim-Heck



Project updates

- **Access to finance**

Pilot farmers are scheduled to make the first loan payment end of this year.

- **Knowledge development**

The Fresh Academy educational project had its official kick-off in September in Dalat and is in full swing. Next training of future trainers is planned for mid December.

Click this link for more information

The greenhouses

All pilot farmers are so far very satisfied with the greenhouses.

Climate control and irrigation

At the Fresh Studio R&D farm irrigation and climate (including screening) control for the pilot greenhouse is now fully automatic with the PRIVA system.

NFT system for lettuce

The imported NFT system for lettuce production is constructed at the Fresh Studio R&D Farm. Sowing of lettuce will commence end of this month and continue on a weekly basis with around 2,000 plants per week.

Training materials and farmer training

After sweet pepper the first Vietnamese version of tomato training materials was completed. Based on the feedback received, we continue to update and improve the training materials. So far the training manuals for sweet pepper and tomato consist of > 200 slides each.



8 Field days have been organized and during these field days 150 sweet pepper farmers and 156 tomato farmers have been trained in sweet pepper and tomato production with modern greenhouse technology. The farmers appreciate the training materials and that they can directly visit the pilot greenhouses to see how its done with their own eyes. There is certainly a lot of interest of farmers to learn more and to use modern greenhouse technologies.

Production

Mr. Nguyen Nam Trung, Mr. Nguyen Duc Huy, Mr. Dinh Xuan Toan, Ms. Vuong Hong An and Fresh Studio R&D Farm started harvesting their crops.

Mr. Nguyen Nam Trung faced quite some disease and management problems with his tomato crop as he decided to grow tomato varieties he had not yet grown before. In consultation with Fresh Studio he will adjust and improve for his next crop. He wants to continue with yellow cherry tomato.

Mr. Nguyen Duc Huy and Ms. Vuong Hong An were challenged with an outbreak of late blight, but this was brought under control. Their tomato crops look promising and the plants are balanced. Both farmers take care of their crops very well.

Mr. Dinh Xuan Toan has an excellent start with his sweet pepper crop. We needed to convince him to do some fruit pruning, as he had around 10 fruits per plant, so that his crop has a good continuation. With high red and yellow sweet pepper prices at the moment it was not easy to convince him to prune some fruits or start harvesting green.

Fresh Studio R&D Farm tomato crop started a bit vegetative but now the crop is in balance and looking promising for a very good result. Mr. Nguyen Hoang Vu re-planted on 2 October 2015 as the seedlings for the first planting were of poor quality and we decided that it would best if he would re-plant with new seedling.

Packaging, brand name and logo

A student from Wageningen University completed a research regarding the packaging options for tomato and sweet pepper in Vietnam and provided his advice regarding the packaging options to the pilot farmers. In consultation with the pilot farmers a brand name and logo were designed by the Marketing & Business Development team of Fresh Studio.

Brand name and logo of the pilot farmers



Mr. Nguyen Nam Trung



Mr. Nguyen Duc Huy and Mr. Nguyen Hoang Vu



Ms. Vuong Hong An



Mr. Dinh Xuan Toan



Fresh Studio R&D farm

Brand name and logo of the pilot farmers

Fresh Studio R&D Farm



Mr. Dinh Xuan Toan



Mr. Nguyen Nam Trung



Pictures of crops at the pilot farmers

Ms. Vuong Hong An



Mr. Nguyen Hoang Vu



Mr. Nguyen Duc Huy



Pictures of farmer training and field days

Sweet pepper: 4 field days organized with 150 farmers trained



Pictures of farmer training and field days

Tomato: 4 field days organized with 156 farmers trained

