

THE ROLE OF IP IN PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEM IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

NGUYEN THANH MINH – VIETNAM

The Context

Vietnam is an Agriculture country. In Vietnam, Agriculture is considered a Pillar of the country's economy in the context of climate change and the pandemic recently.

According to the Strategy to develop agriculture and rural for the phase 2021 – 2030 and vision until 2050 approved by the Prime Minister on 28th Jan 2022: the aim of Vietnamese Agriculture is “to develop agriculture toward the modern, sustainable and highly competitive”.

IP is an Important Tool to contribute to the success of the aim and it is shown by the evidence in Vietnam in recent years

Agriculture Sustainable means providing sustainable solutions for the current demand of Society but not impact to able providing the needs of future generations.

At present, a lot of challenges in establishing sustainable agriculture:

- The population is increasing rapidly with around 1 million per year.
- Industrialization and urbanization made a bad impact on the environment: flood, drought or salinization by sea level increase.

Agricultural productivity and sustainability are increased by IP' policy

IP system has been mobilizing all sectors in the society to be creators: Farmers can be inventors for many types of machines and also new plant varieties. An effective IP system makes the chain from RD to the exploitation of the IP Right is specialized thus it is encouraging the creation of more IP products. PVP is an example of the specialization.

PVP encourage of breeding new varieties thus now in VN we have some set of the varieties to suit in conditions:

- To grow in the lands with flood, drought and salinization.
- Good tolerance for diseases and insects.
- In recent years, new varieties from wild species of medicinal plants are introducing to the production and then produce new products for medicine or functional food.
- The other hand, breeding new varieties from wild species instead of exploit in the forest only is not only contributed to the conservation of PGR in the situation of destroying the forest but also gives livelihood to the ethnic minority in some mountainous provinces where it is too difficult for growing food crops.

The result is the productivity and quality of the crops in Vietnam is improved significantly. That is evidence of the important role of IP:

- The average yield of rice in the whole country increased from 4.24 tons/ha to 6.06 tons/ha in the period of 2000 – 2021 (GSO).
- For the eating quality, St25 is a variety that received the award of best quality in the world in 2019.
- New varieties of only 3 types Rice, Corn, and Sweet potato contributed 8% of the agricultural GDP of Vietnam (*HFFA Research GmbH, Berlin 2017*).

To receive new technologies from advanced countries is important for developing country as Vietnam. The transfer of high technologies will be enhanced by the effective IP system.

When the PVP system in Vietnam enter into force, many new plant varieties from overseas are introduced in Vietnam while it is still new in the world market thus it gave VN's farmers the chance to export for improving their income and also more jobs.

When introducing new varieties, Breeders introduce high techniques to cultivate so it is a benefit for producers to have a chance to access new techniques. This is significantly contributing to agriculture production, especially for the species that Vietnam has no breeding experience as flowers, some types of fruits and vegetables that originate from temperate areas.

In recent years, OCOP (One Cooperative One Products) is a program at the National level. IP plays an important role in the Program with improve the value of products. Thus, the Government has put IP as one of the criteria to assess the value of the product.

According to the data of the General Statistics Office, the income per head of people in rural areas in Vietnam increased from 18 USD/person/month in 2002 and reach 151.6 USD/person/month in 2021. There is a big contribution of IP to the achievement.