



## The More We Cooperate, the Better We Work

A quiz on ‘climate-smart rice cultivation’ was recently held by BRIA in Kien Giang province, Viet Nam. There were more than 100 participants including members of 21 cooperatives from seven Mekong Delta provinces (An Giang, Dong Thap, Hau Giang, Soc Trang, Bac Lieu, Ca Mau and Kien Giang), as well as representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARDs), BRIA and Integrated Coastal Management Programme (ICMP) Management Board. The objective was to promote to cooperative members, adoption of climate-smart rice cultivation practices in response to global climate change. The competition was effective in propagating and replicating the climate-smart rice cultivation model more widely within the provinces. This is one of the targets under the BRIA project in Viet Nam.

“The winning cooperative is not only outstanding, but must boast good alliances,” shared Mr. Tran Thanh Tung, representative of Southern Plant Protection Department. Mr. Tung participated in ‘the SMART contest’ as a jury member. He highly appreciated BRIA Viet Nam’s approach to promoting a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model. BRIA supports cooperatives not only in improving rice cultivation techniques, but also in developing alliances. The more ambitious objective is to assist cooperatives with gaining better access to global markets through both increased quality and quantity. Forming cooperative alliance is a strategy that MARD plans to promote in the coming years.

“The contest is interesting and challenging to participating cooperatives. This is a great opportunity for us not only to share our experience, but also to learn from others. There are a lot of other cooperatives who have very good knowledge of and experience in SMART rice cultivation. The reason why we won the first prize is that we have had good cooperation with other cooperatives in solving problems together. The jury shared this opinion with us,” disclosed Mr. Nguyen Van Luong, representative of Kinh Don cooperative, Ca Mau province, happily.

In the contest, Mr. Kohei Sakata, Managing Director of Bayer Vietnam, sent a message to cooperatives and farmer households across the country: “The impact of climate change is getting worse, especially in the Mekong Delta. In order to adapt to climate change, it is crucial that farmers adopt smart rice cultivation technologies. The contest is an opportunity for farmers to exchange experiences in order to make their production more effective, and develop a sustainable market-oriented enterprise.”

