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Updated November, 16 2015 09:32:00

# Better Rice initiative to help Mekong farmers



Farmers take care of rice field in the Mekong Delta Kien Giang Province. About 3,000 farmers from the region will benefit from a project called Better Rice Initiative Asia that has been launched in Can Tho City. — Photo VNA/VNS Photo

CAN THO (VNS) — About 3,000 farmers from three Mekong Delta provinces will benefit from a project called Better Rice Initiative Asia that has been launched in Can Tho City.

Carried out as part of the Integrated Coastal Management Programme, the project aims to promote private-public partnerships along the rice value chain through adoption of a sustainable rice cultivation model harnessing the latest technologies.

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## Outlook Sunday



**Outlook**

Outlook Viet Nam News Monthly Publication

In the first phase, it will be carried out in the provinces of Dong Thap, Hau Giang, and Kien Giang. It will seek to improve farmers' knowledge of rice cultivation and promote the adoption of modern technologies in an environment-friendly and sustainable manner.

Its focus is also to improve the rice value chain as a whole, from input to output, to strengthen the connection between rice production and market consumption to ensure rice quality and market satisfaction, enabling farmers to increase their incomes.

The project aims at increasing farmers' incomes by at least 30 per cent through increasing yields and/or reducing input costs by adopting innovative rice cultivation methods. Furthermore, it said, rice harvested from this project would meet EU quality standards.

"The focus of the project is innovative and synchronised technology solutions, including the use of good seeds, integrated crop management, water and nutrient management, integrated pest management ... to utilize effectively rice input, increasing yields and quality, reducing losses and costs, and at the same time increasing labour productivity and farmers' incomes," Phan Huy Thong, Director of the Viet Nam National Agricultural Extension Centre, said.

"The project can contribute greatly to the adaptation and mitigation of climate change for sustainable rice production in Viet Nam.

"The project supports the stakeholders in the rice value chain in applying the large field model. This is a key measure to restructure Viet Nam's agriculture by increasing added value and farmers' incomes and boosting sustainable rice production."

The other key stakeholders involved in the project are the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development of Dong Thap, Hau Giang and Kien Giang provinces, the International Rice Research Institute, and the Mekong Delta Rice Research Institute. — VNS

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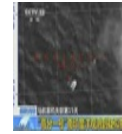
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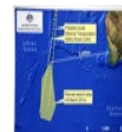
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## Highlight

### Environmental issues hinder new rural areas



In the five years since the Government put in place Decision No 49/QĐ-TTg on 19 criteria for new-style rural areas for the 2010-20 period, the majority of communes across the nation fail to meet the 17th criterion on environment. Both local and central authorities find it difficult to fill all five norms, as set down.

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### Baby vaccinations remain a cause for concern



Parents are concerned about post-vaccine reactions after the recent death of babies after receiving Quinvaxem vaccine, although the Health Ministry has repeatedly confirmed the safety of the vaccine.

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### Photos strengthen confidence of Mong girls



Wearing her most beautiful dress, Vu Thi Vu smiles broadly as she shows to her friends one of her photos which are on display at the Can Chu Phin secondary school in Meo Vac district of northernmost Ha Giang Province.

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### Lack of fire safety a risk in high-rises

Negligence and ignorance of fire safety regulations by both investors and



residents at high-rise buildings have again come to the fore following the latest blaze in Ha Noi.

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