

# Research Directions

Office of Research Services

## ***Vietnamese Citrus Farming Improvements***

Mr Oleg Nicetic and A/Prof Robert Spooner-Hart from the Centre for Plant and Food Science and a team of Vietnamese scientists and training facilitators are working with AusAID to align the Vietnamese citrus industry with world standard citrus production practices through the Collaboration for Agricultural and Rural Development Program.



‘Adoption of sustainable integrated pest management (IPM) principles aligned to good agricultural practices (GAP) leads to both economic and environmental benefits,’ says Mr Nicetic. ‘Using these principles will enable Vietnamese citrus growers to be at the forefront of production in the Asia-Pacific region.’

This project is based on interactive learning and action research, using the farmer field-school model which was developed in previous work with agricultural groups in Vietnam. The field-schools develop local farmer experts who are then able to train their peers in the techniques they have learned. This allows the research team to work closely with farmers in different regions to develop and disseminate knowledge on integrated pest management and good agricultural practices throughout citrus farms in Vietnam.

Working with leading researcher institutions from South and North Vietnam, field officers, farmer organisations and representatives from major pesticide companies, the project team will develop citrus IPM guidelines that are compliant with GAP standards. The team will establish a cadre of citrus farmers who can effectively become ‘master trainers’ in IPM/GAP techniques and facilitate province-level field school teams. By working directly with farmers, the guidelines and standards developed will be tailored for Vietnamese agricultural conditions and regional differences.

As a result of this project, export quality quarantine-compliant citrus fruit with pesticide levels below international minimum residue levels will be produced, opening new market opportunities in the competitive export market, and enhancing food safety for domestic consumption in Vietnam.

**Project Title:** Introduction of principles of GAP for citrus through implementation of citrus IPM using Farmer Field Schools

**Funding has been set at:** \$289,655

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