



Project: Aus4Skills Small Grants Fund
Developing partnerships between Australia and Vietnam for organic agriculture movement: training and workshop in two countries, funded by Australian Government

Second component: study tour of organic agriculture in Australia

Presentation:
Developing linkages between Australia & Vietnam and Asia on organic agriculture movement

Dr Nguyen Van Kien, AAS alumnus, Research Fellow in Agroecology at Fenner School of Environment & Society, the Australian National University, Lecturer of An Giang University, Founder of the Mekong Organics

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Pathway to promote organic and ecological agriculture movement between Australia and Vietnam

Started from the conservation and development of the floating rice based agroecological farming system in the Mekong Delta, and Mekong region

Involved in the research on agroecology at ANU Fenner School of Environment & Society, as the postdoctoral research fellow (2014-present)

Participated in the organic industry in Australia such as a member of NASAA in 2017 and COGS 2018, engaged with OAA in 2018, and NEC in 2019.

Received a Rod May Bursary award (NASAA) to participate in the IFOAM World Congress in New Delhi India in 11/2017, linked to Taiwan, Korea, and Japan and IFOAM Asia on organic agriculture.

Developed a Website of the Mekong Organics – to link and share organic agriculture research and development between Australia, Southeast Asia, and Mekong.

Linked with the Asia Rural Institute (ARI) Japan to send Vietnamese students to undertake a 10 months training on organic agriculture (2 first Vietnamese were sent since 2015)

Shared and learnt organic agriculture from Australian organic growers, associations and Taiwanese farmers, growers and researchers

Visited and linked organic growers to promote organic agriculture in the Mekong Region, in the South of Vietnam

Received a grant from Australian Government to establish relationship between Australia and Vietnam to promote organic agriculture movement

Send 06 Vietnamese organic growers from the Mekong Delta to Australia for learning organic agriculture in late 2019, funded by Rotary Club

Implement the organic vegetable garden project for Women Khmer to promote food security through agriculture, nutrition, and health, funded by AAV alumni grant fund, and organic rice in An Giang, and Organic Rice-Shrimp in Soc Trang, a five year project, funded by Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF, UK), 2019-2024).

The floating rice project has led me and RCRD researchers to approach agroecology and organic since 2013-up to date!

REPORT

Floating Rice in Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar



Nguyen & Pittock
2016

2013	2014	2015	2016-2019
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The collage includes the following logos:

- RCRD (Research Center for Rural Development in Hoeng, Australia)
- USAID (United States Agency for International Development)
- SEAM (South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization)
- SEAR (South East Asia Regional)
- PANAP (Pesticide Action Network Asia & the Pacific)
- Australian National University
- MITSUI & CO.
- Sumner Institute
- Mekong Sub-Region Social Research Center (Faculty of Liberal Arts, Ubon Ratchathani University)
- Naturam Premium Co-operative Kerala
- Master of Arts in International Development Studies
- Luc Hoffmann Institute
- Science to Action
- WWF (World Wildlife Fund)
- ECOLAND (Ecosystem Services and Land Use Research Centre)
- Other regional and national university logos.

This conservation activity attracted local to regional donors

Involved in agroecological research with academic professors at ANU Fenner School of Environment & Society, and organic industry in Australia, Taiwan, Mekong region, NGOs such as AliSEA

Dr Kien Van Nguyen

BSc (Vietnam), Grad Dip Crawford School (ANU), Masters Enviro Manag Crawford School (ANU), PhD (ANU)

Research Fellow

Biography

Research

Publications

Teaching

Kien Van Nguyen took his PhD in sociology at the ANU in 2012 with the support of an Australian Leadership Award from the Australian government. His thesis was on 'Social Capital, Livelihood Diversification, and Households' Resilience to Floods in the Vietnamese Mekong River Delta. His field work was funded by EEPSEA (under IRDC) and was published as a research report and policy brief. He is currently Director of the Research Centre for Rural Development, An Giang University, Mekong Delta, Vietnam, and a post-doctoral research fellow at the Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU.

Kien has published several papers in international journals and local newspapers. He has more than ten years' experience in teaching and researching environmental issues in the Mekong River Delta and has presented his work at many international and national conferences on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and conservation now the main focus of his research interests.

Kien did his Masters at the ANU under the Australian Development Scholarship in the areas of Environmental Management and Development, 2005 – 2006. Kien's Master thesis is entitled "An economic evaluation of flood dike construction in the Mekong Delta, Cost-benefit analysis of flood protection dike construction in An Giang Province".

Recently, Kien has received several research grants from international research and academic institutions. He received the first fellowship by EEPSEA (under IDRC) to study "social capital, livelihood diversification and household resilience to floods in Vietnamese



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📍 Forestry Building (48)

🔗 [ANU Researchers profile](#)

Being a member of NASSA in 2017 May and received a Rod May Award to participate the IFOAM congress in 2017 November, New Delhi, India



NASAA has a winner for the Rod May Bursary Award.....



Congratulations to **Van Kien Nguyen**, who is the honoured recipient of the Rod May Bursary Award and thank you to all of the applicants who lodged a submission!

The quality of the submissions for the Bursary were outstanding and this confirms the future of the Rod May Bursary for the next IFOAM World Congress.

Kien is involved in Postdoctoral Research at The Australian National University. More details on Kien and his achievements can be found [here](#)

Our sincere appreciation to Rod May's daughters, Stephanie and Carla for their efforts in determining our winner!



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Outside congress meeting with Japanese and Vietnamese organic experts at the IFOAM congress 2017



Vietnamese organic experts and growers at the side of the event in New Delhi Nov 2017



Japanese organic experts

Held the workshop on organic agriculture at AGU in Sep 2017 – linked Asia Rural Institute with partners and organic growers in the South of Vietnam



Visited the Tam Viet Farm in Dong Thap province, Sep 2017

Held the regional forum on agroecology, food security and climate change adaptation at AGU in Nov 2017, funded by SEARCA and AliSEA



International participants from Southeast Asia at the Forum



Participants from Southeast Asian Countries visited the floating rice agroecological farming systems in An Giang

Established the Mekong Organics Platform

Aim:

- Share scientific information about organic agriculture
- Link organic agriculture: Australia-Southeast Asia
- Host workshops and forum on organic agriculture
- Offer study tour to link organic agriculture between Australia and Southeast Asia, Mekong

About MekongOrganics

The Mekong Organics was established in 2018 to provide a knowledge platform linking organic agriculture, ecological farming and agrobiodiversity movements in the Mekong Region and Australia. The platform was initiated by Dr Van Kien Nguyen, a research fellow on agroecology from the Fenner School of Environment & Society, the Australian National University and Research Center for Rural Development of An Giang University. Following receipt of the Rod May Award funded by NASAA (National Association of Sustainable Agriculture Australia) for contributions to organic agriculture, Kien participated in the 2017 congress of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) in New Delhi India, November 2017. Dr Kien says that Rod May, and the opportunity of participating in the congress helped inspire him to promote an organic agriculture movement for Vietnam and other Mekong countries, as well as linking these with Australian organic agriculture.



The key aim of Mekong Organics is linking organic agriculture, nutrition and health using a multidisciplinary approach for improving well being of people in the Mekong region by translating

Shared organic agriculture movement in the Mekong Delta with Australian organic growers in Bairnsdale region, VIC, interviewed by ABC Radio in June 2018



ABC radio interviewed Dr Kien



Being a member of the Canberra Organic Growers Society (COGS) in July 2018- learn to operate the community-based organic garden in Vietnam



Return to Vietnam –
discuss with organic
community in the south of
Vietnam

Met the organic growers
in HCM city in Sep 2018

- Explore the
opportunities,
challenges of
producing organic
food, processing and
marketing



A group meeting at organic café in HCM city on 15 Sep 2018

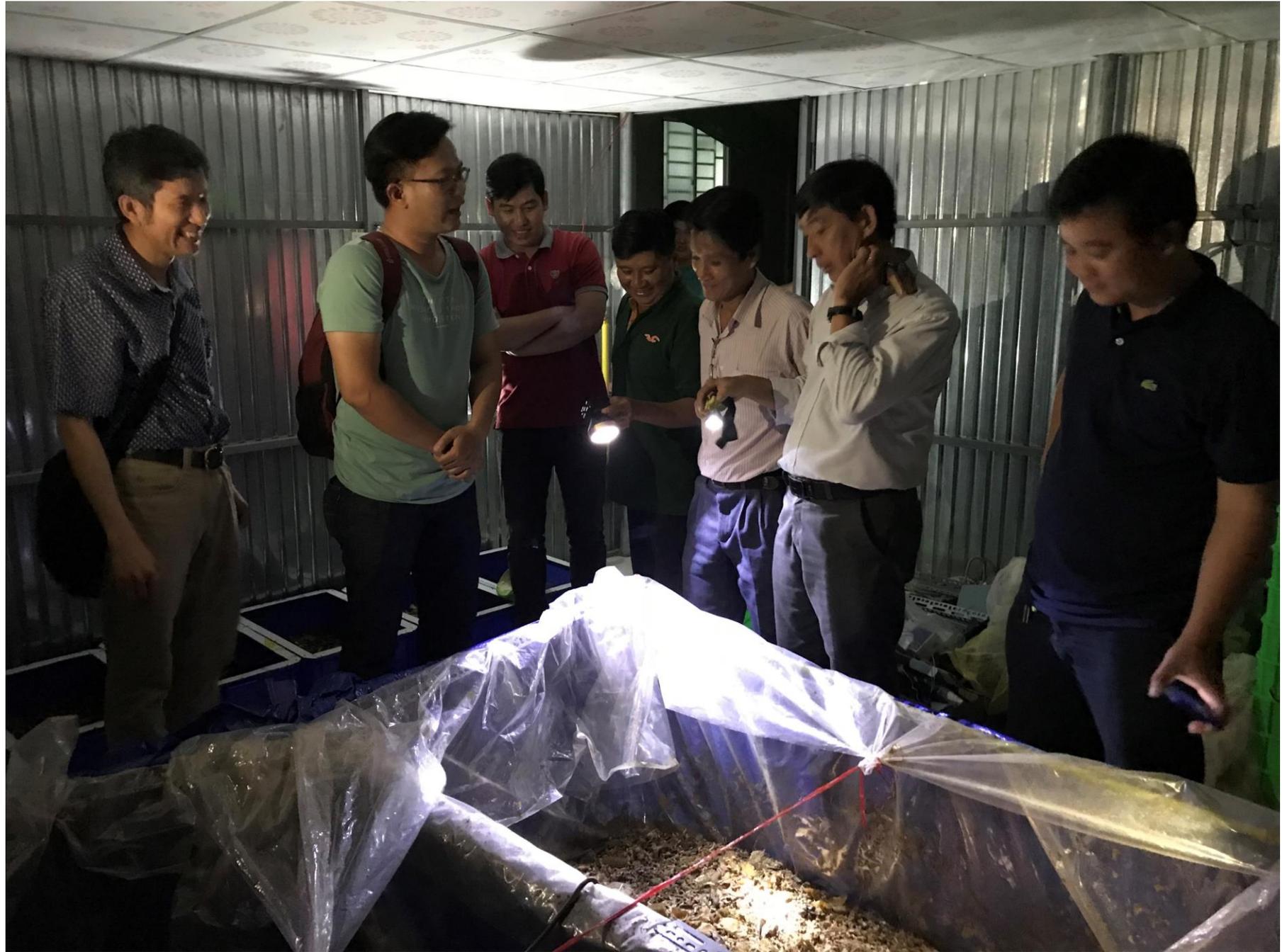


Members of My Loc Rice Cooperative in Tam Binh, Vinh Long 9/2018

Visited the My Loc organic rice cooperative in Tam Binh, Vinh Long province on 16 Sep 2018

- Exchange technical issues around organic rice farming;
- Understand market driven and promotion
- Explore the impacts of organic rice farm on community health
- Community awareness about organic food and agriculture

Met organic compost makers in Can Tho City on 17 Sep 2018 – understand the use of black soldier fly to digest food waste – a very potential business for farmers



Met and discussed with organic rice-shrimp grower, certified by USDA, Mr Ho Quang Cua, a rice hero of Soc Trang province, South of Vietnam



Mr Ho Quang Cua with his certified organic rice, by USAD in 2018



Met leader of Crop Department, Ca Mau Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Social enterprise of the Minh Phu Sea Food Processing Group in Ca Mau province on 18 Sep 2018.

- Explore the potential for promoting organic rice-shrimp in Ca Mau
- Opportunities and challenges for partnership engagement
- Provincial policies for development.
- Action plan for promoting the organic village in Ca Mau



ORGANIC RICE



ECOLOGICAL SHRIMP



Ecological rice-shrimp, Ca Mau province, Sep 2108



ANU- the Australian national university - researchers/professors visited ECH OP vegetable farm in Long Xuyen, An Giang Sep 2018 to learn about small scale safe vegetable farming – potentials for scale up and scale out the project

ANU professors visited the project site, floating rice in Tri Ton- An Giang in Sep 2018 – This project is currently funded by Mitsui & Com. Ltd, Environment Fund

Discussed adaptive capacity of the floating rice, ecotourism, marketing, and link agriculture- nutrition- health – organic floating rice



Floating rice elongates during the peak flood in 2018 Sep – boat can be transported everywhere on the paddy fields during the flood season

The floating rice elongates very well with the flood water, prof Jamie Pittock from ANU, at the floating rice field in Tri Ton District on 22 Sep 2018

The first meeting of the Mekong Organics at the Tâm Việt Farm (ecological rice farm), Thuong Thoi Tien commune, Hong Ngu District, Dong Thap province, 24th Sep 2018



Tam Viet Farm in Hong Ngu District, Dong Thap province, Sep 2018



Organic farmers and researchers are meeting together at the Tam Vietnam Farm

Shared the organic agriculture movement in the South of Vietnam with researchers, private sectors (business), organic agriculture association and farmers in Taiwan at Ming DAO university, Taiwan 14th Oct 2018



Prof Yisung Chen, a professor of organic agriculture at Minh Dao University, Taiwan shared his research and development on organic agriculture in Taiwan

AAV team at AGU applied grant to Australian Embassy in Hanoi – received the grant in Nov 2018 – to host the Mekong delta forum today!



Nguyen Van Kien
ADS Allunus (2005-06),
ALA (2008-12)



Le Ngoc Hiep
AAV (2012-14)



Nguyen Van Thai
AAV (2015-16)

Applied in May 2018

Approved in Nov 2018

Implement from 11/18-10/2019

Four project components (4Cs)

C1: Host the Organic Agriculture Forum at AGU



Developing partnerships between Australia and Vietnam for organic agriculture movement: training and workshop in two countries

The 1st Mekong Delta Forum on Developing Partnerships Between Australia & Vietnam for Organic Agriculture Movement

Diễn đàn Đồng Bằng Sông Cửu Long Lần 1: Phát Triển Mối Quan Hệ Đối Tác Giữa Úc Và Việt Nam Về Nông Nghiệp Hữu Cơ

14-15th January, 2019

Venue: Conference Room, Floor 2, An Giang University
New Campus: 18 Ung Van Khiem Street, Long Xuyen, An Giang, Vietnam



C2: Project team members go to Australia in March for learning Australian organic experience



C3: Establish the Mekong Organics Hub – communication and dissemination



C4: Women Khmer – organic vegetable garden: nutrition-and public health

Six organic growers in the South of Vietnam will visit Australian Organic Farmers and industry in late 2019, funded by Rotary Club, hosted by OAA, NASAA, COGS, ANU.

Hosting the first Mekong Delta Forum on organic agriculture with more than 200 participants on 14th Jan 2019



14.01.2019 10:07

Group photo at the forum, An Giang University 14th Jan 2019



14.01.2019 17:18

Speakers at the forum received honour gifts from the organizer – Mekong Organics

Mekong Organic Team members are visiting Australia: Riverina region, ACT, Victoria, and SA



Mekong Organics – organic Randal rice, Heffer’s organic grape, Charlie carp (organic fertilizer), NEC

Mekong Organic Team members are visiting Australia: Riverina region, ACT, Victoria, and SA



Mekong Organics – OAA, Trever's organic farm (pig, cattle), Vineyard organic grape, biopark

Mekong Organic Team members are visiting Australia: Riverina region, ACT, Victoria, and SA



Mekong Organics – nutrisoils – Charles Sturt uni's organic garden, organic cattle

Mekong Organic Team members are visiting Australia: Riverina region, ACT, Victoria, and SA



Thank You

