



Coffee Innovation Fund – Vietnam

Supporting innovative and scalable solutions to increase profitability and market access of small-holder coffee farmers

Mobile soil testing for optimising fertilizer use

In 2010, Atlantic Commodities Vietnam Ltd (ACOM) established Sustainable Management Services Vietnam (SMS Vietnam) as a service provider. Its mission is to create sustainable value for rural communities growing coffee in the Central Highlands and to reinforce ACOM's supply base for Robusta and Arabica coffee. SMS Vietnam provides training, certification and other value-adding services to farmers linked to the supply chain.

Inappropriate fertiliser application

Overuse and underuse as well as the improper application of fertiliser and a lack of information on actual soil composition (fertiliser needs) are prevalent in the Central Highlands. This results in a significant drain on farmer's profitability (higher fertiliser cost, lower yields) and on the environment (CO₂ emissions, soil degradation, water pollution). It also inhibits efforts for certification at higher levels which could provide price premiums. Current offers for soil testing in laboratories are rarely taken up due to the distances and delays involved. Furthermore, many farmers lack the expertise to translate the results into efficient fertiliser application.

On-farm instant soil testing

In cooperation with AgroCares, SMS has established a mobile soil testing service which makes use of AgroCares soil scanners in Lam Dong province. Field advisors provide a one-stop service on farms (soil testing, results via app, training on fertiliser application) with tailored results and recommendations, enabling farmers to apply fertiliser more efficiently and ultimately increase their sustainable yield and production. The Fund supports SMS through a team of advisors providing additional outreach and training on nutrient application.



Project overview

Term: 2019-2020
Region: Lam Dong Province, Vietnam
Partner: Sustainable Management Services Vietnam
Volume: EUR 50,000 (supported by the Fund)
EUR 100,000 (total volume)

Goals

- ❖ Optimise the nutrient application of coffee farmers in Lam Dong Province through mobile soil testing.
- ❖ Improve farmers' profitability and reduce soil degradation, water stream contamination and GHG emissions.
- ❖ Sustainably increase quality and facilitate certification.

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