SUMMARY REPORT

High-Level Policy Dialogue: Promoting International Cooperation and Multi Sectoral Coordination for Circular Agriculture

8 July 2024
Hanoi, Viet Nam

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Programme and technical themes

The workshop was bipartite in nature. The first session covered the role of scientific development, innovation, and technology transfer for circular economy to advance high-level policy goals of agriculture. The second session focused on two panel discussions on partnerships to drive circular agriculture. The first panel discusses the opportunities for science and technology and international cooperation to fast-track the adoption of circular agriculture. Panellists will share their experiences and programmatic priorities to facilitate effective and impactful coordination by MARD. The second session showcased highly scalable business models and practices towards circular agriculture and discussed financing alignment. The full agenda is provided at the appendices of this report.

Participants

The event brought together over 200 participants (100 on-site and over 106 online) in a hybrid meeting format, including government officials and representatives from key ministries that operate in sectors relevant to the Agriculture and Circular Economy in Viet Nam; representatives from donor countries; technical experts from UNDP, and representatives from regional and international organizations engaged in the transition to Circular Agriculture. This event is moderated by Mr Nguyen Do Anh Tuan, Director General of International Cooperation Department (ICD), MARD.

OPENING SESSION

Opening remarks

Mr. Phung Duc Tien, Deputy Minster, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of Viet Nam, highlighted the significant achievements of Viet Nam's agricultural sector, especially post-COVID-19, and emphasized the crucial role of circular agriculture in achieving sustainable development. He noted the challenges posed by agricultural waste, climate change, and natural calamities, stressing the importance of utilizing agricultural residues to add value. Mr. Tien underlined the government's commitment to circular economy principles and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, calling for strong engagement from all sectors and collaboration with international partners to promote circular agriculture and address climate-related issues.

Welcoming remarks

Ms. Ramla Khalidi, Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Viet Nam, commended the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for their initiative to promote circular economy practices in agriculture. She highlighted the significance of circular agriculture in achieving climate goals, boosting economic competitiveness, and protecting human and ecosystem health. Ms. Khalidi emphasized the potential of the UNDP's Circular Economy (CE) – Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Toolbox, which supports Viet Nam in identifying, prioritizing, implementing, and tracking circular interventions in agriculture to contribute to the NDC 2025. She presented three key recommendations: streamlining collaboration with partners to prioritize and disseminate circular practices, stimulating markets for circular products through effective use of resources and consumer awareness, and ensuring access to financing for farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to support their circular transformation. She reaffirmed UNDP's commitment to supporting Viet Nam's transition to a sustainable and circular agricultural sector, delivering benefits for both the people and the environment.

SESSION 1: THE ROLE OF SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY TO ADVANCE HIGH-LEVEL POLICY GOALS OF AGRICULTURE

Presentation 1: The role and potential of a circular economy in Viet Nam's key agricultural sectors

Dr. Nguyen Anh Phong, Deputy Direct General, Institute for Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD) outlined the significant role and potential of the circular economy in Viet Nam's agricultural sector. He described the circular economy as an ecological concept based on optimizing the use of all biomass, reducing resource consumption, and minimizing emissions. This approach, rooted in principles of zero waste, prolonged use of materials, and regeneration of natural ecosystems, is gaining traction in agriculture to enhance sustainability. Dr. Phong highlighted Viet Nam's policy advancements, including various resolutions and decisions aimed at promoting a circular economy, which have led to increased treatment and utilization of agricultural by-products, thereby enhancing economic efficiency.

Despite these advancements, Dr. Phong acknowledged several challenges, such as limited awareness among stakeholders, fragmented policy implementation, and inadequate technological integration. He emphasized the need for a more comprehensive policy framework, increased investment in research and development, and stronger collaboration among actors in the agricultural sector. Dr. Phong presented successful circular economy models, such as combining crop and livestock production and converting agricultural waste into organic fertilizer. He concluded by urging for improved enforcement of policies, better resource allocation, and enhanced connectivity between stakeholders to fully leverage the benefits of a circular economy in Viet Nam's agriculture.

Presentation 2: International tools and experience in promoting circular agriculture & initial results from piloting the CE-NDC Toolbox

Ms. Maria Soledad Riestra, UNDP Leader Advisor on Effective Collaborative Action, emphasized the critical role of multi-stakeholder collaboration in transforming food systems towards a circular economy and integrating this approach into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). She noted that over

90% of extracted materials are wasted, with secondary materials accounting for only 7.2% of inputs cycled back into the economy. Embedding circular economy principles into NDCs is essential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering sustainable development. This integration requires unprecedented connectivity, coordination, and shared vision across government, private sector, NGOs, civil society, and producers. Multi-stakeholder collaboration can address the complexity of circular economy approaches, ensure coordinated action, and institutionalize change by creating inclusive governance structures and strategic alliances.

Riestra highlighted examples from UNDP's work, such as the multi-stakeholder platforms in Peru's coffee and cocoa sectors, which developed national action plans and strengthened governance and participation at regional levels. She identified key challenges and opportunities in embedding circular economy into NDCs, including the need for strengthened political will, additional success stories, adequate finance, capacity building, and private sector engagement. Multi-stakeholder collaboration can support these efforts by building leadership and trust, fostering public-private partnerships, developing technical capacities, and ensuring policy coherence. In Viet Nam, the National Action Plan on Food Systems Transformation and the National Food Systems Transformation Partnership exemplify how multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms can drive sustainable and transparent food systems by 2030.

Ms. Morgane Rivoal, Climate Change and Circular Economy Officer, UNDP Viet Nam, presented the initial results generated under the CE-NDC Toolbox. This toolbox helps countries identify hotspots and circular economy measures with strong climate potential for integration into the next round of NDCs. In Viet Nam, the initial stage involved mapping potential circular interventions in rice and coffee sectors. The results revealed significant opportunities for reusing rice by-products like straw and husk for mushroom cultivation, biomass development, and nutrient recycling. Similarly, combining crop by-products with livestock waste could generate enough organic fertilizer to exceed national demand, showcasing both economic benefits and reduced reliance on imported fertilizers.

Ms. Rivoal emphasized that Viet Nam's legislative framework supports the adoption of circular practices, with new schemes promoting circular agriculture. She highlighted the need for increased awareness, financial modalities, and scaling up of existing practices to fully harness their potential. The next steps include measuring the GHG emission reduction potential of circular practices in rice and coffee value chains and producing policy briefs to contribute to NDC 2025. The launch of the Agri-Circular Economy Hub will facilitate data collection and sharing, fostering collaboration among partners to advance circular agriculture in Viet Nam.

Presentation 3: Launch of the National Programme "Applying science and technology transfer to promote CE in agriculture by 2030."

Mr. Nguyen Van Ly, Department of Science, Technology and Environment, MARD, presented the key aspects of the project on promoting circular economy in agriculture by 2030, as outlined in Decision No. 540/QD-TTG. The project focuses on five key areas: perspectives, objectives, tasks and solutions, resources, and implementation arrangements. It emphasizes the importance of using resources effectively, enhancing added value, protecting the environment, and promoting sustainable agriculture through science, technology, and innovation.

The project's objectives include improving resource efficiency, increasing the value of agricultural products, and enhancing the reuse and recycling of by-products. Specific targets include reducing post-harvest losses, recycling by-products in crop production, and treating wastewater in aquaculture. The project also aims to train agricultural extension officers and increase the added value in agricultural product chains by at least 20%. Key tasks and solutions involve research and development, technology transfer, market development, legal and policy framework improvement, international cooperation, and communication and capacity building. Resources for the project will come from various funding sources, including the state budget and aid from domestic and foreign entities. Implementation will be coordinated by MARD with the collaboration of other ministries and local authorities.

SESSION 2: PANEL DISCUSSIONS 'PARTNERSHIPS TO DRIVE CIRCULAR AGRICULTURE'

Panel 1: International cooperation to advance circular agriculture

This panel discusses the opportunities for science and technology and international cooperation to fast-track the adoption of circular agriculture. Moderated by Mr Nguyen Do Anh Tuan, Director General of ICD, MARD, panellists shared their experiences and programmatic priorities to facilitate effective and impactful coordination by MARD. The panel welcomes representatives from:

- Delegation of the European Union
- Embassy of Canada
- Department of Livestock and Husbandry (MARD)
- Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
- The Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH)
- UNDP

Mr. Jesús Laviña, Acting Head of Cooperation Section, EU Delegation to Viet Nam, emphasized the importance of their strategic partnership and free trade agreement with Viet Nam, which shaped their collaboration. He noted that Vietnamese agricultural exports to the EU must meet stringent social and environmental standards, making the shift towards circularity a beneficial strategy for both sides. Mr. Laviña highlighted the EU's Green Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan, which aims to make sustainable products the norm, empower consumers, reduce waste, and implement people-centered policies. These policies, he stressed, also have an external dimension that impacts the EU's cooperation with partner countries like Viet Nam.

Mr. Laviña further discussed a major circular economy initiative currently under discussion with MARD, focusing on agriculture and industry, with the aim of improving the regulatory framework and business environment for circularity in key value chains. This initiative adopts a multi-stakeholder approach, involving national and provincial governments, the private sector, civil society, NGOs, and academia. He noted that EU Member States are actively supporting circular economy projects in Viet Nam. For instance, France is working on the project in the Mekong River, Germany on deforestation-free regulation, and Finland on financing circular economy models. Additionally, he emphasized the role of digital transformation in supporting circularity. Mr. Laviña reiterated the EU's commitment to sharing its knowledge, experiences, technologies, and market opportunities with Viet Nam to advance circular agriculture and achieve mutual benefits.

Mr. Brian Allemekinders, Head of Cooperation from the Embassy of Canada, expressed his gratitude for the invitation and commended Viet Nam for its efforts in establishing various policies such as the National Green Growth Strategy, the National Action Plan on Sustainable Food Transformation, and the National Plastics Action Partnership. He highlighted that while institutions and governments play a crucial role in discussions and policy framework development, the actual implementation of a circular economy relies on farmers, consumers, and supply chain stakeholders. Emphasizing the difficulty of behavior change, he noted that it is essential to consider the perspectives of rural farmers and the mechanisms they have employed for years.

Mr. Allemekinders discussed the importance of strengthening inter-ministerial coordination, given that at least ten different government ministries in Viet Nam are involved in circular economy efforts. He stressed the need for incentives and support mechanisms to encourage behavior change among farmers, businesses, and other organizations, suggesting financial incentives, subsidies, and tax breaks. Additionally, he underscored the role of research and development (R&D) in driving innovative circular economy practices in agriculture and highlighted the importance of involving private sector companies with substantial R&D budgets. He concluded by pointing out the significant availability of capital for green financing and the necessity of harnessing this capital to advance the circular economy in Viet Nam's agricultural sector.

Mr. Tony Harman, Australian Agricultural Counsellor, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, expressed his appreciation for the invitation and congratulated Viet Nam on its significant policy advancements in promoting a circular economy. He acknowledged the central role of circular economy principles in Viet Nam's National Green Growth Strategy, National Action Plan on Sustainable Food Transformation, and National Plastics Action Partnership. Highlighting the Australian Government's commitment to partnering with Viet Nam, he emphasized the importance of transitioning agriculture to more sustainable practices and high-value products for international markets. He mentioned Australia's efforts in the Mekong region, particularly the million hectares of low-carbon rice initiative and various agricultural technology projects led by CSIRO and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, which focus on addressing food production challenges and poverty alleviation in regional areas.

Mr. Harman contrasted the linear economy, which promotes consumption and waste, with the circular economy that emphasizes sustainability, reuse, and resourcefulness. He noted that Viet Nam's resourcefulness and entrepreneurial spirit align well with circular economy principles. He discussed Australia's initiatives, including the establishment of a Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group to identify opportunities and address barriers to the circular economy transition. Additionally, CSIRO's work on tyres, plastics, paper, and glass recycling showcases Australia's commitment to sustainability. He emphasized the importance of innovative practices, lowering production inputs, and assessing the full lifecycle of products to reduce emissions and promote a climate-friendly future. By fostering an environment that encourages diverse solutions, Australia aims to support Viet Nam in achieving sustainable agricultural and economic growth.

Mr. Huynh Tien Dung, Country Director, IDH in Viet Nam, highlighted the role of non-governmental organizations in promoting sustainable agricultural production in Viet Nam. IDH works closely with both public and private entities across various agricultural value chains, including tea, coffee, fisheries, and more. He emphasized that while policies and models are frequently discussed, there has not been enough attention given to enterprises. Mr. Dung suggested that a strategy should be developed to encourage enterprises to invest in circular economy practices, focusing on profitability and market viability. He also stressed the importance of policy dialogue involving the private sector to harness their innovative solutions and experiences.

Additionally, Mr. Dung pointed out the need for creating market availability for circular products, emphasizing the importance of market commitment from various stakeholders. He highlighted successful models in fisheries, where by-products like catfish waste are repurposed into animal feed, showcasing effective circular practices. Mr. Dung called for a dedicated program or strategy to engage the private sector more closely in circular economy initiatives, as they play a critical role in this transition. By fostering strong partnerships and emphasizing practical market solutions, Viet Nam can advance its circular economy goals in the agricultural sector.

Mr. Tong Xuan Chinh, Deputy Director General, Department of Livestock Production, MARD, addressed the significant gap in the adoption of the circular economy in Viet Nam, noting that over 92% of the economy remains linear. He emphasized the need to reduce input materials and enhance added value within the agricultural sector. Highlighting the importance of cooperation among subsectors, he discussed the necessity for stronger linkages between livestock production and other sectors such as the dairy industry. Mr. Chinh provided statistics on the potential for circular economy practices in agriculture, mentioning 156 million tons of agricultural waste and 60 million tons of livestock production waste that could be utilized. He stressed the role of organic production and traditional practices, advocating for the integration of science and technology to convert waste into organic fertilizers.

Mr. Chinh outlined three key orientations for promoting a circular economy: fostering multistakeholder collaboration, addressing potential challenges, and leveraging international practices. He emphasized the need to develop legal regulations and conduct comprehensive surveys to establish baseline economic models and criteria. Additionally, he called for the development of standardized procedures and certification schemes to enhance productivity and yield through advanced technology. Mr. Chinh highlighted the success of biogas technology in generating carbon credits and its potential for wider adoption. He concluded by underscoring the importance of creating a robust circular economy model that covers the entire value chain for agricultural products, with active engagement from the private sector to achieve sustainable development in Viet Nam.

Key points for panel 1: **International cooperation to advance circular agriculture**

- **Comprehensive policies and strategic partnerships** are essential in promoting circular agriculture. Viet Nam's recent advancements, such as the National Green Growth Strategy and the National Action Plan on Sustainable Food Transformation, underscore the need for robust policies that promote recycling, reuse, and efficient resource use in agriculture, particularly through the adoption of scientific and technological innovations.
    - **Mr. Jesús Laviña** emphasized the importance of strategic partnerships between Viet Nam and the EU, noting that the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan and digital transformation initiatives are key in supporting sustainable agriculture. He stressed the need for collaboration among stakeholders to align regulations with circular practices and enhance market access for circular products.
- **Effective implementation of circular agriculture** requires collaboration among various stakeholders, including governments at all levels, the private sector, civil society, and academia. This approach ensures diverse resources are used to develop solutions that enhance the recycling of agricultural by-products and promote green growth across key sectors like rice and livestock farming.
    - **Mr. Tony Harman** highlighted the alignment between Viet Nam's Green Growth Strategy and circular economy principles, underscoring Australia's support through low-carbon rice initiatives and agricultural technologies. He stressed the importance of reducing inputs and addressing the full product lifecycle for sustainability.
    - **Mr. Tong Xuan Chinh** emphasized the potential of converting agricultural and livestock waste into valuable products, such as organic fertilizers and biogas, and called for strengthening links between livestock production and other sectors to maximize the circular model's effectiveness.
- **Incentives and support mechanisms**, such as financial incentives, subsidies, and tax breaks, are critical to driving behavior change among farmers and businesses. Creating market demand for circular products, such as organic fertilizers and biogas, is vital for successful implementation and long-term sustainability.
    - **Mr. Brian Allemekinders** stressed the importance of financial incentives to encourage behavior change. He noted the need for stronger inter-ministerial coordination and highlighted the availability of green financing to support circular agriculture efforts.
    - **Mr. Huynh Tien Dung** focused on the necessity of engaging the private sector by creating market demand for circular products. He advocated for scaling successful models, such as using fisheries by-products, and suggested strategies to incentivize enterprises to invest in circular practices.
- **Research and development (R&D)**, coupled with advanced technologies, play a pivotal role in turning agricultural and livestock waste into valuable resources. Significant investment in R&D is necessary to improve waste management systems,

increase the use of by-products, and develop efficient circular models that reduce environmental impact and boost economic returns.

- **Mr. Tony Harman** emphasized that innovation and technological advances are essential for reducing inputs and improving agricultural productivity while addressing the entire product lifecycle.
- **Mr. Tong Xuan Chinh** highlighted the role of biogas technology, its potential for generating carbon credits, and the need for wider adoption of these technologies in Viet Nam.

- **Addressing the gap in circular economy adoption** requires the development of legal regulations, standardized procedures, and certification schemes. Learning from international best practices and ensuring clear guidelines for circular product certification, such as for organic fertilizers, are key to overcoming barriers and advancing circular agriculture.
  - **Mr. Jesús Laviña** emphasized that collaboration among stakeholders is crucial to aligning regulations and market access for circular products. Ensuring that regulations support circular practices will enhance Viet Nam's ability to scale up circular agriculture.
  - **Mr. Huynh Tien Dung** advocated for clear certification schemes for circular products and called for policies that encourage businesses to participate in circular models through standardized frameworks and incentives.

Panel 2: Enterprises transforming sustainable agricultural production

This session will showcase highly scalable business models and practices towards circular agriculture and discuss financing alignment. The panel welcomes representatives from:

- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
- EuroCham
- Viet Nam Clean & Creative Agriculture Club (VCAC)
- VietHaus
- Department of Fisheries (MARD)

Mr. Jongsoo Shin, Asia Director, IRRI, highlighted the four key challenges in transforming sustainable agricultural production: infrastructure, research and development, technology, and extension services. He noted that while Viet Nam has made significant advancements in these areas compared to other countries, the real challenge lies in ensuring that technologies and policies have a tangible impact at the field level. He emphasized the need for benefit-oriented communication with farmers, showing them the economic advantages and increased income potential of adopting new technologies and practices.

Mr. Shin shared a practical example of starting 11 cooperatives focused on low-carbon, high-quality rice production and circular agricultural activities. Initially, only 45 out of 70 invited farmers participated, but as they saw the benefits of composting rice straw and selling organic fertilizer, more farmers joined. This hands-on experience demonstrated the importance of evidence-based practices and science-driven results to encourage farmer participation and drive new directions in sustainable agricultural production. He stressed the need for collaboration with organizations like CIP and CGIAR to prove the real value of these initiatives to farmers.

Mrs. Le Thi Hoai Thuong, Representative of Eurocham's Green Growth Sector Committee, emphasized the importance of promoting a circular economy to connect producers and consumers effectively. She highlighted that the committee, established 10 years ago, focuses on sustainable production and consumption, energy efficiency, sustainable buildings, water management, and circular economy practices. Key areas include Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and sustainable waste management. She stressed the need for clear policy targets and a predictable investment environment over 10-20 years to encourage businesses to adopt circular economy practices.

Mrs. Thuong discussed the necessity of developing a roadmap to engage various stakeholders, including producers and farmers, emphasizing the need for farmer-centered policies. She noted that producers should have clear criteria to follow, with scientists contributing to the decision-making process. Examples from the animal feed and coffee sectors demonstrated how by-products could be efficiently utilized, highlighting the need for effective policies and incentives. She called for an annual policy dialogue and events to gather stakeholders and discuss recommendations, aiming to support long-term investment decisions in the circular economy.

Mr. Nguyen Dang Kien, Department of Fisheries (DoF), MARD, highlighted the ongoing efforts and future plans to promote the circular economy, or "blue economy," in Viet Nam's fisheries and aquaculture sector. In 2023, the DoF partnered with local and international organizations to host dialogues and forums on circular economy practices. In 2024, the DoF has focused on implementing CE practices in the shrimp and catfish sectors to increase product value and minimize environmental impact. Various resource recovery models, such as integrated shrimp-rice farming, shrimp with algae cultivation, super-intensive shrimp farming, and zero-discharge recirculating systems, were discussed and adopted by businesses.

Mr. Kien emphasized the importance of following Decision 540, and adjusting priority policies, such as Decision 68/2013/QD-TTg, to reduce post-harvest losses. As the current decision has not garnered enough participation from individuals and businesses, the DoF will collaborate with other ministries to convert it into a decree. The goal of achieving 60% sludge waste treatment is feasible for larger facilities but challenging for small-scale operations, which currently present only 10% of aquaculture households. Therefore, policies supporting capacity building and incentivizing farmers to consolidate into larger operations are crucial. Additionally, promoting policies that encourage innovation and ensure a closed production loop from pond construction to export remains a significant challenge, with a particular need for developing robust output markets. Mr. Kien also called for more support and cooperation from international organizations to achieve these goals.

Mr. Ha Van Thang, Viet Nam Clean & Creative Agriculture Club (VCAC) Chairman, expressed his gratitude for participating in the policy dialogue focused on international cooperation and the circular economy. He emphasized the necessity of having a unified understanding of circular economy principles, noting that their implementation depends heavily on the specific circumstances and innovative capabilities of each enterprise. He highlighted that a circular economy requires significant innovation, creativity, and the application of various technologies.

Mr. Thang stressed the need for a comprehensive legal framework to support pilot projects, enabling the testing and refining of circular economy models in real-world situations. He pointed out the importance of improving machinery efficiency, as farmers are driven by economic incentives; tasks like straw collection need to be profitable to be adopted. Furthermore, he underlined the necessity of reviewing and updating existing policies to support innovation and practical implementation, calling for more practical results and successful models to engage the private sector effectively. He concluded by urging for concrete actions and support from government agencies and international organizations to facilitate the development of the circular economy in Viet Nam.

Ms. Nguyen Thi My Ngan, Director of Viet Haus, shared her experiences and challenges in promoting sustainable agriculture and circular economy practices. Viet Haus is committed to bringing high-quality organic agricultural products from Viet Nam to the world. They have established a 4,000-hectare cashew farm that practices organic farming and integrated agriculture, including intercropping with other vegetation to enhance biodiversity. They have also developed markets for traditionally discarded cashew fruits, turning them into valuable products. Despite having solutions for improving inputs and marketing outputs, Viet Haus faces challenges such as infrastructure limitations, financial constraints, and the need for greater government support and access to advanced scientific and technological resources.

Ms. Ngan emphasized the importance of collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, the private sector, and international organizations, to scale and replicate successful models like Viet Haus. She highlighted the need for a supportive legal framework and incentives to encourage innovation and creativity in the circular economy. Viet Haus has secured long-term contracts for its produce and is developing a circular economy model that utilizes agricultural byproducts to create bio-products and

organic fertilizers. She invited other stakeholders to use Viet Haus as a model and expand their implementation efforts based on Viet Haus's experience.

Key points for panel 2: **Enterprises transforming sustainable agricultural production**

- **Sustainable agricultural production** requires addressing key challenges in **infrastructure, research and development (R&D), technology**, and **extension services**. These areas are crucial to support circular agriculture, and solutions need to demonstrate clear economic benefits to farmers, encouraging widespread adoption of circular practices.
    - **Mr. Jongsoo Shin** emphasized the need for effective communication of economic benefits to farmers and cited the success of cooperatives adopting low-carbon rice production technologies as an example of how infrastructure and R&D can enhance sustainability.
- **Creating clear, long-term policy targets** and a **predictable investment environment** is essential to support businesses in adopting circular economy practices. Farmer-centered policies and strong collaboration with private enterprises are necessary to scale successful models that benefit both producers and consumers.
    - **Mrs. Le Thi Hoai Thuong** called for long-term policy targets and investment security to drive business adoption of circular practices. She also highlighted the need for scientific involvement and clear criteria for producers, particularly in key sectors like animal feed and coffee.
- **Market development** is critical for circular products in fisheries and other agricultural sectors. By ensuring market commitment and creating competitive advantages for circular agricultural products, enterprises can achieve profitability while reducing environmental impact.
    - **Mr. Nguyen Dang Kien** discussed the importance of building market availability for circular products in the fisheries sector, using models like shrimp-rice farming to highlight the potential for resource recovery and sustainability.
- Effective **capacity building and financial incentives** are key to encouraging small-scale producers to consolidate into larger, more efficient operations. Providing support for innovative technologies and infrastructure will enable small farmers to adopt circular economy models and improve their production processes.
    - **Mr. Nguyen Dang Kien** emphasized the need for capacity building to help small-scale operations consolidate and adopt circular economy practices.
    - **Mr. Ha Van Thang** also called for a focus on machinery efficiency and financial support to improve the economic viability of circular activities.
- A **comprehensive legal framework** that supports **pilot projects** and encourages innovation is necessary to refine and scale circular economy models. Ensuring profitability through improved **machinery efficiency** and creating **certification schemes** for circular agricultural products are essential to driving the transition

toward sustainable production.

- **Mr. Ha Van Thang** stressed the need for a supportive legal framework to test and scale circular models, while ensuring that machinery efficiency and economic viability are prioritized.
- **Ms. Nguyen Thi My Ngan** noted the importance of collaborating with stakeholders and securing government support to help scale sustainable and circular agricultural practices.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Phung Duc Tien, Deputy Minster, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of Viet Nam, emphasized the necessity of a unified understanding and consistent policy framework for advancing the circular economy in Viet Nam. He highlighted the government's clear orientation towards green, low-emission, and circular economy initiatives, underscoring the need for substantial scientific and technological advancements supported by international experts. Mr. Tien stressed the importance of establishing systematic policy mechanisms and pilot models to address complex challenges in research, development, and market connectivity before full-scale implementation. He acknowledged the practical difficulties faced by cooperatives and enterprises in scaling up their models and called for enhanced collaboration between government ministries and international experts. Ensuring viable markets for outputs and byproducts is crucial for sustainability. Mr. Tien expressed gratitude for the contributions of participants and international organizations, particularly UNEP and UNDP, in organizing the policy dialogue, which aims to turn challenges into opportunities for Viet Nam's sustainable development and climate change response.

Ms. Ramla Khalidi, UNDP Resident Representative in Viet Nam, concluded the session by highlighting the immense potential for circularity in agriculture, covering livestock, crops, and aquaculture. She emphasized the importance of leveraging the existing policy framework while identifying and addressing gaps. Ms. Khalidi appreciated the pragmatic approach and the critical role of multi-stakeholder partnerships, stressing the value of listening to farmers, private sector needs, and communities. She underscored the necessity of promoting science, technology, and research through incentives and finance, acknowledging the vital role of the private sector. Finally, she expressed gratitude to Vice Minister Tien, the ICD team, development partners, enterprises, panelists, and the UNDP team for their contributions and support in organizing the high-level dialogue.