

PRESS RELEASE

The Fourth Congress of the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association (PHANO), Term 2025-2030

On July 30, 2025, the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association (PHANO) will solemnly convene its Fourth Congress for the 2025-2030 term at the Agricultural Genetics Institute. Under the theme ***“Solidarity - Innovation - Creativity”***, the Congress will review the achievements of the 2019-2024 term, set forth the orientations for the next five years, amend and supplement the Association’s Charter, and elect the new Executive Board, Inspection Committee, and Leadership for the 2025-2030 term.

Amid the constant flow of development, Vietnam’s rural areas are undergoing a profound transformation, taking on a new identity that is ecological, modern, and sustainable. Behind these achievements stands a dedicated professional and social organization: the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association (PHANO).

Established in 2006, PHANO operates with a noble mission: to promote the application of science and technology, enhance knowledge, and transfer technical advances to support comprehensive rural development. The Association serves as a vital bridge between research and practice, translating scientific insights into practical value and improving the livelihoods of farmers across the country. It brings together a wide network of scientists, experts, entrepreneurs, artisans, and farm owners, forming a strong and dynamic knowledge community.

Despite the profound challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters during the 2019-2024 term, PHANO remained resilient and delivered remarkable achievements. The Association played a key role in building new-style rural areas and civilized urban communities, promoting ecological agriculture, and contributing to the transformation of Vietnam’s food systems.

PHANO collaborated closely with the Department of Economic Cooperation and Rural Development under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (now the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment), the Hanoi Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and various local authorities to effectively implement key programs in new-style rural development, One Commune One Product (OCOP), the revitalization of traditional crafts, and sustainable agri-ecotourism. These efforts not only enhanced agricultural value but also preserved traditional cultural heritage.

The Association has pioneered the piloting and promotion of advanced ecological farming models, while offering practical and relevant policy recommendations. Notably, PHANO has actively organized events to honor craft villages and rural products, and has strongly promoted domestic and international trade, contributing to the broader growth of Vietnam's agricultural sector.

PHANO has strengthened international cooperation by engaging in projects and conferences that promote green transition, digital transformation, innovation, climate change adaptation, poverty reduction, and food and nutrition security. Notably, PHANO has worked closely with ministries and international organizations including the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support the implementation of Vietnam's National Action Plan under Prime Ministerial Decision No. 300, which aims to transform the food system toward transparency, accountability, and sustainability by 2030.

PHANO currently serves as national secretariat for the Agroecology Learning Alliance in Southeast Asia (ALiSEA), which connects over 75 organizations. The Association has also co-chaired the Vietnam - Japan Agricultural Technology Forum (VJAT), a network of Vietnamese and Japanese technology enterprises.

PHANO places strong emphasis on supporting stakeholders in developing regional brands, collective trademarks, and geographical indications, helping to elevate the global recognition of Vietnamese agricultural products. The Association also actively contributes to the review, consultation, and drafting of key policies, decrees, and relevant legislation.

Notably, PHANO has made meaningful contributions to the drafting of the revised Capital Law and other key policies supporting new rural development, craft village industries, and the OCOP program, all aimed at inclusive and sustainable growth.

More than a scientific organization, PHANO has been a trusted companion to rural communities, a hub for knowledge sharing, opportunity creation, and advocacy. Through training programs, livelihood consultations, community brand development, and market linkages, PHANO has helped improve the quality of life and foster sustainable production capacity across the country.

While the achievements of the 2019-2024 term are highly commendable, the period also revealed significant challenges: limited financial resources, unsynchronized inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms, and limited technological adaptability. From these experiences, PHANO has drawn valuable lessons: the need for renewed thinking, enhanced member capacity, broader domestic engagement, stronger international partnerships, and closer alignment with the realities of rural life.

As PHANO enters the 2025-2030 term, it reaffirms its overarching direction: ***“Strengthen organizational structure - Innovate content and methods - Enhance socio-economic effectiveness”***, with the theme ***“Solidarity - Innovation - Creativity”***. The ultimate goal is to contribute meaningfully to ***“Developing an ecological and sustainable agricultural sector; Building a modern and livable rural area; Fostering professional and cultured farmers”***.

The Association’s key tasks include promoting research and applied innovations in the agroecological transition, actively contributing to the National Action Plan for a transparent, responsible, and sustainable food system transformation by 2030 while scaling up agroecological models, supporting the development of community-based agricultural brands, OCOP products, and traditional craft village goods, strengthening international cooperation and connecting global knowledge and expertise, advancing science communication, organizing workshops and training programs, providing consultancy to communities and members, and proactively engaging in policy review, critique, and advocacy related to agriculture and rural development.

In the context of Vietnam’s rapid development, guided by major national resolutions on science and technology, digital transformation, private sector, and global integration, PHANO will focus its resources on five core areas:

(1) *Advance the application of science, technology, and innovation* by conducting research and transferring high-tech and digital technologies (AI, IoT, Big Data) to develop smart and sustainable agriculture, while also fostering agricultural entrepreneurship and value chain development.

(2) *Accelerate rural digital transformation* through the development of digital infrastructure, guidance on the application of digital technologies in production and management, and enhancement of digital skills within local communities.

(3) *Promote private sector development* by providing legal advisory services, facilitating investment, and encouraging sustainable business models.

(4) *Enhance international integration and policy advocacy* by engaging in proactive research, developing policy recommendations, strengthening international cooperation, and building member capacity.

(5) *Focus on human resource development* by attracting and connecting a network of scientists and experts to ensure a strong, capable workforce. The overarching goal is to contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas, and to improve the livelihoods of rural communities.

With nearly 20 years of accumulated experience, the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association is ready to embark on a new phase of dynamic, substantive, and expansive growth. On this journey, PHANO looks forward to continued guidance from government ministries, support from domestic and international organizations, and close engagement from its nationwide membership.

The Fourth Congress (2025-2030 term) of the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association takes place at a time when the entire nation is embracing a spirit of innovation and creativity, confidently advancing into an era of national rise. The Association's leadership, members, and network of experts and scientists are united in pursuing a shared mission: Developing an ecological and sustainable agricultural sector; Building a modern and livable rural area; Fostering professional and cultured farmers. Through these efforts, PHANO contributes alongside the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment to maintaining its role as a pillar of the national economy, affirming Vietnam's strategic advantages, and supporting global food security.

PHANO CONGRESS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

When Scientists Return to the Village

Message of Congratulations to the Fourth Congress of the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association (PHANO), Term 2025-2030

There was once an agricultural engineer who, after retiring, left the bustling city to return to his village. But instead of resting, he chose to revive the old garden, document traditional farming methods, and spend time chatting with farmers beside fields undergoing an ecological transformation. When asked why he did not rest, he smiled and said, *“Here, I still feel I can be useful...”*

That image may well capture the spirit of countless individuals who have carried, and continue to carry a deep and unwavering love for Vietnam’s rural heartland: the agricultural scientists of the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association (PHANO). Though retired, their dedication has never waned. Though their hair may be silvered by time, their eyes still shine with hope for the countryside’s future.

On July 30, 2025, the 4th Congress of PHANO will officially take place at the Agricultural Genetics Institute where scientific knowledge sprouts for the fields. This is not only an occasion to look back on the five-year journey of the 2019-2024 term, but also a moment for like-minded individuals to continue joining hands, laying another brick of knowledge in the ongoing work of “building the new countryside as a living heritage.”

For nearly two decades, PHANO has helped bring science out of the laboratory, into the fields, and into real life. From ecological farming models, sustainable cultivation, OCOP product development, and traditional craft villages to projects tied to rural tourism, poverty reduction, and food security, PHANO has not only advanced science, but also penned beautiful verses across the homeland’s fields.

Farmers no longer stand alone in the face of a volatile market. They now have trusted companions such as scientists, entrepreneurs, artisans, teachers, and advisors who share in both the hardships and joys of rural life. PHANO serves as a bridge between knowledge and farmland, between technology and calloused hands, between the flow of agricultural goods and the cultural soul of the village.

Vietnam’s farmers have weathered many challenges, from natural disasters and epidemics to limited resources and fragmented policies. Yet through every hardship, the Association has shown remarkable resilience, like green shoots pushing through after

the storm. And this Congress is an occasion for each member - mentors and companions of the countryside to embark on a new journey together in the spirit of: ***Solidarity - Innovation - Creativity***.

Listen to a farmer's words:

"I don't know how to name the research projects that the scientists have spent years working on. I just know that one day, my son brought home a new rice variety from the city - one that was pest-resistant and had a high yield. He said it was developed by a research institute. I tried planting it. That season, the rice headed evenly and stood tall without lodging. I may not understand the technology, but I'm grateful."

And the dream of another farmer:
"That between the lab and the field, there will no longer be a gap, but a bridge. That every research project will carry the imprint of the farmer, not as someone to apply the findings, but as a co-creator. That every scientific report will not only be full of data but also rich in humanity."

From a scientific organization, PHANO has grown into a keeper of the flame for rural life where the countryside is no longer just a "supporting rear," but a "heritage space" in its own right: preserving values, nurturing civilization, and creating new opportunities for a happier life today and for generations to come.

We often speak of cultural heritage, of natural heritage, etc but the countryside, too, can be a heritage if we cherish local values, if we keep the soul of the land alive in every field, stream, and way of life. And scientists of PHANO are the ones who preserve this heritage in their own unique way: through knowledge, through action, and through a deep love for your homeland.

To this Congress, I extend my warmest congratulations.

My heartfelt gratitude to the scientists who remain tirelessly committed to the "three rural pillars" (agriculture, farmers, and rural areas), not for fame, but for a faith that has never dimmed.

May PHANO, in its new term, continue to lead as a pioneering force, bringing together intellectuals from all walks of life to build an ecological and sustainable agriculture, a civilized and professional generation of farmers, and a modern, livable countryside that inspires pride and hope.

And if someone asks: “*What will you do after retirement?*”

One might simply answer: “*I’ll return to the village to keep sowing seeds of hope.*”

Le Minh Hoan

OPENING REMARKS AT THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF THE VIETNAM RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (2025 – 2030 TERM)

Distinguished Delegates!

Honored Guests!

Members of the Congress!

Today, as the entire nation jubilantly celebrates the 80th anniversary of the August Revolution and National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (September 2, 1945 - September 2, 2025), and under the guidance of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association solemnly convenes its Fourth Congress for the 2025-2030 term.

We are honored to welcome 150 delegates and distinguished guests representing ministries, agencies, and organizations at both central and local levels; partner institutions and coordinating bodies; international delegates from organizations that have closely collaborated with the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association; as well as members from local chapters and affiliated units. Also in attendance are representatives of central and Hanoi-based media and press agencies covering the event.

The Congress is honored to have received numerous congratulatory flower bouquets from delegates and representatives. In particular, we deeply appreciate the warm regards extended by Comrade Lê Minh Hoan, Vice Chairman of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, who sent a congratulatory letter and flowers to mark this important occasion.

On behalf of the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the kind attention and special sentiments of Vice Chairman of the National Assembly Lê Minh Hoan and all our esteemed guests. I wish you all good health, happiness, and continued success.

Distinguished Delegates, Guests, Members of the Congress,

The Fourth Congress of the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association, term 2025-2030, as the entire country is celebrating major national holidays and the Politburo has recently issued important resolutions on science and technology, private sector,

foreign affairs and perfecting the legal system. These resolutions provide favorable conditions and strategic direction for the activities of all sectors and levels, as the nation enters a new phase of development. The Association will align its efforts with these guiding policies, contributing to the country's overarching goals.

This Congress marks an important milestone, enabling us to review and reflect on the Association's notable achievements during the 2019-2024 term, despite the many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters. It is also an opportunity to assess obstacles and set forth clear directions, tasks, and solutions for the 2025-2030 period, aiming to promote the sustainable development of agriculture, rural areas, and farmers.

Guided by the motto ***“Solidarity - Innovation - Creativity”***, this Congress will focus on key tasks, including: reviewing the outcomes of the 2019-2024 term; outlining the strategic direction for the 2025-2030 term; discussing and approving amendments and supplements to the Association's Charter; and electing the new Executive Committee, Inspection Committee, and Leadership Board.

This Congress is not only an administrative milestone, but also a wide-reaching professional forum, gathering the collective wisdom, unity, and dedication of experts, scientists, and delegates. Through open and democratic discussion, we will work to identify sound strategies for the new term, reinforcing the role of agriculture and environmental science as foundational pillars of the national economy and affirming Vietnam's contributions to global food security.

With that spirit, I now solemnly declare the Fourth National Congress of the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association for the 2025-2030 term officially open.

Once again, I sincerely wish all distinguished delegates and honored guests good health, happiness, and continued success.

May this Congress be a resounding success.

Thank you very much.

CLOSING REMARKS AT THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF THE VIETNAM RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (2025–2030 TERM)

*Distinguished Delegates,
Honored Guests,
Members of the Congress,*

After a day of focused, serious, and responsible work, the Fourth National Congress of the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association for the 2025–2030 term has successfully concluded, fulfilling its entire agenda with excellence.

On behalf of the Presidium and the newly elected Executive Committee of the Fourth Term, I would like to extend our deepest and most sincere gratitude to the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and other central and local agencies.

We are especially grateful for the attention and support of Comrade Lê Minh Hoan, Vice Chairman of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; the valuable cooperation of international organizations and development partners; the coverage and presence of press and media agencies; and the logistical support provided by the Vietnam Institute of Agricultural Genetics.

We also extend our sincere thanks to all organizations and individuals for their material and moral support, as well as to the experts, scientists, and members who attended and contributed their wisdom and dedication to the success of the Congress.

We also deeply appreciate the material and moral support of various organizations and individuals, as well as the presence, intellectual contributions, and wholehearted participation of all the experts, scientists, and members whose engagement ensured the success of this Congress.

Distinguished Delegates, Guests, Members of the Congress,

This Congress has fully demonstrated the spirit of **“Solidarity - Innovation - Creativity”** in objectively reviewing the significant achievements of the 2019-2024 term, an especially challenging period marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters. At the same time, we have frankly acknowledged limitations and drawn valuable lessons for the future.

Over nearly 20 years of development, the Association has accumulated rich experience and valuable insights. Building on that foundation, this Congress has achieved high consensus on the direction, tasks, and solutions for the 2025-2030 term, reflecting a strong determination to ensure that agriculture and environmental science remain key pillars of the national economy, thereby reaffirming Vietnam's position and role in ensuring global food security.

The Congress also discussed and approved the amended and supplemented Charter of the Association and successfully elected a competent, dedicated, and dynamic Executive Committee, Inspection Committee, and Leadership Board for the Fourth Term, ready to take on the responsibilities of the new era.

Looking ahead to the 2025-2030 term, the Congress has set forth a clear strategic direction: ***“Strengthen organizational structure - Innovate content and methods – Enhance socio-economic effectiveness”*** with the overarching theme ***“Solidarity - Innovation - Creativity”***.

The Association’s ultimate goal is to make practical contributions to:

“Developing an ecological and sustainable agricultural sector; Building a modern and livable rural area; Fostering professional and cultured farmers.”

With the important outcomes achieved, the Resolution of the Congress has been officially adopted and will serve as the guiding framework for all activities of the Association in the coming term.

We firmly believe that, with unity, close coordination, and the dedicated leadership and support from our partners and relevant agencies, the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association will continue to achieve even greater success, making meaningful contributions to the sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas in Vietnam.

With that spirit, I now solemnly declare the Fourth National Congress of the Vietnam Rural Development Science Association for the 2025–2030 term officially closed.

Once again, I sincerely wish all distinguished delegates and honored guests good health, happiness, and continued success.

Thank you very much.