

“ BioTrade refers to those activities of collection/ production, transformation and commercialization of goods and services derived from native biodiversity (species and ecosystems), under criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability ”

UNCTAD

BioTrade Initiative was launched in 1996 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Its mission is to stimulate trade and investment in biological resources to further sustainable development in line with the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

1. Conservation of BioDiversity;
2. Sustainable use of its components and;
3. Fair and equitable sharing of its benefits.



BIOTRADE PROJECT VIETNAM

QUICK FACTS

Location	Vietnam
Duration	2012 – 2014
Budget	US\$ 1,000,000
Partners	National Institute of Medicinal Materials, Ministry of Health (NIMM); Drug Administration of Vietnam (DAV); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT);
Donor	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland (SECO)
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BIOTRADE PRINCIPLES

1. Conservation of biodiversity
2. Sustainable use of biodiversity
3. Fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of biodiversity
4. Socio-economic sustainability
5. Compliance with national and international regulations
6. Respect for the rights of actors involved in BioTrade activities
7. Clarity about land tenure, use and access to natural resources and knowledge.

DEVELOPMENT OF BIOTRADE ACTIVITIES

WITHIN THE NATURAL INGREDIENT SECTORS

“ International recognition for Vietnam as a supplier of choice for biodiversity derived natural ingredient (NI) products – sourced, processed and traded in compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity objectives and BioTrade principles. ”

THE PROJECT

Vietnam has a large resource of natural ingredients with more than 4.000 species could be used as raw materials for the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and food industries. However, the supply is dwindling and Vietnam has to import large volumes of raw materials.

The Swiss Government, through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) has approved a three year project to support Vietnam in the development of the natural ingredient sector, considering BioTrade principles and criteria. There are two phases: inception phase in the first eight months of 2012 and implementation phase in the period of 2013 - 2014. HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Vietnam is assigned to be in charge of the overall implementation of the project in partnership with National Institute of Medicinal Materials (NIMM).

The project has received positive responses from the private sector, research institutes and non-government organizations seeking to develop feasible natural ingredient value chains and to improve new market access for BioTrade compliant products. The project also has been welcomed by the Vietnamese government, notably the Ministry of Health and got the other related ministries support (MARD, MONRE, MOIT).



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To promote the conservation of biodiversity through sustainable trade of natural ingredients that increases the livelihood benefits of rural population taking into consideration all relevant BioTrade principles and criteria.

MAIN EXPECTED RESULTS

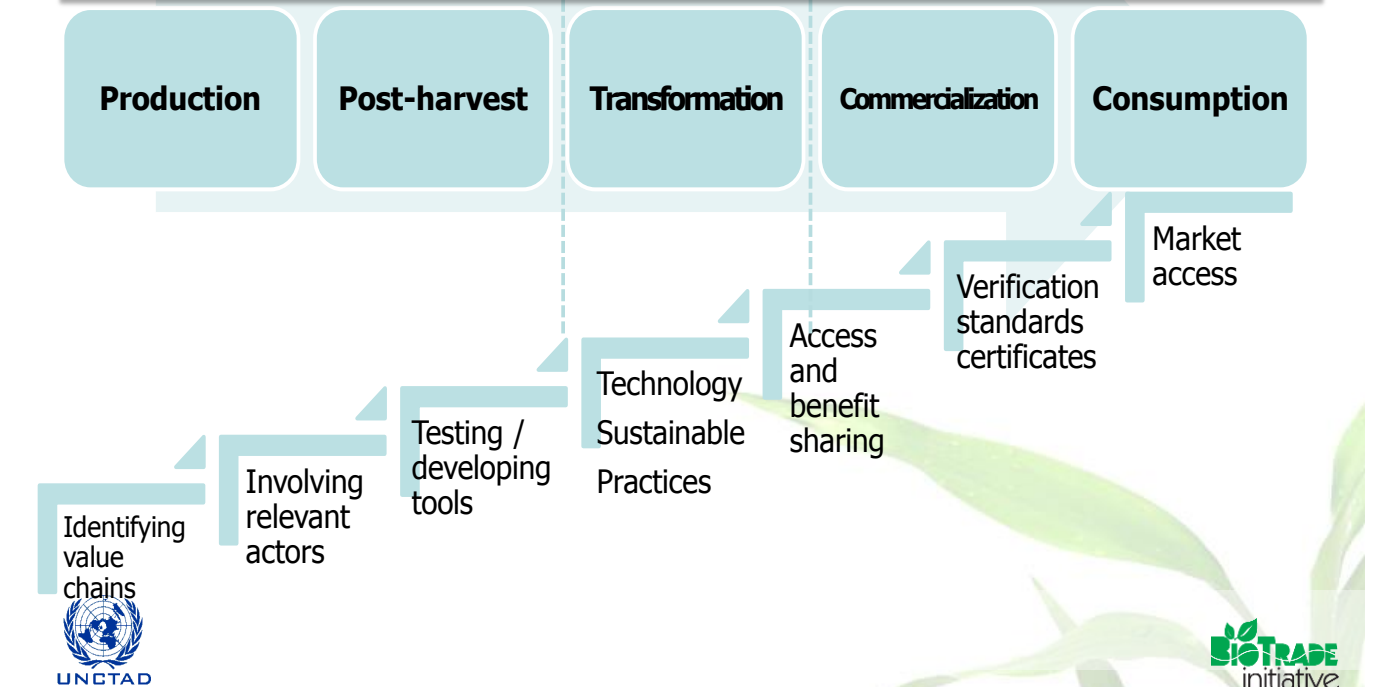
- **Selected natural ingredient value chains operate by the principles and criteria of BioTrade;**
- **A national ethical BioTrade sector that trade natural ingredients in local, regional and international markets in accordance to BioTrade principles and criteria;**
- **An enabling policy and regulatory environment for the development of BioTrade compliant initiatives.**

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- Establishment of project partnership with NIMM and four pioneer pharmaceutical companies: Traphaco Co, Jsc – Nam Duoc Co, Jsc – Vietroselle Co, Ltd – DHG Nature Co, Ltd;
- Development of the intervention plan of 6 determined natural ingredient value chains;
- Important workshops organized to provide fundamental understanding of BioTrade concept and its standard for the value chain stakeholders and partners;
- Relevant government institutions (MOH, MARD, MOIT, MONRE) identified and invited to participate in relevant project activities;
- Formulation of BioTrade Interest Group Vietnam (BIG Vietnam).

What is BioTrade?

BioTrade refers to those activities of collection, production, transformation, and commercialization of goods and services derived from native biodiversity under the criteria of environmental, social and economic sustainability.



Credit: from the presentation of Ms Lorena Jarramilo, BioTrade Officer from UNCTAD in Hanoi, 16 May 2012.