



## Success Story: Rice Field Yields Bountiful Harvest

Nghi is a farmer who lives with her family in Tra Giang Commune, Bac Tra My District—one of the poorest areas in Quang Nam. She and her husband make their incomes farming a five-meter paddy rice field and a five-acre acacia plantation. But they often have trouble making ends meet.

"Every year, my family earns just enough to cover our daily expenses and our children's education. However, me and my husband have to work very hard to take care of both the rice field and the plantation," she said. Lack of knowledge about pest control and the proper use of pesticides and fertilizer, combined with hard, inhospitable soil, has led to high production costs and low yields. Fluctuating demand and prices have further hampered. Nghi's family's financial security.



Photo credit: USAID Green Annamites Project

Today, however, Nghi is starting to make changes to improve her family's wellbeing. She attended five training sessions of a course on integrated crop management for rice, provided by the USAID Green Annamites Project and the Center for Agricultural Extension of Quang Nam from December 2017 to April 2018. Green Annamites is USAID's flagship environmental project in central Vietnam. It is implemented by ECODIT. The course covered such topics as how to pick the best seeds for farms' growing conditions, improved irrigation techniques, and how and when to use pesticides and fertilizer.

### Vietnam Green Ananamites Activity Overview

**Period of Performance:** September 2016 – December 2020

**Value:** \$24 million

**Client:** The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

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Despite being a seasoned farmer, many of these lessons and practices were new to Nghi. "One thing that surprised me a lot was that you could make use of animals of prey to eliminate pests. Previously, I did not know that, so I tried to kill these animals because I thought they would harm my field. From now on, I will protect them so that they can help me protect my field," she said with a laugh.

That winter/spring farming season, Nghi started to apply what she had learned. She selected a certified rice seed to plant, using the new irrigation techniques and farming methods she had learned to plant these seeds. That season, she had to use just half the number of seeds she had used in the past to get the same yield and, for the first time, she did not need to use pesticides. Her rice thrived despite the inhospitable soil. Not only did she dramatically reduce her costs with these new methods, but she also made a positive impact on the environment because she did not have to use as many inputs that harm nature and cause emissions.

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-Le Thi Nghi  
(Quang Nam, Vietnam)



Photo credit: USAID Green Annamites Project

Now, Nghi is filled with hope for her rice farm—and her family. "I have mastered the techniques, and I will try to apply them strictly in the coming seasons, because looking at the field, I know my rice is growing well," she said.



Photo credit: USAID Green Annamites Project