



LOTUS SILK

PRODUCTION IN VIET NAM

IN SUPPORT OF
FLOOD RETENTION STRATEGY
IN THE MEKONG DELTA





OVERVIEW

Viet Nam is located in the natural lotus distribution of the world, with lotus plants across the country, especially concentrated in the wetlands of the Mekong Delta.

The lotus plant parts such as seeds, leaves, buds and roots have been harvested with great economic value through the use of medicinal herbs, cosmetics and as daily food.

However, the main part of the lotus plant – the lotus stem – is barely used.

WHY LOTUS STEM IS NOT USED?

Vietnamese people do not know how to extract fibers from lotus stems nor having experience in lotus planting and intensive farming techniques.

Viet Nam's traditional weaving villages have never woven fabrics from lotus silk and Vietnamese people have never used products woven from lotus silk.

HOW TO ADDRESS?

During 2018 – 2020, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Institute of Ecological Economics (Eco-Eco) have been collaborating to demonstrate lotus cropping as a flood-based model to replace the third rice crop in flooded areas, develop textile materials and diversify industry products.



This activity is a part of the state-level scientific project "**Research and test the model which uses lotus stem to produce silk**" and The Coca-Cola Foundation funded project "**Flood-based livelihood model to support flood retention strategy for Mekong Delta, Viet Nam**", implemented by Eco-Eco and IUCN respectively.

Via the project results formed by Eco-Eco's Project, IUCN has successfully tested spinning using natural lotus in the buffer zone of Lang Sen Wetland Reserve and successfully woven



products from lotus fibers in the Van Giao village of Khmer people in Tinh Bien district, An Giang province.

WHAT BENEFITS ?

- ❑ Open opportunities for a new industry that brings economic efficiency;
- ❑ Diversify local people's livelihoods and create more jobs especially for local women;
- ❑ Conserve and improve the ecosystem function of wetlands, increasing resilience to climate change; and
- ❑ Preserve the traditional cultural values of craft villages.



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WHAT ARE WE EXPECTING ?

We are calling for the technical and financial support from interested businesses and partners to implement this idea.

2021 Duration **2025**

Objectives

To develop a sustainable value chain of products from lotus silk in Viet Nam to support the flood retention strategy for the Mekong Delta, Viet Nam.

Proposed locations

- 📍 Thap Muoi district, Dong Thap province
- 📍 Tan Hung district, Long An province
- 📍 Tinh Bien district, An Giang province
- 📍 My Duc commune, Hanoi
- 📍 Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City

Proposed major activities

1. Researching and improving the technology and equipment of taking and weaving silk, thus improving both quality and efficiency for market access locally and internationally;
2. Establishing lotus growing areas to provide concentrated and stable fiber materials for the production of lotus silk products and selecting suitable lotus varieties through flood-based-models development with lotus crops;

3. Designing and diversifying products to commercialize and enhance the added value of products made from lotus stalks;
4. Connecting the stages in the value chain of the industry to develop and sustainably maintain this new industry; and
5. Building a brand with a geographical indication of the textile industry from lotus to enhance added value, honoring traditional values, spiritual and cultural values of the Vietnamese people.



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Beneficiaries

Around 1,000 people will benefit directly and indirectly from the project including farmers, artisans, workers, staff of Nature Reserves and other stakeholders.



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About IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organizations. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,400 Member organizations and the input of more than 18,000 experts.

IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. In Viet Nam, IUCN members include MONRE state member and local environmental NGOs and research institutes

www.iucn.org/vietnam

About VB4E

VB4E is an initiative of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) found in partnership with ISPONRE (Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment) of MONRE (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment) and TH Group.

www.vb4e.com

Contact

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