



Australia and Vietnam unite to build sustainable agriculture network for climate-resilient farming future

28 July 2026 | News

UniSQ and Nong Lam University launch VASAN to accelerate AgriTech innovation, climate adaptation and green economy collaboration across the Asia-Pacific



A new chapter in Australia-Vietnam agricultural cooperation has begun with the launch of the Vietnam–Australia Sustainable Agriculture Academic Network (VASAN), a collaborative platform designed to accelerate research, innovation and knowledge exchange for a more sustainable and climate-resilient food system. Established by the University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ) and Nong Lam University, Vietnam, the network brings together universities, researchers, government institutions and industry stakeholders from both countries to advance sustainable agriculture solutions and support the transition towards a greener economy.

The initiative reflects growing recognition that agriculture across the Asia-Pacific must rapidly adapt to climate volatility, resource constraints and evolving global market expectations around sustainability, traceability and low-carbon production. Under its inaugural 2025–2027 term, UniSQ and Nong Lam University will jointly lead VASAN as co-chairs, creating a platform for cross-border collaboration across four strategic pillars — Climate, AgriTech, People and Community, and Production.

The network aims to bridge research capabilities between Australia and Vietnam while creating opportunities for joint innovation, academic exchange, industry partnerships and practical agricultural solutions.

Strengthening Australia-Vietnam Agricultural Innovation Links

Professor Ren Yi, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) at UniSQ, said VASAN would strengthen research connections between the two nations and create new pathways for collaborative innovation. The network will support Vietnam's agricultural transformation by connecting its farming sector with Australian expertise in sustainable production systems, precision

technologies and climate adaptation strategies.

Vietnam's agriculture sector is undergoing significant modernisation as producers respond to increasing demands for sustainability, digitalisation and compliance with international supply chain standards. Through VASAN, Vietnamese researchers and institutions will gain access to Australian capabilities in areas such as climate-smart farming, water efficiency and agricultural engineering.

For Australia, the initiative provides an opportunity to deepen one of its key regional partnerships while expanding collaboration in agricultural research, innovation funding and academic mobility.

Driving Climate-Smart Agriculture Through Research Collaboration

VASAN aligns with the priorities of the 2024 Australia–Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which identifies climate action, environmental sustainability and innovation as important areas of bilateral cooperation. UniSQ will contribute expertise from its leading agricultural research platforms, including the Centre for Agricultural Engineering and the Institute for Agriculture, Climate and the Environment.

The university's research strengths include precision irrigation, water management, sustainable farming systems and technology-driven agricultural innovation — capabilities that will support both countries in addressing challenges linked to climate change and food security. As Australian co-chair, UniSQ will coordinate thematic working groups under VASAN, connect Vietnamese partners with Australian research expertise and facilitate opportunities for collaborative projects, training programmes and knowledge exchange.

Building a Long-Term Sustainable Agriculture Ecosystem

During its first year, VASAN will focus on establishing a strong foundation for future collaboration through regular knowledge-sharing activities, including quarterly webinars beginning next month. The network will also organise a dedicated VASAN session at the 6th International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Environment, creating a platform for researchers and industry stakeholders to exchange ideas and showcase emerging solutions.

Over the longer term, VASAN aims to develop enduring research partnerships and deliver practical outcomes through collaboration with organisations including the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), CSIRO and the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

The partnership comes at a time when agriculture worldwide faces mounting pressure to improve productivity while reducing environmental impact. By combining Australia's expertise in agricultural research and technology with Vietnam's dynamic farming sector, VASAN is expected to become a catalyst for innovation-led, climate-resilient agriculture across the region.

Asia-Pacific Agriculture Moves Towards a Collaborative Future

The launch of VASAN highlights a broader shift in global agriculture, where universities, governments and industry players are increasingly working together to develop solutions for climate adaptation, resource efficiency and sustainable food production. As climate risks intensify and agricultural supply chains become more demanding, international research networks such as VASAN will play a critical role in translating scientific knowledge into practical solutions for farmers and communities.

The Australia-Vietnam partnership demonstrates how collaboration across borders can help build a more resilient, technology-enabled and sustainable agricultural future for the Asia-Pacific region.