

**PRESS RELEASE**

*Hanoi, May 14th 2024*

**FARMING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE –**

**HIGH-LEVEL VIETNAM DENMARK DIALOGUE**

**ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

***The Danish Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, H.E. Mr. Jacob Jensen, is leading a high-level delegation to visit Vietnam on 14-16 May 2024. Together with a group of Danish agri-food companies with advanced technology and knowhow on sustainability and green transition, the aim of the Minister’s visit is to intensify high-level policy dialogue with Vietnamese counterparts with a focus on a more sustainable food production and a resource efficient supply chain.***

*Hanoi* –Vietnam and Denmark have developed a close and long- term bilateral relation on food safety. Since 2017, the bilateral cooperation has concentrated on facilitating cooperation within feed and food safety. The cooperation is a crucial part of the Green Strategic Partnership launched by the two Prime Ministers last November, where the two countries have committed to promote green transition and green growth, supporting Vietnam in building a green economy and fulfilling the country’s commitment to achieve net-zero emission by 2050.

The SSC Food program between Vietnam and Denmark has been implemented by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA) and the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). The first phase of the program focused on improving framework conditions for animal feed production through capacity development of government officials and on the legislative framework for prudent use of veterinary drugs. In phase 2, which ran from April 2020 to April 2024, the main themes of cooperation are enhancing capacity across various stages of the food chain from farm to fork, combating anti-microbial resistance (AMR), feed control and traceability and recall of unsafe food.

During his visit, Minister Jensen has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Vietnamese Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) extending the government-to-government cooperation. For the coming years, the cooperation will have increased focus on the green transition of food and agricultural production, aiming to promote a more sustainable and resilient food system.

‘*Denmark's green transition in sustainable food production has led to the development of strong, innovative methods and approaches throughout the value chain, which boost production yield and improve product quality but at the same time consume less water and energy. We look forward to sharing these insights and inspire further collaboration with our Vietnamese partners. Our agreement is a strong testament to our fruitful cooperation where the two ministries do not only share common needs and interests but more importantly a common goal and vision: a sustainable and resilient food system’* says Jacob Jensen, Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark.

During his visit, the Danish Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries also made a keynote speech at a workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance in agriculture and aquaculture. Antimicrobial resistance is a big threat to public health and human health nowadays. Therefore, this has been an important track of the Strategic Sector Cooperation Food program.

The Minister’s visit to Vietnam this time, the second Danish high-level visit within just 2 months, has been also accompanied by a group of Danish companies and producers who own world leading’s solutions in food production and processing, storages, optimizing the use of food and agriculture resources, drainage and water techniques, etc.

Vietnam is an attractive destination for Danish businesses in the agricultural sector. At present, Denmark has been one of the EU countries with the highest export per capita to Vietnam and the agri-food sector constitutes approximately half of the total Danish exports to Vietnam.

*“Vietnam has become an important and attractive market for Danish businesses and investors. Although Vietnam and Denmark are geographically very far from each other, we are facing many of the same challenges and we have to continue working together to find ways to use resources effectively. In a smart way to increase competiveness and sustainability”* added Minister Jensen.

During his visit in the South of Vietnam, Minister Jensen will visit Food Bank Vietnam, an important partner for the efforts to combat food waste and food loss. He will also pay site visits to a catfish aqua-farm in Tien Giang and an aqua-feed factory in Ben Tre, where close partnerships between Vietnamese and Danish research institutions and companies promotes the use of new green technologies and solutions for a sustainable aquaculture production in Vietnam.

On his last day of the visit, the Minister will deliver a keynote speech at the seminar on *“Sustainable agri-food production – Danish innovative technologies and financing opportunities”*. The seminar will provide a forum to connect and facilitate exchange of experiences, technologies, financing and business opportunities between authorities, local decision-makers, sector managers as well as Danish and Vietnamese entrepreneurs.

Background information

**The Danish Embassy in Vietnam**

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1971, Vietnam and Denmark have enjoyed a strong and close cooperation.

On November 1st 2023, the two Prime Ministers jointly declared the establishment of a Green Strategic Partnership (GSP) between Vietnam and Denmark.

The signing of the GSP has marked a milestone in the two countries’ cooperative relations, andestablished a solid framework for supporting Vietnam to develop a climate-resilient and low-carbon economy and promote the development of the circular economy.

The GSP builds on and consolidate the existing cooperation in Climate, Environment and Energy, Food and Agriculture, Trade and Business Collaboration, Health and Life Science, Statistics, and other initiatives of mutual interests.

For further information about the Danish-Vietnamese relationship and the Embassy of Denmark in Vietnam, please visit [www.vietnam.um.dk](http://www.vietnam.um.dk/) and <https://www.facebook.com/dkvietnam>

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