



The Director of the National Agricultural Extension Center inspects a series of agricultural extension models in Hung Yen and Ninh Binh provinces.

On May 23rd, the Director of the National Agricultural Extension Center, Le Quoc Thanh, along with a delegation, conducted an inspection of agricultural extension activities at the grassroots level and several agricultural extension models in Hung Yen and Ninh Binh provinces. Observations showed that many models, after participating in agricultural extension projects, have significantly improved agricultural productivity and quality. Some models, after conversion, have helped farmers earn hundreds of millions of VND per year.

Outstanding economic efficiency from agricultural extension models. The project to build a model for grafting, improving, and intensively cultivating early-ripening lychee trees according to VietGAP standards is an agricultural extension project led by the Gia Lam Center for Experimental Research on Vegetables, Flowers, and Fruits, implemented in two provinces. Specifically in Hung Yen province, the model is being implemented on 14 hectares in Tien Tien and Doan Dao communes, formerly part of Phu Cu district, a region renowned for its lychee orchards.

During a visit to several orchards in Hung Yen province that have been grafted and intensively cultivated early-ripening lychees according to VietGAP standards, Associate Professor Dr. Le Quoc Thanh – Director of the National Agricultural Extension Center – and his delegation inspected the effectiveness of the model, listened to expert sharing, and also gathered opinions from experts, agricultural extension workers, and local people regarding the project implementation process. Regarding the initial results, Dr. Vu Viet Hung, the project leader, stated: Despite the unfavorable weather conditions recently, most of the lychee orchards after grafting and renovating with egg-shaped lychee are still growing well, recovering their canopies quickly, and beginning to bear fruit. For the early-ripening lychee orchards under the project, both yield and fruit quality are significantly higher than in many neighboring production areas, even though this year's lychee harvest was not abundant.

According to Dr. Vu Viet Hung, if technical measures are applied synchronously, the Hung Yen egg lychee trees in the model will grow and develop well, the flowering and fruiting rate will be quite high, pests and diseases will be effectively controlled, and the yield of the orchards in the project can be maintained stably, expected to reach more than 15 tons/ha. As one of the households participating in the project, Mr. Nguyen The Bien – Director of Doan Dao Egg Lychee Cooperative – added that egg lychees have the advantage of large fruit size, beautiful appearance, and delicious flavor, so they sell at very high prices. With this variety, selected lychees sold in supermarkets can fetch prices of over 400,000 VND/kg, bringing hundreds of millions of VND in income to the households in the cooperative.

Highly appreciating the effectiveness of the transformation of lychee cultivation models, Associate Professor Dr. Le Quoc Thanh emphasized that the goal of the agricultural extension project is not only to stop at pilot models but also to create sustainable widespread impact in production. The focus is on developing large-scale raw material areas, gradually shifting from a small-scale production mindset to developing specialized lychee growing areas that meet export standards, thereby attracting businesses and expanding markets to Japan, the United States, and Europe. "If a raw material area spanning thousands of hectares can be established, the locality can move towards organizing product auctions, increasing the value and competitiveness of lychees," said the Director of the National Agricultural Extension Center. Shifting towards building sustainable supply chains. Also on May 23rd, the Director of the National Agricultural Extension Center, Le Quoc Thanh, along with a delegation, visited and inspected a model for producing new peanut varieties in Yen Cuong commune, Ninh Binh province.

The model, implemented on an area of 10 hectares, involves planting the new L32 peanut variety, which exhibits strong growth, good resistance to diseases, and higher seed quality compared to traditional peanut varieties. Preliminary assessments indicate that the model yields approximately three times higher economic returns than rice cultivation. Sharing his experience participating in the project, Mr. Nguyen Van Du, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Nam Cuong Cooperative, enthusiastically said: "Initially, some households were hesitant about the yield and adaptability of the new variety because they were used to cultivating traditional peanut varieties. However, after two years of actual production, witnessing the healthy growth and stable development of the plants, the farmers gradually felt reassured and proactively expanded their planted area."

"The new peanut variety has quite good resistance to pests and diseases, especially diseases like root mold, soft rot, and stem rot, even in conditions of prolonged rain. After switching, many farmers told me they really want to participate in more agricultural extension projects, to receive support with new seedlings and new techniques," Mr. Du said. Commenting on the development potential of this model, Mr. Nguyen Sinh Tien – Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and Environment of Ninh Binh province – said that after two production seasons, the new peanut variety has shown great promise thanks to its high yield, good quality, and high oil content, making it suitable for both raw material production and processing.

"Currently, Ninh Binh has about 5,000 hectares of peanut cultivation, placing it among the localities with the largest peanut growing area in the country; the people have a lot of experience in intensive peanut cultivation. Taking advantage of this, the province is also focusing on developing a supply chain linking peanut production with processing and consumption." In Yen Cuong commune, many peanut oil processing facilities have been established and developed. Using local raw materials, many OCOP products such as peanut oil and peanut candy have been created, contributing to increasing the value of agricultural products, creating stable markets, and increasing income for the people. Regarding the project, after two production seasons, we assess this peanut variety as very promising. Not only does it yield high productivity, but the new peanut variety also has a high oil content, making it suitable for further processing. In the future, the Ninh Binh provincial agricultural sector will continue to coordinate with specialized units to objectively evaluate the variety's characteristics, which will serve as a basis for expanding peanut cultivation in the locality," said Mr. Nguyen Sinh Tien – Deputy Director of the Ninh Binh Provincial Department of Agriculture and Environment.