



New peanut varieties and processing technologies open up export opportunities for Nghe An's agricultural products.

Expanding the area of organic peanut cultivation, replacing degraded varieties with purebred native varieties and new high-yield varieties, and promoting refining for export are the comprehensive strategies that Nghe An province is focusing on implementing.

The significant shift from a "agricultural production" mindset to an "agricultural economy," coupled with the "three-party" model, not only helps restore the position of this key drought-resistant crop but also opens up prospects for sustainable wealth creation for farmers in the face of severe climate change. In 2025, the North Central Agricultural Science and Technology Institute introduced the new L29 peanut variety, which is expected to yield over 3.7 tons/ha, increasing economic efficiency by more than 15% compared to fields outside the model in some peanut-growing localities.

Transforming the crop structure:

Nghe An is one of the key peanut-producing regions in the country, with a stable planting area of nearly 9,000 hectares each year. The peanuts from this region are known for their delicious flavor, distinctive richness, and popularity in the market. Despite possessing abundant land potential, in recent years, increasingly complex climate change, prolonged droughts, and the serious degradation of old varieties and outdated farming methods have led to a sharp decline in planted area. In Trung Truong hamlet, Ms. Cao Thi Soa shared that with 6 sao (approximately 0.6 hectares) of land previously used for cultivating the traditional L14 peanut variety, continuous cultivation over many years has led to a "reversion" phenomenon, causing the peanuts to become rough, lose their glossy appearance, and become highly susceptible to bacterial wilt. The average yield has significantly decreased, now only reaching about 1.2 - 1.3 quintals per sao. This is also a common situation in many peanut growing areas in the province, where once-main varieties like L14, Sen That, and Sen Lai have shown clear signs of degeneration after a long period of mass production.

Faced with the need to protect brands and improve economic efficiency for farmers, the local agricultural sector has partnered with scientific institutions to systematically implement a strategy for improving seed quality. In 2025, the North Central Agricultural Science and Technology Institute introduced the new L29 peanut variety, expected to yield over 3.7 tons/ha, increasing economic efficiency by more than 15% compared to fields outside the model in some peanut-growing localities. This is a key prerequisite for replacing the widely degraded varieties.

A prime example is the "Certified Peanut Seed Production Model for the Autumn - Winter Season" covering 54 hectares in Dien Chau commune. By introducing certified key varieties including L20, L14, and TK10 for cultivation, the locality has gradually established a standardized, disease-free seed supply system for key raw material areas, ending the habit of using uncertified seeds by farmers. Despite unfavorable weather conditions during this year's autumn - winter crop season, affected by typhoon number 10 and heavy rainfall throughout the peanut plant's growth period, the integrated application of advanced techniques in peanut production, including high-quality new varieties, plastic mulching, balanced fertilization, proper care, and pest and disease control, has ensured that the peanut plants have still grown and developed well.

Large peanut-growing areas such as Dien Chau, An Chau, Hai Chau, Trung Loc... have an average yield of 34-36 quintals/hectare, annually supplying thousands of tons of high-quality peanuts to the market. Mr. Dang Ngoc Anh, Director of Dien Hoa Agricultural Service Cooperative, said: "With this new variety, the peanut yield in the model farm reaches about 3 tons/ha, much higher than the previous old variety. In August, we will expand the area planted with the new peanut variety to 60 hectares. Farmers will continue to receive seeds, plastic mulch, and technical support. This will be a solid foundation for the locality to aim towards the goal of forming a concentrated peanut production area, increasing economic value and creating sustainable income for farmers in subsequent seasons."

In Trung Loc commune, the entire commune has 116 hectares of peanuts, but mainly old varieties, with an average yield only fluctuating at a low level of 26 - 28 quintals/hectare. Ms. Nguyen Thi Bich, Head of the Economic Department of Trung Loc Commune, said: The locality has coordinated with the Central Agricultural Extension Project to introduce the new L29 peanut variety for trial cultivation on a 3-hectare scale in Hamlet 3, Trung Loc Commune. Farmers participating in the model receive 50% support for the cost of seeds, fertilizers, and plastic mulch. Practical results show that the L29 variety has outstanding advantages: high yield, large seeds, bright shells, and good disease resistance.

Diversify the product line:

If farmers only sell raw peanuts, they will be trapped in a vicious cycle of "bumper harvest, low prices." Therefore, Nghe An has shifted to deep processing and diversification of peanut products. This is considered a strategic breakthrough to significantly increase the value of agricultural products, enabling Nghe An peanuts to confidently penetrate global supply chains with stringent standards. The project "Popularizing high-quality peanut varieties and enhancing the added value of peanuts in Vietnam" (2024 - 2029), supported by the Korea International Agriculture Program in Vietnam (Korea Rural Development Administration), not only focuses on transferring cultivation techniques adapted to severe natural disasters but also establishes a closed value chain from the field to the factory. During the autumn - winter crop season, despite unfavorable weather conditions with prolonged heavy rains affecting crops outside the model, 54 hectares of peanuts in Dien Chau still developed stably, producing healthy, firm tubers.

According to Mr. Bui Van Hung, Deputy Director of the North Central Agricultural Science and Technology Institute: The entire L20 peanut production here has been purchased by businesses and processed into premium peanut butter using advanced technology. This product not only meets stringent domestic food safety and nutritional standards but is also officially exported to South Korea, initially winning over consumers there. In major peanut-growing areas like Dien Chau, An Chau, Hai Chau, and Trung Loc, the average yield reaches 34-36 quintals/hectare, supplying thousands of tons of high-quality peanuts to the market annually. To optimize value per unit area, the smart crop rotation model with the formula: "Spring peanuts + sesame/watermelon + corn/winter vegetables" has been widely adopted, creating fields that generate exceptional income, ranging from 100 to 160 million VND/hectare.

The "Certified Peanut Seed Production Model for the Autumn - Winter Crop" in Dien Chau commune is gradually forming a standardized, disease-free seed supply system for key raw material areas, putting an end to the habit of using unregulated seeds among the people. The involvement of private enterprises in post-harvest processing has contributed to increasing the value of agricultural products. Thanks to clean production processes and strict control from manual peeling to standard drying, the peanut product of Sy Thang Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Import-Export Co., Ltd., An Chau commune, has achieved OCOP 4-star certification.

Currently, with an annual consumption of approximately 1,000 tons, the product is not only available in domestic supermarkets but is also exported to large, demanding markets such as Europe, Japan, and China. This deep processing helps extend shelf life, increase value, stabilize prices, and protect farmers from market fluctuations. Mr. Nguyen Sy Thang - Director of the company shared: "Not stopping at OCOP 4-star, in the future, the company will apply advanced science and technology, invest comprehensively in advanced processing and preservation technology, striving to bring the Nghe An lotus peanut brand to OCOP 5-star standard, affirming a solid position in the international market, and at the same time increasing income for farmers in the raw material area."

Mr. Ta Quang Sang, Director of the Nghe An Provincial Agricultural Extension Center, emphasized: For peanut cultivation to truly achieve a strong and sustainable breakthrough, the focus must be on simultaneously restoring and preserving the local specialty Sen peanut variety while introducing new, high-yield, high-quality varieties for large-scale intensive cultivation. At the same time, increased investment in modern technology for post-harvest preservation and deep processing is necessary to meet the stringent technical barriers of export markets. The transformation of Nghe An's peanut-growing region today is the result of a close collaboration model between the "three stakeholders": farmers proactively changing their mindset, scientists transferring technological solutions and clean seeds, and businesses guiding the market and investing in deep processing. With the support of government policies and mechanisms, peanuts are asserting their position as a wealth-generating crop, contributing to the sustainable development of the local rural agricultural economy.