

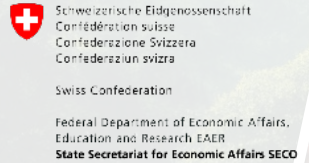
# 7th BioTrade Congress: Global governance for trade and biodiversity

25–26 March 2024, Palais des Nations, Geneva



## Regional BioTrade Achievements and Way Forward

Christiaan de Leeuw, Manager, Nedspice Farmers Partnership Program-  
NFPP, Nedspice





# Overview UEBT project

- Located in Yen Bai, Vietnam. Harvest certified from 2023.
- UEBT certification includes
  - Biodiversity conservation
  - Respect for people
  - Traceability and transparency
  - Cultural respect
  - Environmental stewardship
  - Ethical trade practices
  - Consumer trust
- 243 farmers, 500 metric tons of cassia



 Location: Yen Bai, Viet Nam

 Timeline: 2022-2023.

 Farmers: 243

 Volume: 500 mt

 Area: 520 ha

 Partners :  the sustainable trade initiative 



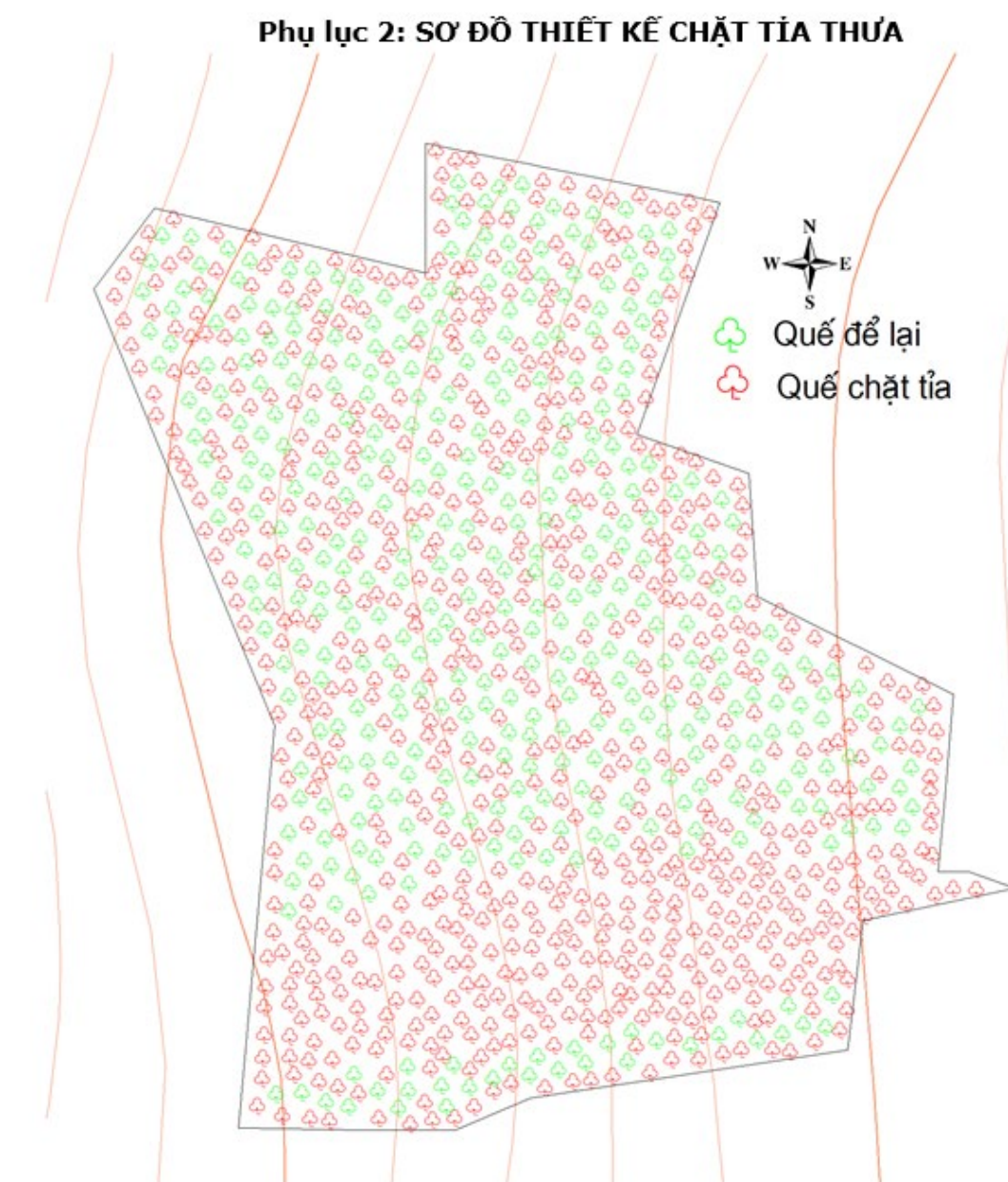
UEBT can be called  
**Rainforest Alliance (RA)**



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# Striving for constant improvement

- Making the step beyond “regular” UEBT/RA certification
- Moving away from monoculture, working towards regenerative agriculture practices
- Pilot to reduce number of trees per hectare, either through intercropping or live borders with native trees
- Goals include increasing biodiversity and reducing the risk of disease outbreaks





# Challenges and benefits for farmers

- Intercropping has costs and benefits:
  - Reducing overall cassia output (disregarding risks of disease outbreaks etc.)
  - Allows for short term income from other crops
    - Challenge to find suitable cash crops
  - Impact on CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of product
    - Less or more carbon capture?
- Unique challenges cassia: what other crop takes 15 years to harvest?
  - Outcome of pilot studies take time
  - Risk of oversupply in the future
- How to get farmers on board?



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# Challenges further in the supply chain

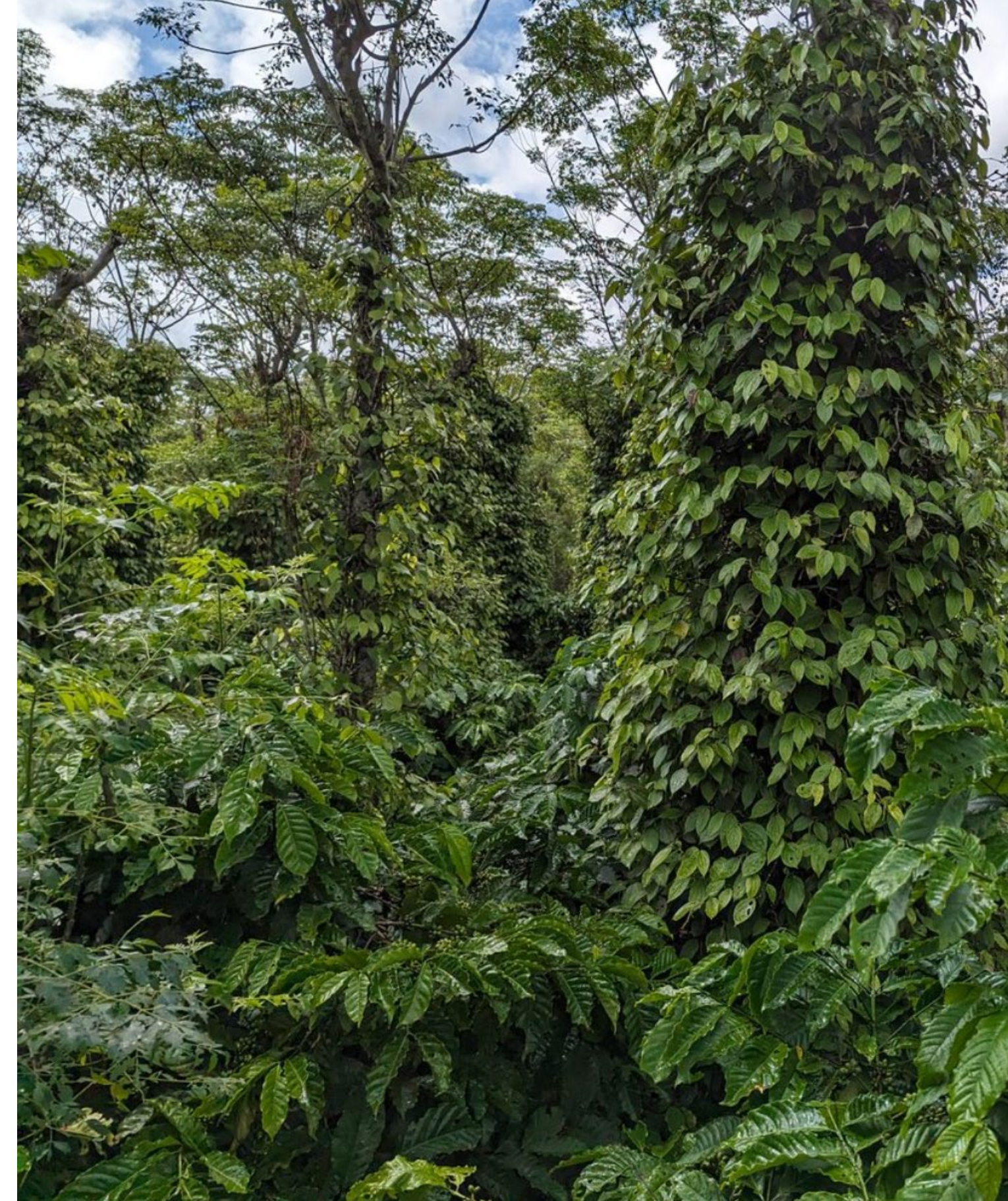
- Logistical challenges with sourcing directly in remote areas
- A working model is crucial: farmers trust farmers
- Incentivizing farmers typically means paying a premium
  - Compensate for smaller crop output
  - Plus: costs of running programme
  - Can certification help to get consumers on board?





# Opportunities for the future

- Vietnam historically has a strong basis for regenerative/agroforestry practices
- Common intercropping models include coffee, pepper, fruit trees
- While relatively labour intensive, these practices are sustainable and have high productivity per hectare
- As production costs increase, sustainability can be USP when competing with conventional agriculture





# To conclude

- We're proud and happy to work together to improve sustainability in the spice supply chain
- Sustainable certification is not an endpoint
- Agroforestry models can be highly productive but are typically more labour intensive
- Crucial to get consumers involved



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