

# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS FOR DEVELOPING THE SOUTHWEST REGION OF VIETNAM

**In research application and technology transfer, VNUHCM has always given the Southwest provinces a special priority because the socioeconomic growth of this region will positively affect the overall development process of the whole country.**

The Science and Technology Programs for the Southwestern Sustainable Development, proposed by the Ministry of Science and Technology, includes 3 objectives: researching and building scientific arguments for strategic planning and implementation, sustainable development policies in the Southwest region; researching interdisciplinary scientific and technological solutions to promote regional integration in the regional sustainable development; and deploying scientific and technological solutions for the regional socio-economic development.

The program is co-chaired by the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences and VNUHCM. In particular, the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences manages the missions in the field of social sciences and humanities as well as sustainable development missions while VNUHCM manages the fields of natural, technology and environment sciences. With a total of 63 scientific and technological tasks, including 22 projects in the field of social sciences and humanities and 41 projects in the fields of natural sciences, technology and environment. So far, the program has achieved some positive results.

The field of social sciences and humanities focuses on developing rational programs for the planning and implementation of strategies and policies for sustainable development in the Southwest region. Some projects have been approved at the national level; some other projects and petitions have been implemented or discussed with the leaders of all levels and scientists in order to set guidelines and policies for the Southwestern sustainable development.

The fields of natural, technology and environment sciences focus on two main areas: (1) Researching interdisciplinary scientific and technological solutions to promote regional integration as part of the sustainable development of the

Southwest region; building a value chain model of key fishery products (shrimp, yellowtail catfish, shutchi catfish, etc.), fruit trees (mangoes, grapefruit, oranges, etc.), rice and medicinal herbs; building joint production models of key products along the value chain to improve added value and economic efficiency; and developing solutions to prevent erosion and sedimentation for the Mekong Delta's river system. (2) Deploying scientific and technological solutions to the socio-economic development in the Southwest region; application of technology to rice and by-product production, aquaculture and processing, mechanization in harvesting; and application of technological solutions to breakwater and anti-landslide programs. The program is now focusing on completion and expected to be finalized by the end of 2020.