Organiser

Co-organisers

CONSULATE GENERAL
OF THE S. R. OF VIET NAM IN PERTH

Science and Technology Office,
Embassy of Viet Nam in Australia

Australia–Viet Nam Alliance Symposium 2026

"*Agricultural Innovation and Food Security*"

https://avas2026.vaseawa.org/

Boola Katitjin, Murdoch University, Western Australia

Australia

Event Overview

Item	Details
Event Name	**Australia– Viet Nam Alliance Symposium 2026 (AVAS2026)**: *Agricultural Innovation and Food Security*
Organiser	Vietnam–Australia Scholars & Experts Association – Western Australia chapter (VASEA-WA)
Co-organisers	Consulate General of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Perth Science and Technology Office, Embassy of Viet Nam in Australia
Format	Hybrid (in-person at Boola Katitjin, Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia, with online participation via MS Teams/Zoom)
Duration	**Online workshop on 22 November 2026** **Main symposium on 24 November 2026**
Registration	The symposium is free and open to all interested participants. Advance registration is required to assist with event planning, venue capacity and catering.
Attendance	80-100 in-person participants and ≥ 100 online participants
Target Audience	Researchers, academics, industry professionals, government representatives, research students, Early Career Researchers (ECRs), and members of the broader community interested in agricultural innovation and food security
Geographical Reach	Australia, Viet Nam and international participants. Participants are responsible for obtaining any required visas. The Organising Committee is unable to provide visa sponsorship or financial assistance for visa applications.

Scientific Themes

Session 1 – Agronomy, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Resilience

Focus: Crop improvement, sustainable farming systems, precision agriculture, climate resilience, plant protection, agricultural microbiomes, AI and digital agriculture.

Session 2 – Plant Biotechnology, Genomics and Synthetic Biology

Focus: Genome editing, plant biotechnology, synthetic biology, functional genomics, gene regulation, bioinformatics, multi-omics and advanced breeding technologies.

Session 3 – Food Science, Nutrition and Emerging Technologies

Focus: Food quality and safety, nutrition, food processing, food supply chains, sustainable food systems and emerging technologies for food production.

Session 4 – Research Translation, Agribusiness and Agricultural Policy

Focus: Research translation, technology transfer, commercialisation, agribusiness, industry partnerships, agricultural policy and Australia– Viet Nam collaboration.

Pre-Symposium International Research Workshop (Sunday, 22 November 2026)

** All times are in AWST (GMT+8). Vietnam time (GMT+7) is 1 hour behind. Program details are subject to change.*

Time *	Programme	Format
14:00-14:05	**Opening and Welcome**	Welcome and introduction to AVAS2026
14:05-14:30	**Plenary Address: Prof. Dr Hong Son Nguyen**, President of the Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences	20 min presentation + 5 min Q&A
14:30-16:20 (**Chairs:** Dr Chi Cao, Dr Viet-Cuong Han, and Hien Minh Vu)	**Session 1 — Viet Nam: Agricultural Transformation, Innovation and Emerging Opportunities** This captures how Vietnamese agriculture is evolving—research, technologies, sustainability, food systems and future opportunities.	
	Distinguished Keynote 2: Dr Pham Hong Quat (Director of the National Academy for Advanced Technology and Innovation)	15 min presentation + 5 min Q&A
	Standard Oral Presentations S1 1. **Thi Hong Nhung Le** (University of Science, Vietnam National University Hanoi) 2. **Van Chuyen Hoang** (Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and Engineering) 3. **Ngoc Hung Nguyen** (Hungloc Agricultural Research Center, Institute of Agricultural Science for Southern Viet Nam) 4. **Van Hien La** (Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry) 5. **Thi Mai Huong To** (University of Science and Technology of Hanoi, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology)	10 min presentation + 2 min Q&A
	Online – Flash Oral Presentation S1 1. **Thi Phong Thu Thieu** (Vietnam National University of Agriculture) 2. **Huong Phan** (Hanoi University of Mining and Geology, Vietnam) 3. **Thi Tuyet Mai Phan** (University of Science, Vietnam National University of Hanoi) 4. **Thi Ngoc Anh Hoang** (Phenikaa University) 5. **Thi Trong Hoa Vo** (Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City; Quy Nhon University)	5 min presentation + 5 min joint Q&A)
	Short Break	
16:30-18:00 (**Chairs:** Dr Thien Tran, A/Prof Thi Mai Huong To, and Dr Van Hien La)	**Session 2 — Australia and Beyond: Agricultural Innovation, Translation and Global Impact** This allows the Australia-based speakers to showcase research capability, technology, translation to industry and broader impact.	
	Distinguished Keynote 3: Prof. Michael Jones, former director WA State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre, Murdoch University	15 min presentation + 5 min Q&A
	Standard Oral Presentations S2 1. **Xuan Hoan Dinh** (The University of Sydney, Australia) 2. **Sang Huynh** (ARC Centre of Excellence in Plants for Space, La Trobe University, Australia) 3. **Hien Minh Vu** (Adelaide University, Australia)	4–5 selected oral presentations (10 min presentation + 2 min Q&A)
	Online – Flash Oral Presentation S2 1. **Pradeepa Wijitharani Hettiarachchi** (Southeastern University of Sri Lanka) 2. **Nothando Clementine Madlala** (University of Mpumalanga, South Africa) 3. **Sherly Xia** (University of Queensland, Australia) 4. **Luis Humberto León-Mendoza** (Instituto Nacional de Innovación Agraria (INIA), Estación Experimental Agraria Tacna, Peru) 5. **Ratha Hem** (Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia) 6. **Rossa Putri Hanny** (University of Queensland, Australia)	
18:00-18:05	**Closing Remarks**	Acknowledgements and invitation to AVAS2026 main symposium

Proposed One-day Programme (Tuesday, 24 November 2026)

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Time *	Programme
07:50 – 08:15	**Career Development Conversation** **Host:** Dr Chi Cao (WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development) **Conversation Participants:** • Professor Adam Sparks (Centre for Crop and Disease Management, Curtin University) • Associate Professor Chi Phan (Western Australian School of Mines, Curtin University) • Dr Lynda Perkins (Lecturer, School of Agricultural Sciences, Murdoch University) • Ms Nguyet Doan (Director of Australia World Link, Account Manager for Lion Mushrooms)
08:00 – 08:30	**Registration** **Networking and Coffee**
08:30 – 09:00	**Opening Ceremony** **Master of Ceremonies: Dr Tony Nguyen** (Edith Cowan University, VASEA-WA) • Acknowledgement of Country • Welcome Address — **Dr Thien Tran**, General Chair, AVAS 2026; President, Vietnam–Australia Scholars & Experts Association WA Chapter • Opening remarks — **Mr Sam Oakden**, Executive Director, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia • Opening remarks — **H.E. Mr Hai Anh Pham**, Consul General of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Western Australia and the Northern Territory • Opening remarks — **Mr An Tien Nguyen**, First Secretary, Science and Technology Office, Ministry of Science and Technology of Viet Nam • Welcome from the Host Institution — **Professor Rajeev Varshney**, Director, Centre for Crop and Food Innovation and WA State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre, Murdoch University
09:00 – 09:30	**Group photo session** **Morning tea**

09:30 – 10:50	**Session 1 – Agronomy, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Resilience**
	Chairs – Dr Viet-Cuong Han (Curtin University) **& Dr Monica Kehoe** (DPIRD)
	• Keynote Speaker: **Prof. Sarita Bennett** (Curtin University)
	• Invited Speaker: **A/Prof. Bao Quoc Nguyen** (Ho Chi Minh City Open University)
	• 2 Standard Oral Presentations
	  ○ **Dr Chao Xiong** (DECRA Fellow, The University of Western Australia)
	  ○ **Dr Basman Al-Jalely** (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Murdoch University)
	• 2 Lightning Oral Presentations
	  ○ **Mr Chandan Maharana** (PhD candidate, Murdoch University)
	  ○ **Ms Huyen Pham** (PhD candidate, The University of Western Australia)

10:50 – 11:15	**Short break**

11:15 – 12:30	**Session 2 – Plant Biotechnology, Genomics and Synthetic Biology**
	Chairs: Dr Thien Tran (Murdoch University) **& Dr Hoan Dinh** (Curtin University)
	• Keynote Speaker: **A/Prof. Ryan Whitford** (Murdoch University)
	• Invited Speaker: **Dr Huyen Phan** (Senior Research Fellow, Curtin University)
	• 2 Standard Oral Presentations
	  ○ **Dr Xuyen Le** (DECRA Fellow, The University of Western Australia)
	  ○ **Dr Roland Politan** (Research Fellow, The University of Western Australia)
	• 2 Lightning Oral Presentations
	  ○ **Ms Lien Do (**PhD candidate, Murdoch University)
	  ○ **Mr Tung Luong** (PhD candidate, The University of Western Australia)

12:30 – 13:30	**Networking Lunch, Poster Session & Exhibition** • **Poster Session:** 12-15 posters • **Industry Engagement & Exhibition** 1. Dam Rong Durian 2. ParagonCare Scientific 3. Australia World Link Migration Agency 4. A Buzz from the Bees 5. Brownes Dairy 6. Viet Sun Birdnest 7. Sunny Foods
13:30 – 14:45	**Session 3 – Food Science, Nutrition and Emerging Technologies** **Chairs – Dr Hue Luu** (Curtin University) **& Dr Rewati Raman Bhattarai** (Curtin University) • 1 Keynote Speaker: **A/Prof. Janet Howieson** (Curtin University) • 1 Invited Speaker: **Dr Doan Nguyen** (Murdoch University) • 2 Standard Oral Presentations ○ **Dr Andrew Tilley** (Postdoctoral Research Associate, Murdoch University**)** ○ **Mr Kenth Dods** (Principal Consultant, SAGE Innovations Group) • 2 Lightning Oral Presentations ○ **Ms Dewduni Premarathne** (PhD candidate, Murdoch University) ○ **Ms Barsha Adhikari** (PhD candidate, Curtin University)
14:45 – 15:05	**Afternoon tea**
15:05 – 15:55	**Session 4 – Research Translation, Agribusiness and Agricultural Policy** **Chairs – A/Prof. Kirsty Bayliss** (Murdoch University) **& Dr Diem Ly** (Murdoch University) • 2 Invited Oral Presentations ○ **Dr Monica Kehoe** (Principal Laboratory Scientist, WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development) ○ **A/Prof. Thi Dinh Tran** (Vietnam National University of Agriculture) • 1 Keynote Speaker: **Hackett Prof. Kadambot Siddique** (The University of Western Australia)
16:00 – 17:00	**Panel Discussion:** "*Building Australia–Viet Nam Partnerships for Agricultural Innovation and Food Security"* **Moderator: A/Prof. Lien Duong** (Curtin University; Board Director, VASEA) **Panellists:** 1. **Prof. Richard Bell** (Murdoch University) 2. **Hackett Prof. Kadambot Siddique** (The University of Western Australia) 3. **A/Prof. Kirsty Bayliss** (Murdoch University) 4. **A/Prof. Bao Quoc Nguyen** (Ho Chi Minh Open University) 5. **Dr Hoan Dinh** (Curtin University)
17:00 – 17:15	**Awards Ceremony – Dr Hue Luu** (Curtin University; Vice President, VASEA WA Chapter) **Closing Remarks – Dr Viet-Cuong Han** (Curtin University; Co-Chair, AVAS 2026)
17:15 onwards	**Networking Reception and Sundowners**

Poster session

Presenter	Title
Salehi Cyrus (Curtin University)	*Towards Field-Deployable AI for Plant Disease Segmentation Using Knowledge Distillation*
Dr Pham Thi Thu Ha (Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh City)	*Chemical Mutagenesis Enhances Anaerobic Germination in Direct-Seeded Rice*
Dr Hoan Dinh (Curtin University)	*Design durable net form net blotch resistance in barley*
Dr Mohitul Hossain (Curtin University)	*Improving Fungal Effector Prediction and Resistant Cultivar Selection Using Pathogen Pan-Genomics*
Antonio V. Yu (Curtin University)	*Between Languages and Lands: Vietnamese Australians as Digital Mediators in WA's Vegetable Industry*
Huyen Pham (University of Western Australia)	*Larger Wheat Rhizosheath, Deeper Roots, and More Grain*
Dr Thien Tran (University of Western Australia)	*Deciphering the Basis of Mitochondrial-Nuclear Genome Interactions for Hybrid Wheat Breeding*
Dr Viet-Cuong Han (Curtin University)	*Effective, Consistent, and Rapid Non-Contact Application Methods for Basal Stem Infection by Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*
Batuwita Hansini (Murdoch University)	*Green Extraction, Stabilisation, and Food Applications of Bioactives from Globe Artichoke Waste*
Hossain Mohammad Afzal (Murdoch University)	*Sequential Green Extraction of Bioactives from Brewer's Spent Grains Using Deep Eutectic Solvents*
Hegde Keshav Raghav (Curtin University	*Milling Mechanism Governs Particle Formation and Protein–Fibre Partitioning in Lupin*
Michael Garrett (Xsights Digital Pty Ltd)	*Ear Tag Telemetry Links Temperature and Activity to Feeding and Health Events in Weaned Piglets*
Padma Sameera Nambukara Thantreege (University of Western Australia)	*Agricultural Worker Health and Climate Resilience in Sri Lanka: A Conceptual Framework*
Nusrat Jahan (University of Western Australia)	*Plant and Rhizosphere Responses to Phytate-P Supply in Acidic Soil*

Post-Symposium Activity: Visit to Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development (DPIRD) Diagnostics and Laboratory Services

Wednesday, 25 November 2026 | 9:00–10:00 am (AWST)

Host: Dr Monica Kehoe, DPIRD Diagnostics and Laboratory Services

Convenors: Dr Viet-Cuong Han, Dr Chi Cao, Dr Thien Tran

Places: Limited to 10–15 participants

The visit will provide practical insight into plant health diagnostics, biosecurity surveillance, and diagnostic methods that support certification for trade and market access. Participants will have an opportunity to engage with specialists and gain a better understanding of how diagnostic science contributes to plant biosecurity and the protection of Australian agriculture.

As the concluding activity of AVAS2026, the visit will also provide an opportunity to continue discussions from the Pre-Symposium Workshop and Main Symposium, exchange knowledge, and explore potential research and professional connections in plant health and agricultural biosecurity.

Further information: https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/businesses/biosecurity/diagnostics-and-laboratory-services/

