



The Ebro Group is a leading company in the food processing sector. Originally established in Spain, it now has a presence in more than 52 countries on four continents, is the world leader in the rice sector and second largest pasta manufacturer worldwide.

As a company involved in the agricultural sector, Ebro Foods understands the vested interest it has in promoting sustainable development and encouraging both the efficient use of resources and innovation in the sector. As a result, sustainability is built into every aspect of the company.

“One of the main pillars of Ebro Group’s strategy is sustainable growth, generating value for all our stakeholders in the development of our business activities. In this sense, the work we do related to many SDGs comes naturally, as it forms part of our commitment to encouraging sustainability throughout our value chain.”

Ebro encourages transparency, compliance with good governance and a commitment to consumers, employees and the responsible management of resources. Ensuring a sustainable business model is enshrined as one of the four policy objectives of its Corporate Social Responsibility policy.

In 1998, the company established the Ebro Foundation as the driving force behind its social and sustainable agriculture action. The Foundation is involved in solidarity actions, cooperation programmes and projects which contribute to the socioeconomic development of the geographical regions in which the company operates.

## Case Study: Food security among small farmers in Viet Nam

In the province of Phu Tho, Viet Nam, 84% of the population is involved in rice growing and depends on this crop for nourishment, and 30% of the population are living in poverty. As part of its work through the Ebro Foundation, Ebro Foods and Fundación CODESPA, a Spanish NGO that works to help people escape poverty through employment opportunities, launched a project in 2014 to improve food security among rice farmers in this province.

The aim of the project was to improve agricultural practices and processes in order to improve yields, helping to reduce the frequent food shortages that affect this area and allowing farmers to increase their income by producing surplus crops. This was achieved through innovation in the use of fertilizers. A new pellet-form fertilizer allowed for a slower release of nutrients in the soil and was less likely to be depleted through evaporation and leaching than the traditional surface fertilizers.

This change led to improved crop yields of between 13% and 25%, depending on the area, and increased farmers’ income by 18% to 40%. So far over 60,000 households are benefitting from the use of this new fertilizing system, which is sold at an affordable price and has reduced contamination by 90%.

In a show of its continued commitment, in 2016 Ebro Foods joined the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP), a multi-stakeholder association co-created by UNEP and the International Rice Research Institute to ensure sustainability all along the rice value chain. Also, in 2015, Ebro Foods joined the SAI platform, the primary global food & drink value chain initiative for sustainable agriculture, that facilitates sharing, at precompetitive level, of knowledge and best practices to support the development and implementation of sustainable agriculture practices, and created with several other members a specific working group for rice.