



PERTH

Grower profile

Name Hoang Huy Nguyen

Location Geraldton

Property size 6ha

Enterprises Cucumbers

Grower profile

Hoang Huy Nguyen



BY VO THE TRUYEN
FIELD EXTENSION
OFFICER, VEGETABLESWA

Huy is a successful Vietnamese cucumber grower in Geraldton. He operates a 15 acre farm consisting of 108 glazing plastic houses, each capable for growing a thousand cucumber plants.

His cucumber farm has recently upgraded with an automated irrigation system. This, according to him, is an initial step towards developing sustainable practices which he believes is vital to remaining competitive.

Huy said: "With the introduction of new technology over time, I observed that production practices in agriculture are constantly changing and being modified towards achieving sustainable practices".

The sustainable practices, as defined by this Vietnamese grower, is a set of farming operation practices that maximise the efficiency of resource use, maintaining good yield and good product quality and those can be repeated over the year.

The new automated irrigation device will maintain inputs records and Huy believes it will help to enhance water and fertiliser use efficiency because it is far more advanced than the conventional practices which based on self-perceived experiences and no record keeping. This may also help to track down problems relating to the low yield and low fruit quality incidences.

"Today highly competitive agricultural market does not leave much room for mistakes. If you cannot maintain consistent supply of consistent high quality products to your customer buyers, you would lose the game. Successful growers can't afford that," said Huy.


Huy revealed that the decision to make investment for the automation irrigation system resulted from a long process of learning and observation. This long process was to acquire knowledge until he got "gut feeling" that the investment will bring profit in different ways.

Huy has had made several trips to Adelaide, where lot of growers have been quite used to this convenient equipment, to study several aspects of this new technology such as: how beneficial it was; how many types are available; pros and cons of each type; how much is the cost; how often it goes wrong; how to calibrate at the first install; and how to fix the problems etc.

Although the cost of adopting this new technology is incurred upfront and the improved returns earned over a longer period, it will also generate savings such as time which is invaluable and allow Huy to do other tasks.

With this automatic device Huy no longer has to rush around to different corners of the farm to shift irrigation and to tank mix the fertigation solution. This allows him to pay more attention to the other farming issues such as pest and disease control, maintaining the infrastructure, interacting to workers, and more meeting customer buyers.



Huy also believes that investing in this new technology will do another very important job — to save time for relaxation and having fun. "You have got to make life easier for yourself," he said. 



Improved water and fertiliser use efficiency — the initial step towards building sustainable practices for cucumber production in Geraldton.