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USDA opens funding window to advance U.S. biofertilizer exports and sustainable farming in Vietnam

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture is offering $500,000 in technical assistance funding to promote American biofertilizers, strengthen Vietnam's fertilizer management framework and expand market access for sustainable crop nutrition technologies

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has launched a new initiative aimed at expanding the presence of American-made biofertilizers in Vietnam, opening applications for $500,000 in technical assistance funding to accelerate adoption of sustainable crop nutrition technologies while strengthening bilateral agricultural cooperation.

Administered through the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), the programme invites universities, agricultural trade associations and nonprofit organizations to lead technical activities designed to improve market access for U.S. fertilizer enhancement products and support Vietnam's transition toward more efficient nutrient management practices.

The initiative reflects growing international efforts to reduce agriculture's environmental footprint by improving fertilizer-use efficiency without compromising crop productivity. As governments seek to curb nutrient losses and greenhouse gas emissions, biofertilizers and enhanced-efficiency fertilizers are increasingly emerging as important alternatives to conventional synthetic nutrient inputs.

Under the programme, the selected organization will assess the agronomic performance of U.S.-manufactured biofertilizers—including products such as liquid fish fertilizer—to determine their ability to sustain crop yields while reducing nitrogen leaching in both the United States and Vietnam. The project is expected to generate technical evidence supporting wider adoption of biological and enhanced-efficiency nutrient technologies across diverse production systems.

Beyond field evaluation, the initiative will contribute scientific expertise to Vietnam's evolving fertilizer management framework. Particular emphasis will be placed on microbial coating technologies and other advanced fertilizer enhancement products

capable of improving nutrient-use efficiency, reducing environmental losses and supporting long-term soil health.

The programme also includes a strong knowledge-exchange component. Planned activities feature a technical outreach mission involving U.S. organic rice producers, creating opportunities for direct engagement with Vietnamese stakeholders on sustainable rice production practices and biological nutrient management.

To strengthen commercial outcomes, the project will monitor the import performance of at least three U.S.-manufactured biofertilizers or fertilizer enhancement products entering the Vietnamese market. The initiative is expected to generate market intelligence that can guide future export strategies while supporting broader adoption of American agricultural technologies.

The funding announcement underscores the USDA's broader strategy of combining scientific collaboration, technical assistance and trade promotion to expand international opportunities for U.S. agricultural innovation. With global demand increasing for climate-smart farming inputs, Vietnam is emerging as a strategic market for biological crop nutrition products that improve productivity while reducing the environmental impacts associated with conventional fertilizer use.