



## NEWS RELEASE

# OLAM SPICES & VEGETABLE INGREDIENTS ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF ITS VIETNAM FACILITY ENHANCING PRODUCTION AND SAFETY OF ITS BLACK PEPPER AND SPICES

**Fresno, Calif., January 9, 2014** – Olam Spices & Vegetable Ingredients (Olam SVI or the Company) has completed an expansion in size and capability of its spices processing facility in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The 85,300-sq.-ft (26,000-sq.-mt) spice processing facility will enhance cleaning and storage processes for black pepper, and adds capabilities to process cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg products. The investment in new equipment and technologies, along with its [Innovation & Quality](#) (IQ) centre in Fresno, California, allows Olam SVI to exceed prevailing international and U.S. regulations and the highest standards expected by its spice and ingredient customers.

Upgrades to the Vietnam facility include advanced technologies such as cryogenic milling using liquid nitrogen; a pepper cleaning line; a Plant HTST steam sterilisation and pasteurisation system; and new pepper milling lines. The Company has added climate control for balancing water activity in the processed products and expanded physical storage capabilities. New pepper, ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg grinding lines and equipment will more than double production capacity and output for those products.

The expansion augments the facility's existing separators, sifters and two steam sterilisers that clean the spices and reduce microbial contamination. Certified by British Retail Consortium (BRC) audit protocol, the plant completed successful inspection by the U.S. FDA in 2010. The facility is one of the largest in the world in its category and employs more than 400 people.

"Our regional presence in origins such as Vietnam for the past eight years allows us to take control of the commodity at the farm gate level and closely manage the product from post-harvest processing to storage and final delivery," said Olam SVI President Greg Estep. "Our customers can be confident the ingredients that make their products great are of the highest quality and sourced through our unparalleled processing and logistics capabilities."

Olam SVI's efforts to improve quality standards of spices produced in Vietnam includes farmer training to promote safe agricultural practices. Structured courses are offered through learning centres and extension providers, and model farms have been established.

"Our strong marketing presence in key destinations gives customers an advantage in the proprietary market information and responsive service we provide," said Deepak Shah, global product line head, pepper and tropical spice business at Olam SVI.

The IQ centre opened earlier this year as the hub of excellence for safety and quality in Olam SVI's worldwide operations. Through their microbiology and chemistry laboratory work, scientists and quality assurance professionals at the IQ dictate corrective and proactive actions in quality programmes at manufacturing plants in US, Vietnam, India, Egypt, Peru and China.

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### ***About Olam Spices & Vegetable Ingredients***

Headquartered in Fresno, Calif., Olam Spices & Vegetable Ingredients (Olam SVI) is a top global supplier of onion, garlic, spices, capsicums, tomatoes and specialty vegetables. The company has mastered the full supply chain from source to market, growing and sourcing the finest raw materials in spice and vegetable ingredients with operations in the U.S., Vietnam, China, India, Egypt and Peru. Olam SVI leads the industry in sustainable operations, processing technologies and farming practices. Its more than 50 years of conventional seed breeding for crop optimization is applied in agricultural communities around the world. Olam SVI is a business unit of Olam International, a leading globally integrated supply chain manager and processor of agricultural products and food ingredients. For more information, please visit [olamonline.com/products-services/spices-vegetable-ingredients](http://olamonline.com/products-services/spices-vegetable-ingredients).

### ***About Olam International***

Olam International is a leading globally integrated supply chain manager and processor of agricultural products and food ingredients, supplying various products across 16 platforms to over 12,300 customers worldwide. From a direct presence in more than 65 countries with sourcing and processing in most major producing countries, Olam has built a global leadership position in many of its businesses, including Cashew, Spices & Vegetable Ingredients, Cocoa, Coffee, Rice and Cotton. Headquartered in Singapore and listed on the SGXST on February 11, 2005, Olam is a component stock in the Straits Times Index (STI), MSCI Singapore Free, S&P Agribusiness Index and the DAXglobal Agribusiness Index. Olam is the only Singapore firm to be named in the 2009, 2010 and 2012 Forbes Asia Fabulous 50, an annual list of 50 big-cap and most profitable firms in the region. It is also the first and only Singapore company to be named in the 2009 lists for the Global Top Companies for Leaders and the Top Companies for Leaders in the Asia Pacific region by Hewitt Associates, the RBL Group and Fortune. More information on Olam can be found at [www.olamonline.com](http://www.olamonline.com).

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