

WRAP-UP NOTES BY CONSULTANT TEAM

The following is a brief summary of findings and recommendations of the present review of the MARD ISG, leading to revision of ToRs for ISG and TAGs. The brief summary does also include some of the key points raised in the workshop on 2nd May 2003 and during and after the consultative process:

- 1) It was found that ISG had done very well indeed and been very useful improving coordination between MARD and donors.
- 2) It was also found that coordination between MARD, other ministries, donors and other partners should be strengthened due to new challenges and opportunities. Coordination should include review and discussions of on-going and up-coming projects, policies, priorities of GoV and MARD, as well as lessons learned and best practices. Coordination should also include donor priorities, conditions etc.
- 3) There was also a need for strengthening of the policy dialogue between MARD, other ministries, donors and other partners. The policy dialogue should in particular include donor priorities and conditions, and GoV and MARD's existing 5 and 10 year plans, other plans, priorities, policies, strategies etc.
- 4) Technical Coordinators working on part time basis will be needed to strengthen coordination and policy dialogue.
- 5) Not all concerned seemed to be fully conversant with what ISG was doing and how ISG could be a very helpful tool. It is therefore suggested that the ISG Secretariat engages in a pro-active PR campaign by visiting donors and others as one step in an on-going dialogue.
- 6) It was also found that MARD, provinces and donors needed dialogue platforms. Many up-coming projects targets communes and provinces, moreover, there is a need to more precisely define CPRGS within MARD's domain. It would therefore seem naturally to include the provinces and donors in this process. It was also found that the dialogue platforms should be in the provinces, since provincial authorities also needed to dialogue with target groups and beneficiaries. The following criteria for selection of provinces was proposed: 1) need for coordination, 2) presence of many donors, and 3) interest of the province to enter into closer dialogue with MARD and donors.

- 7) The Review Team found that there might be need for one additional TAG to look into how to increase agricultural production and productivity in a sustainable manner. The mandate should include subsistence farmers, smallholders as well as medium and large farming units. The TAG should also review the consequences of globalisation and trade integration with particular relevance to subsistence and smallholder and CPRGS.
- 8) There is a need to define how MARD will address CPRGS. Exact areas of support and operational aspects should be worked out in close collaboration with provinces and donors.
- 9) It was suggested that one representative of MONRE would be invited to participate in TAG2.
- 10) It was suggested to rename TAG2 to: support to Hydraulic Works and Rural Water Service.
- 11) There is a need to clarify formal relationship between National Water Resources Council and MARD (read TAG2).
- 12) ISG should work closely with the existing partnerships and draw upon their experiences whenever possible.
- 13) How will MARD prepare for SWAP and integrate SWAP with existing approaches, projects and programmes?
- 14) Donors have different focus and areas of specialisation.
- 15) Some found that a few workshops and meetings have been a bit unfocused and that the contents at times could be more structured.
- 16) Some found that a full review should be undertaken of ISG, including progress, constraints, areas of special attention and recommendations.
- 17) It would be useful for TAG1 to visit China to study how China has adjusted to trade integration with global partners.
- 18) Some found that regular and structured monitoring of ISG progress, constraints etc. was very important.
- 19) ISG should perform a logframe analysis leading to the formulation of an ISG logframe.
- 20) It was found that ISG needs brief monthly plans and reports (1-2 pages) following a certain format.
- 21) The close coordination with ICARD should be continued.
- 22) The ISG newsletter should continue to be distributed regularly.
- 23) The ISG website should likewise continue to be updated regularly.

Hanoi, 11 May 2003
The Review Team