



ISG NEWSLETTER

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT - INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT VOL 1. 2004

Focus

Recover Poultry Industry

Dr. Bui Quang Anh

Director General - Department of Animal Health


Plan of poultry industry rehabilitation

In order to re-stock and develop poultry industry with the goal: the poultry population in 2005 will be 220-240 million heads and 343 million heads in 2010, it is required:

- To keep surveillance of the disease. Strengthen disease diagnostic and detection capacity from the centre to the field; improve Vet. Services in the provinces and districts to diagnose and control animal common diseases; and strengthen research and trial of vaccines to prevent animal diseases. Nowadays, to develop animal husbandry attention should be paid to veterinary services, which is the precious lesson from this AI epidemic;

- To disinfect and clean infected areas. Sero-tests should be done to poultry in near by the outbreaks.

- To assure free disease flocks to raise, the Department of Animal Health (DAH) has guided veterinary hygiene conditions to poultry raising after withdrawal of



Hanoi -10 February, 2004 - About 100 participants from international donors, organisations, ministries and agencies attended the seminar on Preliminary action plan of MARD to control avian influenza epidemic in Vietnam. This adhoc seminar was organised under the framework of the International Support Group (ISG).

disease declarations by the document No. 314/TY-DT.

- The Agricultural Department, Provincial Agricultural and Rural development Departments, joint- ventures, foreign funded farms shall investigate the quantity and quality of birds and follow the guideline of DAH.

- Provinces and cities continue to

monitor and guide poultry farms in their territories to carry out strictly measures of disease prevention and control; control the movement of birds, bird products and their feed, prevent the disease from re-occurring.

From the lessons withdrawn from this AI epidemic, poultry raise, slaughter and movement have to be planned. Poultry farms must be located far away from human living areas, main roads... and to ensure bio-security conditions. Backyard poultry raised by smallholders have to meet requirements of disease prevention and human health protection. Poultry markets have to be also planned and extensive poultry slaughter system will be built and supervised by veterinary authorities.

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ISG gets stronger commitment from donors

The ISG work plan 2004-2006 was approved in general by the ISG Steering Board members at the 8th Meeting of the Board organised in Hanoi on 30 March 2004.

A group of 4 core donors, including Australia, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden, reaffirmed their commitment to the ISG

process by signing with MARD a Framework Arrangement (FA) to financially support the implementation of the new Work Plan.

"The FA signed by MARD and the four Core Donors Group is a very important framework for cooperation between MARD and the donors in the time to come. It presents a great achievement

in MARD and donor harmonization", Danish Development Counsellor, Jan Moller Hansen stated at the Meeting.

Dr. Le Van Minh, Vice Chairman of the ISG Steering Board, Director General of International Cooperation Department said, "involvement of other donors to fund the ISG process through the FA or any other types of sup-

ports are welcomed and appreciated".

The proposed Work Plan 2004-2006 has been developed using a process based on strategic planning methodology and principles, and three main outputs have been produced, namely: (i) an analysis report on situation of ISG process and recommendations for a better performance of the process;

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Preparatory Phase of FSSP Concludes

Dr. Paula. J. Williams

CTA, FSSP CO

Within the framework of the Forest Sector Support Program and Partnership, the December 2003 Partnership Steering Committee meeting endorsed the proposal to establish an inter-ministerial Working Group (WG) to coordinate and guide activities in strategic planning and monitoring for the forest sector. The inter-ministerial WG was established with 35 members from relevant departments. Each institution participating in the WG has two representatives - a senior decision-maker and a senior technical expert. The decision-makers are responsible for overall coordination of activities and policy guidance. The senior technical experts are organized into three technical teams to support work on the strategy development, 661 study, and sectoral monitoring and information systems. The technical teams will be supported in their work by small teams of national and international consultants. Based upon decisions by MARD leadership, this WG was established to coordinate and guide four key activities to be undertaken in 2004: (1) preparing a new national forest development strategy, to cover the period until 2020; (2) undertaking a study of the implementation of the Five Million Hectare Reforestation Program, through Decision 661, and then preparing a proposal to revise 661; (3) preparing FSSP action plans for 2004-2006 and (4) designing and piloting sectoral Monitoring and Information Systems (M&IS) for the forest sector.

The international partners of FSSP and other stakeholders will be involved in these activities in terms of partici-

pation in key workshops, consultations, and review of draft documents. The FSSP Coordination Office is serving as a secretariat to the WG, and providing support to the WG and its smaller teams.

Funding for these activities is being provided by MARD, the FSSP Coordination Office's Trust Fund, and several international partners of FSSP. After the new Trust Fund for Forests (TFF) is established, it may provide

additional financing, if needed.

For the three technical teams, it was agreed that they would be headed by the following officers: Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Binh, Forestry Department (FD) Director (strategy team), Mr. Ngo Dinh Tho, FD Deputy Director (661 study and revision team), and Mr. Tran Kim Long, Deputy Director of ICD, MARD (monitoring and information team).

FSSP activities ongoing in

2004 are expected to serve as inputs to both the strategy development process and the design of the sectoral monitoring and information systems. These activities include: (1) feedback on the Law on Forest Protection and Development, (2) the research on Harmonization of Investment procedures Framework (HIF) for forestry projects, (3) the FSSP study on forestry, poverty reduction and rural livelihoods; (4) the FSSP study on gender issues in forestry; and (5) the assessment of linkages among forest research, extension, education and training.◆

(For more information, please contact FSSP Coordination Office at 5mhpart@hn.vnn.vn)

Two NDM Priority Projects to Commence Soon

Rehabilitation of Dong Dyke System in Binh Dinh Province and reconstruction of Tung Lam Sluice in Da Nang City will soon be implemented. These projects are set to receive grant funds from the Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE), the Government of Luxembourg (GoL) and UNDP. Presently the project documents and the budget are being finalised. The Government approval for the funding is expected soon.

Dong Dyke System

Rehabilitation of Dong Dyke System in Binh Dinh Province will reduce vulnerability to water disasters for a population of 65,764 people in five communes. About 75% of the people in the project area are members of low-income families. The rehabilitated dyke sections will protect 6,187 ha of land, including 3,555 ha of agricultural land and 510 ha of forest land. Out of the 45 km of the Dong Dyke, three sections having a total length of 5.85 km have been chosen for rehabilitation as these

sections are very weak, low and more number of poor people are protected by these sections: Nhon Phu dyke, Nhon Binh dyke and Phuoc Thanh-Cat Chanh dyke.

Tung Lam Sluice

Reconstruction of the Tung Lam sluice, rehabilitation of protective dykes adjacent to the sluice, construction of protective revetment for the banks of the Vinh Dien River adjacent to the sluice, and dredging of two channels to provide increased irrigation water for drought mitigation will benefit a population of 23,603 belonging to 5,086 households in two communes and protect 2,763 ha of land including 1,289 ha of agricultural field.

Capacity Building

In addition to infrastructure rehabilitation, these projects will also have some capacity building components, as it is recognized that structural measures, such as construction of water disaster risk reduction infrastructure, is necessary but not sufficient alone in solving development problems created by the

apparently increasing number of severe water disasters in Central Vietnam. Disaster reduction is most effective when physical construction works are combined with grassroots people and government decision-makers increased understanding of the risks of disasters; and their capacity together to prepare pro-actively to reduce the risk of these disasters.

Capacity building components will be implemented at various levels - provincial, district and commune levels. At the provincial level, the capacity of the provincial officials in project implementation including QA/QC will be enhanced by providing Technical Assistance. Trainings on O&M will be provided to all levels. At the commune level, training will be provided for development of risk management plans for the project communes. The district level officials will be trained on integrating disaster mitigation on all development planning.◆

Source: NDM - Partnership

List of MARD ODA Projects to be signed in 2004

(Unit: USD)

No.	Project code	Name	Donor	Grant	Loan	Total	Proposed Implementing Agency	Proposed sign date
1	BNN-NN-03-038	Rural Infrastructure for improving sustainable livelihood in Central Region.	ADB	800,000	0	800,000	Agricultural Project Management Board	Q III July
2	BNN-HH-04-003	Improving poor farmers' livelihoods through post harvest technology (Under GMS cooperation)	ADB	400,000	0	400,000	Vietnam Institute for Agricultural Engineering and post-harvest Technology	Q IV
3	BNN-HH-03-048	Promoting silk income for the rural poor in Central Highlands.	ADB	620,000	0	620,000	PPCs of Gia Lai, KonTum, Dak Lak and, Lam Dong	Q VI
4	BNN-TL-04-007	Poverty reduction in irrigation and drainage systems in Red river basin	ADB	820,000	0	820,000	Central Project Office	Q II June
5	BNN-TL-03-009	Phuoc Hoa Water Resources Project	ADB, AFD	0	124,040,000	0	Central Project Office	Q II May
6	BNN-NN-02-027	Tea development in Phu Tho province	AFD	0	12,000,000	12,000,000	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Phu Tho	Q IV
7	BNN- NN-03-028	Management of the genetic diversity of Asian wild bovines in Vietnam	AFD	550,000	0	550,000	National Institute for Animal Husbandary	Signed 14/01/2004
8	BNN-NN-03-018	Improvement of dairy cattle breeding for developping and improving quality of dairy cattle herd at households in some Northern provinces, phase 2	AUSAID	3,000,000	0	3,000,000	Department of Agriculture	Q IV
9	BNN-NN-03-040	Capacity building for food safety, plant and animal quarantine	AUSAID, JICA	2,200,000	0	2,200,000	Department of Animal Health	
10	BNN-LN-03-029	Strengthening Capacity for Pumat national park	EC	3,800,000	0	3,800,000	Pumat National Park	Q III
11	BNN-HH-03-030	Rural development in Cao Bang province	EU	21,500,000	0	21,500,000	People committees of Cao Bang & Bac Kan Provinces	Q IV
12	BNN-NN-04-008	Emergency supply of rice seeds and fertilizers to drought-affected households in Central Highland	FAO	400,000	0	400,000	People 's committee of Dak Lac, Gia Lai, Kon Tum	Signed 9/01/2004
13	BNN-NN-04-009	Emergency assistance for the control of avian influenza	FAO	390,000	0	390,000	Department of Animal Health	Q II April
14	BNN-LN-04 - 011	Conservation of Easter black crested in Cao Bang province	FFI	70,456	0	70,456	Department of Forest Protection	Signed 2/2004
15	BNN-NN-03-017	Potato production improvement - Phase 2	GTZ	1,900,000	0	1,900,000	Department of Agriculture	Q III
16	BNN-LN-04-012	Flora diversity research of Cuc Phuong National Park	Illinois University, America	242,100	0	242,100	Cuc Phuong National Park	Signed 2/2004
17	BNN-NN-01-041	Investment in sericulture development in Yen Lac District, Vinh Phuc Province	ITA-GOV	1,500,000	0	1,500,000	Vietnam Sericulture Research Institute	Q III or Q IV
18	BNN-TL-02-059	To Trach reservoir project	JBIC	0	120,000,000	120,000,000	Central Project Office	Q IV
19	BNN-HH-02-018	Capacity building for Vietnam Water Resources Science Institute in irrigation, drainage and water resources management for sustainable development of agriculture	JICA	3,000,000	0	3,000,000	Vietnam Institute for water resources research	Q III
20	BNN-LN-04-004	Rehabilitation of forest fire	JICA	1,700,000	0	1,700,000	Department of Forestry-People's Committee of Ca Mau province	QIII
21	BNN-LN-04-005	Rehabilitation of degraded natural forest in Northern areas of Vietnam	JICA	4,500,000	0	4,500,000	Department of Forestry-People's Committee of Hoa Binh province	Q II
22	BNN-HH-04-006	Improving living conditions and forest fire protection for Ba Be National Park	JICA	900,000	0	900,000	Ba Be National Park	Q II May
23	BNN-LN-02-019	Afforestation project in Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh and Phu Yen provinces	KfW	9,500,000	0	9,500,000	Forestry Project Management Board	Q III
24	BNN-LN-03-011	Training support for follow-up phase of afforestation project in Lang Son and Bac Giang provinces (KfW1)	KfW	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	Forestry Project Management Board	Q II
25	BNN-HH-04-010	Professional village development for sustainable growth and poverty reduction in rural area.	UNIDO	2,592,265	0	2,592,265	Agro-forestry product processing and salt industry	Q III or IV
26	BNN-LN-02-029	Forest sector development project	WB	10,000,000	70,000,000	80,000,000	Department of Forestry	Q II June
27	BNN-NN-04-001	Avian influenza control emergency project	WB	4,000,000	6,000,000	10,000,000	Agricultural Project Management Board	Q II June
28	BNN-HH-04-002	Monitoring and evaluation of CPRGS implementation in Rural Sector in Vietnam	WB	295,000	0	295,000		Q III
29	BNN-TL-02-037	National water resources management assistance project (WB 3-Loan)	WB	0	160,000,000	160,000,000	Central Project Office	Q II May
Total:		29 Projects		75,679,821	492,040,000	443,679,821		

Study on Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the US

The project on Globalization and Agriculture development in Vietnam within the framework of the Agricultural Sector Program Support (ASPS) funded by DANIDA is conducting the study on Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the US: Economic projections to 2020 and Implications for agriculture. This study presents an empirical assessment of the long term economic effects of Vietnam's bilateral trade agreement with the United States (USBTA).

Using a dynamic forecasting model, it is indicated that, while agreements like the USBTA are essential to fuller Vietnamese participation in the global economy and economic modernization generally, they are only a partial step toward realizing the country's great economic potential. Some observations have been drawn up as follows:

- Substantial reduction in nominal import protection and other barriers to trade, but the gains Vietnam could enjoy from external liberalization will be limited if without comprehensive and sustained domestic reform.

- Intensification of Vietnam's traditional comparative advantages.

- The USBTA has potential to nearly double the gains from Vietnam's existing trade initiatives, significantly diversifying its export demand, and contributing to capital formation and technology transfer. ♦

Source: ICD-MARD

Establishment of Sub-committee on International Economic Integration

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) issued Decision 244/Q§-BNN-TCCB, dated 5 February 2004 to establish MARD Sub-committee on International Economic Integration. The functions of the Sub-committee is to steer and coordinate international trading and economic activities of the Ministry with ASEAN, APEC, ASEM, WTO, the United States (BTA) and other countries in the fields of agriculture, forestry, salt industry, irrigation and rural development. Chairman of the Sub-Committee is a Vice Minister who is in charge of International Economic Integration programme of the Ministry and also the members of the National Committee on International Economic Integration; First Vice Chairman of the Sub-Committee is Director General of International Cooperation Department (ICD); other members are representatives from Departments involved in International Economic Integration activities of the Ministry. The Sub-Committee Secretariat is under the management of ICD.

Source: ICD-MARD

From 4 to 13 February 2004, within the framework of the Technical Assistance (TA) for Agriculture Science and Technology (AST) project, ADB fielded this TA project-specific Consultation Mission to work with representatives of Viet Nam Government, external funding agencies and NGOs to discuss (i) the framework for the ensuing loan for the AST Project; (ii) cofinancing possibility from bilateral and multilateral funding agencies; (iii) possible project proposals for financing under the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction;

was approved by the ADB on 9 October 2003 for a grant of \$ 900,000 financed under the Japan Special Fund,

Technical Assistance (TA 4194-VIE) for Agriculture Science and Technology (AST) project

(iv) possible modality for TA's contribution to the activities of the International Support Group (ISG) of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; (v) the Government's proposal to develop an international training center.

The above-captioned TA for AST

funded by the Government of Japan. The objective of the TA is to help the Government prepare a detailed proposal for strengthening the AST system in Vietnam, thereby contributing to the country's sustainable economic growth and reduction in rural poverty. ♦

Source: ADB Vietnam Resident Mission

Australia to further help Vietnam build research capacity in agriculture and rural development

A six year collaboration program in Agriculture and rural development between Vietnam and Australia was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Australian Embassy at a workshop for agricultural research institutions.

The Australian Government will provide A\$19.5 million (VND 231 billion) to the Collaboration for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) Program, which will support a competitive funding mechanism for grants for agricultural research. Vietnamese research institutions, in conjunction with Australian partner institutions, will be able to submit research proposals for funding through the program. Together these organisations will also contribute from their own resources to individual research activities over the life of the program. The CARD program also aims to strengthen Vietnam's capacity to effectively manage its agricultural research programs. ♦

Source: AusAID

US \$3.8 billion FDI for agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said there have been 780 foreign direct investment projects in agriculture and forestry with total registered capital of US \$3.8 billion, of which 528 projects implemented with the total funds to US \$1.753 billion.

The eastern part of the southern region of the country attracted 240 projects with total registered capital of more than US \$2 billion, followed by the central coastal area, getting 68 projects with registered capital of US \$570 million.

During the 2003-2007 period, the forestry and agriculture sectors plan to attract US \$1 billion investment capital, encouraging more investment in growing forest, processing wood and paper. ♦

Source: MARD

National Workshop on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation in Vietnam

From 4 to 5 March 2004, in Hanoi, ISG Secretariat in collaboration with Danida/Water-SPS successfully held the workshop on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation in Vietnam.

The objectives of the workshop were (i) to document the status of implementing the National RWSS Strategy; (ii) to present and discuss how to address key challenges for achieving the national strategy and goals for rural water supply and sanitation in Vietnam, and (iii) to identify and discuss opportunities for new aid modalities and future partnerships in the sector.

Participated in the workshop were around 100 representatives from Government's relevant agencies and donors working in the rural water supply and sanitation sector.

All the reports and presentation made at the workshop have been shared with TAG2 members for reference and information. These documents can also be obtained from ISG Secretariat or at ISG website at <http://www.isgmard.org.vn>. The outcome of the workshop is under completion. We hope to share with you this document in an earliest time. ♦

Source: ISG Sec

Ad-hoc Meeting on Priority Integrated Water Resources Management Issues in Vietnam's River Basins

Under the framework of the ISG Thematic Ad-hoc Group 2 (TAG2) on Support to Hydraulic Works Development, Disaster Control, and Rural Water Supply, an Ad-hoc Meeting on Priority Integrated Water Resources Management Issues in Vietnamese River Basins was held on 12 February 2004, co-chaired by MARD and ADB.

The main purpose of the meeting was to compare the three river basins, their water resource endowments vs. demand and the priority integrated water resources management (IWRM)

issues and challenges in each basin from both the stakeholder and technical perspectives. Its output was a discussion of the implications for existing and future IWRM projects in the three basins.

Participating in the meeting were more than 60 representatives from Government relevant agencies and donor organizations.

Notes from the meeting was completed and sent to all participants for reference. The notes, reports and presentations of the meeting can be obtained from ISG Secretariat. ♦

Source: ISG Sec

An introduction to the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations

The need for partnerships for an action to achieve Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in river basins throughout Asia was recognized at the 3rd World Water Forum held in Japan, in March 2003. At the forum, the Japan Water Agency (JWA) had a session entitled "a review of Water Resources Management in Japan, Shared Lessons for Monsoon Asia". Additionally, JWA, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) signed a Letter of Intent for Collaboration on Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO).

NARBO's objectives will be to promote the exchange of information and experience among river basin organizations (RBO) and their associated water sector agencies in Asia and to strengthen their capacity and effectiveness in promoting IWRM and improving water governance.

NARBO's activities focus on:

- Advocacy and raising awareness for IWRM among RBOs, water sector apex bodies, and leading water sector agencies in the region, mainly through regional workshops.
- Sharing of information, good practices, and lessons learned for IWRM among the participating organizations, mainly by operating databases and a website for IWRM exchanging information, and by sending a newsletter by web site and holding (sub) regional workshops.

- Supporting NARBO members to improve water governance, including the enabling policy, institutional, and legal framework for IWRM, and the formulation of the action plans.

- Building capacity of RBOs in implementing IWRM, mainly through staff exchange and training among participating organizations.

- Supporting RBOs with technical advice in regard to the efficient O&M of water facilities, to improve IWRM.

- Fostering regional cooperation for improved management of water resources in trans-boundary river basins.

Recently, MARD has nominated three representatives (one from General office for RBOs in Vietnam- Department of Water Resources, MARD; one from Hong-Thai Binh RBO's Office; and one from Dong Nai and Cuu Long RBO's Office) to participate the 1st General Meeting of the NARBO and signed the NARBO charter to be a member of NARBO. The meeting was held in Brantas river basin, BaTu, Malang, East Java, Indonesia from 23rd to 25th February 2004. Within the framework of the meeting, MARD's delegation has contributed a chairperson on the section "RBO's experiences to Implement IWRM" (Dr. To Van Truong), and a paper titled "River Basin Organization in Vietnam and its contribution to WR development in the future" presented by MEng. Le Quang Tuan. ♦

(This paper can be obtained from ISG website at <http://www.isgmard.org.vn>, or at the ISG Secretariat)

Source: Water Resource Department - MARD



TAG3 - update activities

Refer to the Draft TAG3 Work plan presented at the second Meeting of TAG3 in November 2003, the following activities have been carried out:

1- To work with Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) to prepare for the support of CPRGS implementation at provincial level;

2- To organize a Round-table discussion on "Preparation for CPRGS implementation"

3- To prepare for the receipt of "Monitoring and Evaluation of CPRGS Implementation in the Rural Sector in Vietnam" project funded by the World Bank;

4- Together with CECI to arrange for fieldtrips to Thanh Hoa, Soc Trang, Tra Vinh and An Giang provinces to support to the CPRGS implementation of these provinces.

For more information on the above mentioned activities as well as work plan of TAG 3 in 2004, please contact ISG Secretariat at: isgmard@fpt.vn or isginfo@mard.gov.vn

Source: ISG Sec

Impact of public spending to growth and poverty reduction in Vietnam rural areas

Hanoi January 9th 2004 - Central Institute of Economic Management (CIEM) and World Bank organized a seminar on "Impact evaluation of public expenses to growth and poverty reduction in Vietnam". This study, which was donated by WB and whose implementation was led by CIEM, was carried out by civil servants of CIEM and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) with the technical assistance of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

The main objectives of this study:

- Data collection and change analysis on public expense level and structure (including investment and regular expenses) for Vietnam rural areas and explanation for this change.

- Impact analysis of public expenses of each sector to growth and poverty reduction in rural areas and quantifying the interchange nature and mutual interaction between these two objectives. The study also touched upon the investment impacts to agricultural ecological characteristics of regions such as transportation infrastructure and market access.

- Strengthening capacity for Vietnamese research staff and policy analysts on impact analysis methodology of public investment.

Please click <http://www.isgmard.org.vn/Information%20Service/Report/General/GOV%20Spending%20draft%20Jan-04-e.pdf> to read draft version of this study. ♦

Source: CIEM

Poverty Task Force Meeting

Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) in cooperation with the UK Department for International Development (DFID) held Poverty Taskforce Meeting in Hanoi on February 1st 2004. The meeting attracted the participation of agencies, organizations and donors acting in comprehensive poverty reduction and growth strategy (CPRGS) implementation in Vietnam such as: MPI, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme, GTZ, DANIDA, Ausaid...

Participants to the meeting had a chance to listen to reports on achievements and next steps for Regional Poverty Assessment, CPRGS-rolling out to the provincial level and practical experience in implementation of CPRGS of the province of Gia Lai-Dak Lak (ADB), Tra Vinh (UNDP) and Lao Cai (DFID).

Also in the sessions, a common template for implementation of CPRGS at provincial level was introduced by WB's representative for discussion. ♦

Source: DFID

Recover Poultry Industry

(From page 1)

Assistance from International donor community

Since initial days of the epidemic, Viet Nam has been provide urgent assistance from various International organizations and countries, such as: World Organization of Animal Health (OIE), World Agriculture and Food Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Union (EU), VSF of France, China, United State of American, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Italy and Taiwan. Viet Nam has been also supported by foreign companies in Viet Nam: Mitsuhi of Japan; VMEP of Taiwan... At the moment, a project funded by World Bank has been being prepared; the TCP project funded by FAO has been implemented.

Although the AI epidemic has been over, Viet Nam still has many works to do to prevent the disease from re-occurring, restock and develop poultry industry. Consequently, Viet Nam calls for financial and technical support and co-operation from other countries and International Organizations to control this epidemic. Viet Nam expects to receive further supports from WHO, OIE, CDC (USA) to identify type of the virus and produce relevant vaccine. On the other hand, Viet Nam seeks supports to implement disease prevention and control from FAO, the Government of Australia, USA, Japan, Thailand and other countries.

We would like to express our sincere thanks for kind assistance of the International organizations and the countries; we desire to maintain our co-operation to control AI in Viet Nam and approach to eradicate the disease in Asian Region to protect sustainable animal husbandry and human health.

Note: The detailed information has been issued on Web site: www.mard.gov.vn/dah. ♦

Updated information on AI

Please visit newly established website on Avian Influenza in Vietnam developed by the UN at:

<http://www.un.org.vn/benhcum/> (Vietnamese) and <http://www.un.org.vn/avian/> (English) On 30 March 2004, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development declared an end to the avian influenza epidemic in Viet Nam. The announcement was made at a Press Conference in Hanoi after one month of no new recorded outbreaks of the virus.

2004 Spring gathering to cheer donor representatives

Hanoi, January 15 2004- at the head quarter of the Ministry, no 2 Ngoc Ha, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development with the support of the International Support Group (ISG) held a reception to celebrate the beginning of the Monkey Year with donor community and international experts working in the agriculture and rural development sector.

Attending the reception was ambassadors to Vietnam of 20 countries which have embassy in Hanoi including Australian, Dutch and US Ambassadors to Vietnam, ADB Country Director in Viet Nam, representatives of other donors and organizations working in the agriculture

and rural development sector.

In a friendly and intimate atmosphere, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Le Huy Ngo pointed out achievements of the sector in the past time and strategies and goals that the agriculture and rural development sector will try to obtain in the time to come.

On behalf of multilateral donors at the reception, Mr. Bradford Phillips, ADB Country Director in Viet Nam responded the Minister. In his words, Mr. Bradford Phillips confirmed the continued commitment of ADB in cooperation and

development of the agriculture and rural sector.

Also at the ceremony, Ambassador of the Royal Netherlands Embassy to Vietnam, Mr. Geber de Jong highly appreciated the achievement of the agriculture and rural development sector in the past time. He also expressed his belief of closer cooperation between the two countries Vietnam and Netherlands in the future.◆

Source: ISG Secretariat



The Agriculture Sector strives for a 4.6% growth rate in 2004

Planned objectives of the agriculture and rural development sector in 2004:

- Agricultural structure: cultivation 70%, husbandry 25%, and other 5%.

- Food production is 36.7 million tons, in which rice yield and corn are 34.2 and 2.5 million tons respectively;

- Industrial crops: coffee 700,000 tons, dry rubber latex 350,000 tons;

- Meats: 2.7 million tons

- Agro-industrial product exports: \$ 3.25 billion
- Afforestation of special protection forests: 88,000 ha; Afforestation of production forests: 130,000 ha; improving the forestry covering rate to 40%

- The rate of rural residents has access to clean water is 58%.◆

At the Conference to disseminate year 2004 work plan of the agriculture and rural development sector held in Hanoi on January 2nd and 3rd 2004, Minister Le Huy Ngo highlighted the planned goals of the 4.6% growth rate and exports of agro-forestry products worth \$ 3.25 billion.

Source: ISG Secretariat

Briefing of Country Development Strategy/ Program of donors for Vietnam

With an aim at improving the quality of information sharing among ISG stakeholders, ISG Secretariat has been inviting donors to introduce their brief Country Cooperation Development Strategy/Program in agriculture and rural development sector of Viet Nam.

ISG Secretariat would like to share with you information prepared by:

- Asia Development Bank (ADB),
- Australia Agency for International Development (Aus AID),
- Department for International Development (DFID)
- European Union, Delegation of the European Commission to Viet Nam (EU)
- Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE),
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- World Bank (WB),

Please visit the ISG website at <http://www.isgmard.org.vn/ODA%20Directory/ODAdirect.asp> for more information.

For sharing information please contact International Support Group (ISG) Secretariat