



# ISG NEWSLETTER

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT - INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

VOL 3. 2004

## Focus



## Provincial Dialogue Platform - a tool in support of CPRGS implementation

*The establishment of several dialogue platforms at provincial level was originally initiated by ISG Secretariat early 2003. The ISG Work Plan 2004 - 2006 describes the system as a strategic effort in "vertical coordination".*

Over the past year, ISG Secretariat made several consultations to some provinces, relevant ministries, many donors and international organizations, some donor-funded projects ongoing in localities to get comments, studied their interest and commitment to get involved in the dialogue platforms. CECI closely coordinated with ISG Secretariat to formulate a work plan to work with several selected provinces. So far, there have been 5 provinces (Thai Nguyen,

Thanh Hoa, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang, and An Giang) officially joined the system by appointing appropriate staff to be focal points.

What's important is that MARD and localities have agreed to select the topic "Support for the CPRGS implementation in agriculture and rural areas" to be the first for dialogue. The issue of CPRGS implementation in agriculture and rural areas was firstly introduced by MARD in a report to the mid-term CG meeting 2004 in the Central City of Vinh, and was greatly supported by the donor community.

CPRGS implementation and operation of provincial dialogue platforms have been done in the context of "planning reform". CPRGS and Results-based planning is a completely new approach in planning in Vietnam.

To join efforts from different directions, two training workshops titled "CPRGS and Results-based planning" were held, one in Soc Trang (10 - 11 Aug

## Advisory Briefing

As mentioned in the ISG work plan 2004-2006 and in an ISG proposal, ISG Secretariat has been supporting MARD in preparation and completion of the Policy Advisory Briefing 2004. The Advisory Briefing once completed will:

(i) summarize issues related to a particular policy

theme that has been considered in the ISG process;

(ii) indicate where there is consensus among stakeholders, and where there are alternative views that need to be considered;

(iii) be submitted bi-annually to MARD Minister and shared with all ISG stakeholders; and

(iv) be reported to

Consultative Group (CG) meeting annually.

The theme for the first round of dialogue that has been agreed among MARD and the donors as members of the ISG Steering Board is "Streamlining the Comprehensive Poverty reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS) into MARD rural development

(more page 4)

(more page 8)

## ADB plans loans totaling USD 776 million for Viet Nam during 2005-2006

**23** August 2004 - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) plans to lend Viet Nam about US\$776 million over the next two years, according to its Country Strategy and Program (CSP) Update for 2005-2006, endorsed by ADB's Board of Directors. Viet Nam's outlook in the short and medium term is healthy.

The proposed ADB loan total is based on annual commitments of US\$178 million from its concessional Asian Development Fund, which supports the sustainable development of ADB's poorest members, and

about \$210 million from its ordinary capital resources. In addition, \$79 million is planned for subregional projects. The final allocation will depend on availability of resources and country performance. A mix of loan and grant cofinancing from development partners will be sought to support ADB's thematic priorities.

Among the 10 projects planned for 2005-2006 are:

(i) Four projects in the Central Region to improve livelihoods and support rural, transport, urban, and water resources infrastructure;

(ii) Two infrastructure projects for power

transmission and power sector development;

(iii) Loans for social development, including one in the education sector and one for;

(iv) One policy-based loan for small and medium enterprise development;

(v) One supporting science and technology development for agriculture

The two-year program also includes three sub-regional projects for the Greater Mekong sub-region for controlling communicable diseases, developing the Kunming - Hai Phong Corridor, and upgrading the Hanoi - Lao Cai Railway. In

addition, ADB plans to provide technical assistance grants amounting to about US\$ 5 million per year to address Viet Nam's capacity building needs, project preparation, sector analysis, and institutional development needs. Since the resumption of operations in 1993 up to June 2004, ADB has provided 44 loans to Viet Nam amounting to \$2.6 billion and 148 TA grants totaling \$101.21million. Viet Nam has also benefited from ADB support to the GMS program, and ADB's private sector operations in Viet Nam. ♦

Source: ADB

## Agriculture Science and Technology Project

**P**PTA 4194 - VIE Agriculture Science and Technology Project is a technical assistance project funded by the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Vietnam. The goal of the PPTA is to help the Government prepare a detailed proposal for strengthening agriculture Science and Technology in Viet Nam, thereby contributing to the country's sustainable economic growth and reduction in rural poverty.

The PPTA commenced implementation in April 2004, and will conclude in January 2005. The PPTA includes a team of 25 national and international consultants, and has worked closely with MARD in the project formulation. The close link with the Agriculture Project Management Board of MARD has meant that the project has been able to

implement smoothly. The team has also met and worked with more than 500 stakeholders in around 30 of Vietnam's provinces.

The PPTA is developing investments for the key areas of agriculture research, agriculture extension and agriculture education. The investments will be in equipment, capacity strengthening and in developing strong linkages between various organizations in the Agriculture Science and Technology system to ensure that the system contributes strongly to growth of the agriculture sector in Vietnam.

The draft final report of the PPTA will be released in late November, and a workshop will be held at that time to discuss the proposed project design. Based on comments received, the final report and design will be presented in January 2005. ♦

### 1. Key activities

During the period 2004-2005, with the support of international partners, the Forestry Sector Support Program has been focussing on supporting the implementation of key activities of the sector according to the direction by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as follows:

- Amendment of the Law on Forestry Protection and Development and development of Decrees.
- Developing forestry strategy (2005-2020)
- Establishing Forestry monitoring and information system (FOMIS)
- Amendment and supplement to the Decision no 661 on implementation of 5 million ha afforestation project.

## Forestry Sector Support Program: Key Activities from now to the end of 2005

### 2. Other activities

In addition to above-mentioned activities, the Program is carrying out other following activities:

- Harmonizing project implementation framework (HIF);
- Forestry research and poverty reduction;
- Gender study in forestry;
- Development of forestry sector manual (FSM);
- Establishing and operating Provincial Research Groups (PRG);
- Common Working Program (CWP);
- Cooperation and information exchange with international partners;
- Communication activities of the Program and Partners.

For more information on operation of the Forestry Sector Support Program and Partnership, you can visit the Website of the Coordination Office at [www.vietnamforestry.org.vn](http://www.vietnamforestry.org.vn); or directly contact with the Office at Tel: (84-4) 762 9412, Fax: (84-4) 832 5223, E-mail: [FSSP@hn.vnn.vn](mailto:FSSP@hn.vnn.vn) ♦

## Development of integrated database in service of international cooperation in the agriculture and rural development sector

In order to support coordination and management of programs and projects, which use foreign assistance capital and are under management responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, ISG Secretariat has developed and put into operation a database of ODA and NGO-financed projects. During its operation, this database in one hand supports much to the management but in the other hand it shows a number of shortcomings such as in the case of updating the database, synthesizing evaluation reports and experience sharing in ODA project implementation.

In addition, ISG Secretariat has been receiving more and more requests on information sharing on foreign direct

investment (FDI), legal documents, development policies of the sector as a whole, of the Government as well as donors, sectoral organization, consultation services, which are relevant to the agriculture and rural development sector.

Given above-mentioned practical requirements and to better meet increasingly requirements in coordination and management of programs and projects, which use foreign assistance capital and are under management responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, ISG Secretariat would like to propose to develop an integrated database in service of international cooperation in the agriculture and rural development sector as followed:

The integrated database will consist of following sub-databases (expandable when necessary):

Structure	Brief description	Status
<b>1. ODA and PCP Projects</b>		Being operated (ISG Secretariat, ISG website, ICD LAN)
Project list	Name of projects and basic information	Exist
Project documents	Documents of each project according to a unified form	Exist
Synthesized reports	Synthesis of general data according to previously designed forms	Exist
ODA and PCP experiences	Evaluation reports and experiences in preparation and implementation of ODA projects	Non-exist
<b>2. FDI Projects</b>		Preparation
Project list	Name of projects and basic information	Exist
Project documents	Documents of each project according to a unified form	Non-exist
Synthesized reports	Synthesis of general data according to previously designed forms	Non-exist
FDI experiences	Evaluation reports and experiences in FDI utilization	Non-exist
<b>3. LEGAL ACTS OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR</b>	- Legal acts relevant to international cooperation of the Government and of the sector - Classified and stored systematically in electronic forms	Being operated (ISG Secretariat, ISG website)
List of acts	Name, number and issuance date of the documents	Exist
Detail documents	Full text	Exist
<b>4. DEVELOPMENT POLICIES</b>		Being operated (ISG Secretariat, ISG website)
Policies of Vietnam and of the agriculture and rural development sector	- Policies, strategies and plans in each period of the Government and of the sector. - Classified and stored systematically in electronic forms.	Incomplete and unsystematic
Policies of donors operating in the agriculture and rural development sector	- Policies, strategies and plans in each period of donors. - Classified and stored systematically in electronic forms.	Incomplete, unsystematic and irregularly updated
Experiences	- Reports on research, analysis, evaluation and summary of experiences from policies, strategies, plans and programs/projects, which have been and are being implemented. - Classified and stored systematically in electronic forms.	Having contents but incomplete
<b>5. SECTORAL ORGANIZATION</b>		Being operated (ISG Secretariat, ISG website)
List of agencies within the sector	Name of all agencies within the sector and organizational chart (Ministry, Departments, Inspectorate, General Secretariat of the Ministry, Institutes, Schools and Corporations, etc)	Incomplete and unsystematic
Agency documents	Description of functions and tasks, decision to establish the agency/unit, divisions, focal staff and contact address.	Incomplete and unsystematic
<b>6. CONSULTANCY SERVICES</b>		
List of consultants (firms and individuals)	List of firms with contact address, website and logo	Incomplete and unsystematic
Consultancy documents	According to the enclosed form	Incomplete and unsystematic

### Processing

- Dec 2003: concept introduced by ISG Secretariat
- Feb 2004: template prepared by ISG Secretariat
- March 2004: approved by ISG Steering Board
- April 2004: shared at TAGs meetings
- May 2004: suggestions made by an "informal core donor group"
- 17 May 2004: request and questionnaire sent to MARD departments (deadline for response: 27 May 2004)
- 10 June 2004: synthesized by ICD/ISG
- Plan: June - Dec 2004: submitted to MARD and CG meeting

strategy". This draft Advisory Briefing was completed by ISG Secretariat after the first round of consultation among MARD departments, and sent to ISG members for comments in late May 2004. The donors were requested to give comments to the contents of the recommendations made by the departments, classification of issues, how to select appropriate policy themes for next round of dialogue, template of the Advisory Briefing, and others if relevant.

As commented by the informal core donor group (including ADB, Embassy of Australia, the Netherlands Embassy, Swedish SIDA and the World Bank), it is clear from the Policy Advisory Briefing note that ISG has been able to engage the attention of a broad range of departments within MARD in relation to this exercise. However, the format and content of the Policy Advisory Briefing note is not quite as expected from the Policy Advisory Briefing process. The note itself is essentially a list of priority projects from different MARD

## Advisory Briefing

(from page 1)

departments, some of which seem to have only indirect linkages with CPRGS integration.

In this connection, it is proposed by ISG Secretariat that an international consultant is needed to support the ISG Steering Board and Secretariat in revisiting the policy advisory briefing process in relation to the CPRGS integration topic in order to get a better result, by clarifying remaining issues and develop a complete format and process for preparation and implementation of ISG Policy Advisory Briefing in this round of dialogue as well as in the time to come.

### *The objectives of the mission are as followed:*

1. To analyse the current Policy Advisory Briefing process and propose a standard method and a set of applicable tools for improved quality of the Advisory Briefing;

2. To analyse the available inputs and outputs resulted by and comments from the informal core donor group to synthesize recommendations/proposals from a wide range of stakeholders to the proposed policy theme (Streamlining the Comprehensive Poverty reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS) into MARD rural development strategy) and policy issues in a comprehensive Advisory Briefing, which will be submitted to MARD Minister and shared with donors.◆

### Briefing Note - key policies areas

The informal core donor group had meetings on 23 March, 26 March and 27 April 2004 to discuss on how to support this process the group also proposed some policy themes:

- Streamlining CPRGS into MARD rural development strategy (June 1, 2004 - Preparation of the CG Meeting)
- Preparing for the WTO membership of Vietnam
- Forest Protection and Development Law
- Implementing the Water Strategy and Operationalizing Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM)
- Other themes:
  - (a) State-owned enterprises reform;
  - (b) Rural Water and Sanitation Review;
  - (c) Public Administration Reform in MARD; (d) Professionalization of the Agriculture Sector and Human Resources Development.

## News in brief

➤ **The signing ceremony of the exchange of notes on the project** for development of under-ground water in Northern Vietnam (Phase 3 of 3 phases) under a grant assistance of the Government of Japan worth 502 million yen was held on 16 July at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development between the Ambassador of Japan to Vietnam Norio Hattori and the Acting Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Cao Duc Phat.

Source: MARD

➤ **August 25th 2006, by the document no 5314 BKH/KTDN** the Ministry of Planning and Investment submitted to the Prime Minister the list of projects, which would be submitted to Japan Government for official development assistance (ODA) from the general assistance framework of the fiscal year 2006.

The list of projects consist of 8 projects belonging to the field of

## Rural Water Supply

# Progress report of water supply, sanitation and health in Viet Nam

The joint GoV - Donor Sector Review of Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Health in Viet Nam (the Review) will be implemented in the period July to November 2004. The Review is sponsored by Danida, AusAid, UNICEF and ADB, and reports to a national task force consisting of representatives of GoV, key donors in the sector and other stakeholders.

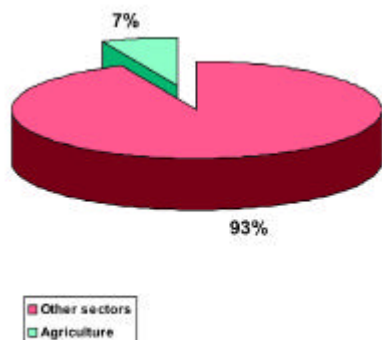
Recently on 10 September 2004, The

Consultant Team has completed a progress report, setting out achievements and issues encountered in the execution of the study in the period up to the end of August 2004.◆

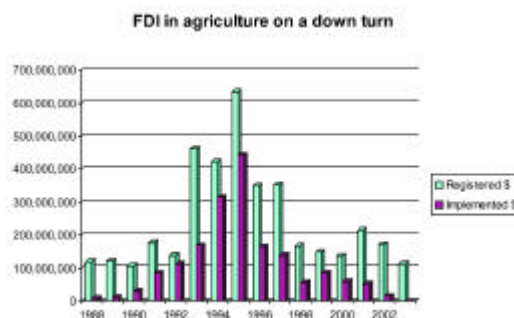
Detailed information of the report can be obtained from ISG website at:

<http://www.isgmard.org.vn/Information/Service/Report/Report.asp>, or contact ISG Secretariat at [isgmard@fpt.vn](mailto:isgmard@fpt.vn)

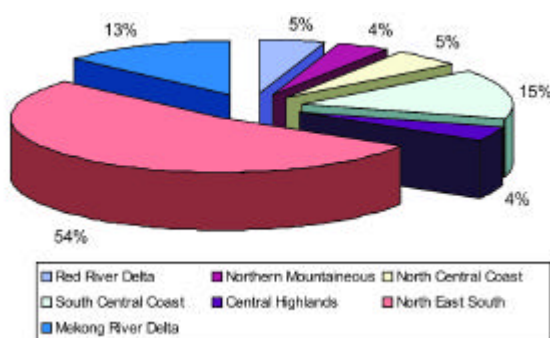
# FDI for Agriculture 1988 - 2003



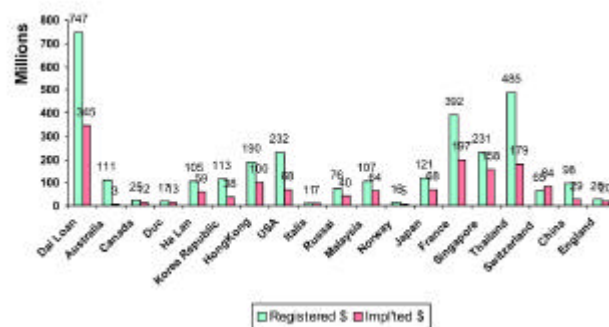
FDI density registered by agricultural sector compared to the nation (to the end of 2003)



FDI in agriculture on a down turn



FDI allocation in agriculture according to region and areas



Big nations not actually invested in Vietnam's agriculture

transportation, education and training, aquatic products raising, afforestation and irrigation, two of which were submitted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development:

1. Project to control riverbank and dyke erosion by Japan stone cage approach

ODA: US\$ 12 million

2. Afforestation on sand project

ODA: US\$ 10 million

Source: Foreign Economic Relation Department - MPI

➤ **Denmark approved a grant assistance of USD 4.2 million** for implementation of rural water supply and sanitation in Nghe An Province in Central of Vietnam. The assistance is expected to benefit up to 200.000 people in rural areas of the province.

The project will support the National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy and assist local authorities, communities, schools and health clinics in Nghe An Province to implement rural water supply and sanitation facilities. The project will be implemented during a three years period from 2004 to 2007.

Source: MARD

## TAG1: three proposed thematic studies

Hanoi 1 October 2004 - ISG Secretariat held the sixth regular meeting of the Thematic Ad-hoc Group 1 (TAG1) on International economic integration and agricultural policy. The meeting attracted the participation of more than forty participants from departments of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), other related ministries, agencies and donor community. The objective of the Meeting is:

- To collect comments for studies proposed by TAG1;
- To share information on activities related international economic integration and agricultural policy;
- To discuss coordination mechanism between ISG and International Economic Integration Board of the Ministry.

At the meeting, the participants were listened to the presentations of three case study proposals aiming at strengthening international economic integration capacity of the sector. These proposals were planned in the TAG1 work plan for 2004 and approved at the fifth meeting of TAG1 held on 29th April 2004.

### Case Study 1:

Training need assessment (TNA) on international economic integration of agriculture and rural development sector.

### Case Study 2:

Assessing commercial transaction patterns of agricultural products in Vietnam

### Case Study 3:

Preliminary evaluation of the mobilization and utilization of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the agriculture and rural development. ♦

Source: ISG Secretariat

# The 1st meeting of Red River and Thai Binh River Basin Management Board

July 20th 2004, in Do Son, Hai Phong- the 1st meeting in 2004 of Red River and Thai Binh River Basin Management Board (R-TBBMB) was organized with financial assistance from Asia Development Bank (ADB). Participating to the seminar was representatives from concerned agencies of Vietnam Government and international donors.

It is agreed by participants that working regulation for R-TBBMB Secretariat should be issued early for more effective



operation of the Board Secretariat. Priorities on water resource management in the framework of the irrigation project in Red River Basin - phase 2 were also agreed upon as follow:

1. Cau River Basin: Water shortage and water source separation;
2. Red River Delta: Flood control and prevention;
3. Day - Nhue River Basin: Water quality management;
4. Mountainous provinces: Water integrated management and utilization.

Above issues will be touched upon in the next phase of the project. After considerable discussions and comments on the Action Plan of Water Sector, the content of the Action Plan was agreed upon, which included the prioritized investment list of 30 irrigation systems in Red River Delta according to drainage and irrigation criteria. This is the basis for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to sort out investment sub-projects to upgrade irrigation works from ADB loans. ♦

Source: RRBO-Board

## News in brief

➤ **Hanoi, July 9, 2004 - The World Bank's Board of Directors approved a US\$39.5 million credit and a GEF grant of US\$9 million for the Vietnam Forest Sector Development Project to achieve sustainable management of plantation forests and the conservation of biodiversity in special use forests in Vietnam.**

The project will finance, over a period of six years, the following main components and activities.

1. Institutional Development.
2. Smallholder Plantation Forest.
3. Special Use Forest.
4. Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation.

For more information on the project, please visit this web page [www.worldbank.org/projects/](http://www.worldbank.org/projects/)

Source: WB Vietnam

➤ **Hanoi, August 4, 2004 - The World Bank's Board of Directors approved a US\$5 million emergency credit to support Vietnam's National Action Plan for the control of the avian influenza epidemic.**

The Vietnam Avian Influenza

## TAG2: inter-sector coordination

Hanoi, 28 September 2004: The seventh regular meeting of the ISG Thematic Ad-hoc Group 2 (TAG2) on Support to Hydraulic Works Development, Disaster Control, and Rural Water Supply was successfully held, co-chaired by the International Cooperation Department of MARD, and the World Bank Office Hanoi.

The meeting objectives were (i) to update TAG 2 activities, prepare for TAG2 work plan 2005; (ii) to discuss formulation of MARD strategies relating to water resources, including MARD's PIM Strategy Framework and Road Map, the Water Resources Development Strategy until 2020 of MARD, the Resources Science and Technology Strategy until 2010 and Orientations to the Year 2020; and (iii) to exchange information between MARD, other ministries and donors regarding ongoing and planned activities in the water sector.

The members agreed to the following main issues:

➤ Many strategies are being prepared, which underlines the need to enhance coordination between all relevant agencies and stakeholders. TAG2 has contributed to improve this coordination on water-related issues, but the effort must be sustained in order to develop adequate strategies and enhance efficiency. TAG2

has enhanced coordination among GoV relevant agencies on water-related issues. This is one of the efforts made towards GoV efficiency. TAG2 is a very good place for MARD and donors to discuss and exchange ideas on various water-related issues.

➤ TAG2 work plan is open and its members should take a proactive role in submitting their proposals. The core donor group in the water sector will support TAG2. Comments made from this meeting will be incorporated into the TAG2 work plan 2004 and 2005. The revised work plan will then be sent to TAG2 members for comments.

➤ The TAG2 members are requested to give suggestions in written to ISG Secretariat on the mechanism and resources for carrying out any proposals made by them and sent to ISG Secretariat to integrate into the work plan of TAG2.

➤ Donors will support MARD during the implementation of the PIM strategy.

➤ There remains a big gap in coordination between MARD and MONRE. TAG2 members are expected to help strengthening the coordination.

The notes from the meeting was completed and sent to all the TAG2 member for reference and implementation. ♦

Source: ISG Secretariat



## TAG3 Supports vertical coordination

➤ share information on efforts made to support CPRGS implementation at the local level;

➤ present and discuss proposed work plans for Policy Dialogue Platforms of the 5 selected provinces (An Giang, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang, Thanh Hoa and Thai Nguyen);

➤ present and discuss MARD proposed "National workshop on CPRGS & Result-based planning for agriculture and rural development sector"; and

➤ discuss (among donors and Ministries) how to coordinate and facilitate the CPRGS implementation in the agriculture and rural development at the national and provincial levels.

The Meeting attracted more than 60 participants from Government ministries and agencies, Departments of Agriculture and rural development of the 5 selected provinces, donor agencies and consultants who are working in the international funded projects/programs.

For more information please contact ISG Secretariat. ♦

*Source: ISG Secretariat*

In August 2004, within the framework of the provincial policy dialogue platforms initiatives, ISG Secretariat, CECI and CDEEP co-organised two training workshops on "CPRGS & Result-Based Planning" for five selected provinces workshop (An Giang, Soc Trang, Tra Vinh, Thai Nguyen and Thanh Hoa). The objectives of the workshop are:

- To introduce and review key concepts of the CPRGS planning, reporting and monitoring process, including the CPRGS results-based approach;
- To apply the CPRGS results-based approach to the draft versions of the 2005 DARD plans for each of the five selected provinces;
- To prepare draft action plan of each provincial platform by the end of the 2-day workshop.

On 8 September 2004, ISG Secretariat held the Second Ad-hoc Meeting TAG3 "Support the implementation of the CPRGS in agriculture and rural areas" to:

## CARD program update

The Vietnam - Australia Collaboration for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) Program started in March 2004 with a CARD Inception and Launch Workshop followed by a series of Introduction Workshops held in Hanoi, Hue and Ho Chi Minh City and in Australian in the capital cities of 6 Australian States.

The CARD Program called for Expressions of Interest in Agricultural Research and Development (R&D). By end of July, 81 EOIs were submitted by different Vietnamese institutions. Vietnamese Institutions in partnership with Australian/New Zealand institutions and other Vietnamese institution(s) developed and submitted the EOIs based on the CARD Strategic Framework which draws priorities from the Government's Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy and the Vietnam-Australia Cooperation Program.

Although 81 EOIs demonstrate good and/or quality ideas, only 19 EOIs were shortlisted by a Project Selection Committee Meeting on 28 September 2004, given the budget constraint. The list of shortlisted EOIs is now posted on the

CARD Program website  
[www.card.com.vn](http://www.card.com.vn).

The proponent of these 19 shortlisted EOIs will be invited to submit full project proposals by end of November 2004. Between now and December, some Australian team leaders of the shortlisted EOIs may visit Vietnam to assist their respective Vietnamese partners to develop the full project proposals, as well as to conduct a stakeholder analysis. Evaluation and selection of full project proposals will take place in December to allow for successful proponents to start project operations early 2005. Formats of Project Proposals will be available on the website of the CARD program.

The CARD Program Management Unit will also make some field visits to the projects implemented in the Pilot CARD Program by end of this year.

A Joint Meeting among the CARD Program Coordinating Committee, Project Selection Committee and Program Management Unit is planned to be held December to evaluate the process, make adjustments where necessary, and to provide further guidance for the CARD Program operation in the coming year. ♦

## News in brief

Emergency Recovery project aims at a threefold target:

(a) to strengthen disease surveillance and diagnostic capacity in the control of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI);

(b) to strengthen the poultry sector infrastructure to better cope with serious disease outbreaks; and

(c) to safeguard human health by improving public awareness and information.

*Source: WB Vietnam*

➤ **Hanoi 24 August 2004 - The World Bank's Country Director for Vietnam** Mr. Klaus Rohland, and the State Bank of Vietnam Governor, H.E. Le Duc Thuy, signed an agreement for the US\$ 157.8 million IDA credit to help raise farm household income and further reduce rural poverty in Vietnam. The Vietnam Water Resources Assistance Project. Four components:

(i) Irrigation Modernization;  
(ii) Dam Safety Management;  
(iii) Thu Bon Basin Development and;  
(iv) Project Management and Capacity Building.

*Source: WB Vietnam*

➤ **September, 2004 - on behalf of Acting Minister of Agriculture and rural development Dr Le Van Minh**, Director General of International Cooperation Department and GTZ's representative, Dr. Minika Midel, Director of GTZ in Hanoi and Dr. Laslo Pancel, Coordinator of National Resources management projects signed two agreements:

\* Third phase of project "Refas" which will be implemented from 2004 to 2006 with the total budget of 2 million Euro, Granted by Germany Government through GTZ.

\* Second phase of project "Support to promotion of potato production in Vietnam" which will be implemented in four year (2004-2007) with total budget of 1.836.000 Euro including 86.000 Euro remaining from 1st phase granted by Germany Government through GTZ.

*Source: MARD*

## Consultant meeting on defining priorities for assistance by the World Bank in the Agriculture and Rural Development sector



Hanoi September 23rd 2004, Acting Minister Cao Duc Phat

together with Mr. Mark Wilson, Regional Director of Department for Agriculture and Natural Resources in Asia Pacific region of the World Bank, Mr. Klaus Rholand, WB country Director in Vietnam and high ranking leaders of WB co-chaired an important conference to discuss the defining priorities for assistance by the World Bank in the agriculture and rural development sector in the period from 2006- 2010.

More than 60 participants from State management agencies and units on official development assistance (ODA) of Vietnam, World Bank and project management units of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) participated in the conference.

The conference is an opportunity to share ideals and investment priorities in the period 2006 - 2010 for the agriculture and rural development sector. This conference is the follow-up of the Conference to evaluate and exchange experiences between projects of agriculture and rural development sector funded by the World Bank, which was held in the headquarter of the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) on September 21st 2004. Main orientations on investment in the agriculture and rural development sector were discussed through presentations by the Acting Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Director of Agriculture, Forestry,

Water Resources and Cooperatives and Rural Development Departments and speeches by representatives from MPI and MARD.

The agriculture and rural development sector proposes WB to support a number of following prioritized fields:

Irrigation development in mountainous areas; water supply and environmental hygiene; irrigation development for areas specializing in cultivation of

coffee, tea and sugar cane; development of flood drainage system in Mekong River delta; irrigation for development of aqua-cultural sector; upgrading sea walls, river dykes, embankments and natural disaster mitigation structures; improving quality and competitiveness of agricultural, forestry products and agricultural services; strengthening animal health and plant protection system,

of which the animal and plant quarantine system meets the international standards and is competent to meet requirements on prevention and control of epidemic diseases to contribute to sustainable and efficient production; continuing to support the forestry sector in development of economic forests and restore protective forests in the North West and Central Highland, etc.◆

Source: MARD

### Provincial Dialogue Platform...

(from page 1)

2004) and one in Thanh Hoa (24 - 25 Aug 2004). This is the first activity of the dialogue platform system, and MARD has been the first Ministry to carry out such comprehensive activities. Of course, organizing workshops is not the only activity of the system.

Some remarks through the consultation process to prepare for the establishment of policy dialogue focal point and workshop with 5 provinces

1. Provincial policy dialogue focal point can bring about a better cooperation mechanism not only vertically between the central and provincial level but also strengthen the horizontal cooperation between the agriculture and rural development sector and other ministries, agencies as well as international donors at both central and local level. Especially, DARDs can improve their activeness.

2. Provinces clearly show their interest and commitment to CPRGS and result-based planning with their partners at all levels. Most of provinces, however, have not yet had complete data/information and evidence-based analysis to make the basis for dialogue. Moreover, policy dialogue skills (especially foreign language and access approach) are being obstacles, which need to be overcome with the support from international donor community.

3. Cooperation between sectors and localities has not been complete and consistent. This is partly due to the lack of

specific guidance on how to integrate CPRGS and combine vertical development orientation from the central and bottom-up planning; there is a shortage of integrated coordination between decentralized planning and budgeting, and in strengthening capacity for local levels.

4. Participatory and result-based planning approach has not been introduced in a standard way in guidance documents. Especially, use of the result of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), public expenditure review (PER), public investment program (PIP) and mid-term expenditure framework (MTEF) has not been coherently described in planning at all levels.

5. Local agriculture and rural development sectors lack of information regarding CPRGS and planning reform. There is a common think that CPRGS is a separate activity from local socio-economic development plan, and regular budget planning and allocation at each level. Additionally, the conjunction between "growth" and "poverty reduction" needs to be clarified both conceptually and practically in guidance documents of agencies.

6. Although MPI is providing guidance on CPRGS-based planning for localities but line ministries have not been prepared for cooperation. Whereas, centrally oriented sectoral planning mechanism still exist. Vertical mechanism and relations in plan development.◆