



INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

ISG NEWSLETTER

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT - INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

MARD Minister's Spring Gathering held to deliver New Year's message

As usual, on 8 February 2007, MARD organized its annual spring gathering on the occasion of the Lunar New Year to express the

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The 13th Meeting of ISG Steering Board successfully held

In Hanoi, on 24th January 2007, the 13th Meeting of ISG Steering Board was successfully held under the chairmanship of MARD Vice Minister Bui Ba Bong, Chairman of ISG Steering Board.

The meeting was participated by the members as relevant agencies under MARD, donor agencies and international organizations, including AusAID, IFAD, Japanese Embassy, Royal Netherlands Embassy, SDC, Sida and the World Bank.

As usual in ISG Steering Board meetings, the report on updated progress on implementation of 5YP Agriculture and Rural Development in 2006 was presented at the meeting in service of information sharing among the Board members. The report was delivered by the Director General of Planning Department, as authorised by the Chairman.

The report provides some highlights concerning implementation of MARD key programs conducted in 2006, including Modernizing agriculture;

Developing the processing industry for agro-forest products; Investment in rural infrastructure; Reinforcement of natural disaster prevention and protection; and New rural development.

The report listed several main results obtained and set out major orientations by MARD for 2007 with the priority methods.

The Board also listened to the presentation by Director General of ICDMARD, concerning International Cooperation Strategic Plan for the period 2006-2010. This Plan was developed based on wide consultations with all relevant stakeholders, national

and international. The Work Plan was developed with adoption of the logical framework approach (LFA) with support from ISG Secretariat and the MSCP-ICD Component. It has been approved by the Minister and under implementation process.

Regarding ISG activities operation, ISG Progress Report 2006 and Work Plan 2007 were presented by ISG Secretariat at the meeting, and were then approved by the Board.

The Board agreed to the proposed personnel change in ISG Steering Board. As recommended by CARE International at ISG Steering Board meeting last March, to better

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Partnership for Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza

The signing ceremony of the Agreement on establishment of Vietnam Partnership for Avian and Human Influenza (PAHI) was held on 1st November 2006 at Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The agreement was made and signed by representatives of 18 donors and partners who are proactively involving in combating avian influenza in the world and in the country, including ADB, EC, FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, WB and bilateral

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Forest Sector Support Partnership

Hanoi, 30 January 2007: the FSSP Annual Conference was organized in Hanoi. Mr. Hua Duc Nhi, Vice-minister of MARD, FSSP Chairman, and Mr. Michel Evequoz, First Secretary of the Switzerland Embassy, FSSP Co-chairman chaired the meeting. The meeting aimed to (I) provide FSSP partners with an update from MARD on forest sector developments in 2006; (II) update partners on the FSSP re-

orientation and change in 2006; (III) exchange information on partners' own perspectives in supporting Viet Nam's forestry sector; and (iv) discuss how partners together could best prepare for the first Partnership Forum, which is tentatively scheduled for May 2007. More than 70 participants represented line departments in Government at central and provincial levels, multi-lateral and bilateral international

organizations, and international non-governmental organizations (INGO) attended the Conference. For the first time, representatives from private sector also participated in this FSSP meeting. For further information on detailed presentations and meeting outcomes, please visit the FSSP website at http://www.vietnamforestry.org.vn/PSC_en.html.

Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership

The Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership (NDMP), in cooperation with the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) has been supporting UNICEF in localizing Core Commitment for Children (CCC) indicators. This research is to review existing M&E tools and systems for children in emergencies and CCC indicators then make recommendations to adapt children indicators to the existing tools. Research group includes professionals from DMC (under Department of

Dyke Management, Flood and Storm Control, MARD), the General Statistics Office, the Commission for Population, Family and Children, the Institute of Nutrition under Ministry of Health, UNDP and UNICEF. NDMP participate as a coordinator and facilitator. Preliminary findings and recommendations will be discussed in a workshop with participants from central and local government agencies, international organizations interested in children and disaster issues.

Participants will discuss the suitability and feasibility of CCC indicators and methods before piloting and expansion of the integration of children indicators in to official M&E systems for emergencies. This research will contribute to the improvement of current tools and systems with regard to children, the vulnerable group in natural disasters. NDMP's participation in the research helps enhance the cooperation and capacity of local and international organizations in disaster risk reduction.

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Partnership

The first PSC meeting was held on 4/12//2006 to endorse the PSC work regulations; the CU management guidelines; Annual Work Plan for 7/2006-12/2007, the operational budget for the inception phase 7/2006-6/2008 and some other related works.

Progress

Since the workplan was approved, some prioritized has been initiated:

- ◆ Monitoring and Evaluation: To establish a Partnership forum for stakeholders to guide the development of sector-wide M&E systems under the leadership of WRSSP Steering Committee, MARD Minister issued the decision No. 182/QD-BNN-TL dated

22/1/2007 to establish M&E TWG group.

- ◆ The CU has prepared 02 ToRs: a) coordinated definition and implementation of sector research and; b) clarification of central institutional roles, mandates and coordination mechanisms in RWSS.

- ◆ The CU is collaborating with some *(more page 3)*

Partnership for Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza

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donors, international organizations of America, the Netherlands, Denmark, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, CIRAD and some other NGOs like PLAN, CARE International, etc. The Partnership is aimed to support the implementation of Vietnam Integrated Operational Program for Avian and Human Influenza for the period 2006-2010 (the Green Book). The partnership will support increasing efficiency of investment for preventing and protecting diseases, sharing information, strengthening policy dialogues and

facilitating task-force groups. It will be an important forum linking between donors, international organizations and local agencies effectively. In addition, information and experiences exchange with other countries through the partnership will be further strengthened. For implementing the partnership's activities, UNDP already employed Mr. Davide Payne to be the Coordinator Specialist in Feb. 2007. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development also appointed Dr. Le Van Minh, Director General of International Cooperation

Department and Ms. Nguyen Thi Minh Chau, to be Director and Vice Director of PAHI, respectively, and decided to locate the Partnership Office at the headquarter of MARD, No. 2 Ngoc Ha street, Hanoi. Selection of national consultants for the Partnership will be conducted soon (TORs for 3 positions of the PAHI Secretariat already completed). Regulation on PAHI's performance and Working Plan are being drafted. The partnership is expected to be presented and start running in April 2007.

Forestry Development Strategy...

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has approved Vietnam's Forestry Development Strategy period 2006-2020, which targets the forestry sector's GDP accounts for 2-3% of the national GDP by 2020.

The strategy also states that the sector will manage, develop and use more than 16.2 mil. ha of planned forest land in a sustainable way by 2020; increasing the forest cover rate to 42-43% by 2010 and 47% by 2020; and that the forestry sector production value will reach a growth rate of 3.5-4%/year.

The Strategy is aimed to develop and exploit natural resources more appropriately, significantly contributing to national economic growth, poverty reduction, environment protection, and biodiversity.

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation partnership

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international partners to finalize and publish the RWSS reference document.

- ◆ RWSSP website is now under construction. Now RWSSP information would initially be posted at ISG webpage.

- ◆ The CU has issued 6 monthly News Briefs from September 2006 to February 2007.

- ◆ The CU is in consultation with WSP and the consultant team preparing the U3SAP proposal to clarify the RWSSP's role in the U3SAP.

Approving National Strategy on Post Harvest of Rice, Corn, Soya-bean and Groundnut

On 15th March 2007, MARD Minister issued decision no. 20/2007/QĐ-BNN approving the National Strategy on Post Harvest of Rice, Corn, Groundnut, and Soya-bean by 2020.

The overall objective of the strategy is "increasing efficiency of producing and trading rice, corn, soya-bean, groundnut through reducing post-harvest loss, increasing their quality and

competitiveness; promoting agricultural structure transition and rural economy; addressing employment, improving income of farmers and those involved in post-harvest activities. Contributing to ensured household food security, improved nutrition, and food safety hygiene".

The strategy sets out specific objectives for each period:

Period 2006-2010	Period 2011-2020
1. Reduce loss rate of rice by 9-10%; increase rate of finished rice up to 65-66%; increase the proportion of 5-10% broken rice up to 50% of the total export volume;	1. Reduce loss rate of rice down to 5-6%; increase rate of finished rice up to 69%; increase the proportion of 5-10% broken rice up to 70% of the total export volume. By 2015, the rate of yellow rice below 0.2 %, and rate of bad-quality rice not higher than 0.25%.
2. Reduce loss rate of corn down to 12-13%;	2. Reduce loss rate of corn down to 8-9%;
3. Reduce loss rate of soya bean down to 5.5%;	3. Reduce loss rate of soya bean down to 3.0%;
4. Reduce loss rate of ground-nut down to 4.5-5.0%;	4. Reduce loss rate of ground-nut down to 2.0-2.5%;
5. Create employment for 240-250 thousand people/year.	5. Create employment for 200 thousand people/year.
6. Contribute to improved household's food security; reduce number of food-poor households to below 4% by 2010.	6. Contribute to improved income and increased livelihoods of rural areas, wiping food-poor households.

The strategy specifies activities to develop post-harvest area by 2020 and major rice, corn, soya bean, and groundnut measures.

MARD Minister's Spring...

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Ministry's appreciation to the donor community for their fruitful cooperation and precious support in the year 2006.

The gathering was well participated by more than 150 participants, including 40 Ambassadors and Heads of international organizations working in Vietnam and providing support to the agriculture and rural development sector.

MARD Minister, Dr. Cao Duc Phat said "we are entering the new year 2007, leaving behind tremendous difficulties and achievements gained thanks to the great efforts of the entire agricultural sector and the very important cooperation and support from the international community". Dr. Phat expressed his warmest welcome and appreciation to all the participants for their close working with the Ministry and for their timely and effective cooperation and support.

Dr. Phat informed the participant of the fact that despite of serious difficulties occurred in 2006 and tasks for the new year 2007.

(Extracted form the speech by MARD Minister)

The 13th Meeting of...

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represent the NGO community in the Steering Board, and after several discussions and consultations among CARE, INGO Resource Centre and ISG Secretariat, the Animal Health & Production in Asia Agronomies & Veterinaries sans frontiers (AVSF), represented by Mr. Patrice Gautier, Country Representative for Vietnam & Coordinator, was approved to be the member of the ISG Steering Board

(Contact ISG Secretariat for details)

LIST OF PROJECTS APPROVED AND SIGNED IN THE SECOND HALF 2006

No	Name of projects	Donors	Type of funds			Period	Signed/ approved date
			KHL (USD)	Loan (USD)	Total (USD)		
1	TA for Natural Disaster Risk Management	WB/RNE	8,500,000	0	8,500,000	2006 - 2012	Dec-06
2	Wild-bull conservation project	AFD	696,000	0	696,000	2006 - 2008	20/02/2006
3	Monkeys rescue Center Construction project	Monkey-World Ape	479,000	0	479,000	2005 - 2008	07/09/2006
4	Forest for Environmental Rehabilitation Project	JIFPRO	195,961	0	195,961	2006 - 2010	25/07/2006
5	Linkage of local knowledge on improving the combination of husbandary and agricultural system in difficult communities in highland area	Franch Gov	180,000	0	180,000	2006 - 2007	24/07/2006
6	Study on agricultural sustainable cultivation in suburb by use and reuse water-derived nutrition in small farming in China and Vietnam	Swiden Agriculture University	181,024	0	181,024	-	26/06/2006
7	Improvement of food and food stuff production on infertile land in central coastal areas of Vietnam	Belgium	41,729	0	42	-	
8	Construction of Bear Quarantine Facility in Tam Dao National Park Project	AAF	220,000	0	220,000	2006	03/08/2006
9	Increasing local capacity to mitigation the impact of the Ho Chi Minh Highway on the natural and socio-environment of Central Truong Son	WWF	202,630	0	202,630	2006 - 2007	18/10/2006
10	Underground water development in Central Hingland of Vietnam Project	JICA	309,735	0	309,735	2006 - 2007	9/11/2006
11	Support for Rural Enterprises in Dong Nai province	Gembloux University-Belgium	14,200	0	14,200	2006	06/06/2006
12	Establishing a rare fruit trees network in Asia	DFID	26,262	0	26,262	2004 - 2006	16/06/2006
13	Improving post-harvested quality of temperate fruits in Vietnam and Australia	AusAID	32,381	0	32,381	2005 - 2007	16/06/2006
14	Information capacity building for Agricultural policy development (MISPA)	AFD	653,338	0	653,338	2006 - 2007	26/06/2006
15	TA for partnership development on sustainable forest land management phase I	WB (GEF- PDFB) TFF	783,600	0	783,600	2006 - 2008	26/06/2006
16	Receiving emergency support for buying equipments, chemical and safety facilities for Avian Influenza prevention and control	RNE	104,250	0	104,250	2006	25/07/2006
17	Development of material forest support and encourage policies project	TFF	47,400	0	47,400	2006	27/07/2006
18	Community based land utilization and management for reducing poverty in Vietnam	AIC & CSSS	166,400	0	166,400	2006 - 2011	01/08/2006
19	Biodiversity use and concervation program - action plan for 2006 (BUCAP 2006)	SEARICE	115,735	0	115,735	2006 - 2007	02/08/2006
20	Community - based Agricultural Extension and Training in mountainous districts	ADB/JFPR	900,000	0	900,000	2006 - 2009	07/08/2006
21	Inventory and evaluation the existing forest varieties and new varieties selection to propose forest varieties network for establishing a high quality forest varieties system in Vietnam	TFF	57,600	0	57,600	2006 - 2007	17/08/2006
22	Study on International Economic Integration impacts on livelihood and forest management of local people in mountainous areas of Vienam: two pilot cases in Dac lak, Quang Nam and Ha Giang	TFF	50,400	0	50,400	2006 - 2007	17/08/2006
23	Evaluation ofr economy loss and fesibility of large plagiorchis arcuatus control living in Cow's liver in Red river detal, Vietnam	USAID	94,000	0	94,000	2006 - 2008	27/09/2006
24	Forest Rehabilitation and sustainable management in Bac Giang - Quang Ninh and Lang Son - phase III	KFW	3,600,000	0	3,600,000	2006 - 2013	18/10/2006
25	TA for Preparation the comparativeness capacity building for Vietnam livestock and food safety sector	WB/PHRD	602,000	0	602,000	2006 - 2007	27/10/2006
26	Enemergency support for HPAI control in Vietnam (OSRO/VIE/601/IRE)	FAO/Ireland	314,000	0	314,000	2006 - 2007	09/11/2006
27	Developmnet of IPM system in some main corps	NIAST	25,000	0	25,000	2006 - 2008	16/11/2006
28	Building capacity for rural and community development in Xuan An Commune, Yen Lap District, Phu Tho province	CORDAID	190,196	0	190,196	2007 - 2008	30/11/2006
29	Study on policy recommendation building on SMEs developmnet support in rural area - phase I	AECI	239,040	0	239,040	2006 - 2010	13/11/2006
30	Forestry developmnet for livelihood improvement in Central Highland (ADB2)	ADB	0	45,000,000	45,000,000	2007 - 2012	07/12/2006
31	Institutional improvement for PIM and support for 2 infrastructure projects in Ninh Thuan and Son La	AFD	0	1,151,612	1,151,612	2007 - 2010	24/20/2006
32	Potentials for forest conservation and livelihood improvement by sustainable management: pilot case in Bach Ma National Park and buffer zone of Thua Thien Hue	TFF	114,018	0	114,018	2007 - 2008	Dec-06
33	Support for mornitoring activities of forestry state-owned enterprises reform	TFF	72,000	0	72,000	2007 - 2009	Dec-06
34	Water Resources in Central Region	ADB	0	74,300,000	74,300,000	2006 - 2010	19-Dec-06
35	Strenthening HPAI prevention and control and raising community awareness (OSRO/RAS/602/JPN)	FAO/JAPAN	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	2006 - 2007	Dec-06
36	Direct support for improvemnet of ready preparation for all urgent cases of HPAI (OSRO/RAS/604/USA)	FAO/USA	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	2006 - 2007	Dec-06
37	Strengthening the management of public health Emergency in Vietnam - With focus on the prevention and control of diseases of epidemic potential including highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)* - Phase II	UNDP/FAO/WHO	16,212,441	0	16,212,441	2006 - 2010	Dec-06
38	TA for Water Supply and Rural Sanitation Program in Vietnam	AusAID DANIDARNE	125,000,000	0	125,000,000	2006 - 2011	06/12/2006
39	Capacity Building Support for Hanoi Water Resources University	DANIDA	400,000	0	400,000	2006 - 2007	Dec-06
40	Mangrove forest observation system in the coastal area of Quang Ninh - Quang Nam provinces	DANIDA	490,000	0	490,000	2006 - 2007	Dec-06
41	TA for development of documents and guideline books for National targeted program on Rural water, sanitation and environment in period 2006 - 2010	DANIDA	83,000	0	83,000	2006 - 2007	07/12/2006
42	Promoting community based concervation and development of home garden plant genetic resources in Vietnam Northern countryside	FF	58,600	0	58,600	2006 - 2008	15/12/2006
43	Education and training support in highland areas project (ETSP) - Linking phase	SDC	990,000	0	990,000	2006 - 2007	30/10/2006
Total:			166,400,251	120,451,612	286,851,864		

1 Euro = 1.2 USD
 1 CND = 0.8 USD
 1 DKK = 0.583 USD
 1 USD = 0.7 USD
 113 Y = 1 USD

LIST OF PROJECTS TO BE SIGNED IN 2007

No	Name of projects	Donors	Type of funds			Period
			KHL (USD)	Loan (USD)	Total (USD)	
1	Assistance to improve Vietnam livestock sector cooperativeness and food security project	WB	0	65,000,000	65,000,000	2007- 2011
2	Agricultural Diversification Project - phase II	WB & AFD	0	85,000,000	85,000,000	2007 - 2011
3	Improvement of sea dyke system in the Northern Central of Vietnam	WB	0	100,000,000	100,000,000	2007- 2011
4	Protection forest observation system in the coastal northern central region	DANIDA	480,000	0	480,000	2006-2008
5	Training to improve agricultural extension capacity with market orientation for local agricultural extension system in Red river delta	Wallonie-Belgium	876,000	0	876,000	2007-2009
6	Support to Avian Influenza Prevention and control	EC	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	2007-
7	Rural Development in Dien Bien - Lai Chau project	EC	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	2007 -
8	Truong Son Mountain Conservation	EC	3,000,000	0	3,000,000	2007 -
9	Tam Dao National Park and its buffer zone management - phase II	GTZ	3,000,000	0	3,000,000	2006 - 2009
10	Support for Potato Production Project - Phase III	GTZ	600,000	0	600,000	2007-2010
11	Support for Bio-gas program development in Vietnam livestock sector - Phase II	KFW	4,920,000	0	4,920,000	2007-2010
		KfW	0	12,000,000	12,000,000	
12	Monitoring capacity building on BSE and other animal-derived epidemics spreading to human	SDC	1,200,000	0	1,200,000	2007-2008
13	Rural development in the North of Vietnam by applying regional and territory based rural development method	TBN	360,000	0	360,000	2007 - 2010
14	Processing capacity building and handicraft industries development to improve socio-economic status in rural area of Vietnam	JICA	3,000,000	0	3,000,000	2007 - 2010
15	Capacity building on agricultural and rural development with community participatory in Central High land	JICA	0	0	0	2007
16	Study on comprehensive natural disaster management in Central Region of Vietnam	JICA	0	0	0	2007 - 2011
17	Afforestation in the coastal sandy soil in Central region	JICA	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	2007 - 2012
18	Capacity building to promote afforestation and reforest under CDM mechanism in Vietnam	JICA	1,500,000	0	1,500,000	2007 - 2008
19	Study on parasite in sheep liver	USDA	100,000	0	100,000	2006 - 2007
20	Community based agricultural extension and training in mountainous district	ADB/JFPR	900,000	0	900,000	2006 - 2009
21	Agriculture Science and Technology Project	ADB	0	30,000,000	30,000,000	2007 - 2009
22	Central Water Resources Project (ADB4)	ADB	0	74,286,000	74,286,000	2006 - 2011
23	Increasing the agricultural productivity of degraded rainfed production systems in Vietnam	FAO	334,500	0	334,500	2006 -2007
24	Agriculture and rural development sector program support	DANIDA	17,400,000	0	17,400,000	2007 - 2012
25	Improvement of agro-products quality and safety (TA)	ADB	500,000	0	500,000	2007 - 2008
26	Project on recovery of natural disaster consequence in 2005	ADB	0	51,000,000	51,000,000	2006 - 2008
27	Development and business indigo forest in acid and alkaline soil in Cuu Long river delta	JBIC	0	30,000,000	30,000,000	2007 - 2012
28	Support NoMAFSI in development of agricultural - ecological approach to improve competitiveness and sustainability of tea planting system in the Northern Middle mountainous areas	AFD	0	1,390,404	1,390,404	2007 - 2011
29	Pilot development to institutionalize national short-term training programs on capacity building for agencies working on forest protection, bio-diversification and concerned law enforcement	TFF	341,591	0	341,591	2007 - 2009
30	Piloting Multi-purposed utilization in forest management	TFF	1,111,310	0	1,111,310	2007-2010
31	Capacity Building on forestry sector in Agricultural ecology area in the North Central Region of Vietnam	TFF	4,859,104	0	4,859,104	2007 - 2011
32	Bio-diversify conservation in Dong Nai river basin	Winrock	4,886,311	0	4,886,311	2007-2010
33	Vietnam Bear sanctuary project	AAF	2,600,000	0	2,600,000	2007 - 2027
34	Water resources management (TA)	ADB	500,000	0	500,000	2007 - 2008
35	Improvement of paddy varieties and production for food security in highland hill and mountainous areas in Vietnam	FAO	365,080	0	365,080	2007 - 2009
36	Integrated rural development in the Central provinces (TA)	ADB	600,000	0	600,000	2007 - 2008
37	Avian and Human Influenza prevention and control	WB	15,000,000	20,000,000	35,000,000	2007- 2010
38	TA for Natural Disaster Risk Management	WB/AusAID	6,500,000	0	6,500,000	2007- 2012
39	Water supply and rural sanitation program in 2007	UNICEF	1,400,000	0	1,400,000	2007
40	Vietnam - Netherland Bilateral Cooperation program on water resources	RNE	3,648,000	0	3,648,000	2007-2010
41	Agricultural market information system development	CIDA	3,920,000	0	3,920,000	2006 - 2011
42	Education and training support in highland areas project (ETSP)	SDC	3,500,000	0	3,500,000	2007 - 2012
Total			112,401,896	468,676,404	581,078,300	

Launching ceremony of the Global Task-Force on Water and Sanitation of UNICEF

The launching ceremony of Global Task-Force on Water and Sanitation was held on 22nd Jan 2007 at the Headquarter of UNICEF in New York. The ceremony was participated by children from some countries, representatives of United Nation's agencies, UNICEF donors, UNICEF officials of Water Supply and Environment Sanitation Program, and representatives of regions over the world. Vice Minister of MARD, Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Thuat, led the Vietnam mission had a speech there. The establishment of the

UNICEF special Task-Force is aimed to support UNICEF to implement its Global Strategy of Water Supply and Environment Sanitation period 2006-2015.

Addressing at the ceremony, Mr Thuat expressed Vietnam's support to UNICEF's strategy on water supply and environment sanitation in general and the establishment of the Task Force in particular. He also reported Vietnam's achievements in the field of water supply and environment sanitation gained over the past time and the orientation, strategy for

the coming time. In addition, he stated the challenges faced by Vietnam during the implementation of the National Strategy as well as Global Strategy of UNICEF on Clean Water and Environment Sanitation in order to meet the requirements of NDGs and MDGs of the United Nations. Taking this occasion, Mr. Thuat highly appreciated UNICEF and donor community for their support over the past time and hoped to strengthen cooperation for further development of programs on water supply and environment sanitation

in the future.

Vietnam's shared experiences drew the ceremony participants' attention. Some African countries like Malawi, Uganda expressed their wishes to have opportunities to visit Vietnam and gain lessons. Responding to the Environment Year 2008 of United Nations, Vietnam will organize many activities such as propaganda, calling for investment, and specifically strengthening the implementation of Water Supply and Environment Sanitation project right from 2007.

Update MARD's international economic integration implementation progress

The following are briefings about the status of activities related to the sector's international economic integration (IEI) tasks:

⇒ Development and issuance of the Action Plan on International Economic Integration in Agriculture and Rural Development sector:

- In the first quarter of 2007, the International Cooperation Department-MARD coordinated with relevant agencies to finalize the ARD Sector's Action Plan for the IEI period 2007 - 2010, which was then approved by the MARD Minister under decision 612/QD-BNN-HTQT dated 9th March, 2007. The Action Plan focuses on the following main contents:

- Increasing the whole sector's awareness about international and regional

economic integration.

- Strengthening capacity for the sector's staff involved in international and regional economic integration activities.

- Policy research

- Adjusting legal system

- Implementing WTO commitments

- Implementing international commitments and convention/agreements

- Guiding Provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development and MARD's companies to develop their specific action plans.

⇒ Developing National Action Plan on implementation of SPS Agreement: completing the draft with comments from related ministries/agencies. The draft has just been submitted to the Minister, and in turn to the Government for approval.

⇒ Selecting implementing models on SPS for the veterinary and plant protection sub-sectors.

⇒ Compiling and printing documents on WTO commitments relating to agriculture and rural development sector for wide dissemination.

⇒ Disseminating commitments on IEI in the sector: Agreement of Agriculture, SPS Agreement, FTA negotiation results between ASEAN and counterpart countries (China, Japan, Korea, Australia/New Zealand, India, etc.).

Implementing WTO commitments

- Implementing transparency task of SPS Agreements: setting up database on SPS notifications of the country and foreign countries; equipping technical support stations under SPS network

with facilities.

In collaboration with the US Department of Agriculture, ICD-MARD invited legal experts to work with Vietnam's SPS Office and line ministries/agencies (from 13th - 22nd March, 2007) to review legal documents relating to food safety hygiene, plant and animal quarantine.

- Ensuring equivalence: Developing the evaluation process of SPS equivalence measures; training on equivalence negotiation skills; negotiating and signing SPS equivalence recognition agreement with other countries; and other SPS capacity building activities.

In addition, MARD already carried out various activities to call for FDI in the sector. MARD also join the negotiation on FTA and other international agreements.

Reviewing Implementation of ARD Sector '5YP...

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- Sector's development has been towards increased quality of products and services. The agriculture sector has adjusted production structure and scale to improve production and competitiveness capacity in the context of the world economic and trade integration.

- Management of investment projects has been improved to increase investment efficiency and effectiveness, and prevent waste and loss. The process of investment management enhancement has facilitated the attraction of investment in rural agriculture.

- However, there were shortcomings in the process of implementing the plan 2006 such as slow transition of sector production structure, limited awareness of impacts on agriculture upon becoming WTO's member, causing the untimely and weak change.

- System of agriculture services has not met the production requirements in the market economy, and quality of agriculture products and services has not been controlled strictly.

- Process of renovating the enterprises and other production organizations in rural agriculture to increase competitiveness capacity has been conducted slowly and in actively.

- Poverty reduction in rural areas had a remarkably progress but in unsustainable status with implicit poverty re-encountering danger from both the poor and the subjects affected by the development process

- Administrative reform of all levels has been still facing difficulties. Slow evolution is now a big challenge for achieving the objective of strengthening the administrative apparatus's capacity and efficiency.

Orientation of agriculture and rural development in 2007

Development targets in 2007

- Growth of added value in agro-forestry reaches 3%, of which agriculture: 2.9-3%, and forestry: 1%.

- Agriculture economic structure: crops production value: 68%, livestock value: 26%, and service value: 6%.

- Export turnover of ago-forestry goods increases by from 5.5% to 6% (reaches USD 7.4 bil.)

- Signing contract for protecting 2 mil. ha of forest, and protecting for restoration

of 700,000 ha, concentrated afforestation of 200,000 ha including 150,000 ha of production forest.

- Rate of people accessing to clean water reaches 70% (an increase of 4% compared to 2006).

Priority methods for 2007

1. Strongly promotion of scientific technology research and transfer, technical service supply system as a base for increasing productivity, quality, effectiveness and competitiveness of agro-forestry products.

Conducting arrangement and capacity enhancement for MARD's affiliated research institutes and organizations. Strengthening the agriculture extension system as a basis. Each commune is ensured to have at least one agriculture extension staff.

2. Renovating method of monitoring investment to increase efficiency of State investment utilization and prevent loss and prolonging; mobilization of other resources for agriculture and rural areas.

Continuing strongly promotion of land transferring and forest contract signing in forestry;

3. Program of trade promotion and international economic integration.

4. Training program to ensure human resources for industrialization and modernization oriented agriculture and rural development.

5. Speeding up administrative reform, renovating and strengthening state management in agriculture sector, well organizing the implementation of laws relating to corruption prevention, practicing economy, and protecting loss.

Completing the state management system over the sector with unification from Ministry to localities.

Strengthening decentralization for provinces and cities in investment and management of processing industry units, irrigation systems, services linkage with production sites to have close, active, timely guidance, creating a thorough process from production, processing to market.

More attention should be spent to studying the development of legal system and agriculture & rural development policy mechanism.

(Extracted from MARD Report at ISG Steering Board Meeting of 24 Jan 2007)

Update implementation of South-South Cooperation agreements

Since 1997, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has signed 6 Tripartite agreements between Vietnam-FAO and Senegal, Benin, Madagascar, Congo, Laos, and Mali (host countries) to implement special program on food security (PSSA) in food-insufficient and low-income countries. Senegal was the first to start South-South cooperation activities right in 1997. The ones with Congo, Madagascar, and Benin started from 2001, and with Laos just from 2003.

The main objective of the program is to help the host governments to define, develop, and implement activities of water resources management, sustainable intensive farming with advantages of planting corns, vegetables, fruit trees, coffee, livestock, bee raising, agricultural products processing, fresh-water culture and fishing.

MARD is assigned by its government to select and dispatch experts and technicians based on the host countries' needs. They are qualified in terms of morality, expertise, foreign language skills, and good health. During the past 9 years, 421 experts and engineers have been dispatched to the host countries, specifically 270 to Senegal, 49 to Congo, 47 to Madagascar, 36 to Benin, 7 to Laos, and 12 to Mali.

Cooperation prospect:

1. At present, the Director General of FAO is requesting the Vietnamese Government to dispatch 20 experts and 80 agricultural engineers to Benin. This request has been accepted by the GoV. MARD has then confirmed the support in its official letter to FAO. FAO is being requested to organize a mission with involvement of MARD to visit Benin in order to select place and develop cooperation agreement.

2. Other Africa countries like Tanzania, Mozambique, Togo, etc. are also requesting for Vietnamese experts in the fields of rice cultivation, coffee production, irrigation, agricultural products processing, etc.

Extracted from MARD' report on South-South Cooperation (March-2007)

Reviewing Implementation of ARD Sector 's Five-year plan 2006 - 2010

Year 2007 is the second year of 5YP period 2006-2010 and the first year to implement the WTO commitments. A lot of opportunities as well as challenges are facing agriculture and rural development. With the results gained in the process of 5YP conducted in 2006 and achievements and experiences of the 20-year implementation of "doi moi", the Government, MARD, provinces, production units, service suppliers in rural agriculture sector should be actively integrate and take advantage of international community's assistance for further development.

Background

In 2006, the first year to implement the five-year plan 2006-2010, Agriculture and Rural Development sector has conducted its tasks in difficult conditions such as unfavorable weather conditions, complicated epidemic for plants and animals, unusual floods especially in Central

and Southern provinces; escalating prices for input materials etc.,. However, MARD has collaborated with other ministries and provinces to take appropriate measures to minimize negative impacts, deal with difficulties actively, and enhance production and exports. Therefore, agriculture and rural development have borne fruits in 2006.

The action strategies of five-year plan 2006-2010 emphasize on following key programs:

1. Modernize agriculture.
2. Develop the processing industry for agro- forest products
3. Invest in the upgrading and modernization of available rural infrastructure and new facilities.
4. Reinforce the flood forecasting and warning system, prevention and relieving of natural disasters.
5. Formulate and develop the new rural areas

Implementation results of some major targets in 2006

1. Rural economic transition towards increasing rate of non-agricultural production rate, commodity and processed products.

2. The transformation process of agro-forestry production and rural industries continues to take place in the direction of productivity, quality and production efficiency improvement.

3. A dramatic increase in the number of cows and an inconsiderable reduction in the number of pigs and poultry, despite of livestock disease impacts.

4. Besides new forestation, regeneration and general exploitation, attention has been put to forestry for a diversified development.

5. Increased proportion of agro-forestry product processing and rural industries in rural economic structure contributing to creating more jobs and improving income from non-agriculture for rural people.

6. A lot of counter measures against the displacement of

agricultural material markets were taken, enterprises and farmers were active in accessing markets and seeking for solutions to improve their products' consumption.

7. There's a remarkable improvement in capital construction management with strict supervision and monitoring of implementation process, ensuring more transparency and disclosure.

8. A revolution in implementation of rural development programs, rural institution development and conduction of rural living conditions improvement programs in combination with poverty reduction.

General assessment

- Though the implementation of 5YP conducted in 2006 was under the difficulty context, the main targets set out in the year were achieved approximately or over fulfilled compared to the planned targets and the achievements of the year 2005. *(more page 7)*

On 25th Jan. 2007, MARD, in its letter No. 269/TTr-BNN-DD, submitted the draft National Strategy on Natural Disaster Control and Mitigation by 2020 to the Prime Minister for consideration and approval.

The overall objectives of the Strategy are to (I) reduce human and material damages (II) and ensure national sustainable development.

The strategy proposes national priority programs and projects by fields like: zoning for natural disaster risk assessment, planning, improving forecasting capacity, increasing community awareness, non-structure and structure measures.

Draft National Strategy on Natural Disaster Control and Mitigation by 2020 submitted to the Government

It's estimated that the budget for implementation of the mentioned programs and projects will be VND 30,000 billion, which will be mobilized from state budget, provinces' budgets, ODA, FDI, community contribution and other legal resources.

During the strategy development process, MARD already carried out the following activities:

- Assessing the first National Strategy and Action Plan on Natural Disaster Mitigation - 1994.

- Researching and consulting completed studies on natural disasters.

- Conducting studies on natural disasters with various specific themes.

- Consulting with line ministries/agencies, sectors, provinces, and experts on the strategy drafts.

- Organizing workshops in the North region, Central region and South region, and 5 national and international consultation workshops.

It is expected that the draft will be approved at the end of April or early May 2007.

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Comments are welcome at ISG Secretariat - Room 209 - 210, A9, 2 Ngoc Ha, Ba Dinh, Ha Noi

Tel: 04 7336610 ❖ Fax: 04 7336624 ❖ Email: isginfo@fpt.vn ❖ Website: www.isgmard.org.vn