

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Consultative Group Meeting for Vietnam

HANOI - December 3, 2003 - At the conclusion of the Eleventh Consultative Group (CG) Meeting on Vietnam, chaired by the Government of Vietnam and the World Bank, donors expressed continued support to the implementation of Vietnam's Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS) and welcomed the Government's first CPRGS progress report. Delegates emphasized the need to accelerate implementation of reforms for Vietnam to reach its full potential and continue to reduce poverty at a rapid pace. In support of this commitment, donors pledged US\$ 2.8 billion in assistance for the coming year. In a special session on HIV/AIDS, delegates welcomed the Government's efforts to combat this accelerating epidemic and strongly urged the government to further strengthen and speed up its policy response.

At the meeting, Government officials, members of the donor community, and representatives from civil society, the National Assembly, and the private sector gathered to assess Vietnam's progress since last year's meeting of the Consultative Group.

Meeting Vietnam's social and economic targets and implementing the CPRGS -The CG meeting opened with a discussion of recent progress in reaching Vietnam's social and economic targets for the 2001-2005 and in

fulfilling the CPRGS objectives. The Government also presented its first progress report of the CPRGS, and its extension to include the impact of large-scale infrastructure on growth and poverty reduction.

Enterprises – competitiveness and effectiveness in the Vietnamese Economy - Delegates discussed a Government report on lessons and experience with four years of implementing the Enterprise Law. Donors acknowledged the positive effects of reforms, clearly visible in the success of the enterprise law, the decree on business associations, and the establishment of the agency for SME development.

HIV/AIDS - In a special session reserved to discuss the emerging social and economic challenges posed by HIV/AIDS, delegates welcomed the Government's recent efforts to combat the accelerating epidemic and called for strong leadership by top levels of Government to further strengthen and accelerate its policy response to prevent the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS seen in other developing countries.

ODA effectiveness and reduced transaction costs - Donors complimented the Government for its report on progress achieved in simplification and harmonization of ODA procedures and for the presentation of a new harmonization action plan.

The Consultative Group for Vietnam met in Hanoi on December 2-3, 2003, under the co-chairmanship of Mr. Vo Hong

Phuc, Minister of Planning and Investment and Mr. Klaus Rohland, World Bank's Country Director for Vietnam. The Vietnamese delegation was led by His Excellency, Deputy Prime Minister Vu Khoan and Mr. Vo Hong Phuc, Minister for Planning and Investment.

Source: World Bank Viet Nam

International scientists join forces to attack citrus disease

Hanoi 16 Dec 2002 - Vietnamese citrus producers stand to benefit from new research announced today in Hanoi. A consortium of scientists from Vietnam, Indonesia, Australia and France will collaborate for three years to improve knowledge of and develop strategies to attack the most important disease problem constraining the growth of citrus production in the region, 'citrus greening disease' or 'Huanglongbing'. The announcement was made in Hanoi today at a ceremony held in the offices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development marking the signing of the new collaborative research project. Total funding for the various project activities amounts to AUD\$3.2 million disbursed over three years. The document approving the Australia-Vietnam component of the project was signed by Vice Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Professor Bui Ba Bong, and Australia's Ambassador to Vietnam, Mr Joe Thwaites.

The project will be undertaken over three years initially and will involve collaboration between botanists, plant pathologists, entomologists and extension personnel. The aims of the project are to improve knowledge about the causes, transmission and management of huanglongbing in Indonesia and Vietnam, improve technology transfer in both countries through education and training, and develop incursion management strategies for the Australian citrus industry.

Source: ACIAR

Promulgation of Cooperative Law (revised)

Hanoi 25 December 2003 – The Vietnam President Office held a press conference

to promulgate the revised Cooperative Law which was approved by the Eleventh Vietnam National Assembly at the fourth session meeting held in Hanoi on 18 November 2003. The revised Law includes 10 chapters, 52 articles. In comparison with the Cooperative Law in 1996, the Law in 2003 revised 39 articles, amended 4 articles, deleted 7 article. Nine of the articles are remained the same.

For full text (Vietnamese only) please visit:

[http://www.mpi.gov.vn/bangbieu/19Z9A Luat hop tac xasuadoi.doc](http://www.mpi.gov.vn/bangbieu/19Z9A%20Lu%E1%7Ft%20h%E1%7Fp%20t%E1%7Fc%20x%E1%7Fsu%E1%7Fadoi.doc)

Source: CIEM

US \$1.3 million for forestry support programs

In 2004, Forestry Sector Support Programme- Coordination Office (FSSP-CO) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - (MARD) plans to allocate up to US \$1.3 to implement forestry sub-sectors support programmes.

About US \$780,000 from this budget will be given to research activities on assessment and revise the National Forestry Strategy, forestry development for poverty reduction and rural livelihood, establishment of forestry consultation groups in the north central provinces, linkage the five million ha reforestation program with other donor funded projects, gender project in the forestry sector.

After two year of operation, FSSP-CO became a bridge between MARD with other ministries, agencies of the Government and provincial forestry consultation group representing for 7 ecological areas.

Source: FSSP-CO

Public Procurement Website on trial on Ministry of Planning and Investment website

Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) linked the pilot web page on "public procurement" with the Ministry's website. Partners interested in the procurement implementation and related documents can visit the web at <http://www.mpi.gov.vn/dauthau/> to find information and regulation documents 6868public procurement. The

web page is available in both Vietnamese and English.

Source: MPI

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

ADB Provides Grant to Help Prepare Agriculture Science and Technology Project in Viet Nam

HANOI, VIET NAM (15 December 2003) - ADB and the Government of Viet Nam today held a signing ceremony for a technical assistance (TA) grant to help prepare an agriculture science and technology project.

Representing ADB was Alessandro Pio, Officer-in-Charge, Viet Nam Resident Mission. Phung Khac Ke, Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Viet Nam and Bui Ba Bong, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development signed on behalf of the Government. Hiroaki Fujiwara, representative from Embassy of Japan in Viet Nam, also attended the ceremony.

The total cost of the TA is \$1.125 million, of which \$900,000 was approved by ADB from its Japan Special Fund, financed by the Government of Japan. The Government of Viet Nam is contributing the rest, which is \$225,000 equivalent. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is the executing agency for the TA, due for completion by October 2004.

This project, which was approved on 9 October 2003, aims to assist the Government of Viet Nam in formulating a detailed proposal for possible ADB loan financing to strengthen national systems for agricultural research, extension, education, training and technology and market information dissemination.

Source: ADB Vietnam Resident Mission

Improvement of the digital communication of MARD with local levels via intranet, Internet and email during the 3 next years

Since July 2002, Project PAR in MARD has carried out a pilot implementation of the MARD IT Strategy through activities aiming at improving the information exchange between MARD and selected DARDs and vice versa.

The pilot implementation of the MARD IT Strategy was successful in meeting proposed objectives. Therefore, in order to capitalise on this success, the phase 2 of the project will support from July 2003 to June 2006 to expand the scope of the pilot of use of Email for information exchange to cover all DARDs in 64 provinces nationwide. This will be implemented using a staggered roll-over approach over the next 3 years (i.e. approximately 20 DARDs each year).

The aims of the activities will be:

- a. IT infrastructure of the DARDs are improved
- b. The capacity of pilot IT key users and end users is strengthened
- c. The reporting work flow of regular reports is improved

The IT pilot activities carried out at provincial level showed that a strong interest in continuing these activities was existing and, in fact, a large majority of DARDs expressed the desire to expand the scope. Therefore the administrative link between central and local level, which is currently very weak and thin, will be reinforced and will become stronger.

Source: PAR in MARD project - VIE/02/016

List of MARD ODA Projects signed in 2003
Categorised by Sector

No.	Project code	Project Name	Start date end date	Donor	Grant	Loan	Total fund	Implementing Agency	Counterpart fund	Sign date
Forestry		7 Projects			4.139.807	0	4.139.807		803.000	
1	BNN-LN-02-010	Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management in Vietnam	01/07/03 30/07/04	SDC	104,962	0	104,962	Quang Nam DARD Binh Dinh DARD World Wide Fund for Nature	0	18/06/03
2	BNN-LN-02-023	Forestry development for livelihood improvement in Central Highlands (TA)	01/09/03 30/05/04	RNE ADB	1,560,000	0	1,560,000	Forestry Department Forestry Project Management Board	390,000	20/03/03
3	BNN-LN-02-069	Strengthening of CITES implementation in Vietnam	01/11/02 30/12/03	DANIDA	240,000	0	240,000	Forest Department Traffic Indochina	0	24/02/03
4	BNN-LN-03-007	Promotion of sustainable forest management in Vietnam	01/05/03 30/05/06	SDC	499,444	0	499,444	Forestry Department World Wide Fund for Nature	0	05/05/03

No.	Project code	Project Name	Start date end date	Donor	Grant	Loan	Total fund	Implementing Agency	Counterpart fund	Sign date
5	BNN-LN-03-014	The forest sector support programme and partnership coordination office	18/08/03 30/12/06	RNE SDC SIDA FAO EU Multi-donors FINNIDA	1,524,570	0	1,524,570	Forestry Department	0	18/08/03
6	BNN-LN-03-024	Community participation promotion for conservation of Viatnam's natural heritage via community based environmental education programme	01/07/03 30/07/05	EA-PEI	30,831	0	30,831	Forestry University of Viet Nam	0	25/06/03
7	BNN-LN-03-025	Assessment on community participation in management and protection of protected area system in Vietnam	01/07/03 30/07/05	MAF	180,000	0	180,000	Forest Inventory and Planning Institute	23,000	26/06/03
Agriculture		3 Projects			2,600,000	90,000,000	92,600,000		300,000	
8	BNN-NN-02-004	Biogas for livestock husbandary	29/01/03 30/06/06	RNE	2,000,000	0	2,000,000	Agriculture Department	0	29/01/03

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No.	Project code	Name	Start date end date	Donor	Grant	Loan	Total fund	Implementing Agency	Counterpart fund	Sign date
9	BNN-NN-03-002	Agricultural reform support (TA of ASDP)	01/10/03 31/12/04	DANIDA ADB	600,000	0	600,000		150,000	24/09/03
10	BNN-NN-03-016	Agricultural sector development programme (loan)	22/04/03 01/04/06	ADB	0	90,000,000	90,000,000	Agricultural Project Management Board Vietnam bank for Agriculture and Rural Development	0	22/04/03
Integrated Dev't		4 Projects			19.880.000	0	19.880.000		<u>515.600</u>	
11	BNN-HH-00-070	Strengthening Capacity for Agriculture and Rural Dev Sector on International Integration	01/08/03 30/12/05	AUSAID	650,000	0	650,000	International Cooperation Department	0	30/07/03
12	BNN-HH-02-062	Improvement of rural living conditions in Nam Dan District, Nghe An Province	01/08/03 30/03/05	JICA	3,900,000	0	3,900,000	Nghe A n DARD	0	29/07/03
13	BNN-HH-02-007	Capacity building for agriculture and rural development, Phase II (Phase I MS 0316)	01/09/03 31/12/09	AUSAID	13,000,000	0	13,000,000	International Cooperation Department	0	28/08/03

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No.	Project code	Project Name	Start date end date	Donor	Grant	Loan	Total fund	Implementing Agency	Counterpart fund	Sign date
14	BNN-HH-02-039	Support to Public Administration Reform program in MARD - Phase 2	01/03/03 28/02/06	RNE UNDP	2,330,000	0	2,330,000	Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)	257,800	24/06/03
Irrigation		2 Projects			7.125.000	0	7.125.000		<u>350.000</u>	
15	BNN-TL-02-068	Central region water resources project (TA)	01/10/03 01/08/04	ADB	1,400,000	0	1,400,000	Water Resources Planning Institute	350,000	02/05/03
16	BNN-TL-03-008	Groundwater development in rural part of Northern provinces - Phase II	30/07/03 30/07/04	JICA	5,725,000	0	5,725,000	Centre for Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation	0	29/07/03
Total:		16 Projects			33.744.807	90.000.000	123.744.807		<u><u>1.968.600</u></u>	