



Focus

## Concentration of resources for growth to reduce poverty



above-mentioned issues of the agriculture and rural development sector.

Agriculture and rural development is deeply progressing nation-wide. The important policies proposed by MARD and approved by the Prime Minister such as "Shift of agriculture and rural structure", "Policy regarding agriculture and rural industrialization and modernization", "Action program on international economic integration of the agriculture and rural development sector" ... are currently the core tasks of the sector and also the major keys in terms of policy in service of growth and poverty reduction. The Government of Vietnam commits to mobilize talented people and material power in order to meet the objectives. I hope that the donors, international organizations will be together with us in supporting technical and financial assistance through development programs/projects. In the process of supporting growth in order to improve the life of the poor, the efforts being made by partners should be coordinated and oriented for best effectiveness. Main activities should therefore be: development of rural infrastructure in service of poverty reduction, receipt of new techniques and technologies and transferring them to farmers, promotion of agro-forestry extension particularly at grassroots levels.

Over the past time, the model of ISG process has been recognized by donors as a good one. MARD has in coordination with the donor community consolidated the ISG: development of management information system (MIS) with a view to creating sources of information of development activities for sharing among the stakeholders; Thematic Ad-hoc Group 1 on Agro-economic integration and policy, Thematic Ad-hoc Group 2 on Support Water Resources Management), 5-Million Hectare Reforestation Partnership - 5MHRP) have carried out many activities with the participation of most donors, related national and international agencies; the regular operation of ISG has created a convenient environment for donors as well as for Vietnamese agencies in experience exchange, information sharing, joint discussing policy issues based on the increasingly improved source of information.

I would like to thank you very much for your great favour to agriculture and rural development.

*Extracted from the opening speech by H.E. Minister Le Huy Ngo at the fifth ISG Plenary Meeting - Hanoi, 7th June 2002*

**G**rowth, poverty reduction and rural development is now a burning issue of the nation. In order to deal with it comprehensively, new facilities, methods and a specific mechanism for most appropriate mobilization and allocation of national resources are needed. Your ideas contributing to the follow-up implementation steps of MARD will be respectfully acknowledged.

We are aware that the efforts for growth and poverty reduction should be placed in the context of international economic integration, progressing at a very high speed. The affects of the integration to poor farmers, to production and exports of agro-products should surely be evaluated and taken into serious and thorough consideration before an orientation for policy and strategy can be built, due to the fact that, in human aspects, farmers are the ones of most vulnerability; in terms of market, agro-forestry products are the ones most sensitively affected by the integration process.

I do hope that the relevant agencies of MARD, under the coordination of this forum, will, in the time to come, be able to submit the international community a specific action programme regarding the

### Inside

#### **Partnership Activities:**

##### **Forestry Sector Support**

##### **Programme Partnership:**

Forestry Sector Manual

Page 2

##### **NDM Partnership:**

First Meeting of Steering

Committee

Page 3

#### **Thematic Activities:**

TAG1: Thematic Studies

Page 6

TAG 2: Hanoi International

Water Conference.

Page 7

#### **Development Forum:**

Gender Strategy and

Implementation Plan

Page 8

#### **Comments are welcome at:**

ISG Secretariat

Room # 209 - 210, A9,

2 Ngoc Ha, Hanoi

Tel: (04) 733 6610

Fax: (04) 733 6624

E-mail: [isgmard@fpt.vn](mailto:isgmard@fpt.vn)

Website: <http://www.isgmard.org.vn>

FSSP Partnership:

# Forestry Sector Manual (FSM)

## 1. Objectives:

Within the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) the Forest Sector Manual (FSM) has been identified amongst the four principal operational tools to be developed within the partnership, the others are the Matrix of Affiliation, the Common Work Program and the Monitoring and Evaluation System for the FSSP. The **Main Objective** of the Forest Sector Manual is to provide tools to plan, implement and monitor projects and activities within the forestry sector of Vietnam. Furthermore, the Forestry Sector Manual shall provide the means to identify potentials of and constraints to the development of the forestry sector of Vietnam and to promote knowledge to such a development. The development of the forestry sector within the rural area involves a large number of factors. Promotion and control of such a development requires an integrated approach, with all aspects, which play an



integral part, so as to limit the risk of appearance of factors, which might ultimately hamper the development.

The **Specific Objectives** of the FSM could be defined as:

- Provide an overview of the relevant activities of the forest sector in Vietnam to achieve the set Overall Goal defined within the MoA.
- Provide best practices, proven and/or promising concepts, methods and available data on established procedures in the Vietnamese forest sector with special emphasis to the 9 Result Areas of the MoA.
- Illustrate knowledge gaps to overcome to comply with the National Forestry Development Strategy of Vietnam.
- Provide a dynamic tool for the forest sector of Vietnam, which should have the ability to incorporate upcoming new information and work procedures. Therefore its design considers the existing range of state-of-the-art technology and information.

## 2. Development of the FSM:

The preparation of the FSM is an iterative and participatory process, which shall conveniently be divided into the following phases:

### 2.1. Preparatory Phase

- 1<sup>st</sup> Presentation to and commenting by all TEC members on the 1<sup>st</sup> outline of the FSM and the proposed quality standards, until the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2002.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Presentation to and commenting by all TEC members on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and comprehensive outline of the FSM until the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2002.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Presentation of final outline of the FSM and invitation of all parties of the FSSP to participate with contributions to specific subjects to the FSM, and final definition of quality standards of contributions until 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2002.
- Finalization of affiliation of contributions to the FSM by 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2002.

### 2.2. 1<sup>st</sup> Build-up phase

In the build-up phase the FSSP coordination office compiles the information. If necessary assistance is given to members for the

compilation and standardization of their inputs.

For subject areas where no affiliations are connoted, the FSSP coordination office in cooperation with the TEC will define the procedure to cover the gaps. The build-up phase includes:

- Compiling and verification of quality standards of inputs for the first version of the FSM until 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2003.
- Editing and preparation for distribution with different media until 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2003.
- Publishing and/or distribution through defined media until 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2003

## 2.3. Dynamic phase

After the first version of the FSM the FSSP coordination office in cooperation with TEC will define the shortcomings and gaps of the FSM. Thereafter concrete suggestions are elaborated jointly by the FSSP coordination office and TEC to overcome these gaps and to assign funds for this exercise.

## 3. Proposed Quality Standards Best Practices

In the FSM are presented Best Practices which are those strategies, activities or approaches which have been shown through research and evaluation to be the most effective to reach set goals in the individual result areas defined in the FSSP. Emphasis is given to methods which are adapted to- and which safeguard the environmental conditions.

### Concepts

Included are proven and/or promising alternative Concepts which could be applied to solve organizational, administrative and technical problems prevailing in the forestry sector of Vietnam.

### Comparative Figures

In all fields where the user could benefit to find the correct decision, comparative figures are presented.

## Natural Disaster Mitigation (NDM) Partnership: Steering Committee's First Meeting

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2002, the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the NDM-Partnership was successfully held in Hanoi under the chairmanship of Mr. Le Huy Ngo, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, and also the Chairman of NDM-Partnership Steering Committee. There were 14 members of the Steering Committee and 14 other participants attending the meeting. At the meeting, some main outcomes of the progress of the NDM Partnership were highlighted, including:

- Seventeen Partners have signed the Memorandum of Agreement.
- A Steering Committee, chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, has been established for implementing the NDM-Partnership.
- The NDM - Partnership Preparatory Assistance Document has been signed on 15 April 2002.
- The Government has nominated the DDMFSC as the Project Management.
- The Government has appointed a National Project Director.
- An International Facilitator and National Project Coordinator have been recruited for the NDM-Partnership.
- An office has been set up in Hanoi to house the NDM-Partnership Secretariat.
- A Work Plan for the Preparatory Assistance has been prepared.
- The World Bank proposal for Natural Disaster Mitigation has been approved by the Government, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has been appointed as the Executing Agency. The Identification Mission of the World Bank has been completed in June 2002.
- Asian Development Bank has initiated a Technical Assistance project for preparation of Water Resources Investment Strategy for Central Vietnam. The ADB considered 497 subprojects and ranked them using the ADB's criteria.

ADB's ranking includes several projects listed in the 21 priority projects that are considered under the NDM-Partnership's initial phase.

- ADB has initiated a Water Resources Sector project in March 2002 with substantial coverage of NDM elements. Six out of the seven provinces covered by this project are NDM-Partnership Provinces.
- European Union's DIPECHO recently completed two projects in Thua Thien Hue Province and Quang Binh Province. MARD was requested to forward new proposals.
- AusAID is finalizing a project design in Quang Ngai Province.
- CECI is initiating a project design in Thua Thien Hue Province.

**The following items were concluded and recommended at the meeting:**

- The detailed responsibilities of each of the Steering Committee



members based upon Terms of Reference (ToR) were approved.

- The mechanism for NDM-Partnership operation will be finalised.

The responsibilities of the members of NDM Partnership have been revised based on the comments of members received on 2 July 2002 at the first Steering Committee meeting. This document will be submitted to the Steering Committee for final

approval.

NDM-Partnership work plan for 2002 has also been revised based on the comments made meeting, including the following objectives:

- Objective 1: To maintain regular information sharing and dialogue between Government, Donors and NGOs including establishment and testing of the NDM-Partnership institutional framework in accordance with the Terms of Memorandum of Agreement;
- Objective 2: To formulate the NDM-Partnership Framework Document and Action Plan for the implementation of the Partnership; and to secure Government, Donor and NGO approval and multi-year funding of the Document;
- Objective 3: To identify needs for interventions by the NDM-Partnership;
- Objective 4: To prepare a methodology and a plan for expanding the NDM-Partnership in Central Vietnam to the entire country; and to present the plan to the Government, Donors and NGOs for consideration.

The revised documents will be submitted to the MARD Minister and then members of the Steering Committee for comments. The final documents will be shared widely with Partners and others.

VIE/98/004 Support to PAR in MARD update:

# Capacity strengthening for implementation of PAR in MARD

The outcome of the 11th session of the National Assembly in mid-August has had effects to the organisational structure of MARD. New functions could be transferred to MARD and some functions of MARD could (eventually) be transferred to other ministries depending on the National Assembly decision. A functional analysis of all MARD departments now needs to be integrated into new decisions on public service restructuring. To ensure that decentralisation is considered in the new organisation, the project is continuing the functional analysis at local levels (DARDs and SARDs) in August. However the concept of "decentralisation" should be understood as restore the links between central and local level, which are weak at the moment. The exchange of information between different units is very important.

## **New approach to action planning for administrative reform**

The issuance of the PAR Master plan of the Government in September 2001, requests ministries, sectors to draft their respective public sector area PAR action plans for 2005. This request offers an opportunity to introduce a new approach to planning for PAR in MARD and with it a new action plan format. Taken together, the new planning approach ensures the involvement of MARD staff responsible for PAR implementation in the formulation of PAR activities to the year 2005.

There are six PAR teams currently drafting individual action plans following priorities identified by MARD leadership. These individual action plans will jointly make up the MARD PAR Action plan 2005. The administrative reform areas are:

1. Organisational restructuring and decentralisation
2. Simplification and standardisation of legal drafting and licensing procedures

3. Strengthening of internal work regulations

4. Modernisation of systems and administrative procedures

5. Strengthening of human resource management and development systems

6. Public expenditure and budgeting

Once drafts have been revised amongst teams, these are to be circulated amongst MARD leadership, whereby the final action plan will be workshopped for a wider audience in December 2002. In this respect, the MARD PAR Action plan 2005 will constitute a significant instrument to attract resources to support PAR in MARD.

## **Studying the needs of farmers**

A qualitative study on farmer problems and needs regarding public services delivery has been carried out. The objective was to collect a wide range of opinions, ideas, motivations and attitudes of farmers in order to provide important information on how to orientate the restructuring process of MARD towards the field level and to redefine the role of MARD regarding the services delivery to farmers. This study has been carried out on 192 farmers in eight provinces belonging to the seven agro-economic zones. The report is now available in two languages: Vietnamese and English. Here are some examples of ideas collected from farmers:

· **Irrigation fees:** « Farmers agree to pay higher fees for the reparation and upgrading of the irrigation system but the fees have to be reduced again when the works are completed».

· **Extension training:** "They just give direct training to the village head, or some key farmers but these farmers do not remember when they transfer the knowledge to the other farmers. This makes that many farmers do not dare to work, they just don't know how to work"

· **Credit:** "Can the government help

us to create credit co-operatives for having cheapest interest rate?"

· **Animal husbandry techniques:** "Extension services are focusing more on crops than on livestock".

· **Co-operatives management:** "In my opinion, the government should open a training center to train staff of the co-operatives to manage it."

The next step is to quantify the ideas in order to identify their popularity and develop options for policy on how MARD best can meet the needs of its beneficiaries and clients.

## **Launching pilot implementation of "the road to E-MARD"**

One of the project outputs was to develop a Master Plan for the development and deployment of management information technology (IT) in MARD. The Master Plan, which was officially approved by the Minister on 17th of June 2002, describes the strategy for the next 10 years for MARD to become a transparent and efficient organisation, with effective information flows between the central and local levels. The goals of e-MARD are hence defined in line with the vision of e-Government.

As a first step of the three-phase implementation roadmap, a six month pilot is being carried out, starting in July 2002. The aim of the pilot is to increase the ability to manage and share documents between selected MARD departments and local units and thereby increasing the efficiency of information exchange. Participating in the pilot are OMARD, DCCI, the Department of Planning and Projection, the DARDs of the provinces Lao Cai, Binh Phuoc and Quang Binh, and the project management units in Can Tho, Thua Thien-Hue and Hai Duong. Main pilot activities are the provision of infrastructure in the sites (computers, network, email service); optimising key work processes using the new infrastructure and train participating civil servants in understanding the piloted IT tools and processes. The pilot project will be evaluated by the end of 2002 in order to draw lessons learnt about factors contributing to success and/or hindrances.

# Experience exchange on implementing mountainous and rural projects

*"It'd better to learn more about the life in country sides of Vietnam by walking through them"*

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), through ISG, held a donors' field trip to several Northern mountainous provinces of Vietnam for two days 30 and 31 May 2002.

The field trip created a good opportunity for the participants to see the reality in remote rural areas, witness the results attained by the localities



where projects are provided, and exchange the experience (both fruitful and bitter) drawn out by implementing agencies.

On behalf of the Bac Kan Provincial People's Committee, Mrs. La Thi Think, Vice Chairman of the Committee, warmly welcomed the donors on the field trip to the province and expressed her sincere thanks to the ISG MARD for organizing such an important and significant trip.

Apart from enjoying the beauty landscapes of the lake and forests, the participants had chance to listen to and discuss with each other. The topics included "Ba Be National Park conservation schemes" by the Director of Ba Be National Park; "Poor communities in Bac Kan and International Support" by the representative of Bac Kan Provincial People's Committee; "Activities of

Vietnam Finland Forestry Sector Cooperation Project" by the VNFinFor Chief Technical Advisor; "Activities of Cao Bang-Bac Kan Rural Development Project funded by the European Union -EU" by representative of the Cao Bang-Bac Kan Rural Development Project; "Activities of the Vietnam-Sweden Mountainous and Rural Development project (MRDP) by the MRDP Chief Technical Advisor. If you would like to have full texts of these presentations, please contact the ISG Secretariat.

The participants also paid a visit to the ethnic minority group- the Tay in Pac Ngoi Village (southern part of the Lake) to discuss with the local people themselves. At the village, the Forestry Projects Management Unit (MARD) presented its interesting experience when piloting the commune and village development funds in Na Hang and Da Vi (Tuyen Quang province) under the Vietnam-Sweden Mountainous and Rural Development Program- MRDP (see photo).

## List of Planned Projects in MARD tentatively to be signed in the last 6 months in 2002

NO	Project Name	Donor	External Funding (USD)		
			Grant	Loan	Total
1	Afforestation IV in Thanh Hoa, Nghe An	KFW	6,100,000	0	6,100,000
2	Sub-project No3 - Capacity Building for Water Resources Management	ADB	1,600,000	0	1,600,000
3	Integrated water resources management in Srepok river basin	DANIDA	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
4	Research Inventory and Program in support of protection and Planning Institute effective utilization of tropical rain forests.	Tropenbos	1,560,000	0	1,560,000
5	Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management in Vietnam	SIDA	499,444	0	1499,444
6	Ta Trach Reservoir Project	JBIC	0	220,000,000	220,000,000
	Vietnam - Sweden Cooperation Programme on Poverty Alleviation	SIDA	20,000,000	0	20,000,000
8	Support to Non-timber forest products sub-sector	RNE	6,577,353	0	6,577,353
9	Afforestation in Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh and Phu Yen	KFW	19,000,000	0	19,000,000
10	Central Region Water Resources Sector Project	ADB	1,400,000	0	1,400,000
11	Limestone Biodiversity & landscape conservation in Phu Luong, Cuc Phuong	GEF	1,111,447	0	1,111,447
12	Participating in Pro-poor Infrastructure and sustainable livelihood Development for the poor in the red river basin (TA).	ADB	3,800,000	0	3,800,000
13	Biogas for Livestock Development	RNE	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
14	Phan Ri Phan Thiet Irrigation Project	JBIC	0	86,300,000	86,300,000
15	Integrated water resources management in Ca river basin	DANIDA	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
16	Vietnam Water Resources Assistance Project (WB3) -Including TA	WB	950,000	130,000,000	130,950,000
17	Natural Disaster Mitigation	WB	754,000	150,000,000	150,754,000
18	Forestry Development for Improving living standards in Highland	ADB	1,560,000	40,000,000	41,560,000
19	Natural Conservation in Quang Binh	GER -GOVT	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
20	Tam Dao National Park Conservation	GER	3,500,000	0	3,500,000
21	Rural Infrastructure in Ninh Thuan	AFD	0	15,000,000	15,000,000
22	Tea Development in Phu Tho	AFD	0	12,000,000	12,000,000
23	Fresh Water in Tien Giang	AFD	0	15,000,000	15,000,000
24	Model for rural development in Nam Dan districts	JICA	13,000,000	0	13,000,000
25	Ground Water Exploitation in some Northern provinces	JICA	13,000,000	0	13,000,000
Total			<b>101,912,244</b>	<b>668,300,000</b>	<b>770,212,224</b>
Excluded TA or Loan which will be signed later			<b>950,000</b>	<b>190,000,000</b>	<b>190,950,000</b>
Total of Actual fund for signing in the 6 coming months			<b>100,962,244</b>	<b>478,300,000</b>	<b>579,262,244</b>

## TAG 1: International Agro-economic Integration and Policy

# Some studies on impacts of international integration completed

Upon its integration into the regional and international economies, the agriculture and rural development sector is the vulnerable one unless there are some appropriate steps taken in order to make full use of the advantages and reduce negative impacts. Stemming from those practical needs, TAG 1 has completed several studies and activities relating to dissemination of knowledge of integration of the sector.

In 2001, the training workshops on "ASEAN standards for good manufacturing practices (GMP) for ASEAN vaccines and accreditation criteria for animal vaccine testing laboratories" (by Department of Animal Health) and "Evaluation of the relevance between international standards on plant quarantine and locals, practical conditions of Vietnam to harmonize and apply those standards" (by Department of Plants Protection) were held and highly appreciated.

Early 2002, several studies to analyze and evaluate the impacts of integration process to Vietnam's agriculture have been completed.

### 1. Evaluation of potential impacts on Vietnam's agriculture during imple-

ment AFTA is coming near, causing many challenges and pressures on Vietnam's agriculture. In order to evaluate its impacts and propose necessary options, the study takes a deep look at the following issues:

a) Overview of implementation of CEPT/AFTA of Vietnam's agriculture over the past time in comparison with ASEAN countries.

b) Evaluation of the impacts of the CEPT/AFTA implementation on agriculture, basing on evaluation of the ability of ASEAN countries to penetrate into Vietnam's agro-product market, and the way round; possible impacts on Foreign Direct Investment flows to Vietnam.

c) By that way, the study puts forward some recommendations for policy adjustments and needed changes from enterprises. The study also proposes some issues that should be further studied.

### 2. Analysis of Vietnam agricultural policy under the context of WTO (by Department of Planning and Projections)

icy, both showing our activeness in integration and complying with the real development of the country. In order to have an overall picture regarding Vietnam's applicable agriculture policies and draw out orientations for the time to come, the study goes deeply into the following contents:

a) Evaluation of the status of Vietnam's agriculture policies (import tariff policy, domestic support and export subsidy non-tariff policy), thereby the relevance to WTO's regulations can be drawn out.

b) Propose orientations for Vietnam's agriculture policies for the coming integration process.

### 3. "Impact of trade liberalization on some agricultural sub-sectors of Vietnam: Rice, coffee, tea and sugar" (by Department of Policy and Center for Information)

The study focuses on evaluating the impacts of trade liberalization on some commodities: exported (rice, coffee, tea), imported (sugar), from the following perspectives:

a) Production capacity and competitiveness of the commodities;

b) Impacts of the policies and trade liberalization process to exporting and importing substitution commodities;

c) Recommended options and policies for increased production capacity and capacity to produce substitutes for the imported.

### 4. Handbook on commitments of the agriculture and rural development sector regarding international agro-economic integration (by International Cooperation Department - MARD) aims to provide officers in and out of the sector with an overview of integration commitments of Vietnam in agriculture and rural development. The handbook has 5 main sections:

a) ASEAN cooperation in agro-forestry area;

b) APEC and APEC cooperation in agriculture;

c) Overview of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM);

d) World Trade Organization (WTO);

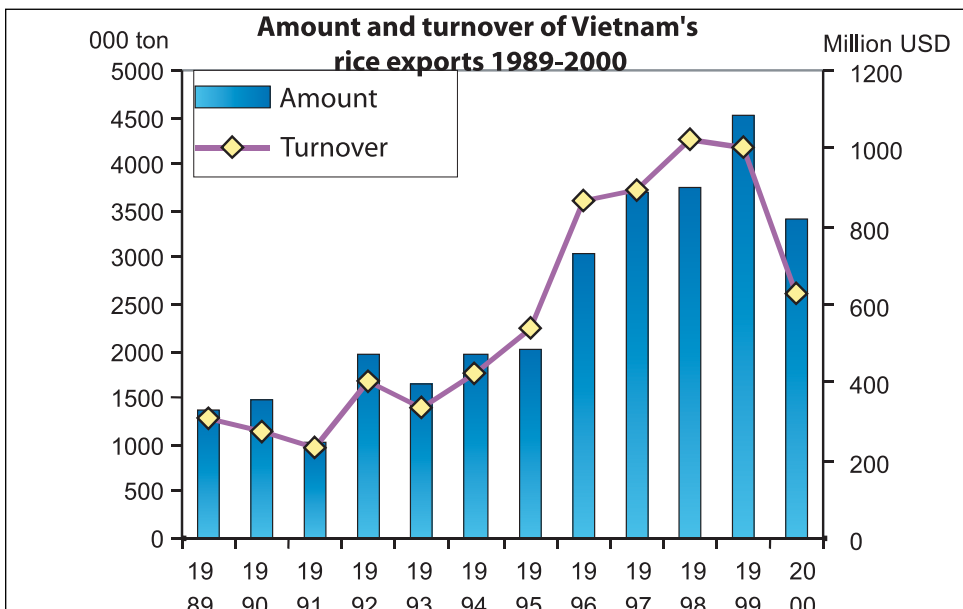
e) Vietnam - US Bilateral Trade Agreement;

The handbook has been circulated to the relevant agencies of the sector.

Please contact ISG Secretariat or visit ISG website at

<http://www.isgmard.org.vn>

for further detail



### menting common effective preferential tariff programme (CEPT) under Agreement on ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) (by Department of Planning and Projections)

Right after becoming an official member of the ASEAN, Vietnam has made active preparations to implement its regulations. Currently, the time to

Vietnam is facilitating its negotiations for membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The applicable regulations by WTO as well as the tendency of the new negotiations will surely cause constraints to our country in the rounds on. Over the past time, our country has made significant reforms regarding institution and pol-

## TAG 2: Support Water Resources Management

## Preparation for Hanoi International Water Conference Oct.2002

On 28 June 2002, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Embassy of Australia, Danida, and Royal Netherlands Embassy jointly signed the Memorandum of Agreement for



Hanoi International Conference: Water, Food and Environment, showing their strong commitment to support to such an important event held for the first time in Hanoi.

This conference is organized by MARD and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) through the Secretariat of the Dialogue on Water, Food and Environment. The Conference involves the Participating Organizations of the Dialogue. It is funded through contributions of the Asian Development Bank, the Dutch Government and the Embassies in Hanoi of the

Netherlands, Australia, and Denmark.

The MoA also states that the ISG Trust Fund will be used for coordinating and managing the funds of the National Budget.

Contributions by the funding agencies will be made to the Trust Fund of ISG of MARD.

At present, the Conference Secretariat is being established and located at the International Cooperation Department - MARD. ISG Secretariat will continue to support until the Secretariat of the Conference officially comes into operation.

institutional arrangements; human, financial, information and other resources in the sector; and the status of water resource supply, demand and quality. In each of these areas, the Profile will include both description and evaluation. It will seek to identify the major strengths and weaknesses in the sector and to identify major water management issues which Vietnam faces.

In addition to the report, an accompanying Water Resources

and transportation are being addressed along with irrigation, drainage and flood control. In order to ensure a balanced and authoritative approach, experts from various ministries and agencies are being asked to participate in the preparation of relevant sections of the Profile. Also, the Profile is being drafted in Vietnamese, with later translation to English, in order to ensure a high degree of national style, orientation and ownership.

Water managers and water users at the provincial level will also be consulted in the preparation of the Profile. Workshops are being held at an early stage to provide information on the Profile and seek comments on information to be included and the process to be used in its preparation. At a later stage, another series of workshops will be held to review the draft Profile. The drafting and review process is expected to take place until the end of 2002, at which time the Profile will be presented to the National Water Resources Council for approval.

*Further information can be obtained from the Office of the National Water Resources Council within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Building A6B, 2 Ngoc Ha Street, Hanoi, 04-733-5716, or through the Council's website: <http://www.nwrc.org.vn>*

National Coordination for Water Resources Management  
ADB TA3528-VIE, Subproject 1:

## National Water Sector Profile

A National Water Sector Profile, which is intended to give a comprehensive overview of Vietnam's water resource sector, is being prepared under the National Water Resources Council and with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank. The Profile will follow the structure developed by the ADB, allowing easier comparison between the water sectors of Vietnam and other countries and major river basins for which similar profiles have been prepared.

The Profile will include sections on national objectives and water resource development and management plans; legal, policy and

Atlas is being prepared. The Atlas will contain a wide range of information on water and closely related socio-economic and resource information, allowing users to directly view some of the information which is referred to in the Profile report. The Atlas is being prepared in digital format which can be distributed on CD or on the Internet.

Since the Profile and the accompanying Atlas are being prepared under the National Water Resources Council, a broad and integrated view of the water resources sector is being taken. This means that water-using sectors such as hydropower, urban and rural water supply, fisheries

# Gender Strategy and Implementation Plan for MARD

A Process of Organizational Change:

Understanding → Commitment → Establishing A Vision of Gender Equality Among Leadership → Communication → Policies & Procedures → Skills → Encouragement and Support → A Gender Responsive Organization → Maximize Equitable Access to Services → Society Reaches Full Potential → Achievement of Agriculture & Rural Development Goals

**W**ith support from the Asian Development Bank, the MARD recently implemented a technical assistance plan to develop a gender mainstreaming strategy and plan for Agriculture and Rural Development. While Viet Nam has made numerous achievements in improving the well-being of women and reducing gender disparities, significant disparities in the agriculture and rural development sector continue to exist, especially in poorer communities, remote rural areas and in ethnic minority communities. At the

and to reduce barriers to equitable access to its services by workers in the sector.

Gender equity in the sector will be key to achieving MARD's goals under the Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS). The agricultural sector continues to experience feminization at the rate of approximately 1% per year; between 1993 and 1998, male farmers decreased by 0.3% annually while female farmers increased by 0.9%. Compared to men, women contribute more time of labour to productivity, such as cultivation, livestock breeding, agricultural processing, etc. Despite this fact, women have limited opportunities to access to key resources, including land, financial services, extension services, and direct skills training, which has resulted in limitation and constraints of their involvement in rural development. Given the large number and contribution of women to agriculture and rural development, it is crucial that MARD develop and implement a gender mainstreaming strategy and imple-

designed to raise rural incomes, improve living standards, and reduce poverty should be gender-responsive and facilitate the involvement of women.

▪ MARD, under the TA, will also receive technical support to strengthen skills in gender awareness, analysis and mainstreaming and gender-responsive development planning, monitoring and evaluation. Integration of skills and expertise into the Departments, technical units and leadership will be targeted to ensure sustainability and transference. In addition, support will be provided to CFAW-MARD (MARD's Committee for the Advancement of Women) to strengthen both the committee's and its members' capacity.

Over the year-long TA grant, the Project will work with key MARD departments and leaders to:

- assess institutional structures and processes at MARD central, provincial, district and community levels.
- conduct learning-by-doing workshops for MARD senior and technical staff to identify gender gaps in MARD strategies and programmes.
- conduct participatory workshops for MARD senior and technical staff to develop and approve a gender mainstreaming strategy and implementation plan.
- conduct training workshops for MARD senior and technical staff to strengthen gender analysis and planning skills.

## Strategic Linkages for the Project

The Project expects to establish key linkages with ongoing MARD initiatives including the MARD-UNDP Public Administration Reform Project (PAR), implementation of the Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy, the International Support Group (ISG) and selected Donor-MARD Partnership Programmes.

A key outcome of the TA will be MARD's approval and adoption of the Gender Strategy and Implementation Plan for Agriculture & Rural Development, and MARD's institutional capacity to implement gender mainstreaming is strengthened.

*For more information please contact the Project Office at (04) 733 7145, email: or visit Room 102 Building A9, 2 Ngoc ha, Hanoi.*



same time, the sector has become increasingly feminized, with women constituting nearly 52% of the agricultural labour force. MARD, with a Technical Assistance grant from ADB, will develop a strategy and plan to strengthen the Ministry's capacity to institutionalize gender-responsive policies, plans and programs

mentation plan to ensure that policies, programmes, and projects are designed to address gender concerns and meet sectoral economic and development goals. MARD's policies and programmes need to promote and facilitate women's equitable participation and benefit from agriculture and rural development. programmes and projects