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HIGHLIGHTS

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*Information and experience equal knowledge,
please share your knowledge with us!*

1. POLICY DEVELOPMENT/REVIEW



400 billion dong for national industrial extension program

Hanoi, 23 August 2007: Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has just signed a decision approving the National Industrial Extension Program until 2012, which has the total investment capital of up to 400 billion dong.

In line with the policy of industrial development in rural areas, this program sets out such specific targets as by 2010, the weight of rural industries will account for 28-30% of the total value of industrial outputs, the turnover of exported commodities from small scale and craft industries will reach about 1 billion USD, and the weight of agro-forestry-fishery product processing industries will be gradually increased.

This program aims at mobilizing domestic and foreign resources to invest in industrial production and industrial extension services in rural areas, assisting in shifting the economic-labor structure towards industrialization, as well as contributing to poverty reduction and development of social and cultural life in rural areas.

The program consists of 7 sub-programs which are namely vocational education, know-how transfer, and job development; management capacity strengthening; support to establishing models of technical demonstration and transfer of technology and scientific technical advances; development of

typical rural industrial products; development of consulting and information provision services; support to joint ventures, associations, economic cooperations, and development of focal industrial clusters; improvement of management capacity and implementation arrangements.

The national industrial extension program will be applied to organizations and individuals directly investing in industrial production in districts, towns, provincial capital towns, and to organizations providing industrial extension services./.

Source: VNA

2. NEW PROJECTS FOR THE SECTOR

Project to help MARD pilot creative reform initiatives



Hanoi, 21 Aug 07: The UN Development Program (UNDP), the Royal Netherlands Embassy and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) jointly signed a project today supporting the Ministry's public administration reform (PAR) efforts.

The US\$5 million project, of which 4.2 mil is co-shared by the Dutch Government will help MARD develop and apply three new strategies for speeding up administration reform: decentralization of power to lower administrative levels; outsourcing of public service delivery to outside providers; and community participation in the development process. As MARD is the first Ministry in the country to pilot these

creative reform initiatives, it is expected to share achievements and the lessons learned in Viet Nam as well as other countries in order to promote public administration reform.

"MARD sees this capacity development project a very timely and significant PAR initiative, which will facilitate the Ministry's work in developing and piloting new and creative reform models, which are essential for successful implementation of the directions clearly outlined in the Resolution of the Fifth Party Plenum. We hope that the lessons learned from this project will be very beneficial for other government entities," said MARD Vice-Minister Vu Van Tan.

The project seeks to help MARD gradually change into a new agency focused on macro level management. At the same time, the new three strategies will allow MARD and the local authorities better meet the increasingly demanding requirements of citizens in rural areas and in-country and overseas business clients.

"The project is expected to demonstrate how public administration reform can contribute to poverty reduction and the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in Viet Nam, by giving the rural population, including the rural poor, an opportunity to access critical government and market information and make their voices heard in decision-making", said Ms Setsuko Yamazaki, UNDP Country Director at the signing ceremony. "Clearly, the results and lessons that will be drawn from this project will be extremely beneficial not only for the rest of Viet Nam, but may also inspire similar reforms in other countries".

The project, with financial support from UNDP, the Dutch Government and the Government of Vietnam, will start operations in September 2007 and continue for four and half years.

Source: MARD

FAO helps Vietnam to improve rice seed quality

Hanoi, 10th August, 2007: FAO provides Vietnam a grant of USD 257,000 USD for the project "Strengthening capacity to improve rice seed and rice production for ensuring food safety in Vietnam's highland".

Mr. Andrew W.Speed, Country Director of FAO and MARD Vice Minister Bui Ba Bong engaged in the signature of the cooperation agreement.

The project covering Ha Giang, Yen Bai, Bac Kan, Quang Nam and Gia Lai from 2007 to 2009 is aimed to improve the capacity of rice seed production, management and preservation in Vietnam's highland, as well as to promote marketing for the high quality rice in the mountainous areas.

Vice Minister Bui Ba Bong said that at a time when expanding cultivated areas in Vietnam is not feasible, FAO's aid in improving the quality of rice

seed and rice production is an important step in ensuring the sustainable development of Vietnamese agriculture.

The country's mountainous areas represent three-fourths of Vietnam's total land and holds great potential for economic development in soil, minerals, forestry, and water and hydroelectric power. The areas are also home for about 24 million people from 54 different ethnic groups. However, the natural resources thereof has not been exploited effectively. These areas, therefore, still lag behind others, especially in terms of agriculture production due to low and unstable productivity of livestock and crops production.

There is about 1 mil. ha of paddy-cultivated land with very low productivity and high production cost in the mountainous areas, which causes difficulties for the people's life. The main reasons are the shortage of good rice seed and seed production technique. This also leads to forest destruction for expanded farming land, making negative impacts on the environment.

Main features of the project:

- Strengthening capacity through technical assistance and equipment supplying for high quality seeds production and preservation;
- Capacity building for major stakeholders involving in paddy production and improvement, focusing on seed production in localities. This will be implemented through training trainers and farmers in the project sites;
- Capacity building for central agencies involving in pre-original and original seeds, which plays an important role in the beginning step of seed production line.
- Marketing for high quality rice products in Northern Mountainous areas.

Sources: MARD - ICD

IFAD to plough 15 million USD into farmer project

Ben Tre, 13/08/2007: The International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) decided to finance a southern Ben Tre province's production development programme to the tune of 15 million USD.

The 20.5 million USD project, in which Ben Tre will come on board for 5.5 million USD, aims to improve production, assist farmers in accessing markets and develop a host of other rural services.

Fifty communes in 7 districts of Ben Tre province have been targeted as 100 billion VND (6.25 million USD) has been set aside for rural infrastructure development and the promotion of industrial, agro-forestry-fisheries production.

The project, which was recently signed between an IFAD delegation and Ben Tre People's Committee, will be carried out from July 2007 until 2013.

Source: VNA

3. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



First UN Common Plan at Country Level Launched

Ha Noi, August 23, 2007: The Government and the United Nations in Viet Nam today marked an important milestone in the UN Reform process in the country by signing a common action plan until 2010. This is the first ever common plan of the UN at the country level.

The overall objective of the common action plan – known as the “One Plan” – is to better support Viet Nam in achieving its goals as expressed in its own Socio-Economic Development Plan (2006-2010), the Millennium Development Goals and to realize fully the principles of the Millennium Declaration. The One Plan is one of the key pillars of the “One UN Initiative” in Viet Nam, which is built on “Five Ones”, including One Plan, One Budget, One Leader, One Set of Management Practices and One UN House.

In the first instance, the One Plan (2006-2010) combines and synthesises the work of the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Volunteers (UNV), UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). It is expected that by early 2008 a revised One Plan will be finalized with all UN Agencies operating in Viet Nam fully integrated.

Source: MPI-UN

4. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION



Vietnam ASEAN trade accelerated

Ha Noi, 03/08/2007: The Southeast Asian region has become as an attractive destination for Vietnamese hard currency earners as it currently makes up 20 percent of Viet Nam 's export earnings.

In 2006, Viet Nam raked in 6.3 billion USD worth in export value from member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), nearly six-fold rise from the figure recorded in 1995, when the country joined the group.

The Trade Ministry's Multilateral Department reported that in the first half of this year, the country's export earnings from other ASEAN member countries surged 32 percent to 3.8 billion USD.

Crude oil and rice were the most favoured items by these markets, followed by electronic components, textile and garments, seafood, peanuts, coffees and rubber.

Recently, the Southeast Asian markets have started to open door wide for Viet Nam 's electrical cables, bicycles and spare parts, and children's toys.

According to the Trade Ministry, Singapore has for years retained its position as Viet Nam 's largest trader in the group and it continued to be the largest importer in the first six month of the year with 979 million USD.

In the period, Indonesia and Malaysia were the runners up with 766 million USD and 614 million USD, respectively.

Though earning remarkable exports revenue from other Southeast Asian countries, Viet Nam has spent a larger sum in imports from these markets, which now accounted for 25 percent of the country's total import value.

In the first six months, the country imported 6.9 billion USD in goods, mainly machinery, equipment, fertilisers, chemicals and petroleum, from other Southeast Asian countries, which saw 18 percent up from the same period last year.

Source: VNA

ASEAN looks at panel a competition

Ha Noi, 13/08/2007: The establishment of a panel on competition under the ASEAN Secretariat would boost and improve the competitive legal environment within the association.

Head of the Competition Management Department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Dinh Thi My Loan made the remark at a workshop in Ha Noi on August 13.

The workshop was co-organised by the Competition Management Department in coordination with the US Federal Trade Commission (USFTC), the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the French Agency for International Technical Cooperation (Adetef).

Source: VNA

FAO helps fisheries meet WTO requirements

Ha Noi, 14/08/2007: The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) will provide 250,000 USD to the country's fisheries industry for education campaigns on WTO requirements.

The signing of the aid took place in Ha Noi on August 14 in the presence of Deputy Minister Nguyen Viet Thang of Agriculture and Rural Development, which has been assigned to execute the project, and the FAO resident representative.

The 12 month project aims to ratchet up Viet Nam's commitments to the WTO and will provide companies and individuals with information relating to WTO agreements, the trade of aquatic products and the building of an open investment climate for seafood processing and trade promotion.

Source: VNA

ASEAN trade promotion conference held in Brazil

Ha Noi, 10/08/2007: A conference on ASEAN-Brazil trade promotion was held in Brazil as part of a series of activities to celebrate the 40th founding anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The conference introduced opportunities on trade and investment development between the group and Grand Do Sul in particular and Brazil as a whole.

The event drew the participation of the ambassadors of Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam to Brazil, authorities from the state of Grand Do Sul as well as business representatives.

An ASEAN trade fair was a highlight of the occasion, introducing handicraft goods as well as culinary arts from ASEAN countries.

Addressing the August 8 party to mark ASEAN's founding, Speaker of the Brazilian House of Representatives Arlindo Chinaglia expressed belief that trade and investment relations between Brazil and ASEAN will continue to grow.

As for Viet Nam, two-way trade with Brazil reached nearly 199 million USD in 2006, a 76 percent year-on-year increase, in which Vietnamese exports grossed 70.9 million USD. Viet Nam's major export products to the market included textiles, footwear, coal, rubber, machinery, and electronic parts.

Source: VNA

Implementation of MARD's Action Plan on WTO

Hanoi, 30 August 2007: In implementing Decision No. 612 of MARD Minister and the Government's Action Plan issued along with the Government's Resolution No. 16, MARD has taken the following actions:

Coordinate with the Post-WTO Steering Committee's Office and the Hanoi City People's Committee to organize 2 workshops in Hanoi on Vietnam's agricultural commitments to WTO. By this time, MARD has organized 23 workshops on this topic in provinces and cities. From now until the end of 2007, MARD will continue working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Committee for International Economic Cooperation and NGOs to organize 10-15 similar workshops;

Organize 2 meetings in Hanoi with Lao PDR's WTO negotiation delegation to exchange WTO accession-related lessons of experience in the field of agriculture. Lao PDR has requested Vietnam to further support their negotiation process by exchanging lessons of experience;

Coordinate with the MUTRAP project (EU-financed) Phase II, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, to obtain further

technical assistance, software and data for facilitating operations of the SPS Office, and to conduct thematic studies and research on post-WTO support to Vietnam in the field of food safety and SPS;

Elaborate and consult with MARD's departments and agencies a draft Action Plan for MARD in the period of 2007-2010, which is supplementary to implement Resolution No. 16 on the basis of the MARD Minister's Decision No. 612. Coordinate with the Post-WTO Support Program Steering Committee in the Government's Office to organize 2 workshops in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city to obtain comments from international consultants, sector's agencies and provinces; and finalize the Action Plan to submit to the Government at the end of September 2007;

Register to the Post-WTO Support Program in the Government's Office the research theme of "Impacts of international economic integration on agricultural sector after Vietnam becomes a WTO's member";

Finalize and issue a "Handbook on agricultural commitments to WTO"; and

Review existing legal documents: the Legislation Department has made a summary report reviewing existing legal documents on international economic integration, and will further improve the report in September 2007.

Activities planned for September 2007:

Finalize and submit to the Government the MARD's Action Plan to implement the Government's Resolution No. 16;

Proceed with the study "impacts of international economic integration on agricultural sector after Vietnam becomes a WTO's member"; and

Continue the review and issuance of legal documents relating to international economic integration./.

Source: ICDMARD

5. EXPORT PERFORMANCE

Coffee exports reach 1,3 billion USD in seven months



Ha Noi, 06/08/2007: Viet Nam earned 1.32 billion USD from exporting 880,000 tonnes of coffee in the first seven months of this year, representing year-on-year increases of 100 percent and 56 percent respectively, said MARD.

In July alone, Vietnamese companies shipped abroad 55,000 tonnes of coffee worth 91 million USD.

Coffee is now the biggest foreign currency earner among Viet Nam's agricultural products.

Source: VNA

World Aquaculture Society praises Viet Nam's potential

Ha Noi, 06/08/2007: Viet Nam is one of the fastest growing areas in aquacultural production in the world and the future for the Vietnamese aquaculture looks bright, said Executive director of the World Aquaculture Society John Cooksey.

Viet Nam's aquaculture industry is developing dynamically because it is well organised, supported by the government and has a strong team of scientists behind it, John told a Viet Nam News Agency's correspondent on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific aquaculture conference 2007, that is taking place from August 6-8 in Ha Noi.

"There is so much good water in Viet Nam including fresh, brackish and marine water that is providing Viet Nam opportunities for increased aquacultural development," John said.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), in 2006, aquaculture production reached 1.67 million tonnes, contributed 1.7 billion USD to a total of 3.32 billion USD of the aquacultural export value.

Viet Nam has become the world's third largest producer in aquacultural volume and one of the top ten product exporting countries.

However, according to Deputy Minister of MARD Nguyen Viet Thang, a small number of Vietnamese enterprises still face difficulties in some markets due to quality issue.

Thang said that aquacultural development in Viet Nam has achieved rapid growth in production and value while developing sustainability within food safety guideline, to meet international standards.

Viet Nam is now home to over 250 enterprises that are recognised to be qualified for exporting their products to markets such as European countries, the US and Japan.

The conference is attracting the participation of over 1,000 scientists, enterprises and officials from the aquacultural industry in the world.

Source: VNA

Shrimp and freshwater fish associations to be set up

Ha Noi, 06/08/2007: Shrimp processors and exporters will have their own associations under the Viet Nam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP), according to the Ministry of Fisheries.

A freshwater fish association will also be set up, the ministry said.

The two VASEP members will bring together businesses involving in processing and exporting shrimp and freshwater fish products to help each other in their operation and improve Viet Nam's seafood competitive edge.

Source: VNA

Nation promotes seafood exports to South America

Ha Noi, 01/08/2007: The Viet Nam Association for Seafood Export and Processing (VASEP) will send a delegation to Brazil and Chile from September 14-24 to conduct market research on the South American markets.

During its trip to the countries, the delegation will work with seafood import agencies to study the regulations and standards needed for Viet Nam to export to the markets.

A seminar on Viet Nam's seafood products which is expected to draw the participation of the South American countries' functional agencies, seafood importers and mass media, will also be run by the association.

During the fact-finding trip, which is part of the 2007 national trade promotion programme, the delegation will attend the Seafood Expo Latin America 2007 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Source: VNA

6. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Singapore tops list of ASEAN investors in Viet Nam



Ha Noi, 03/08/2007: Despite the volatility of foreign direct investment (FDI) capital flows from the ASEAN region into Viet Nam, Singapore has continued to increase the number of projects and capital it has poured into Asia's second fastest growing economy.

The city state, according to the latest statistics from the Department of Foreign Investment, has over the first seven months of this year pumped over 1.3 billion USD into 44 projects in Viet Nam, coming in at second among 39 countries and territories investing in Viet Nam over the period.

Since 1988, when Viet Nam first rolled out its Law on Foreign Investment, the tiny country has funnelled a total of 9.6 billion USD into 503 enterprises, the largest investment by any ASEAN country.

The average investment per project was also higher than the level for all other FDI initiatives, coming in at 18.7 million USD. That figure is 2-3 times higher than that of projects from several other foreign investor heavyweights such as the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

An expert from the Department of Foreign Investment, Nguyen Thuy Huong, said Singaporean investors are involved in almost all economic fields in the country, ranging from oil and gas exploitation, industry to agro-forestry-fisheries processing to the service sector.

Source: VNA

More 8.3 billion USD poured into Vietnam

Hanoi, 24 Aug 07: According to the Foreign Investment Agency (FIA) under the Ministry of Planning and Investment, over the past 8 months, Vietnam has lured more than 8.3 billion USD in terms of FDI, an approximate increase of 40% year on year.

Among this amount, more than 7 billion USD is the total capital investment of 814 newly licensed projects. The remaining one is the supplementary investment of 247 projects under going.

The FDI over the past 8 months are poured mainly into such areas as industry, construction, services and agro-forestry-fishery almost in Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Hanoi and HCMC.

Source: VNA

Viet Nam's market attractive for foreign investors

Tokyo, 20/08/2007: Viet Nam has achieved a remarkable economic growth rate and has become more attractive for foreign investors, Japan's Asahi newspaper reported.

The paper said that during the 2000-2006 period, Viet Nam reached an annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of close to 7 percent, becoming the second-fastest developing economy in Asia. Viet Nam's economy is expected to develop at around 8.5 percent in 2007.

The country is currently one of the most dynamic economies in Asia. Two-way trade accounts for approximately 160 percent of the of the Southeast Asian country's GDP. Foreign investment poured into the country has tripled during the period while domestic savings have risen five fold.

Viet Nam is the world's biggest cashew nut producer and the second rice exporter, with manufacturing, information technology and hi-tech industries serving as an engine for the country's swift economic development.

The paper attributed the attractiveness of Viet Nam's market to the potential spending capacity of the country's population of close to 85 million and an accelerated reform process brought on by World Trade Organisation commitments.

Source: VNA

7. MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS



Viet Nam promotes biological safety in poultry raising

Hai Duong, 07/08/2007: "Ensuring biological safety in poultry raising" is the theme of a forum which was held by the National Centre for Agricultural Extension (NCAE) in northern Hai Duong province on Aug. 7.

At the agricultural extension and technology forum, farmers and farm owners from 13 northern provinces and cities were provided with know-how to operate a poultry farm in a biologically safe manner.

Under a Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development plan which aims to move the poultry sector from small-scale to concentrated, industrial and semi-industrial production, the model of biologically safe fowls breeding needs to be expanded widely and has been listed in the national agricultural extension program.

According to NCAE, this model requires not only technical measures but also management expertise in processing and selling poultry products.

It has been multiplied in many localities nationwide as an effective way to curb the spreading of avian influenza.

Source: VNA

Workshop on experiences of China upon its WTO entry relating to ARD sector

Hanoi, 2 Aug 07: ISG coordinated with IPSARD held a workshop "the ARD sector in the context of WTO integration - Experience from China".

The Workshop was participated by relevant MARD' affiliated agencies and organization, including the members of MARD's International Cooperation network. The participants listened to Professor Jikun Huang from Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, presenting "China's agriculture integrating into the World market and impacts of trade liberalization".

The presentation mentioned that there had been great debate on China's WTO accession before China joined WTO, particularly the issue "who wins" and "who loses".

This workshop is a very good chance ARD sector's policy makers and researchers to get a more overall picture about China's WTO accession and impacts to the China's agriculture and economy.

More information can be obtained from IPSARD.

Source: ISG

8. NEW PUBLICATIONS ON ISG WEBSITE

List of reports newly posted on ISG website in the month



1. Institutional Innovation in Agricultural Research and Extension Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean (English)
2. Managing Mangroves for Resilience to Climate Change

3. Climate change and the spread of invasive species (English)
4. Biodiversity and Climate Change - General issues (English)
5. The Agriculture sector's regional integration: a door out to international market (Vietnamese)
6. Agriculture Sector Programme Support (ASPS) Viet Nam: Capacity Building Support to Vietnam Farmer Union (VNFU) Component: Impact, Lessons Learned and Recommendations. Final Report (English)
7. Post Harvest Programme for the North: Agricultural Sector Programme Support, Vietnam
8. Impact and Lessons Learned Study - Final Report (English)
9. Post Harvest Handling Activities in the Mekong River Delta: Agricultural Sector Programme Support, Vietnam- Impact and Lessons Learned Study - Final Report (English)
10. Economic Returns Of The Asps Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Component
11. Desk Study- Socialist Republic of Vietnam- Final (English)

Download attachments at:

<http://www.isgmard.org.vn/Information%20Service/Report/Report.asp>

List of new publications posted on ISG website

1. ISG Monthly Briefing-July-Aug-Sep - 2007
2. RWSS Partnership News Briefs

List of major legal documents issued in August 2007 concerning agricultural and rural development sector.

No	Issuing body, title and subject of document	Summary of key contents
By the Government		
1.	Government's Decree No. 129/2007/ND-CP dated 02 August 2007 specifying penalties imposed on administrative violations to dyke management regulations.	<p>According to this Decree, all the administrative violations to the dyke management regulations must be timely detected, penalized and immediately suspended.</p> <p>The maximum pecuniary penalty for a behavior of violation is 30 million dong. The penalization process must be quick, fair and strict; all the consequences to dykes and other related structures due to the behavior of administrative violation must be settled in accordance with the prevailing law ...</p> <p>The organization or individual penalized for the administrative violation in the field of dyke management shall have to implement, in a serious manner and within 10 days, the decision of penalty made by the responsible person. The prescription of a penalty to administrative violation to dyke management regulations is 2 years, counting from the day the behavior of violation takes place; if the prescription is over, penalty will not be implemented, but measures for consequences recovery will still be applied.</p>
By the Prime Minister		
2.	Prime Minister's Decision No. 129/2007/QD-TTg dated 02 August 2007 regarding the issuance of Regulation on office culture in state administrative agencies	<p>According to this Decision, smoking is strictly prohibited in offices, except festival events, ceremonies, new year's events and diplomatic receptions, provided that it is permitted by the leadership of the agency. Placing alters, burning incense or cooking in offices are not allowed. Collecting fees for keeping means of transport of visitors coming to the agencies for transactions and official works is strictly banned; so does commercial advertisement in public offices ...</p> <p>Government's employees and civil servants must bring official cards while performing their tasks, and must present polite and respectful behaviours to visitors. Saying rude words, using slang, shouting at visitors will not be acceptable ...</p>
3.	Prime Minister's Decision No. 132/2007/QD-TTg modifying and amending some provisions in Prime Minister's Decision No. 309/2005/QD-TTg dated 26 November 2005 on support to finance prevention and control of avian influenza (AI) epidemics	<p>According to this Decision, veterinarians and others who are directly involved in prevention and control of AI epidemics, e.g. culling, destroying contaminated chicken products, spraying chemicals for disinfection, and working at quarantine posts, will be entitled to financial support with the maximum level at 50,000 VND/person/day for a working day, and 100,000 VND/person/day for a public day-off, festival day, new year's event, etc...</p> <p>For provinces and cities under the central government's direct control which have to spend more than 1,000 million VND for prevention and control of AI epidemics, they will be supported by the central budget up to 50% of the expenditure ...</p>
By the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development		
4.	Decision No. 71/2007/ QD-BNN dated 6 August 2007 concerning regulations on order of steps and procedures for veterinary medicine testing and experimenting	<p>According to this Decision, the procedure for testing and experimenting veterinary medicine consists of 4 steps, namely: preparation of testing/experimenting documents; appraisal and notification of testing/experimenting results, and issuance of Decision on testing/experimenting; implementation of testing/experimenting contract and terms</p>

		of reference; and verification of testing/experimenting results. This Decision also clearly specifies responsibilities of different agencies in testing/experimenting veterinary medicine.
5.	Decision No. 72/2007/QD-BNN dated 6 August 2007 issuing Regulation on veterinary medicine inspection	This Decision specifies cases when veterinary medicine must be checked of quality, cases when such a quality check is not needed, and contents and mechanism for quality check of veterinary medicine. It also provides for quality inspection of veterinary medicine, and treatment of sub-standard veterinary medicine.
6.	Decision No. 73/2007/QD-BNN dated 8 August 2007 issuing Regulation on organizational set-up and operations of Steering Committee and Project Management Units (PMUs) under 5 million ha afforestation project	This Regulation provides detailed instructions on how to implement Provisions 11 and 12 of the Prime Minister's Decision No. 661/QD-TTg dated 29 July 1998 regarding objectives, functions, tasks, policy and implementation arrangements of the 5 million ha afforestation project. The Regulation specifies duties, tasks and mandates of the project Steering Committee, and PMUs at various levels, including the ministerial, provincial and grassroot levels, and the relationship and working regime thereof.
7.	Decision No. 74/2007/QD-BNN dated 17 August 2007 issuing Regulation on operational procedures for Cam Son reservoir in Bac Giang province	According to this Decision, Cau Son Irrigation Management Company is the operator and regulator of Cam Son reservoir. The Decision specifies provisions on operating the reservoir in the flood season, the dry season, and in emergency cases.
8.	Decision No. 75/2007/QD-BNN dated 17 August 2007 issuing Regulation on management of national agricultural extension programs and projects	This Regulation specifies procedures for formulation, appraisal and approval of agricultural extension programs and projects; implementation, supervision, monitoring and evaluation, measurements for acceptance and liquidation of projects and programs; responsibilities and mandates of organizations and individuals involving in agricultural extension projects and programs.
9.	Circular No. 76/2007/TT-BNN dated 21 August 2007 giving instructions on using forests and forest lands to cultivate rubber trees in Central Highlands	This Circular specifies conditions, authority to decide land use changes, namely shifting forests and forest lands to agricultural land for cultivating rubber trees; procedures for such a project formulation and approval; procedures and order of steps to shift parts of land of agricultural and forestry farms for cultivating rubber trees in the Central Highlands.

Source: ISG Secretariat

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