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

1. PLANNING/PROJECTION



Project to develop cacao till 2015 ratified

Ha Noi, 17/09/07: MARD has approved a 40 billion VND (2.5 million USD) project to develop

cacao up until 2015.

The project plans to cultivate put 60,000 ha of cacao by 2015 in order to yield 52,000 tonnes of dry cacao nuts and earning between 50-60 million USD from export revenues.

By 2020, 80,000 ha of cacao will be in place that will produce 108,000 tonnes of dry cacao nuts and between 100-120 million USD.

The Government will have policies to encourage agencies, localities, and individuals, to quicker seedling production.

Source: VNA

MARD promotes crassna plantation for essential oil

Ha Noi, 18/09/07: MARD plans to zone off 30,000 ha for growing fragrant do tram (aquilaria crassna) trees, which produce resinous heartwood, a highly valuable product commonly used in the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries.

The Ministry will also transfer the technology for essential oil refining to farmers under a plan set till 2010.

At a symposium on the development of do tram tree held in Ha Noi on September 17, experts estimated that growers can earn a profit of between 100-300 million VND per ha of do tram tree a year.

Currently, Viet Nam has more than 10,000 ha of do tram trees, mostly in private farms.

Source: VNA

2. NEW PROJECTS FOR THE SECTOR

Danida Supports Development of Brand Name Strategies In The Fisheries Sector



Hanoi, 21/09/07: In order to improve the export and competitiveness of Vietnamese fisheries products, the Danish funded fisheries sector programme (FSPSII) is assisting state authorities and private enterprises in developing strategies for marketing branded products.

An extensive fieldwork conducted by international and Vietnamese consultants were presented at a national consultation in Ho Chi Minh City on 12-13 September 2007.

Nearly 100 interested stakeholders including fishermen, aquaculturists, small-scale processors and exporters, as well as provincial and central government officials attended the consultation where the findings from the fieldwork was presented and discussed.

Many Vietnamese companies already have well-established brands in the domestic, regional or international market place. However, there is a clear need for greater institutional support from both public and private sector actors in developing a coherent national strategy to strengthen the image of Vietnam's branded fish products.

Various strategies on promoting of brands of fish and other food products were considered, including successful experiences from other countries. At the national level, developing a trademark or seal of quality, guaranteeing high quality Vietnamese seafood seems appropriate. This would allow exporters to keep their own established brands, but at the same time enable them to prove that they meet international standards, showing a national quality mark if they meet the requirements.

Following the stakeholder feedback received at the consultation, Danida and the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) will now provide further assistance to Vietnamese stakeholders. Building on the recommendations from the consultation, support will be provided to further build and strengthen Vietnam's growing reputation as a quality producer of high quality branded fish and fish products.

Source: Danish Embassy web

3. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Sixth Poverty Reduction Support Credit signed to aid Vietnam's further reforms

Hanoi, September 19, 2007 - The sixth Poverty Reduction Support Credit (PRSC) worth a total of 175 million US dollars, was signed today between the State Bank of Vietnam and the World Bank. The credit supports the implementation of the five-year Socio-Economic Development Plan 2006-2010.

PRSC operations are channeled directly to the government budget in recognition of policy actions undertaken to sustain growth and reduce poverty. Those actions focus on completing the transition towards a market economy, preserving social inclusion, better managing natural resources and the environment, and strengthening governance.

Funds for PRSC are provided by the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's concessional lending arm. Co-financing for PRSC 6 is expected from several donors, including ADB, Spain, Australia, Canada, Denmark, the UK, the EC, Germany, Ireland, Japan, and the Netherlands, roughly amounting to an additional 190 million US dollars.

PRSC 6 is provided in recognition for the progress accomplished in policy reforms in Vietnam

over the last year across several important areas such as Business Development, Social inclusion, Natural resources, Modern governance.

The World Bank is also committed to working closely with Vietnam on PRSC7 in the coming year and will further increase support for Vietnam's reforms.

Source: WB

4. BILATERAL COOPERATION

Viet Nam, Holland grow cacao industry



Ha Noi, 21/09/07: Holland will help cacao production in Viet Nam by kicking off public awareness drives, providing training on cacao development and ensuring environmental protection standards are met.

An agreement was signed between the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in Ha Noi on Sept. 21.

Deputy MARD Minister Diep Kinh Tan said that by the end of May, 2007, Viet Nam has had almost 9,000 ha of high quality cacao, mainly in the south of the country.

According to Sharief Mohamed, a senior expert from the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Viet Nam has a tremendous potential for cacao industry in the southern and Central Highlands provinces. "If Viet Nam implements appropriate policies, it would become the largest cacao producer in the world due to its unique flavour," he said.

Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development approved a project to develop cacao up until 2015 aimed at cultivating 60,000 ha of cacao by 2015 in order to yield 52,000 tonnes of dry cacao nuts and earn between 50-60 million USD from export revenues.

By 2020, 80,000 ha of cacao will be in place that will produce 108,000 tonnes of dry cacao nuts and between 100-120 million USD.

Source: MARD-VNA

Netherlands helps build on agriculture, fisheries framework

Ha Noi, 20/09/07: The Netherlands will help Viet Nam draw up policies relating to agriculture and fisheries in order to ease poverty and ratchet up sustainable development in the sectors.

A two-year project on building a Viet Nam-Netherlands water partnership programme and ecological system was launched in Ha Noi on September 20 as the key driver of the programme.

Dutch experts said that Viet Nam's future development will largely depend on water resources.

Viet Nam uses water resources for both power generation and irrigation. Suitable management of water resources will in turn be a decisive condition for sustainable development.

Source: VNA

Viet Nam, Tanzania strengthen agricultural cooperation

Ha Noi, 10/09/07: Vietnamese enterprises that wish to invest in fertilizer production in Tanzania will be afforded investment incentives, according to Steven M. Wassira, Tanzanian Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives.

In Viet Nam on a six-day visit, Wassira and Vietnamese Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Cao Duc Phat both stated their desire to strengthen agricultural cooperation at their talks on September 10.

Viet Nam pledged to support Tanzania's agricultural development while the African country asked the Southeast Asian nation to increase technological transfers and investment in agricultural processing and cattle raising.

Minister Phat pointed to the possibility of bumping up cashew imports from Tanzania and rice exports to the African state.

Viet Nam and Tanzania established diplomatic ties in 1965. Two-way trade between the two countries reached 31 million USD in 2006. Viet Nam imported cotton, wood, garment material and leather from Tanzania while rice was the country's main export staple to the African country.

During their stay in Viet Nam, the delegation will visit Dong Anh district in Ha Noi and several places in northern Vinh Phuc province to study several farm models and irrigation system.

Source: VNA

5. EXPORT PERFORMANCE



Exports of agro-forestry products in August 2007

Hanoi, 8/07: According to MARD's Department of Planning, the total export turnover of the agro-forestry products in August 2007 reached 782.318 million USD, pushing up the number until August to 6.046 billion USD, equivalent to 126,7% compared to 2006. Among which, turnover of agro-products reached 580.064 million USD, making the number until August up to 4.371 billion USD, about 128,5% compared to 2006; the one of forestry products is 202.254 million USD, making the number until August up to 1.674 billion USD, around 122,2% compared to last year.

Source: MARD

Vietnam enterprises participating in big fisheries fairs

Hanoi, 13/09/07: VASEP facilitates the country's fisheries enterprises to participate in fairs and market investigation in South Africa, Russia, Australia, and Spain. These tours are aimed to introduce Vietnam's fishery potentials, promote trading and create relations between Vietnam enterprises and international fisheries importers.

The mission to South Africa started on 10th Sep and will finish on 20th Sep. It will visit the Seafood Expo Latin America 2007; some factories and fishing ports in Santos, Brazil and fishing market of Terminal Pesquero Metropolitan, Salmon fishing and processing in Puerto Montt.

Another mission of 30 export-import staffs from fisheries enterprises has come to the World Food Moscow (Russia) Fair from 14th to 24th Sep. Many of these enterprises have exported sea products to Russia over the past years. This is the biggest annual food fair in Moscow, Russia.

The mission to Sydney, Australia for the Fine Food Fair will be from 24th to 27th Sep. This is the prestigious one held annually in Australia, including an area for seafood.

The mission to Spain for Conxemar Fair, one of the most important fairs in EU, will start on 29th Sept.

Source: VNA

6. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Foreign investment reaches 9.6 billion USD



Ha Noi, 23/09/07: The country has over the past nine months attracted over 9.6 billion USD in foreign direct investment (FDI), an increase of 38 percent over the same period last year.

The Republic of Korea maintains its leading status among 47 foreign investors in Viet Nam with a registered investment of 2.1 billion USD, making up 25.4 percent of the total. The RoK was followed by Singapore with 1.3 billion USD or 16.6 percent of the total, the British Virgin Islands with 1.2 billion USD and Taiwan with 629.7 million USD. Japan took over the fifth position from India by pouring in 623.1 million USD.

Newly-licensed projects averaged 8 million USD a project against 7.01 million USD recorded in the same period last year. The top 15 projects alone accounted for 45.7 percent of the combined investment of the 1,045 newcomers, reported the Foreign Investment Department under the Ministry of Planning and Investment.

Source: MPI-VNA

Viet Nam, China to increase agricultural ties

Hong Kong, 15/09/07: A delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is visiting China's province of Guangzhou under a programme to strengthen agricultural cooperation.

On September 15, the delegation, led by Deputy Minister Diep Kinh Tan, attended an opening ceremony of an international exhibition of small and medium enterprises, which draw the participation of a number of Vietnamese businesses.

The Vietnamese delegation plans to have a meeting with the local agriculture department during which the two sides are expected to sign agreements on agricultural cooperation.

On this occasion, a seminar will be held to boost trade and investment between the two countries.

Source: VNA

Conference to enlarge inflow of foreign investment

HCM City, 11/09/07: More than 100 representatives from banks, investment funds and businesses both at home and abroad flocked to a conference to promote investment into Viet Nam, which opened in Ho Chi Minh City on September 11.

Nguyen Thi Hong, Vice Chairwoman of the HCM City People's Committee, introduced major projects that are currently in need of foreign investment.

The official also pledged to speed up reforms in all areas in order to create a more open and transparent investment climate for investors.

Addressing the event, VinaCapital General Director Don Lam attributed Viet Nam's strong attraction of foreign investment to its young workforce, low labour costs, social and political stability.

Speakers at the conference said foreign investors are now interested in the private sector, infrastructure development and real estate.

During the two-day event, participants will also touch upon issues related to investment opportunities and experiences, difficulties and challenges, and potential businesses in Viet Nam.

Viet Nam has seen an increasing flow of foreign investment in recent years, reaching 10.2 billion USD in 2006. The figure exceeded the 8 billion USD mark in the first eight months of this year.

Source: VNA

163 national projects in need of foreign investment

Ha Noi, 01/10/2007: The Prime Minister has issued a list of 163 national projects that are calling for foreign investment from 2006-2010, said the MPI.

A majority of the projects, 109 in total are in the fields of industry and construction, covering infrastructure, mining and metallurgy, mechanical engineering, electricity, petrochemistry, chemicals, building materials, and hi-technology.

Forty-eight listed projects involve post and telecommunications, health care, education and training, and hotels.

The remaining six projects are in the agro-forest-fishery sector, said the ministry, noting that the list is likely to be adjusted periodically in accordance with the country's development.

Source: VNA

Kon Tum touts for Taiwanese investment

Kon Tum, 26/09/2007: Central Highlands Kon Tum province in coordination with Taiwanese InnovGreen company organized a seminar on September 26 to tout its investment opportunities.

At the seminar, Kon Tum's authorities presented the locality's potential for agricultural and forestry development.

The province has paid attention to developing infrastructure, banking and commercial services, and industrial zones as well as upgrading universities and colleges. It also gives priorities for investment in hydro-electricity, Afforestation and mining projects.

Taiwanese investors suggested Kon Tum to focus on agricultural product processing and planting strategic crops in order to effectively utilize the rural labour force and bring in practical results for poverty reduction in the area.

At the seminar, local authorities and InnovGreen signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in a 90 million USD afforestation project in Kon Tum.

Source: VNA

US cotton workshop to be held in HCM City

Ha Noi, 22/09/07: A workshop on US cotton production sector will be held in Ho Chi Minh City on October 15, 2007 as President Michael Adams of the Cotton Council International (CCI) and his delegation will visit the country from October 14-16.

The workshop, jointly held by the CCI, the Viet Nam Textile and Apparel Association, the Viet Nam Textile and Apparel Group and the Viet Nam Fiber Association, will provide information on US cotton production and exports and cotton trading through the New York Board of Trade (NYBOT).

The workshop is an opportunity for Viet Nam's textile and apparel businesses to find base with the America Cotton Shipper Association (ACSA), the US Cotton Marketing Cooperatives (AMCOT), the American Cotton Producers (ACP), Allenberg Cotton Co. and Weil Bros Cotton Inc.

Source: VNA

7. INVESTMENT



MARD approves \$2.5 million cocoa crop expansion

Hanoi, 22-09-2007: MARD has approved a VND40 billion (about US\$2.5 million)

expansion of Viet Nam's cocoa crop.

And the Viet Nam Farmers' Association will guarantee non-interest State-loans for farmers who undertake the project.

Twenty seven of Viet Nam's provinces are thought suitable for high-quality cocoa but it is grown on 45,000ha in only nine at between 1.5 tonnes and 2 tonnes per ha. That figure is now expected to increase to 60,000ha at an average of 1.5 tonnes per ha by 2015.

Projected yearly export revenue is put at \$50-60 million.

Capital for the project is expected to come from the State budget, agencies, international organisations and individuals. Priority will be given to the development of hybrid seeds for standard cocoa cultivation through intensive farming.

MARD Vice Minister Minister Diep Kinh Tan has instructed the Department of Crops Production to co-ordinate the writing of the cocoa development plan to include processing technology.

"The State will create the conditions for localities, organisations and individuals to produce high-quality cocoa seedlings," he says.

The provinces will provide investment capital to build irrigation and transport systems.

The ministry's Agriculture Extension Centre Director Tong Khiem says it planned to grow cocoa in 14 provinces of the Tay Nguyen (the Central Highlands) as well as the south-east and central-south, especially Binh Phuoc, Ben Tre, Ba Ria-Vung Tau and Binh Dinh provinces. "We will increase investment in seedling research," he says. Potential farmers will be taught without fee and irrigation services will be provided free.

The director says agencies to buy cocoa have been established in Ben Tre and Dac Lac provinces where the crop is now grown and traders are satisfied with the quality.

MARD has started a cocoa seedling programme with the focus on choosing and hybridising sufficient high-quality seed for farmers.

The Tay Nguyen Agriculture and Forestry Technology Institute has built a system of gardens to produce the hybrid seedlings on 7.5ha. MARD Department of Crops Production Director, Nguyen Chi Ngoc, says Viet Nam planted about 7,000ha of cocoa with support from the United States Success Alliance Programme between 2003-04.

The Measures and Standard Centre had helped build the national standard for cocoa.

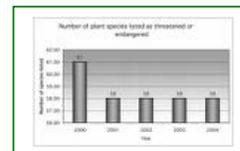
But cocoa farmers face many difficulties including a shortage of quality seedlings.

Some poor-quality seed has been used and cocoa growers have not attracted as many commercial partners as growers of other commercial crops. But cocoa requires less capital than other cash crops and could be harvested earlier. Supply does not match global demand because some key African countries are unstable.

Source: VNS

8. ODA PERFORMANCE

ODA procedures to be simplified



Ha Noi, 19/09/07: The Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) has at last called for a simplification of procedures relating to official development assistance (ODA) projects.

The Prime Minister asked MPI to design a common form of reports for pre-feasibility and feasibility studies that can be used by both foreign donors and partners from Viet Nam.

The ministry was also asked to fine-tune regulations on tendering and resettlement issues. The PM's instructions comes after commitments to improve the efficiency of foreign aid were made by the Vietnamese Government at the annual Consultative Group (CG) donor meetings.

At the mid-term CG meeting held in June, Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem once again stressed that the Government has been attempting to accelerate administrative streamlining of ODA, reforms, the fight against corruption while making improvements to the legal system on ODA capital management.

Source: MPI-VNA

From Quantity To Quality In Rural Water Supply

Hanoi, 09/07: Much progress has been made on the coverage of clean water supply for the Vietnamese rural population. However, not all the existing water schemes are well functioning. Danida's support endeavours to help change the Vietnamese focus to a balance between quantity and quality of the water schemes.

Currently, there are about 7,000 water piped schemes and millions of individual water facilities in Vietnam; however, a lot of efforts will have to be made to reach the target that by year 2010, 85% of the Vietnamese rural population will have access to hygienic water.

Whereas strong development has been made on increasing the quantity of water schemes, the quality of these schemes is still a big challenge. The MARD-Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

(CERWASS) has reviewed existing water schemes in 39 provinces or cities and found out that 14 % of the schemes are not operational at all or operated under very poor conditions.

Operation and Maintenance of water schemes has been one of the main issues in the policy discussion between the donors in the joint support (Denmark, Australia, and the Netherlands) and the Vietnamese counterparts aimed at improving the effectiveness and sustainability of the Vietnamese Rural Water Supply and Sanitation National Target Programme II (RWSS NTP II).

Provinces are encouraged to allocate funds for renovating/upgrading existing water supply schemes instead of concentrating on new construction.

“It is not economical to focus only on new construction. If in 2008, we prioritise our funds on renovation/upgrading the existing schemes, we can provide access to water to a large number of rural people with much lower costs than building new schemes.” said Minister Cao Duc Phat, chairman of the RWSS NTP II Steering Committee.

Paying equal attention to the quality of water schemes is a positive move of the government to ensure that the limited resources for the RWSS NTP II will be utilized in the most effective way. For more information regarding CERWASS’s report, please click <http://www.ambhanoi.um.dk> or at the ISG website:

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

Source: web of Danish Embassy

9. MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

International Seminar on Improved duck production of small-scale farmers in Asian and Pacific Region (ASPAC)

Hanoi, from 17 to 21 Sep 2007: The National Institute of Animal Husbandry (NIAH), Hanoi-Vietnam in cooperation with Livestock Research Institute Taiwan has organized the International Seminar on “Improved duck production of small scale farmers in Asian and Pacific Region” at NIAH Meeting hall, Thuy Phuong-Tu Liem Hanoi.

Participating in the seminar were 40 coming from Vietnam, French, Thailand, Taiwan, Indonesia, South Korea, Philippine and Malaysia. There were 26 country and resource reports presented at the seminar.

After the seminar the participants had a chance to visit Duck Research Center-NIAH and see the pilot farms on safe duck heading system in Red River delta region.

The objective of seminar is to promote efficient production of ducks for Asian small-scale farmers by its genetic improvement and the improved cultural

practices, and the enhanced cooperation among the Asian countries.

Seminar has given the Asian small-scale farmers a technical guide as to how to efficiently improve duck production, especially the way to minimize the spreading of bird flu; to disseminate the usefulness of biotechnology to increase egg production and fertility, and improve viable embryos development and hatchability; To promote an international cooperation scheme among the Asian countries for further dissemination of biotechnology in duck production, and transfer of promising technologies.

Source: NIAH

10. NEW PUBLICATIONS ON ISG WEBSITE



Documentary Film “International Cooperation and Agriculture in Vietnam”

Hanoi, 8th July 07:
International Cooperation

Department – Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has completed and distributed a documentary film on “International Cooperation and Agriculture in Vietnam”.

The film is developed upon the direction of the Minister of MARD. It’s the first publication ever synthesising the achievements of the agriculture and rural development sector over the past years with the great contributions from international donor community as well as from the staffs involved in the sector’s international cooperation activities. The film mission came to some project sites of high efficiency and big scale in the field of forestry, irrigation, and integrated rural development. Some interviews with the government agencies and major donors were conducted and included in the film.

The development of the film is supported by the International Support Group – a policy dialogue forum of MARD with the international organizations. The CR-ROM has been distributed to the related government agencies and international organizations.

Source: ISG

New publication: Questions and Answers on the WTO Agreement of Agriculture (AoA)

Hanoi, Aug 07: In order to provide the state management officers in the ARD sector, the enterprises and producers of food and agro-products with an in-depth understanding of the WTO Agreement of Agriculture so as to make full use of and to get benefit from the document in real production and trading activities in the national and international markets, the International Cooperation Department of MARD, with support from ISG, compiled the publication “Questions and Answers on WTO Agreement of Agriculture”. The publication

gives detailed explanation to every article of the agreement.

It's hoped that the publication will be a useful reference to readers during the ARD sector's integration into the global economy.

Soft version in Vietnamese is available on ISG website at:

http://www.isgmard.org.vn/Information%20Service/Experience/exp_V.asp

Source: ISG

List of reports newly posted on ISG website in the month

[1. MARD-DANIDA / ASPS: Seed component's final report-2000 – 2007 \(in Vietnamese\)](#)

[2. Report on the management, operation of rural water supply schemes – CERWASS-MARD](#)

[3. Report: Market Research Of The Development Training And Consultancy](#)

(Prepared for SDC by MDF and OCD)

[4. Telecentres for Rural Poverty Reduction](#)

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-Oct - 2007

2. RWSS Partnership News Briefs

3. Questions and answers on WTO Agreement of Agriculture (in Vietnamese)

11. COMING EVENT

Annual ISG Plenary Meeting



Hanoi October: It's planned that the annual Plenary Meeting of the ISG process will be held on 7 November 2007 with the theme "Rural development for equity and sustainability".

This is the largest forum for policy dialogue between the GoV/MARD and the donor community, which is chaired by MARD Minister.

Preparations for the meeting is being facilitated by MARD-ICD-ISG. Please visit our ISG website regularly to get updated about this important event of the year.

International Conference on Sustainable Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation: Roles of Traditional Forest-related Knowledge

17-20 December 2007, Kunming, China

See details at:

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

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

No.	Issuing body, title and subject of document	Summary of key contents
By the government		
1.	Decree 139/2007/ND-CP dated 5 th Sept. 2007 by the Government providing detailed guidelines for the implementation of some articles in the Business Law. <i>(signed by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung)</i>	Including 31 articles: regulating a list of 14 areas in which doing business is banned. Others will be regulated in relevant legal documents of specific areas. All legal entities, including foreign invested enterprises are entitled to establish or join in the establishment of enterprises in Vietnam. Organizing or changing type of enterprise (from one-member limited company to more than two member limited company; joint-stock company or more than two member limited company to one-member limited company; limited company in to joint-stock company) must follow simple procedures in conformity with the practice. These processes have to be in accordance with the law. The changing proposals have to be submitted to the competent business registration agency.
By the Prime Minister		
2.	Decision 149/2007/QĐ-TTg dated 10 th Sept. 2007 by the Prime Minister approving the national program on food hygiene and safety program period 2006-2010 <i>(signed by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung)</i>	The objective of the program: 90% of producers and 80% of consumers understand and conduct right implementation on food hygiene and safety by 2010. In addition, strengthening capacity for the management, inspection and testing system from Central level to provinces and in line ministries/agencies; increasing awareness and implementation of food hygiene and safety as well as responsibility awareness of the producers, traders, and consumers. The program concludes 6 components: Improving capacity to manage the quality of food hygiene and safety in Vietnam; Information, education and communication for ensuring food hygiene and safety; strengthening food testing capacity, monitoring and food-originated diseases; ensuring food hygiene and safety in producing, preserving, processing agriculture products and food; ensuring disease safety, environment safety, and food safety for fishing products; Ensuring street-food hygiene and safety.
3.	Decision 147/2007/QĐ-TTg dated 10 th Sept. 2007 by the Prime Minister providing some policies on production forest development period 2007 – 2015 <i>(signed by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung)</i>	The decision includes 3 chapters and 20 articles, applying for those organizations, households, individuals, local communities who conduct forest planting, exploiting, and processing in complying with Vietnam's laws. The projects regulated by the Decision 151/2006/NĐ-CP dated 20 th Dec. 2006 and the areas for forest planting supported by ODA funds are not subjected to this Decision's regulation. The state encourages organizations, households, individuals of all economic sectors to plant forest and process forest products in complying with the law on forest protection and development.
By the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development		
4.	Directive 77/2007/CT-BNN dated 6 th Sept. 2007 speeding up the control of prohibited chemicals and antibiotic in production, fishing and preservation of seafood and residues in imported-exported seafood	Under the Directive, Directors of Fisheries/ Agriculture and Rural Development Departments in provinces/cities are to steer their affiliated animal health and hygiene safety and quality management agencies to inspect immediately the control of prohibited chemicals, antibiotics in fishing, exploiting, and preservation of seafood. Infringed units have to be treated strictly; the competent agencies are

	<i>(Signed by Minister Cao Duc Phat)</i>	requested to withdraw the business registration certificates of those breaking the laws on seafood trading. All imported catfish, crustacean (crabs, lobsters), poulp, cuttle to be processed for exporting or domestic consumption have to be under residues controlling.
5.	Directive 78/2007/TT-BNN dated 11 th Sept. 2007 guiding the implementation of the project agriculture – forestry – fishery extension and supporting the development of industries under the National Poverty Reduction Program period 2006-2010 – <i>(Signed by Vice Minister Ho Xuan Hung)</i>	Under the directive, the implementation of the Agriculture Extension and Production Development must be conducted in a transparent, democratic way and within the scope of the master plan of the Poverty Reduction Program period 2006-2010, and must be linked with the commune, district, and province social-economic development plans. The Directive regulates the objective, subject and assistance rate of the program. It also guides the process of formulating, appraising and approving projects.
6.	Circular 79/2007/TT-BNN dated 20 th Sept. 2007 amending some items of the Circular 01/2007/TT-BNN dated 15 th Jan. 2007 guiding the implementation of the Production supporting Project under the Program 135 period 2006-2010 <i>(signed by Vice Minister Ho Xuan Hung)</i>	According to the Circular 79/2007/TT-BNN, followings are subjected to be supported by the project: agriculture, fishery and industry extension activities, development and dissemination of production models, seeds, breeds, production materials (for poor households), supporting for purchasing of production equipments and tools, processing and preservation equipments. The circular also guides the process of formulating, appraising, approving investment plans.
7.	Circular 80/2007/TT-BNN dated 24 th Sept. 2007 guiding the planning of agro-forestry production linked with agro-forestry product processing and consumption and the procedures of production support for the Son La hydro-power resettled areas <i>(Signed by Vice Minister Ho Xuan Hung)</i>	The circular orients the agro-forestry planning linked with agro-forestry product processing and consumption for the Son La hydro-power resettled areas towards diversified, typical, sustainable, and effective production in order to increase income, and improve the living conditions in these areas.

Source: ISG Secretariat

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