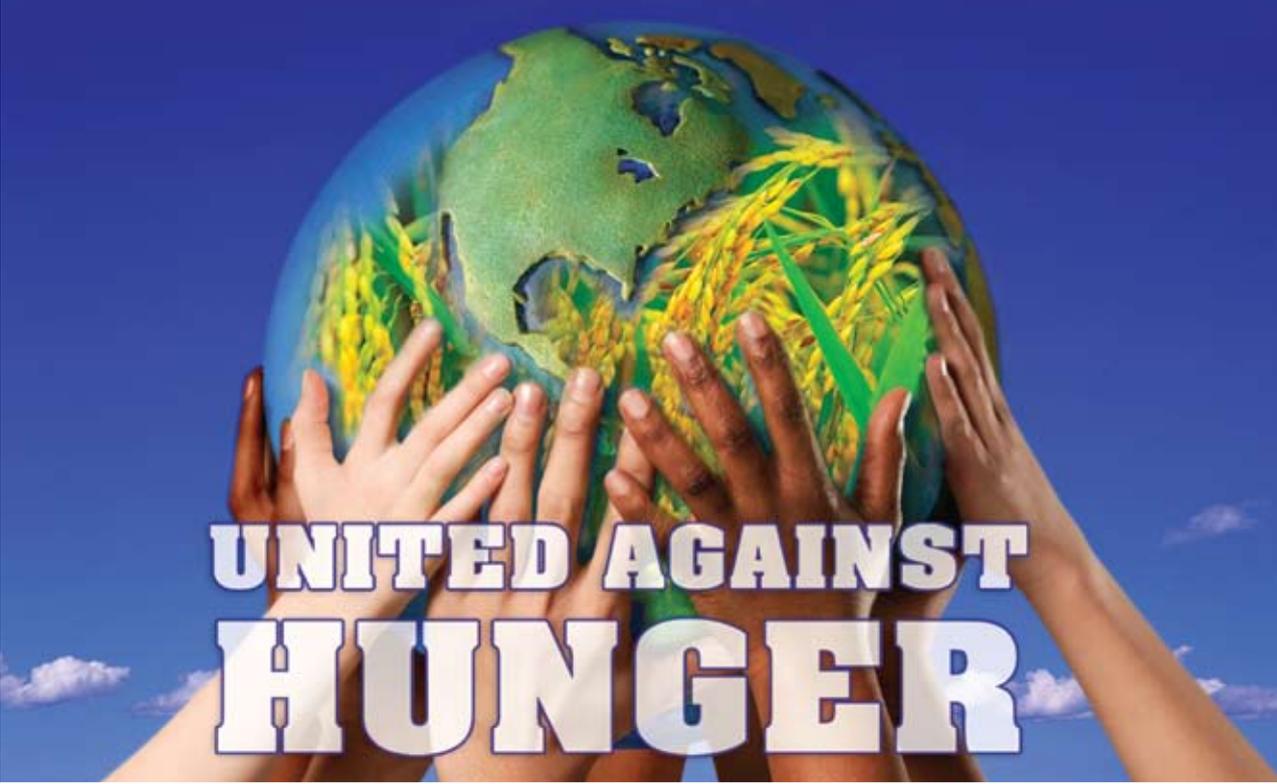


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ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD FOOD DAY 16/10/2010



**UNITED AGAINST
HUNGER**

The FAO selected the topic “*United against hunger*” in order to obtain the target that by 2015 the total number of people in hunger will decrease by a half compared to the current number. A conference participated by representatives from many countries around the world was held on the occasion of this year’s World Food Day at FAO HeadQuarter in Rome (Italy) to answer the question “ why a billion of people in the world are still suffering from hunger “. Mr. Jacques Diouf, FAO Director

General said: “This year, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the World Food Day, a day receiving much attention from all around the world for over 3 decades. Food security is not the responsibility of any individual organization, but all”. Also at the ceremony, a letter calling for the world to fight against poverty has been posted on the Internet, and Mr. Diouf calls for the world-wide people’s signatures to this letter, as an action showing the ultimate efforts toward the fight against hunger.(NTT)



Mr. Jacques Diouf, FAO Director General

VIETNAM CELEBRATES THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD FOOD DAY AND 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

At the Institute of Agro-forestry Sciences in the Northern mountainous area, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the World Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) held a 30-year anniversary of the World Food Day and the 65th anniversary of FAO (16/10/1980 - 10/16/2010) with the theme “*United against hunger.*”



Ms. Yuriko Shoji- Chief Representative of FAO- Hanoi



Addressing at the ceremony, Ms. Yuriko Shoji- Chief Representative of FAO in Hanoi revealed “*anti-poverty task is very important and urgent to Vietnam, a country with large agricultural production*”. In the first 9 months of this year, there were more than 284,000 households with nearly 2.654 million inhabitants suffering from hunger (GSO). Households suffering from hunger mainly concentrated in the midland region, northern mountainous region.

Ms. Yuruki Shoji said in the short term, FAO has supported several projects on

sustainable agro-forestry production in the mountainous north through the Institute of agriculture and forestry sciences of in the mountainous north. Currently these projects are being implemented very well.

FAO warns that in the context of the scarcity of arable land as today, in future food production will have to increase by 75% so as to provide enough food for 9 billion people by 2050. Therefore, the main theme to commemorate the 30th anniversary of World Food Day of 16/10/1980 - 16/10/2010 will be “*Joint hands against poverty*” which is implemented in every nation, at regional and international levels. It is targeted that by 2015 the number of people who suffer from hunger worldwide will be reduced to half.

At the ceremony, Vice Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu said that in the past years, Vietnam’s

agricultural sector faced many difficulties such as drought, natural disasters, epidemics, fluctuating world gasoline and fertilizer prices, greatly causing many impacts on agricultural production in Vietnam. However, overcoming the challenges, Vietnam has basically met the needs of food in the country that has a population growth of 1 million people per year. To ensure food security, MARD and MONRE agreed to keep the area for rice production by 2030 at 3.8 million ha.

On this occasion, Vice Minister Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu, authorized by the Government of Vietnam, thanks FAO for the valuable support and assistance for agriculture and rural



Vice Minister Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu

areas of Vietnam in the past and looks forward to continuing to receive the attention and assistance from FAO in the coming time, especially to the new rural areas development program in Vietnam. (*Van Toan*)

ACTION PLANS OF FAO AND THE “ONE UN” ON TAM NONG OF VIETNAM

Vietnam has manifested extraordinary economic development in just two and a half decades of implementation of reform that started in 1986, which sets the country as a unique example of success. At the same time, as an agriculture-based society, it faces challenges of having the majority of its population or 70 percent, based in the rural area. The rural population may or may not have fully benefitted from the pace of rapid development at the national level, resulting in outdated systems of production, inadequate quality of life for individuals and families, and driving some part of the population into internal and external migration where the livelihoods may remain precarious. The income gap between the poorest quintile and richest quintile has increased from 3-4 folds to a difference of 10 times (*GSO- General poverty rate by residence and by region (24/08/2010)*).



(Cont. page 3)

FAO, together with partners in the UN system and the donor community, wishes to commend the government's bold resolve to introduce Tam Nong initiative, a wide-sweeping rural reform programme which will affect all aspects of life in the rural communities. We are honoured to be able to take part in the development of the implementation plan, and are pleased that response from the partners and donors we have approached has been positive, so that we hope to be able to bring in lessons and best practices from around the globe on the decentralized

development programme. The UN is at the juncture of the elaboration of our next One Plan with the Government, due to start from 2012. We are in discussion with our UN partners who are equally enthralled by the idea of Tam Nong, to be able to start with key preparatory activities so that a UN programme could be developed for funding by interested donors. We wish to congratulate the government for the initiation of the Tam Nong programme.

(Nguyen Thi Huong, National Programme Officer, FAO Vietnam)



IFAD together with the Government of Vietnam in “Tam nông” implementation

Implementing the Resolution 26-NQ/TW dated 05.08.2008 by the Party Central Committee of the Xth tenure on issues of “Agriculture, Farmers and Rural areas — The Tam Nong”, the Government issued decision 491/QĐ-TTg dated 16/4/2008 on the issuance of the national set of criteria for new rural areas, decision 800/QĐ-TTg dated 04/6/2010 on approval of the National Targeted Programme on development of new rural areas. This program is a overall framework for comprehensive rural development, as a basis to guide the entire program, the projects which have been implemented in rural areas.



The unity of direction from the central to local levels, with the establishment of the Central Steering Committee (led by permanent Deputy Prime Minister as its Chair) and a single steering committee in each province, allows more effective coordination of programs and projects implemented on a same area and for the same beneficiaries.

What's important is that the program considers communes as implementation agencies. Everything from design, construction to implementation and supervision are done by communities, in which ministries and sectors just play guiding and supporting roles. This new approach has received strong support from the Party, Government, local authorities and residents. However, this new approach has to face quite a lot of challenges.

in implementing poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies also requires breakthrough fundamental changes.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) officially supported Vietnam since 1991 through projects focusing on rural development areas in remote areas, diversification of income for rural poor towards poverty reduction. Along with the “Tam Nong”, IFAD's approach is being developed in the form of joint efforts with the government in implementation of these goals.

Besides the challenge of capital raising, changing the approach to develop contents for programs and new-phase projects at ministries and sectors still faces many troubles. Additionally, how to share common goals with development partners to effectively support the Government of Vietnam

Three new projects are being designed for the three provinces of Gia Lai, Ninh Thuan and Tuyen Quang, whose objectives are to support implementation of agriculture,



(Cont. page 4)

farmers and rural areas, in which the contents and operation of the projects are to support the National Target Program on development of new rural areas development, based on the national criteria on the new rural areas.

The new content of IFAD projects under construction has received strong support from

the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and local authorities. This is considered a sample form of cooperation between the Government and development partners to construct Vietnamese new rural areas to be beautiful and sustainable. *(Dang Van Cuong, Department of Cooperative Economy and Rural Development).*



IFAD Photo by Louis Dematteis (Tuyen Quang Province Project)

Agricultural cooperatives - Basis for comprehensive agricultural development



The new service that links consumption / supply has improved in the market place and has access to both buyers and sellers. The total turnover of cooperatives has increased and services have contributed to building a new type of cooperative model and improve livelihoods of cooperative members. It is important, the national programme for new rural area development of the government has given the criteria of the "model cooperative" to the criteria for new rural areas.



The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of the project to strengthen functions of Vietnam agricultural cooperatives - Phase 2 has just been signed between Mr. Tang Minh Loc, Director of Cooperative Economy and Rural Development (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) and Mr. Akira Shimizu, Deputy Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Vietnam.

a particular concern and is creating favorable conditions of legal environment, economic environment ... These are conditions and good opportunities for cooperatives to solve problems, for different levels of support specialists to complete project objectives. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will work closely with JICA, the related ministries so that the project is deployed immediately after the end of phase 1 and achieve the desired results.

The project covers the building of national and regional facilitators and provision of training to staff, leaders, cooperative members, introduction of classification of cooperatives and cards to monitor the activities of the cooperatives; collection of examples of successful operations, and failures to share with staff and leadership of the cooperatives.

The phase 1 of the project is implemented in two provinces of Thai Binh and Hoa Binh (from March 2006 until September 2010) has achieved great successes. Cooperatives and satellite points, such as Binh Dinh cooperative, Kien Xuong district and An Ninh cooperative, Tien Hai District (Thai Binh), Dong Tam cooperative, Lac Thuy district, Hoa Binh province has succeeded in preparing and implementing plans based on the actual needs of cooperative members.

Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Nguyen Minh Quang said the project's phase 2 will be implemented in the context that Vietnam's agriculture receives

Mr. Yasuhiro Tojo, Deputy Permanent Senior Representative of JICA in Vietnam, said: "to develop model cooperatives comprehensively, JICA will continue to improve agricultural services, organisational capacity building, management for managers, technical assistance to increase income for household members."

The National Target Programme for new rural area development has many similarities with the model developed in the project and it is hoped that the results will contribute to promoting effective policies in Vietnam.

Not only that, enhancing capacity for cooperatives staff will be favorable conditions for maintaining and expanding the project model. *(HV)*

ACTIONAID - SHARING OF POVERTY REDUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY IN VIETNAM

In the last few decades, Vietnam has made remarkable progress in poverty reduction in rural areas. Although food security has significantly improved, there are still many households, particularly ethnic groups, women and small scale farmers facing risks and food security that are not always ensured at the household level. Key threats are said to be land degradation and land loss, unfair trade policy, and increasing impacts of climate change such as droughts and floods.

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From a wealthy island commune, Thach An became a poorest commune in Ho Chi Minh City

policy, and increasing impacts of climate change such as droughts and floods.

And in any case, poor farmers and women are the most vulnerable to these incidents.

ActionAid International in Vietnam (AAV) is among the leading INGOs working in Vietnam since 1989. AAV recognises that food security is not just a question of



AAV training on planning for farmers

adequate supply but also a question of stable demand, and accessibility by all people as well as suitable quality.

During the past two decades, AAV has been working alongside with communities and partners at different levels and implementing a wide range of activities, contributing to the fight against poverty in Vietnam.

In order to enable poor and disadvantaged people and communities to have access to suitable livelihood options

With AAV support, nearly 200 groups of small farmers, poor women in 13 districts of 12 provinces in the country have been organised and maintained in different forms created a strong background for sharing production experience as well as enhancing community coordination for implementing different initiatives, pilot models for improving production and sustainability of local livelihoods in different localities. Through operations, their role is more active and their voices in the community and society are better heard and respected in production activities, society and communities.

Capacity building, technical assistance and information providing to farmers are focused, pilot models on sustainable agriculture (diversified household production modality, organic fertiliser production, farmers' seed



Women participating in training on rice production

production groups) are introduced and replicated. More than 1400 households have been financially supported with revolving funds for pursuing their income generation initiatives.

Efforts have been made to respond to natural disasters, to support seed and breeds, and housing supports and rescue facilities have also been provided in order to support flooding communes within AAV activities. AAV is supporting model of community based climate change adaptation and response, establishment of rescue teams at the village level and actively served as the core task force for emergency response in the localities. Initiatives in changing cropping patterns, diversified livelihood alternatives have been piloted with AAV support, in order to strengthen community's resilience to climate change.

(Cont. page 6)



AAV has been calling for donations to communes in Vu Quang district, Ha Tinh province

as in implementation of community development projects in provinces.

AAV has actively engaged in the campaign against antidumping taxes. Though this campaign did not successful, it provided valuable experience to the professional associations, unions in Vietnam, so that they could deal with similar cases in the future more effectively.

AAV has also been actively taking part in international advocacy campaigns, with the purpose of demanding for increasing investments and more effective support developed countries to the poor people in order to build sustainable livelihoods and strengthen their resilience to climate change impacts (*Truong Quoc Can, Coordinator of Food Rights - ActionAid*).

AAV has been actively engaged in different policy development forums at different levels aiming at advocating for pro-poor policies and practices that protect the rights of poor farmers.

AAV conducted several surveys and studies, and indicated risks to be faced by poor farmers as well as alternatives were also identified. It is actively mobilised to promote investments for sustainable agriculture models, policies to protect small scale

producers, through policy fora at the national level, in poverty reduction programme.

AAV has been supporting the development and operation of different networks such as the Civil Society Inclusion for Poverty Reduction and Hunger Elimination Network (CIFPEN), the Gender Equality Communication Network (GENCOMNET) which have made considerable contributions in policy fora at different levels as well



Poverty reduction in Hun hamlet with support from ActionAid Vietnam

Ban Hun (Hun hamlet), Chieng Co commune, Son La town consists of 185 households with a population of 989 persons, of which 100% is Thai ethnic people. Ban Hun was a poor hamlet. The local people used to cultivate only wet land rice, and one-crop of corn in the mountain and suffered food shortage for 2-3 months a year. Since 2003 to 2009, a “Food Security and Social Forest” project was implemented in Ban Hun with the fund provided by ActionAid Vietnam and technical support from Vietnam Gardening Association (VACVINA). Their living was improved, giving positive impacts on the local socio-economic situation. More importantly, the farming systems have significantly improved toward more diversified and sustainable practices. A successful farmer said:

“I am Ca Thi Dien, 52 years old, and my husband is Ca Van Inh, 52 years old. We have 2 daughters and 2 sons. Now we live in Ban Hun and doing agriculture. Before I joined in the project, we cultivated in two crop seasons of wetland rice (1,400m²), we also had some corn (10,500 m²) and pig. Every year in the past time, my family had not enough food and we had to borrow rice from neighbors, normally for about two months. In the end of 2003, I joined in this project as member of

an interest group. We discussed in identification of needs, planning, and implementation of project activities. We also participated in monitoring and assessment of all activities.

I joined in training courses on

(Cont. page 7)



Mrs. Dien and her husband

agricultural techniques such as growing coffee, peach, forest tree, fruit tree, pig and goat keeping. We also received 4 goats, seedling animal and medicines from the project. After 5 years joining this project, we got more income from goat keeping, increased production of rice and corn, and produced enough food for all my family members and for livestock. I've bought a new motorbike and new television.

I joined in training courses on agricultural techniques such as growing coffee, peach, forest tree,



fruit tree, pig and goat keeping. We also received 4 goats, seedling animal and medicines from the project. After

5 years joining this project, we got more income from goat keeping, increased production of rice and corn, and produced enough food for all my family members and for livestock. I've bought a new motorbike and new television. I do hope I will get more income in the next year from pig, peach and coffee. I am happy for my life and achievements I have attained. It is grateful to the project."

(Truong Quoc Can, Coordinator of Food Rights - ActionAid)

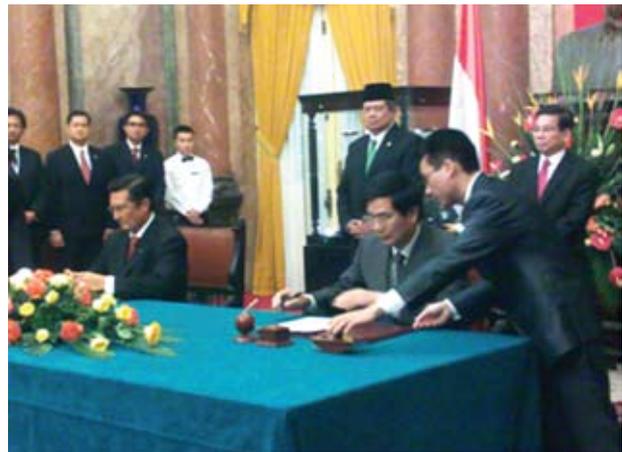
International integration and cooperation

VIETNAM - INDONESIA TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL COOPERATION IN FISHERY

On the occasion of the President of Indonesia's official visit to Vietnam and his participation in the ASEAN Summit in Hanoi, at the witness of the leaders of both countries, in Hanoi on 27/10/2010, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam - Cao Duc Phat and Minister of Marines and Fisheries of Indonesia - Fadel Muhammad signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two governments on marines and fisheries cooperation.

This memorandum will serve as a basis for both sides to conduct specific exchanges and cooperation to create favourable conditions for offshore fishing by the fishermen of the two countries, as well as for the resolution of problems arising in this area of cooperation.

Prior to the ceremony, the two ministers already had a courtesy meeting to discuss cooperation issues of mutual interests and concerns, and expressed their wish that on the basis of the Memorandum just signed, the two sides



will together promote appropriate activities and strengthen fishery cooperation between the two countries.(T.T.C)

JICA funds USD 4.6 million to develop new rice varieties in Vietnam

On 26/10/2010, as announced by JICA, Japan will transfer most advanced technology to Vietnam, to develop new rice varieties in the midland and northern mountainous region. The project document of the

cooperation project will be signed on 27/10/2010 between Mr. Motonori Tsuno - Chief Representative of JICA, and Mr. Tran Duc Vien, Rector of Hanoi University of Agriculture. Accordingly, there will be a project to be implemented in 5 years (from 2010 to 2015) with a



The Mong ethnic minority harvesting rice on the foot of the pair mountain of Quan Ba in the province of Ha Giang(Photo: TH)

(Cont. page 8)

budget of USD 4.6 million provided by JICA. According to Mr. Motonori Tsuno "Japan will deliver the most advanced technology which is the variety selecting method by the molecules indicator and physiological indicators (MAS) for the Agricultural University of Hanoi.

With this technology, we want to create varieties of short-term, high yield and high disease resistance, consistent

with the natural conditions of the midland and northern mountainous region. " According to JICA, 40% of the land area in the midland and northern mountainous region can only be planted each year and with a low yield. This project will support the government of Vietnam to achieve long-term food security on a national scale../. (Ky Duong)

USD 108 million paving rural roads and watering irrigation

On 25/10/2010, the Board of Directors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the aid package worth \$ 108 million to upgrade rural roads and irrigation systems in some of the poorest areas in Vietnam. This project will support the upgrading of 600km of rural roads and irrigation systems for 12,400ha of farmlands for 15 northern mountainous provinces.

Mr David Salter, a rural development expert under the ADB's Southeast Asia Department, said this project will help the districts to boost agricultural yield up 25%, helping them diversify crops to get higher benefits. Travel time, effort and cost will decrease by 55% while the

average reliability of transport will be increased to help farmers make the strategic marketing plan.

Also according to Mr. Salter, improved irrigation and water management is an extremely important issue for food security in Vietnam, especially in front of the context that food demand is increasing and increasingly negative impacts of climate change.

Vietnam now has 3 million ha of cultivated land equipped with irrigation facilities, of which 1 million hectares is yet irrigated.



Many irrigation systems are to be restored and one thirds of the 50.000km of Vietnam's irrigation channels does not work leading to the serious water shortage. The ADB-supported projects will also improve the market of 10 rural communes to develop local trade../. (NTT)

APFNET SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FOREST RESTORATION

Project "Demonstrate the capacity for sustainable forest rehabilitation in Vietnam" will be implemented in Phu Tho province, in Thu Cuc and Thuong Cuc. These are two poor communes of Phu Tho province with a majority of ethnic people, who are constantly expanding the land area for production by exploitation, deforestation ..

This is the first time APFNet (Asia-Pacific network of sustainable forest management and recovery) provides a grant for the forestry sector in two years with the funding of USD 586.000 to find effective models for forest restoration to apply to the entire region.

The general objective of the project is to rehabilitate and sustainably manage 50 hectares of secondary natural forests which are being degraded in the two communes of Thuong Cuc (Tan Son) and Thu Cuc (Thanh Son)



of Phu Tho province, contributing to poverty alleviation and improved livelihood for the ethnic minority communities living near the forest. Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Binh, Deputy Director General of the General Department of Forestry, said the project will pilot planting trees for non-timber products and 500 bamboo trees planted around the boundaries of forests and foothills, contributing to enhanced high-income for people. In addition, the

project will build institutional and policy frameworks to attract the participation of local communities in the formulation, implementation of plans and to share the benefits from sustainable forest management. This is regarded as one of the criteria necessary for sustainable forest management in our country.

According to the General Department of Forestry, although afforestation area is constantly expanding, contributing to restoring and improving the coverage of forest, but forest degradation remains a major problem for many localities. So we need to protect, restore and ensure sustainable development of poor secondary forest areas in order to improve the ecological services of forests as well as to meet the requirements for improved livelihoods of local communities. (N. Long)