

IN THIS ISSUE

Vietnam's Agriculture 2010 and vision 2011-2015
(Page 1-3)

Agricultural cooperation between Vietnam and Africa Vision
(Page 3-5)

ODA commitments to Vietnam "Macro-economic stabilization and sustainable development"
(Page 6-7)

ISG – Achievements and development for a new period
(Page 8)

VIETNAM'S AGRICULTURE 2010 AND VISION 2011-2015

27-12/2010, in Hanoi, MARD reviewed the work plan 2010 and started up the 5-year plan period 2011-2015. Standing Vice Minister Nguyen Sinh Hung attended and guided many important policies, especially long-term vision of agricultural and rural development and new rural development program.



Mr. Cao Duc Phat, Minister of MARD "So to say, the year 2010 is a special unique year of the agricultural sector when we obtained both bumper crops and high prices of all production sectors"

Despite a world economic crisis affecting early 2010 and destructive natural disasters and epidemic diseases, the economic growth of the agricultural and rural development sector Reached 2.8%. The average growth period 2006 — 2010 attained 3.36%/year. The total production value is estimated to increase by 4.69% in 2010, considering the average increase of 4.93%/year during the 5 recent years (against the planned objective of 4.5%/year).

The total export turnover reached the record highest rate, estimating to be

US\$19.15 billion, rising by nearly 22.6% over the year 2009, surpassing 77.3% against the objective as planned by the XTh Party Congress.

The average national rice production was a very bumper harvest in 2010. The total area of paddy production was estimated to be 7.444 million ha of paddy, rising additional 23 thousands ha against the year 2009. The rice production was higher 900 thousand tons, ensuring national food security and export of 6.7 million tons of rice.

The husbandry sector is developing and scaling up the form of farm production, use



of qualified breeds and industrial feed and disease safety control. The total production value of the husbandry sector attained a growth of 7% in 2010.

According to the Directorate of Forestry (DoF), the forest cover increased from 31.7% in 2005 to 39.5% in 2010

In 2010, during the period 2006-2010, an area of 1,091 thousand hectares of forest was additionally planted, 9% higher than the expected rate, including 252,015ha protection and special-use forests; 839,416 ha production forests. Over 5 recent years, the total area of 2.507.355 ha has been contracted for protection, 67% higher than the planned rate; the forest area to be regenerated reached 922,768 ha, increasing by 15% over the planned rate.



Forest protection attained positive developments. The number of violation cases decreased 6,665 in 2010 against the previous year. Many "hot spots" of illegal logging have been controlled.

According to the Fisheries Department, the total annual marine production reached nearly 5.2 million tons, increasing 7.2% compared to 2009 and attained 30% higher than the objective of the 5-year plan 2006 — 2010.

The total annual marine production reached 2.8 million tons, increasing by 9% compared to the previous year. The Government has further promulgated many incentive policies to support harvesting activities through many solutions: improving the quality of forecasting, providing instructions on

fishing grounds, encouraging fishermen to equip themselves with high capacity fishing spears and modern storage facilities to serve the fish harvest over long days on the sea. Harvesting operation has gradually been combined with marine resource protection and development. The total annual production was estimated to be 2,395 thousand tons, increasing by 5.2%

The world economy has overcome the crisis in 2010. The world trade in commodities, in general, and agro-marine and forest products,



in particular has dramatically recovered meanwhile the consumption demand and price strongly increased. Simultaneously, in parallel with the exploitation of favorable opportunities from the world market, highly efficient domestic production have created a high quantity of exports, as well as, enhanced the quality control, food safety and trade promotion. Therefore, this generated a doubled success, increasing both export quantity and export value of almost agro-forest and marine products.

The total export turnover of the entire sector reached a record, estimating to be US\$19.15 billion, raising nearly by 22.6% over the year 2009, 77.3% higher than the objective set by the XTh Party Communist Party Congress (US\$10.8 billion), the average increase was 17%/year over the period 2006 — 2010. The export of key agricultural products was estimated to be US\$9.95, increasing by 24.22% over the year 2009. Fisheries obtained US\$4.94 billion, increasing by 16.3%. Forest products and wooden furniture reached US\$3.63



billion, jumping by 29.8%

Apart from production incentive policies, the Government continued adopting incentive policies on agro-product consumption in 2010.

Many agro-products which had a huge volume of production difficult to be consumed were supported to be temporarily stored and preserved at the time when the world price is decreasing or when an extremely high quantity of commodities (coffee, rice, salt) is available. Therefore, different agro-products were promptly consumed during the year, which is a key element to expand production and increase farmers' income.

Rural area is gradually being renovated and developed. Rural citizens had their living conditions improved. Agricultural and rural infrastructure continues being improved and step by step modernized.

Under the National Target Program for new rural development, the majority of provinces have established their steering committee for new rural development as of late 2010.

The total capacity of irrigation schemes attained 3.45 million ha of cultivated area in 2010, increasing additional 150 thousand ha compared to the year 2009. Irrigation schemes are enabled to drain out 1.72 million ha of agricultural land and prevent 0.87 million ha from being salted, provide 5.65 billion m³/year for domestic water supply and industrial production.

The agriculture and rural development sector's international cooperation achieved many attainments in 2010. MARD approved 33 projects with the total US\$490 million ODA, increasing by 40% compared to 2009. MARD is negotiating



and signing 27 international agreements to fulfill political tasks assigned by the Party and the Government in the coming time. In which, many important documents related to the cooperation with Africa and further cooperation in onshore marine production have been prepared and submitted to competent agencies for signature.

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Minister Cao Duc Phat said that the agriculture and rural development sector is still having some shortcomings which need to be overcome, apart from the attained achievements. The shortcomings include unsustainable agricultural, low competitiveness of some commodity items, high percentage of raw material consumption, low VAT. Furthermore,

quality control over production inputs and food safety remain deficient. The current circulation and use of under-qualified, fake and poisonous materials are causing urgent social issues, preventing against the development of safe and sustainable agriculture. The rural development without planning, poor socio-economic infrastructure has failed to meet

demands for the development progress and increasingly-polluted rural living environment. A part of rural population is facing hard living conditions and high risks of re-poverty, especially mountainous and ethnic minorities.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE FOR THE PERIOD 2011-2015

The 5-year plan is expected to “attain a sustainable and qualified growth; improve living conditions of rural population, especially the poor; properly protect and use natural resources and environment”



The sector is expected to attain a growth rate of 3.5% - 3.8%/year during the period 2011 — 2015. The growth rate under the work plan 2011 is anticipated to achieve 4.5 — 5% compared to the year 2010, focusing resources on improving productivity and quality of key products such as cattle fish, brackish shrimp, rice, rubber, coffee, cashew, pepper, peanuts, soybeans, domestic cattle and fowl raising.

Regarding cultivation, the year 2015 aims to maintain the area of 3.8 million ha paddy rice and the production of 40 million tons/year. The total production of seed-bearing crops is expected to obtain 46.3 million tons.

Regarding husbandry, the objective of the period 2011 — 2015 is to have an average increase of 6-7%/year in production value. The year 2011 is expected to produce a live weight of 4.28 million tons of all kinds of meat; 6.53 billion eggs; 330 thousand tons of fresh milk and 12 million tons of animal feed.

The fisheries sector strives for a growth

of 6-7%/year. In 2011 alone, it is expected to attain a growth of 7%, equivalent to a total production of 5.2 million tons marine products and an export turnover of more than US\$5 billion

The forest sector struggles for a comprehensive development in the 5 coming years. The production value is anticipated to average 1.5 — 2%/year. It is planned to accomplish an additional area of 200 thousand hectares of forest plantation, 400 thousand hectares of forest regeneration and 2.26 million hectares of forest protection contract. MARD requests the Government and the National Assembly to allow it to further implement the policies on forest protection and development, forest quality improvement in 2011. In addition, it strives for a forest cover of 45% by 2015.

Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Sinh Hung on behalf of the Government complimented the agricultural sector. The achievements of the agricultural sector in 2010 shown that the Central Resolution No.7 started to bring in fruitful results. Over recent years, even though the national economy in general has

confronted many difficulties and challenges, however, the agricultural sector has constantly developed and proudly honored their farmers.

The Deputy Prime Minister requested to speed up rural labor restructuring. He also emphasized that the planning continues being a key task in the coming time.

New rural development is a very important policy. New rural development shall be linked to urbanization and development of handicraft industry, industrial zones and enterprises. It is advised to avoid the lazy attitude. It is required to see as rural as an actor and mobilize driving force among local population as well as integrate objectives of the other national target programs into the new rural development with aims to enhance resources and create new motivation for the new rural development. (CMK)

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN VIETNAM AND AFRICA VISION

Africa has increasingly attracted attentions and interests from the world. The Tokyo international conference on Africa development (TICAD IV) held on 28th — 30th May, 2008 in Yokohama, Japan,

recognized that African countries, apart from their achievements (such as economic growth of 5.3%/year in 2007), continuously faced up many challenges. Meeting the MDG objectives is a very difficult task. Poverty and underemployment and



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fast population growth under context of low agricultural production and poor agricultural infrastructure and increasingly negative impacts from climate change are big challenges to these countries. Since more than two-thirds of the African population is living in rural areas and dependent on agricultural activities, the agricultural sector is very important to the economic growth. Agricultural and rural renovation

is an effective tool to ensure food safety and poverty reduction as well as a key motivation of the economic growth

Vietnam and many African countries have many similar characteristics: they are both developing countries. Their economies are much dependent on agriculture. The major part of their population generates their main income from agriculture and develops themselves from agricultural production.

Vietnam and African countries have established their friendship and cooperation in many fields for a very long time. They both have a very nice tradition to mutually support and help each other, especially agricultural cooperation. Many bilateral cooperation programs, expert exchange and action plans have been agreed and implemented./

BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN VIETNAM AND AFRICA

Scientific and technical cooperation and investment in agriculture, forestry, irrigation scheme and fisheries have been highly concerned and promoted over recent years. Vietnam has signed some bilateral conventions, agreements and MOU with some African countries such as Angola, Algeria, Namibia, Sudan, Central African Republic, Rwanda, Sierra Leone etc... Vietnam especially signed 2 conventions, 5 MOU and 2 Minutes of Meeting (MoM) on agriculture, fisheries, animal health sanitary, plant protection and sanitary with African partners in 2010

MARD was appointed by the Government of Vietnam (GOV) as Chairman of the Sub-Committee for Cooperation with some African countries such as the Vietnam - Mozambique Inter-Governmental Committee and Vietnam and Tanzania Inter-Governmental Committee

Some meetings of the Inter-governmental committee between Vietnam and its partner countries such as Mozambique and Algeria were held. Duty and diplomatic missions were exchanged between 2 parties. Vietnamese experts and enterprises visited



Mozambique *Prime Minister Aires Bonifácio Ali visited VAAS.*

Angola, Mozambique, Rwanda, Central Africa Republic, Siera Leone, Nigeria etc.. with aims to stimulate mutual cooperation, surveys and support them to develop their projects. As a result, the projects have been initially highly appreciated by African partners (Mozambique)

- Vietnam supported Mozambique to provide short-term training courses in agriculture for

dozens of African students and engineers in Vietnam

- The Project «Cooperation in production of paddy and some other crops in Sudan Republic ». The project duration is 6 years, starting from late 2009 with the total fund of US\$9.64 million (totally contributed by Sudan).

EXPERTISE COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE UNDER THE COOPERATION PROGRAM NAM - NAM

Over recent years, thanks to FAO's and Republic of France's initiatives of food security program especially targeted at under-starved and low-income countries under the South - South cooperation program framework, the cooperation in agricultural expertise between Vietnam and some African countries has been established and developed to help African farmers to set up paddy cultivation models, transfer of know-how and provide technical guidelines on seed selection, plantation, tending and pest control over paddy rice; to cultivate paddy together with farmers; to develop project proposal on the establishment of research center; to provide extension services and produce rice; to seek financial support from the 3rd country; to transfer technology

of culture, husbandry, processing, small-scale engineering and to elaborate training syllabuses and materials.

programs which are considered successful ones with FAO and such countries as Senegal, Madagascar, Congo and Benin are continued being implemented:

- Model: Vietnam + 1 African country + FAO (2003)
- Model: Vietnam + Guinea Conakry + South Africa) (2008) -4-party agreement in 2005: Vietnam- FAO- France and Mali.

Since 1996 (the 1st Nam-Nam cooperation agreement signed between Vietnam and Senegal), MARD has seconded a total of

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300 experts. Vietnam recently, with supports from FAO, has signed the Nam Nam Cooperation Agreement with aims to ensure food security in Republic of Chad on 26th March, 2010 and 3-party Agreement with Namibia on 11st May, 2010. Under the Agreement, Vietnam shall send 15 experts and technicians to Republic of Chad to support this country in agriculture and 03 experts and 9 technicians to Namibia to support this country in fisheries.



Agricultural cooperation with Africa – scientists always take the lead

OTHER ACTIVITIES TO SPEED UP COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE BETWEEN VIETNAM AND AFRICA

Together with other Vietnamese relevant competent sectors, ministries and agencies, MARD has proactively participated in activities of international workshops and conferences Vietnam - Africa held in Vietnam, specifically:

The 1st Vietnam - Africa conference on "Vietnam - Africa: Cooperation and Development Opportunities during the 21st century" (Hanoi, 28-30/5/2003).

2nd Vietnam - Africa conference "Vietnam - Africa: Cooperation together with Sustainable Development (Hanoi, 17-19/8/2010). At this workshop, MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat chaired the discussion Theme 1 (one of the 3 themes) **"Food security, agricultural cooperation and poverty reduction"**

At the same time, MARD takes initiative in actively implementing "National action plan for strengthening the relationship between Vietnam and Africa for the period 2004 - 2010". Having considered the importance of the promotion of agricultural cooperation, MARD established a Steering Committee led by a Vice Minister of MARD and other 19 members from relevant departments, institutes, schools, centers, Vietnam Rubber Industrial Group and corporations attached to MARD in September 2010. Present at the Steering Committee is also representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) MARD established Foreign Language Center (French, Portuguese) and introduced cultural features and economic conditions of African countries. It also selected and appointed its employees to work in Africa. Some training courses were organized in the Center

MARD guided and supported national institutions to cooperate with African partners: (i) Hanoi Municipal People Committee is expected to implement a 3-party project (Hanoi-JICA - Mozambique)

in Nantes, Zambezi province and a bilateral cooperation project (Hanoi - Mozambique) in Macias, Gada province; (ii) Ha Nam PPC seconded agricultural expert to work for the twined province Zambezi of Mozambique; (iii) Tien Giang PPC supported Mozambique to provide training in aquaculture

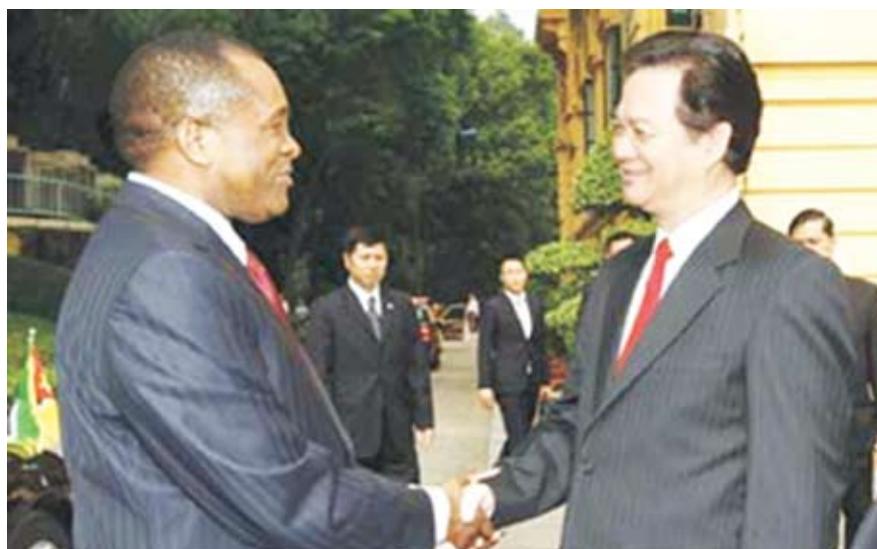
MARD submitted the proposal of agricultural cooperation with Africa for the period 2009 - 2020 to the Prime Minister for approval in late 2008. This is considered the 1st professional cooperation proposal with the involvement of Vietnam and African countries. The Prime Minister issued an official dispatch to express his agreement on the basic contents of the proposal in March, 2010. The Prime Minister is expected to approve this proposal, serving as an important tool to promote the implementation of specific agricultural cooperation activities with the involvement of Vietnam and African countries.

Regarding the recent situation of agricultural

cooperation between Vietnam and Africa, there exist many difficulties and challenges such as complicated administrative procedures and weak cooperation among African agencies. Unstable political situation in many African countries pushed Vietnam to passive and negative situations. Many cooperation agreements were signed but not yet much implemented due to financial difficulties. Limited communication and foreign language command of Vietnamese experts negatively affect job performance.

However, fundamental opportunities which facilitated the good cooperation development are the facts that the Party, the State and many African countries are very interested in and prioritized to enhance the agricultural cooperation, ensuring food security

Vietnam's agriculture is suitable for African development conditions. African partners like Vietnam's agricultural cultivating techniques since they are easy to be applied.



Prime Minister Mozambique Republic, Aires Bonifacio Baptista Ali and Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung

COOPERATION ORIENTATION OF VIETNAM-AFRICA IN THE NEXT TIME

At the 2nd Vietnam — Africa international conference (2010), Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung indicated 5 major solutions to developing the cooperation between Vietnam and Africa, including by means of further exchanging working missions at all levels, promoting communication and information exchange; improving and enhancing existing cooperation mechanism; diversify trade commodity items and enhance investment.

Aiming to enhance agricultural cooperation with Africa in an effective way in the coming time, it is required to implement the

following:

- Implement the “strategic vision of development of relationship between Vietnam and Africa period 2011 — 2020” upon receipt of the approval by the Prime Minister.
- Bring agreement results and conclusions achieved in the 2nd Vietnam — Africa international conference into practice
- Pay attention to cooperating with the countries which have historically-traditional friendship, i.e. Mozambique and Angola, as well as with the countries which signed

cooperation agreements. However, “...it is required to select some key projects to ensure the effective implementation, create mutual benefits and prevent against the fragmentation”, guided the Prime Minister.

- Encourage and facilitate Vietnamese enterprises to make investment in agricultural sector in Africa.
- Vietnam and African countries are required to co-operate to develop programs/ projects to be applied to FAO or other donors for financial support to increase financial resource// (To Viet Chau, Deputy Director of ICD/MARD)

ODA COMMITMENTS TO VIETNAM “MACRO-ECONOMIC STABILIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

After the Consultant Group Conference ended on 8th December, 2010, partners announced the committed ODA fund of US\$7.88 billion, including US\$ 3.28 billions from 24 bilateral partners and nearly US\$4.6 billion from 5 partner organizations. The ODA fund committed by donors this year has confirmed Vietnam’s success in building up Vietnam’s trust in the eyes of development partner community.

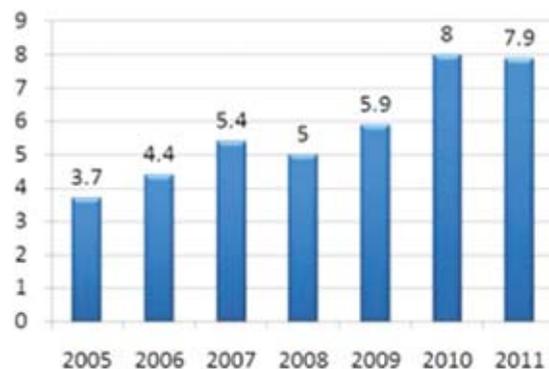
Among bilateral donors, Japan is the top leading donor with the total committed ODA fund of US\$1.76 billion, followed by South of Korea, France and German with the committed fund of US\$412 million, US\$221 million and US\$119 million etc... respectively

The World Bank (WB) was committed to support a ODA fund of more than US\$2.6 billion; the Asian Development Bank (ADB) was committed to sponsor US\$1.5 billion ... After Vietnam has been



(CG conference 2010)

receiving ODA fund over the past 17 years, according to MPI, donors have been committed to sponsoring Vietnam more than US\$56 billion, including US\$42 billion signed through specific programs and projects and US\$26,223 billion which have been disbursed (accounting for 46.5% of the total committed ODA and 62% of signed ODA) The ODA fund committed to Vietnam by donors is a very impressive figure. However, more importantly, it reflected a strong support and trust from the international community in the development and international integration policies that the GOV has been developing and adopting. This is attributed to the fact that ODA projects were openly monitored by donors as well as all procedures were transparently proceeded



ODA capital of the agriculture and rural development in period 2005 - 2010

The GOV always ensures that Vietnam shall effectively use the international donor fund

In addition, all donors acknowledged that Vietnam has determined its right directions as a developing country. It has worked out appropriate and flexible solutions and steps with aims to keep the national sustainable development on the track.

However, according to Mrs. Victoria Kwakwa, World Bank Director in Vietnam, Vietnam’s becoming a medium income country has changed the ODA fund structure. In such case, non-refundable ODA and other soft loans favorable to Vietnam will be gradually narrowed... She also noted that Vietnam is facing up many difficulties in human resources, infrastructure, trade balance deficit; higher inflation etc... Therefore, using “more expensive” financial sources will be a great challenge to Vietnam. Aiming to get away from the trap of the middle income, Vietnam shall have to count on its sustainable development, especially concerning about public debts.

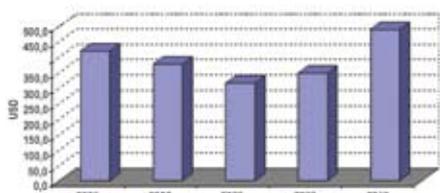
Admitting these challenges, Minister of MPI Mr. Vo Hong Phuc said that financing policies applicable to Vietnam has been changing in terms of scale, structure and conditions. Regarding public debts, Minister Phuc emphasized that the GOV have calculated and kept public debts at the safe point, and improve ODA-related legal documents and Decrees, as well as introduce PPP under infrastructure projects as a pilot model in order to diversify financial resources.

ODA FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PERIOD 2006 – 2010 AND DEVELOPMENT TREND 2011-2015

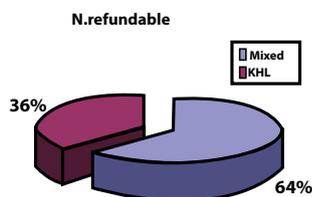
Official Development Assistance - ODA is official financial supports, including non-refundable ODA and soft loans which are offered to Vietnam by the Governments of countries, financial schemes and international



organizations to support Vietnam's socio-economic development and poverty reduction. ODA plays an important role in developing the agricultural sector which receives 61% ODA of the total investment in the entire sector. Over 5 recent years, especially under the context of the economic crisis 2008 - 2009, when developed countries have been increasingly cutting down financial supports to developing countries, ODA commitments



to Vietnam, in general, and to the agriculture and rural development are still keeping constant. During this period, ODA capital of the agriculture and rural development is 5.5 billion USD. MARD received US\$1.95 billion, including US\$1.25 billion of ODA mixed loans (64%) and US\$708 million of non-refundable ODA (36%), significantly contributing to the national economic development, in general



and the agricultural sector, in particular and poverty reduction.

ODA management for the period 2006 - 2010 has the following outstanding characteristics:

a. Opportunities:

International donors have strong supports to the renovation of sector development

policies and strategy;

Table 1: ODA fund approved by MARD for the period 2005-2010

Year	Mixed (million USD)	Non-refundable (million USD)	Total (million USD)
2006	187,9	233,5	387,7
2007	118,9	258,0	376,9
2008	148,3	168,2	316,5
2009	333,5	15,3	348,8
2010	456,6	33,4	489,9
Total	1.245,2	708,4	1.953,6

The Government promulgated the Decree 131/2006/ND-CP on ODA management, and different ministries and sectors issued legal documents guiding the Decree implementation in detail.

MARD leaders expressed their interests and promptly coped with challenges and difficulties arising.

MARD established an information and communication network to monitor ODA projects of the entire sectors. The sector partnership supported to share information between MARD and donors

b. Challenges:

During this period, the global financial crisis leads to an increasingly limited ODA fund. Donors give their highest priority to Africa where the poor is mostly found. Vietnam has become a medium income-having country since 2010. This caused difficulties in preparing new projects/programs for the coming phases.

The preparation of some projects which is introduced with new approach under the context of integration as a competitive factor of the agricultural sector resulted in complicated procedures and longer time of approval since many agencies inside and outside MARD are to be consulted.

Some obstacles such as fulfillment of effective conditions and approving procedures led to the unsatisfactory progress of actual disbursement, less than expected. The disbursement of projects has progressed, however, it attained only 50% as planned

The capability of ODA management and operation mechanism, especially the

capacity of officials directly responsible for project management has not yet qualified enough. Therefore, they were embarrassed in case of decentralization. M&E, especially in case where projects come to end, has not yet well implemented.

c. MARD's efforts and initiatives

MARD leaders expressed their concerns and concentrated on guiding the completion of on-going projects as scheduled and committed; and on enhancing the effectiveness of use of international sponsorship

Internal institution was to be improved, management system was to be strengthened, and decentralization is further scaled up in combination with ODA project Monitoring & Evaluation. MARD is one of the very few institutions who are enabled to develop its own regulation on international aids management, facilitating ODA development and management.

The relationship with strong partners of the agriculture and rural development sector was expanded. The prioritized areas favorable to the sector development and concerned by international donors include climate change, food safety and hygiene, integration and market; coordination with associations

Domestic fund was adequately allocated to prepare projects (in the past, projects got a amount of about US\$800,000 - 1.5 million for free to prepare loan projects, and now this support is no longer available).

Vietnam's ODA is foreseen to be further sustained after 2010, even there is a possibility to mobilize a higher amount compared to the period 2006 -2010. However, structure and policy on financial aids shall have certain changes, in which the number of less soft ODA loans is anticipated to increase

MARD identified approaches to projects and programs in the coming time with aims to attract donors. Accordingly, apart from the poverty reduction theme, it is required to integrate such concerning global issues as climate change, climate change mitigation and adaptation, pest and disease control, sustainable development, food security, renewable energy, genetically-modified food and especially the policy "Tam Nong" which is prioritized and planned to mobilize international aids and support./.

(Nguyen Vu Hoan, ICD-MARD)

ISG – ACHIEVEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A NEW PERIOD

The International Support Group (ISG) was established in 1997 as a pioneer and initiative of MARD in establishing the 1st national-level ODA coordination mechanism.

Over 13 recent years, “brand name” ISG has been highly appreciated by MARD as well as donor communities. The ISG/ICD framework has created transparency, opportunities and lessons learnt which help investors have more efficient choices and solutions.

ISG has proved its appropriateness and benefits within MARD as a tool of ministerial—level dialogue and policy development, information management and coordination during its operation. As a forum and partnership between MARD and different actors, ISG supported to maintain the high-ranking participation and commitments of ODA donor community and MARD leaders.

Development investment forum Policy Dialogue Forum is a chance to have 2-way communication between GOV and donor community in order to update policy information, exchange and discuss about specific thematic issues. The selection of themes to further discuss at the forum not only comes from Vietnam’s needs and prioritization but also match with concerns of the donor community.

ISG panel conference is annually co-organized by donors, international NGOs, programs etc...with the participation of representatives from governmental agencies and MARD with aims to discuss and establish a starting point for highly important policies with aims to speed up Vietnam’s agricultural and rural development.

The theme “Drive of new rural development” was launched in 2010 in an attempt to share information on the national target program for new rural development, exchange experiences and lesson learnt from new existing rural models and experiences from international organizations in order to reach consensus on approaches between the GOV and international community for the purpose of fulfilling the objectives of the national target program. When the conference finished, the donor community all agreed upon “Together support Vietnam in new rural

development”.

The thematic dialogue forum which is mainstreamed into donors’ prioritized areas is one of effective activities of ISG forum with aims to get appropriate answers and optimal solutions to specific problems. The forums on PPP and promotion of voluntary economic farmer groups held in 2010 are expected to start up major follow-up programs.

ODA coordination and mobilization

Regarding ODA coordination and mobilization



Minister Cao Duc Phat and Mr Kanayo Nwanze chairman of IFAD co. chaired the forum

of the agricultural sector, ISG/ICD always proves its efficient efforts and activities related to the sector. ODA commitments to Vietnam has increased over recent years. For the period 2006 — 2010, the agricultural sector has received nearly US\$5.5 billion, including 36% of non-refundable ODA, contributing to ISG’s direction. Entering a new phase, Vietnam is recognized as a low medium income-having country, therefore, high-ranking coordination and commitments with the donor community has significantly changed in order to meet the demands for agricultural and rural development demands.

Actors’ requirements focus on 2 major areas for the new phase as follows:

Multi-dimensional and all-level policy dialogues, mainly attaching special importance to developing high-ranking dialogues; thematic dialogues, linking such dialogues to research institutions, ministries/sectors, enterprises (state and private), scholars et...; technical consultation

on policy implementation and the process of “learning by doing”

Information sharing: more effectively improve and promote approaches, share ISG information which have been accumulated over recent years with aims to meet requirements of relevant target groups by means of improving the quality of newsletter and updating the website www.isgmard.org.vn, and complete the on-line forum to talk about major topics of MARD

ISG’s prioritized area for the new period:

- ◆ “Tam Nong” (agriculture, farmers and rural area) plan and support to generation of “Drive” of new comprehensive rural development as identified as the objectives of the year 2020 and 2050; consolidation of the role of private sector in PPP; food security and food safety, climate change, mitigation and adaptation of the agricultural sector

- ◆ Some significant cooperation programs, for instance the program between Vietnam and Africa ...

Implementing commitments with the donor community to the institutionalization of the role of ICD/ISG in MARD activities, ISG shall change its operational mechanism. It shall create a good coordination and linkage with sector partners/professional sectors and 3 directorates of forestry with aims to effectively mobilize the potential of financial aids of the international community. It also petitions for developing policies and capability of policy implementation. ICD/ISG’s potential of development partnership coordination and linkage between dialogue forum and orientative issues with aims to reach a consensus on the development policy-making process

For a new development phase, due to MARD’s changes in strategic orientation and vision, ISG is also requested to develop and improve itself. New tools and approaches to the dialogue surely create “effects” of “international support” functions of ISG for the new phase

(Luong The Phiet, ICD Director, ISG Director)

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