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FOUR KEY TASKS OF QUALITY CONTROL OVER AGRO-FOREST AND MARINE PRODUCTS

The Food Safety Law shall take effects upon 1st July, 2011.

Aiming to strictly bring this Law into practice, some by-laws have been promulgated. The Prime Minister ratified the project “building capacity of quality control over agro-forest and marine products and salt 2011 – 2015” on 31st May, 2011, including the 4 key tasks. The total fund of this project is about 1,500 billion dong.

Firstly, from now to 2012, it is planned to consolidate and strengthen the entire system of state administration of food quality and safety of agro-forest and

marine products, specifically: i) to adjust and add functions and duties and consolidate the system of state administrative agencies in charge of food quality and safety control over agro-forest and marine products by means

of systematically managing the supply chain ranging from farms to dining tables, involving relevant specific administrative areas; ii) to establish a non-business agency under jurisdiction of the Department

of agro-forest and marine product quality control as a pilot in order to



provide public services of consultancy, experiments and process and product certification in some eligible provinces.

Secondly, it is targeted to improve the efficiency of food quality and safety control. This task is planned to be fulfilled from 2012 – 2014 with such specific activities as: i) to set up management information system and national database on food quality and safety of agro-forest and marine products and salt; ii) consolidate and develop supervision teams responsible for inspecting from production into consumption and export with the orientation towards socialization; iii) promptly develop services of consultancy, experiments, food quality and security control over agro-forest and marine products and salt in the immediate future

Thirdly, it is supposed to complete the system of legal documents.

Fourthly, it is necessary to develop technical infrastructure of administrative agencies and control systems in an advanced and modern way, specifically to establish 1-2 national laboratories to control the quality and safety of agro-forest and marine products conform to regional standards and between 2012 and 2015 as well as join the ASEAN quality control system; ii) to improve specialized laboratories attached to Directorate/Department eligible for analyzing 100% quality and safety indicators applicable to agro-forest and marine products and salt based on such standards as TCVN/ISO 17025... TCVN/ISO 17025...

PLAN FOR QUALITY INSPECTION INTO AGRO-PRODUCTS NATION - WIDE

Since the food safety law shall take effective upon on 1st July, 2011, MARD had a meeting with 63 provinces to launch a campaign to inspect into food safety nation-wide



MARD also issued the Circular No. 14/2011/TT-BNNPTNT on inspecting into agro-forest and marine products as well as agriculture production and business units specialized in agricultural outputs assigned by the GOV.

Having drawn out experiences from pilot models in Thanh Hoa and Tien Giang provinces and clarified overlapping

responsibilities and duties among relevant agencies, MARD shall check the safety of agricultural products throughout the country, simultaneously classify production

and business units into different types, i.e. A, B, C, in which those which do not meet standard requirements (C type) are required to overcome shortcomings otherwise they shall be strictly punished as regulated by laws, even in more serious cases, either their business license shall be withdrawn or they shall be prosecuted as stipulated by the criminal law.

IMPROVING MACRO-ECONOMIC FORECAST QUALITY

The Prime Minister has just promulgated the Decision No. 674/QĐ-TTg dated 10th May, 2011 approving the project “enhancing and improving the quality of macro-economic forecast” for the period 2011 – 2015 with aims to develop a legal framework for economic forecasting activities and their quality improvement.

The Decision focuses on consolidation and improvement of capacity of forecasting agencies. It is

planned to basically establish specialized agencies or liaison units with professional full-time expertise staff responsible for forecasting in relevant ministries and sectors by 2015

The Decision clearly indicates specific measures, for instance, human resource development, further investment and



development of financial mechanism for the forecasting system; completion of the system of job assignment, cooperation and implementing organization of forecasting activities; extension of international cooperation in economic forecast

A steering committee headed by the Deputy Prime Minister as Chairman and supported by the Minister of Planning and Investment (MPI) as Vice Chairman and other leaders from Ministry of

Finance, Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Policemen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Office of Government and some other relevant ministries as members as recommended by the Minister of Planning and Investment is to be set up.

THE WORLD BANK SUPPORTS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC INVESTMENT EFFICIENCY IN VIETNAM THROUGH POLICY AMENDMENT

The World Bank ratified the grant of US\$350 million dated 24th, May 2011 with aims to enhance the public investment efficiency by means of improving the 4 stages of the investment cycle, namely

project selection, project implementation, financial management and project monitoring and evaluation.

This grant is a part of a series of public administration reform programs in Vietnam which were proposed under the context of global

economic crisis in 2009 in order to help Vietnam to avoid adverse impacts from the crisis. The 1st WB grant of US\$500 million of the chain of activities was ratified in December 2009

Ms. Victoria Kwakwa, the Director of the World Bank

in Vietnam said, "Vietnam is confronting a very high demand for infrastructure development in the coming years. Improving the investment processes shall play a key role in ensuring the quality of public investment activities. We expect the Government of Vietnam to continue their administrative reform programs, especially related to public economic sector with aims to enhance the efficiency of public investment"

The overall objective was to support a series of policy interventions which are proposed to improve the efficiency of public investment management in Vietnam. This program is especially focused on the stage of project implementation and financial management of public-funding projects, including such issues as environmental impact control, tender transparency, benefit conflicts, conflict management,



environmental management, reporting and checking, administrative costs, budget for environment, payment and disbursement, subsidy and guaranty, monitoring and evaluation. This program is also expected to stimulate the infrastructure development in Vietnam by means of developing a legal framework for public and private partnership projects (PPP)

The highest percentage of this grant (US\$262 million) comes from the International Development Association (IDA) under control of the World Bank, which offer soft loans to low income countries.

The rest (US\$87.3 million) is debited as a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) under control of the World Bank specialized in offering loans to medium-income countries (Nguyen Hong Ngan, WB)

WORLD BANK FURTHER FUND PROGRAM 135

The World Bank and the State Bank of Vietnam signed a financing agreement and legal instruments for 5 projects in Vietnam with the total fund of US\$620.4 million, including the 4th loan for Phase 2 of the Program 135 (the 3rd grant)



The total fund of US\$50 million for the Phase 2 of the Program 135 shall be used to support in guiding how to make planning; establishing provincial and district technical working groups which in turn support communes.

OUTPUTS FROM ADB ANNUAL MEETING 2011 – FURTHER INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE REQUIRED



Many State Bank governors from ADB member countries as well as delegates from big countries in the world, at the 1st panel of the 4th ADB annual meeting held on afternoon 5th May 2011 in Hanoi has suggested that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is required to further fund and invest in agriculture in Asian countries with aims to enhance food security and fight against inflation due to the existing higher food price.

In parallel with the resource investment in natural disaster mitigation, delegates requests ADB to stimulate their investment in agriculture as well as enhance the business linkage through PPO model in order to develop water resource, seeds and varieties, contributing to support the agricultural development. It is supposed to strengthen soft linkages so as to speed up cooperation, information sharing and together deal with such urgent issues as diseases and natural disasters in the region and promptly seek an effective mechanism to connect Asia to Africa and enhance the South – South cooperation; at the same time encourage ADB member countries to proactively support and further contribute to the ABD fund with aims to enhance development resources and tackle with challenges in the region. ADB is required to focus on further investment in exports and infrastructure in the region in order to remove bottlenecks of supplies.

IN CASE OF VIETNAM– ADB INVESTS US\$108 MILLION IN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN PROVINCES

The Prime Minister has just promulgated the Official No. 700/TTg-QHQT requesting the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to consider and ratify loan agreements on rural infrastructure development projects in the Northern provinces which were signed with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The total grant through the 2 ADB loan agreements is US\$108 million, including US\$82 million soft loans



with the loan term of 32 years and the extension term of 8 years. The less soft loan is valued at US\$26 million with the term of 32 years, with the 8 year-extension term

and interest rate is 2.22% during the loan term. The project duration is a 5-year period (2011 – 2016)

The project objective is to construct, restore and improve rural infrastructural works in Northern provinces; develop and enhance capacity of infrastructure management for the community level, and gradually improve living standards and living conditions for the poor living in mountainous areas.

NEW LEGAL DOCUMENTS

New legal documents	Brief content
<p>Circular No. 06/2011/TT-BKHĐT dated 06/4/2011 guiding the preparation of profiles, processes, procedures of issuance of "Certificate of preferential and supplemental investment support to enterprises investing in agriculture and rural areas as stipulated by the Decree No. 61/2011/TT-BKH dated 4/6/2010 by the Government</p>	<p>Investors who have investment projects as described in Article 4 of the Decree No. 61/2010/ND-CP shall have to submit 09 sets of profiles, including 01 original profile to the respective Departments of Planning and Investment (DPI) in the provinces where the project is to be implemented. After a complete set of profiles was submitted, DPI shall in turn circulate them to relevant agencies for their comments. Then DPI shall synthesize all received comments, write an appraisal report and submit a request to PPC to issue the "Certificate of preferential and supplemental investment support to enterprises investing in agriculture and rural areas as stipulated by the Decree No. 61/2011/TT-BKH dated 4/6/2010" to investors who are entitled to enjoy incentive policies and investment support in agriculture and rural areas within 5 days upon the receipt of all comments from relevant agencies. The Circular has tackled with problems that local enterprises are facing during the implementation of investment incentive policies on agriculture and rural development (see details in on website: www://isgmard.gov.vn)</p>
<p>Decree No. 38/2011/ND-CP amending and supplementing some clauses on procedures and processes on land allocation and agricultural land lease to households and individuals as stipulated by Article 123 of the Decree No. 181/2004/ND-CP dated 29/10/2004</p>	<p>38/2011/ND-CP. Specifically, households and individuals shall submit their application form for land allocation, lease to People Commune's Committee where land areas are available. The form shall be clearly stated their inquiries for land area for use.</p> <p>CPC shall make the master planning for land allocation to those who are eligible for land allocation; the list of land contractors shall be posted in public in CPC office within 7 working days and it is required to collect comments from local people as well as transparently give feedbacks at the CPC office; complete the land allocation plan to be submitted to People's Council at the same level for appraisal before further forwarding to the Natural Resources and Environment Division for ratification and to District People's Committee for approval.</p> <p>The Decree No. 38/2011/ND-CP also specifically supplements a checklist of a complete profile to be submitted to the Natural Resources and Environment Division, including the application form by households, individuals; minutes on land allocation appraisal developed by the consulting council; the list of land contractors; synthesis of people's comments and feedbacks (if any) etc...</p>

	<p>The Natural Resources and Environment Division has responsibility for appraising the land allocation proposal, then submitting to People’s Committee at the same level for issuance of land allocation decision; directing the Land Use Right Registration Office to carry out the land allocation on site and issue the LUP Certificate</p> <p>It shall take no more than 20 days to complete all procedures in the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and no more than 10 days in LUP registration office. It means that the time is 20 days shorter than before (50 days)</p> <p>Also under this Decree, it takes 37 days to complete the entire procedure for allocation, lease of perennial cropping land, production forest land, protection forest land, buffer zone land of special-use forest, land for aquaculture and other farming land to households, individuals, meaning 13 days shorter than as regulated before.</p> <p>The Decree also supplements criteria enabling households, individuals having farming land allocated in the order of priority given to those who have either no farming land or lack of farming land based on the total average agricultural land area of specific communes.</p>
Decision No. 645/QD-BNN-KHCN dated 24/5/2011	Ref. Establishment of the compile working group “the Information Technology Strategy for the Agriculture and Rural Development sector by 2020 and work plan 2011 – 2015”. The compile working group is in charge of developing and completing the Information Technology Strategy for the Agriculture and Rural Development sector by 2020 and work plan 2011-2015 to be submitted to MARD for approval.
Circular No. 38/2011/TT-BNN-PTNT dated 23/5/2011 by MARD guiding implementation of some Articles of the Decree No. 02/2010/ND-CP dated 8th January 2010 by the Government on agriculture extension	<p>This Circular shall provide guidelines on contents and methods of agricultural extension, management of national state budget-funded projects and programs managed by MARD, which is targeted at organizations, individuals involved in the implementing organization and management of agriculture national extension projects/programs. This Circular consists of 6 chapters and 17 Articles.</p> <p>Regarding contents and methods of agricultural extensions, Chapter 2 provides for such issues as refresher, advanced training and training courses in demonstration dissemination and scale-up. Chapter 3 stipulates on development, appraisal and approval of national agriculture extension projects/programs. Chapter 4 regulated check, evaluation and inspection into national agriculture extension programs/projects. Chapter 5 prescribes on fund management of national agriculture extension programs/projects. And Chapter 6 stipulates on the implementing organization.</p>