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Development of safe agriculture product market

New policies on agriculture and rural development in November 2013

ISG ANNUAL FORUM ON FOOD SAFETY DEVELOPMENT OF SAFE AGRICULTURE PRODUCT MARKET



Vice Minister Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu in her opening speech on the ISG food safety forum 25.11.2013

The theme for the ISG’s annual food safety forum was “Development of agriculture product market” with its key objectives to dialogue for the incentives of elevations for the development of a safe agriculture product market towards: high quality; high added values; reasonable benefit assurance for

producers; and health assurance for 90 million of consumers in Vietnam.

The annual food safety forum was organized by the International Cooperation Department, through the International Support Group (ISG) coordination, with the financial support from the Promoting the Quality, Safety and Value of

Agriculture Product (FAPQDCP) project under the management of the National Agro-Forestry-Fisheries Quality Assurance Department (NAFIQAD).

In her opening speech, Vice Minister Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu pressed “The Government and sectors determine to direct and issue many laws, policies and regulations in food safety. However, this issue remains urgent shortcomings which directly influence to the life quality of people as well as to the competitiveness of the agriculture products in the global market, particularly in the international economic integration context

Recommendations from participants in the

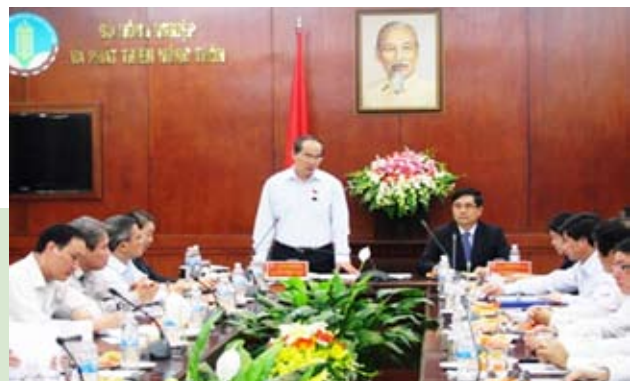
forum included the determination of market orientation food safety management implicating the active joining of private sector and social organizations in

the safe food production and distribution markets. The Government shall play its role as the direction guiding for safe food consumption via its systems on laws, public investments, decisive monitoring and enforcement agencies in order to maintain the continuous safe food supply system; and at the same time, to raise the awareness on knowledge and demands on safe food for people, via communication. Documents of the forum shall be accessed via www.isgmard.org.vn (ISG/MARD)

THE ROLE OF COMMUNITIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL MATERIAL QUALITY MONITORING

On 5th November 2013, Mr. Nguyen Thien Nhan, member of Ministry of Politic, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front worked with the departments and units under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and relating ministries and agencies on matters concerning the quality management of agricultural materials, especially in the field of fertilizers, plant protection products, animal feeds. At the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Thien Nhan stressed that the political organizations have, although not the technical handling, the surveillance function role. They can, if a violation is detected, notify the appropriate authorities for handling.

Mr. Nguyen Thien Nhan emphasized, farmers, via their organizations, shall monitor the operation of authorities, and



Mr. Nguyen Thien Nhan speeches at the working session

benefit themselves at the same time in the monitoring process.

He suggested the state management authorities, in cooperation with the Vietnam Fatherland Front and the Vietnam Farmer Association, shall quickly agree on a coordination program in: trainings and knowledge disseminations for farmers on full awareness of their rights and duties in agricultural material relating matters in order they can use the right types of materials which both fit their benefits and social responsibilities.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PASSED THE LAW ON THE PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE

The National Assembly passed the Law on the Plant protection and Quarantine on 25th November 2013. This Law stipulated the operations in: plant protection and quarantine including prevention of plant resource damaging epidemic; plant

quarantine; plant protection drugs; and state management on plant protection and quarantine. The Law has prescribed the additional obligations of pesticide production facilities and obligations of organizations and individuals selling pesticides in the implementation of the provisions on the environmental protection tax and other provisions of relating laws./.

FAO SUPPORTS VIETNAM IN CAPACITY STRENGTHENING IN INFORMATION PROVISION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION ON FOOD SAFETY

The Prime Minister has just approved the project category on “strengthening of capacity in information provision, education and communication on food safety supporting for the implementation of the Food Safety Law and the National strategy for food safety 2011-2020, vision to 2030” funded by FAO for the period 2013-2016 with total budget of 2.2 million USD at the Decision No 2413/QĐ-TTg.

The project will contribute in the awareness raising for consumers in using safe food, in the enhancement of ethics for producers and business holders on the safe food which protect health for consumers, in the strengthening of skills for specialized staff and communication officers in food safety management and monitoring.

The project will help to enhance the coordination and the cooperation among food safety actors as well as to mainstream



the communication on food safety into the nutrition programs, agriculture and rural development programs, curriculums in the education system and other relating programs in order to effectively used the resources, information and budget for messaging to target groups. (TH)

NETHERLANDS SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAFE VEGETABLE VALUE CHAIN IN THE NORTH OF VIETNAM

The project on “Development of the safe vegetable value chain in the North of Vietnam” implemented by Metro Cash & Carry Vietnam and Fresh Studio company from September 2010 to May 2013 has gained the supports from the Embassy of Netherlands with the total budget of nearly 1 million USD.

After 3 years implementation, the project has created the linkage between the small safe vegetable production holders and the modern distribution channel which greater the added value for agricultural products and provide safe vegetables for consumers on the northern area of Vietnam. Via the direct linkage between the small production holders and the modern distribution channel, Metro expect to enhance the values of agricultural products, create stable outputs for farm-householders and decrease the adverse impacts to the environment in the production



Clean vegetable field at Moc Chau under the project “Development of the safe vegetable value chain in the North of Vietnam”

and cultivation processes.

Mr. Philippe Bacac, General Director of Metro Cash & Carry Vietnam enclosed: “we wish to enhance the quality for agricultural products to provide safe production and good health for consumers.”

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT MARKET



Implemented in 6 years (2008-2013), the project Promoting the Quality, Safety and Value of Agriculture Product (FAPQDCP) funded by CIDA has contributed in the quality improvement, food safety and market access capacity enhancement for Vietnamese agricultural products.

As the execution agency for the project, the National Agro-Forestry-Fisheries Quality Assurance Department (NAFIQAD - MARD) informed that this is the project with entire new approaches and implementation methods. The project has not only focused on technical assistance but also solutions for production management and product consumption via food safety control for the entire production chain cohering the producers and distribution actors.

Activities of project focused on the development of guidance documents for VietGAP, GMP; provision of trainings for farmers and producers, on the basics of researches of international regulations, on the application of VietGAP, VietGAHP, GMP in their operations of production, preparation, packaging and distributions for vegetables, fruits, slaughtering, pork selling, poultry selling. From the success lesson of this project, MARD shall replicate the models toward other localities via the Projection on development safe product supply chain toward the quality assurance of

agricultural products for the domestic market and the export markets at 33 provinces/cities. The experience of the development the pilot models of safe agricultural product production and supply chain and the food safety control system of the project has been also disseminated and transferred to 63 provinces and cities, management agencies, researching agencies as well as universities nationwide.

One of the other critical achievements of the project was the upgrading of 7 standardized testing departments including provision of equipment, trainings, consultation for capacity building for managers and testing officers. In particular, 3 testing departments of the NAFIQAQ IV (MARD), the Hygiene and Public Health Institute of Ho Chi Minh city (MOH) and the Centre for Quality Technical and Standard Measurement III in Hoc Chi Minh city (MOST) met the ISO 17025 issued by the International Assessment Organization - National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA).

“The new point in the food safety control system piloted by the project was appraised to meet the criteria of scientific; commodity chain hazard analysis and risk management based principles; linkages between the monitoring results of risk determination and root cause leading to food safety loss at every single stage”, informed by representatives of MARD.

Alongside with the safety assurance, the models also organized production towards environmentally friendly, brought adequate benefits for workers, and assure the product’s traceability. Along with these activities, the activities enhancing the market access including branding, VietGAP green label logo design, packaging labelling, and product promotion plans for dissemination of food safety certified agricultural products were conducted.

As a result, the models have stable outputs, increasing the sales volume and selling prices to certain sales channels such as supermarkets, canteens, safe vegetable and fruit stores. These matters of fact have changed the thinking and doing business in agricultural production contributing to the greater benefit for producers and consumers./. (NTD)

CANADA SUPPORTS 7.6 MILLION USD FOR VIETNAMESE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT COMPETITIVENESS

Canada has currently supported a number of initiatives in: strengthen the sustainable economic growth for Vietnam; support farmers in their entire production chain from credit access to technical training, innovative production methods, market access and product commercialization.

On 4th December, IFC - one of the World Bank's members - and the Government of Canada have signed a cooperation agreement supporting Vietnamese farmers in their credit access as well as knowledge and production method update for life quality improvement and sustainable agriculture development.

Thus the Government of Canada shall provide 7.6 million USD for an agricultural development project with its objectives in raising the profits and the sustainability for Vietnamese agriculture in the coming 5 years.

IFC shall support Vietnamese Government in the improvement of the agricultural legal framework in creation of better conditions for agricultural product export and expansion of commercial exchanges for farmers. IFC will also provide consultation for domestic commercial banks in enhancing the credit resources for agro-enterprises, especially smallholders.



Heading towards the key target group of farmers who produce the key agricultural products for export such as coffee, cashew nut, and rice, the project shall provide trainings for farmers on the sustainable models in production and business as well as provide capacity and skill building for farmers and small-traders in post-harvest technologies.

The core purpose from all of above is to strengthen the competitiveness of agriculture contributing in poverty reduction and bringing the prosperity for the nation and to help the sector taking advantages from the signed commercial liberalization agreements including the TPP. One of the strategic priorities of IFC in Vietnam is to support agricultural development via capital and knowledge mobilization from private sector.

SUPPORT 100% INTEREST RATE FOR THE LOAN FOR PURCHASING THE LOSS REDUCTION EQUIPMENT FOR AGRICULTURE

On 14th November 2013, Prime Minister issued the Decision No 68/2013/QĐ-TTg stipulating the supporting policy for loss reduction in agriculture.

Thus, from 1st Jan 2014, cooperatives, teams, households, individuals who are direct target groups of cultivation, husbandry, fishery aquaculture, fishery capture, agricultural and fishery processing, agro-mechanical service provision and agro-enterprises signing

contracts on production linkages, agricultural product distribution, agro-mechanical service provision; or cooperatives and farmers who purchase machinery or equipment to reduce the agricultural losses, shall enjoy 100% interest rate in the first two years and 50% in the third year; with total loan size as 100% of the machinery/equipment purchasing value.

The category of machinery and equipment for this interest rate support included: The types

of machinery for soil plugging; leveling the fields; sowing; planting; tending; harvesting rice, corn, coffee, tea, sugarcane; all types of dryers; clean salt production equipment; machine equipment used in husbandry; water saving irrigation system; machinery and equipment for seed production, cultivation, harvesting of products from aquaculture;

machines and processing equipment for agricultural and fishery's waste and residues; all types of tractors, diesel engines used in agriculture and fishery capture; warehouse, storage devices of grain, corn at household scale, etc.

This Decision shall be effected at the 1st Jan 2014.

LEGISLATION DOCUMENTS IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR ISSUED IN 11/2013

Issued date	Contents
By Prime Minister	
04/12/2013	Decision No 2356/QĐ-TTg stipulating the action plan for implementation of the ethnic minority works up to 2020.
02/12/2013	Decision No 2344/QĐ-TTg approving the restructuring of the State Capital and Investment Corporation (SCIC) up to 2015.
28/11/2013	Decision No 2308/QĐ-TTg by the prime Minister regarding the negotiation with the IFAD on the funding agreement and relating legal documents for the project "climate change adaptation for the Mekong delta provinces of Ben Tre and Tra Vinh"
29/11/2013	Document No 2045/TTg-QHQT regarding the participation in the regional project funded by FAO.
27/11/2013	Decision No 2292/QĐ-TTg stipulating the establishment and operational regulations for the Phu Yen High-Technology application zone.
27/11/2013	Decree No 201/2013/NĐ-CP detailing the implementation of some articles in the Water Resources Law.
14/11/2013	Decision No 2214/QĐ-TTg in 2013 approving the projection of "strengthening of international cooperation supporting for socio-economic development for ethnic minority areas" by the Prime Minister
4/11/2013	Decision No 2010/QĐ-TTg approving the project category for "Water and Sanitation Programme for Small Towns in Vietnam Phase III" using grant ODA resources from Finland.
25/10/2013	Decision No 62/2013/QĐ-TTg regarding the encouraging policies for cooperation and linkages of production and consumption of agricultural products and development of large field.
By the Government Office	
20/11/2013	Document No 9840/VPCP-QHQT in 2013 receiving the grant Irish ODA for extreme difficult communes of the Program 135

By the Government	
27/11/2013	Decree No 202/2013/NĐ-CP by the Government on the fertilizer management
26/11/2013	Decree No 199/2013/NĐ-CP stipulating the functions, duties, power and organizational structure of MARD.
14/11/2013	Decree No 178/2013/NĐ-CP stipulating the administrative sanctions in food safety
By MARD	
03/12/2013	Directive No 4313/CT-BNN-QLCL regarding the strengthening of food safety for agro-forestry-fishery products in the occasions of western New year and traditional TET 2014.
18/11/2013	Decision No 2731/QĐ-BNN-QLCL in 2013 approving the additional streets in Hai Phong joining the pilot project on exploitation, purchasing, processing and exporting of globefish ensuring food safety - period 2013-2015 by MARD
12/11/2013	Circular No 48/2013/TT-BNNPTNT stipulating the inspection and certification of food safety for export fishery product
08/11/2013	Circular No 47/2013/TT-BNNPTNT guiding the shift from rice cultivation land into annual tree association with fishery aquaculture in rice cultivation land
28/10/2013	Document No 5017/BNN-KHCN về việc đề nghị Stipulating Tiêu chuẩn kỹ thuật Quốc gia bảo vệ thực vật.
24/10/2013	Decision No 2487/QĐ-BNN-TCLN announcing the forest areas which belonged to administrative management areas of more than 1 province as basis for the implementation of environmental protection fee.
23/10/2013	Report No 3804/BC-BNN-TCCB regarding the implementation results of the administrative reform of 2013 of MARD.
23/10/2013	Announcement No 4914/TB-BNN-VP regarding the conclusion of Minister Cao Duc Phat at the implementation kick-off workshop for “Restructuring the agriculture sector towards greater added value and sustainable development”.
Inter-ministerial: MARD-MOF-MPI	
16/10/2013	Inter-Ministerial Circular No 42/2013/TTLT-BNNPTNT-BTC-BKHĐT guiding the implementation of the Decision No 01/2012/QĐ-TTg dated 09/01/2012 stipulating some supporting policies for application of Good Agriculture Practices in agriculture, forestry and
MOF	
28/10/2013	Document No 14565/BTC-TCHQ in 2013 stipulating the taxation policy for preferential investment project which are taxation exempted in accordance to the Decree No 149/2005/
Hanoi City People Committee	
09/10/2013	Decision No 6098/QĐ-UBND approving the “scheme on development of safe tea production and consumption for Hanoi city up to 2016, direction to 2020”.