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PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC EFFECTIVENESS IMPROVEMENT FOR KEY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN RED RIVER DELTA BY 2020

The Research Orientation on Science and Technology (S&T) to develop production and improve economic efficiency for key agricultural products in the Red River Delta by 2020 was determined to focus on the selection, breeding, bio-intensive technologies in cropping, livestock and fisheries.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development proposed the Government to give priority to investment in building some key public S&T institutions, to reach the advanced level in the region; priority also should be given to increase fund for the improvement of technology, do research and test before transferring to production. The Ministry expected to give opportunity to S&T organizations, high capacity business sectors to formulate and implement a synchronization scientific and technological projects from research, testing to production and consumption on some products such as: high quality rice, safe vegetables, mushrooms, lean pigs. At the Conference “Science and Technology Application on Production Development and Economic Effectiveness Improvement



for Key Agricultural Products in Red River Delta by 2020” on 18th August 2012, the delegates said that current research and S&T application were still limited, as indicated in the local vision on the role of S&T in the development of the economic sector. Another concern was that “technology market” and the connection of “supply” and “demand” have not been formed for the localities and business sectors to cooperate closely with research institutes and universities.

The participants proposed that key products must be based on the actual conditions of each region and locality. In addition, it's necessary to encourage the business sectors to pay attention to S&T research as well as to support the establishment of S&T enterprises. Currently, the local is still very confused in how to apply S&T in the development of production in general and in the promotion of key products in particular. So, the key products of each locality and in the whole region must be identified to prepare application plan, technology transfer and facilitation on the connection of "supply" and "demand" for S&T products.

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development has signed Decision No. 197 5/QB-BNN-CB dated 2/8/2012 approving plan to organize Agriculture Fair and the Forum on Investment Promotion of high-tech agriculture in Red River Delta area by 2012 in order to create a



bridge between localities and investors. These events will promote, introduce the potential of the region as well as strengthen the trade relations, sign agreement, exploit domestic and overseas markets. This will be an opportunity to promote and improve the quality and effectiveness of investment promotion on agriculture and localities. (NTH)

PRODUCTION REORGANIZATION - URGENT NEED IN MEKONG DELTA

Application of Big model field with clear existing objectives and action plans proved that Vietnamese agriculture is moving to the "Depth-First Development" stage. This stage focused on land accumulation which links the farmers and business sector; this connection will create high quality product quality towards sustainable development, with the slogan "small farmers, large fields", and dream of "Vietnam agricultural products will be famous brand" in the international marketplace.

Due to the need of industrialization and modernization of the country, it's necessary to reorganize the rice production in the Mekong Delta.

According to the orientation of "Depth-First Development" and large scale production, Priority should be given to Production Reorganization towards cooperation which includes storing, processing,



circulation, etc... Big model field is promoting the initial value and must be supported appropriately by the governmental policies. It's time to be active in the cooperative movement, and intermediaries' reduction in commodity value chain. Therefore, farmers' income will be improved and social security will be guaranteed. (NTT)

VIETNAM BIOTECH: GROWING THE FUTURE

According to Mr. Brian T. Neubert, the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, when Vietnam boosts the development of biotechnology seeds and plants, three major benefits will be created: food prices reduced and food security maintained; environmental protection and consumer health. So, now it is time for

Vietnam to accept, encourage and support biotechnology in order to receive great benefits.

Genetically modified organism development (GMO) must comply with Decree 69; the processes must be checked and controlled before the implementation. Consensus among the related agencies is needed.



The MARD's delegations are visiting the GMO testing model on maize

Vietnam is expected to bring GMO into crop production in 2015. Maize will be the first GMO crop (outstanding efficiency, good resistance against disease and insect). Vietnam's GMO development policy will consist of cautious, selective application of the GMO scientific achievements in the world. Vietnam is exporting rice and other agricultural products to other countries which

are not really interested in using GMO crops. Therefore Vietnam must consider and move carefully to avoid negative affects in export.

In 1994, Vietnam officially launched the national biotechnology program to promote research and application on biotech, with 6 projects, including biotechnology for sustainable agriculture project. Priority was given to the field of biotechnology in agriculture, because biotechnology was considered as a breakthrough to enhance the quality and increase competitiveness in the agricultural market, particularly in the period of international integration.

The key program on development and application of biotechnology in Agriculture and Rural Development by 2020" stated: the 2011-2015 objective is to put a number of GMO crops into production (kapok, maize, soybeans). Vision 2020 is to make GMO crop area account for 30-50%. This is an important basis for Vietnam to gradually bring crops applied biotech into production.(VDX)

42 PRIORITY TASKS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR NEW RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN 2012

On 20th August 2012, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, H.E Cao Duc Phat chaired the Steering Committee meeting of Science and Technology Program on New Rural Development in 2011-2015. The Minister appreciated the efforts of Steering Committee to complete the 2012-2013 plan and select 42 priority tasks of science and technology for New Rural Development in 2012

Ministers asked the Program Director Board to quickly complete the documents and procedures to submit to the Government and coordinate with the relevant units to prepare the Circular draft. The draft will guide the organizational implementation and financial management; and ensure the characteristics of the



program in accordance with the State's policy. (Full written notice 4182/TB-BNN-VP dated 08/28/2012 is published in www.omard.gov.vn) (HNN)

FORUM ON "AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE FOR FARMERS"

The Vietnam Farmers' Association in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) held the Forum entitled "Agricultural insurance for farmers"

in Hanoi on 27th August 2012. many proposals and recommendations were discussed to facilitate the farmers to actively participate in agricultural insurance such as: improve the promotion of agricultural insurance to raise the awareness farmers in insurance mechanisms and policies, especially in the contract and compensation conditions.

Currently, there are 21 districts having insurance on rice,

27 districts having insurance on cattle, 25 districts having insurance on fisheries and nearly 98.6 thousand households joining the insurance contract with the insurance value of plants and animals up to more than 900 billion.

However, the implementation of pilot agricultural insurance in Viet Nam is currently having some contents to be completed in the near future. Vietnam Farmers' Association involved in the development of mechanisms and policies on agricultural insurance for farmers and rural areas; the association also monitored the implementation process of state policy in the field of agricultural insurance. The localities checked the target (Households, production facilities, cropping areas); indicators of productivity and economic value as a basis for the insurance fee, contract and compensation conditions.

Besides the poverty and marginal poverty, the insurance businesses sector must have insurance products of agriculture, farmers and rural areas for large producers ... thereby creating the conditions for the producers to voluntarily participate in agricultural insurance.



On 23rd August 2012, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued Circular No 43/2012/TT-BNNPTNT on amending and adding a number of articles for Circular No. 47/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated 29 / 06/2011 on guiding the pilot agricultural insurance in crops, livestock and aquaculture accordance with Decision No 315/QĐ-TTg dated 01/03/2011 by the Prime Minister to facilitate the farmers. (TV)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

AUSTRALIA BOOSTS CLIMATE CHANGE SUPPORT FOR VN

The Australian Embassy on August 23 announced a new partnership with six international non-profit organizations to help Vietnam address climate change at the community level. With total funding of US\$15 million over two and a half years, Australia's support will help communities manage the impact of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The projects will be carried out by the Australian Government in cooperation with six international organisations from the country, including the Australian Red Cross, CARE Australia, the Environment Protection Fund, Oxfam Australia, Save the Children Australia and the SNV Swiss Development Organisation, and other Vietnamese and foreign organisations.

"Australia and our partners will reduce the risks from climate change-related natural disasters and threats to food and water security, helping 500,000 vulnerable people," says Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, Hugh Borrowman.

Vietnam is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, particularly in the Mekong Delta where rising sea levels, salt water intrusion and flooding are already affecting



vulnerable coastal communities. Australian support will build the capacity of officials and farmers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve rice production in the Mekong Delta and Central Region, and identify practical steps for adapting to climate change drawing on local knowledge and experience.

The US\$15 million funding for Vietnam is part of Australia's US\$599 million global 'fast-start' climate change finance commitment in 2010-2013 period and continues Australia's strong record of supporting community-level adaptation activities in developing countries. (HA)

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE FOR SMALL FARMERS

From 01 June 2012, Extension Center in collaboration with Oxfam Quebec – Canada, developed and implemented the project entitled “Climate Smart Agriculture for small farmers”

The objectives of the forum are to lead the people to link agricultural production with ecological environment; to improve production efficiency and raise awareness of people in environmental preservation and protection.

The project was implemented in three districts: Nam Dan, Hung Nguyen, and Dien Chau, there were 2 communes of each district being implemented and the project will be lasted in three production crops in 2012 and 2013.

The staffs and participants understanding of climate change, the solutions to climate change, gender



equality will be improved when joining the project ... and participating households will be supported the expenditure to build the production model on crops such as rice, maize, safe vegetables and livestock adapted to climate change. The participants will also be trained on the production of micro organic fertilizer from agricultural waste products. (HA)

CERTIFICATION SYSTEM IN VIETNAM AQUACULTURE



The Workshop on “Introduction to the certification system in Vietnam aquaculture” was funded by the Danish government, and held by SUDA in collaboration with VINAFIS, VASEP and WWF-Philippines held on 10th August 2012 in Can Tho Province.

Certification systems aimed to strengthen management towards sustainable development, raise productivity, improve quality of food safety, protect the ecological environment and increase social economic efficiency, clarify the aquaculture processing and satisfy the requirements of importers.

LIST OF ARTICLES SUBJECT TO PLANT QUARANTINE AND PEST RISK ANALYSIS BEFORE BEING IMPORTED INTO VIETNAM



MARD issued Circular No. 39/2012/TT-BNNPTNT dated August 13, 2012 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development promulgating a list of articles subject to plant quarantine and pest risk analysis before being imported into Vietnam

According to this Circular, the list includes: Trees and parts of tree being still alive and used for planting; fresh fruit; Grass and grass seeds of all types; Useful organisms and other organisms being still alive and having risk causing harmful to plant resources; Round timbers, sawn timbers have not processed of plant

quarantine; Other articles at high risk of carrying harmful organisms subject to adjustment of Vietnam need to be put in plant quarantine and pest risk analysis before being imported into Vietnam

The subjects specified above, when imported, shall be subject to reconsideration and reassessment of the result of earlier pest risk analyses if they fall in one of following cases:

1. There are factual and scientific evidences on the outbreak of an epidemic subject to plant quarantine or an epidemic subject to regulation but not being Vietnam's epidemic of plant quarantine on article in the exporting country;

2. A Vietnam's pest subject to plan quarantine on import article or a pest subject to regulation but not being Vietnam's pest subject to plan quarantine on import plant varieties is detected;

3. The export country issued new measure of pest management.

The other subjects, when imported, if a Vietnam's pest subject to plan quarantine is detected, the pest risk analysis must be performed. The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development shall decide exemption of pest risk analysis for article in special case.

Circular takes effect on 27th September 2012.

DISCLOSURE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS ON INTERNET

On 22nd August 2012, MONRE has issued the Circular No 09/2012/TT-BTNMT stipulating the provision, information and data exchange on the marine genetically modified organisms.

Information and data on the marine genetically modified organisms is the combination of data in accordance to the law and is checked and assessed, treated and integrated then archived in a systematic way, under computerized folders in archiving facilities such as hardware, CD, materials and documentary. All of these information and data is developed and updated to serve for state management, for socio-

economic activities, for defense, for security, for scientific researching, for education, and for people's knowledge enhancement.

In accordance to the regulation stipulated in this Circular, from 8th October 2012, information and data on marine genetically modified organisms shall be posted on internet websites on biological safety, officially written in Vietnamese with reference in English. The main website of this named "Vietnam BCH Portal" and this website will be exploited in accordance to the law and regulations on the utilization of electronic website on internet.

The budget for the development,



updating, and management of the national, local and sector information on the genetically modified organisms comes from the state budget at central, local levels and the budget from the environmental works.

The Circular takes effect on 8th October 2012.

APPROVAL OF THE CATEGORY OF CLEAN WATER SUPPLY AND RURAL SANITATION

The Prime Minister has just issued the Letter No 1256/TTg-QHQT approving the category on clean water supply and rural sanitation for 8 provinces in the Red river delta funded by the WB.

Thus, in the second phase of the project, (2008 – 2013) 8 provinces under the project are included: Quảng Ninh, Phú Thọ, Vĩnh Phúc, Hà Nội, Bắc Ninh, Hưng Yên, Hà Nam và Thanh Hóa.

The project on clean water supply and rural sanitation for the Red river delta funded by the IDA of

WB has been implemented via the counterpart agency of the Central of clean water and rural sanitation under MARD in the period of 2005 – 2013.

The Project includes following purposes: provision of adequate and sustainable clean water supply to the local community as well as support the community in improving its household level sanitation facilities; provision of capacity building for local people in the utilization of clean water and practice of the hygiene behavior to improve their health

and their child-rearing; at the same time, provision of capacity building for communal and village cadres in planning and management of infrastructure works; and provision of capacity building for local authorities in facilitation and support for community's initiatives.

The Project has 4 components: development of water supply and sanitation facilities; hygiene behavior changes; capacity building for community; structure of management agencies; management support; and M&E.

CANADA PROVIDES NON-REFUNDABLE AID OF 20 MILLION USD FOR THE TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN VIETNAM

Morning of 29th August 2012, the standing vice minister of MPI Cao Viet Sinh and the Canadian Ambassador to Vietnam Deborah Chatsis has signed the MOU between the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Vietnamese Government on the technical vocational training project which is valued of 20 million CAD (equivalent to 20 million USD).

The Vietnamese technical vocational training project shall be implemented in 2016 with its key purposes in

improvement of technical and vocational training management in Vietnam; acceleration of approaching opportunities to appropriate and quality training programs for women, youth, ethnic minority groups and farmers at the technical and vocational training centrals.

The advanced training centrals shall be established to support and strengthen the leadership and management capacity of the professional training centrals. The implementation agency at Canadian



side shall select the specific training curriculums. The execution agency at Vietnamese side is the HCMC National University, with cooperation from the co-implemented agencies including Provincial People Committees of Hau Giang, Binh Thuan and Vinh Long.

AGRICULTURAL TRADE

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT EXPORT TURNOVER IN THE FIRST 8 MONTHS OF 2012 ESTIMATED TO 18 BILLION USD

MARD: total turn-over of agricultural product export including forestry and fishery product in the first 8 months of this year reaches 18.1 billion USD, increasing 9.7% in comparison to the same period of last year. Export values of almost the agricultural, forestry and fishery products increased in comparison to the same period of last year.

Specifically, total volume of export coffee for the first 8 months estimated

at 1.26 million tons, with the turn-over of 2.66 billion USD, increasing 32% in the volume and 26.3% in the value in comparison with the same period of last year. Export rice reached 5.5 million tons, with its value of 2,5 ti USD, increasing 0.5% in the volume and decreasing 8.5% in its value in comparison to the same period of 2011. Export rubber reached 595.000 tons with its value of 1.78 billion USD, increasing 34.5% in its volume and 29.1% in its value. Export forestry products reached



3.15 billion USD, increasing 20% in comparison to the same period of last year. For fishery products, estimated that after 8 months of the year, the turn-over reached 4 billion USD, increasing 6,4%. (HNN)



USA IS THE BIGGEST MARKET OF VIETNAMESE PEPPER EXPORT

MARD:

the volume of pepper for export estimated in Aug 2012 is 7 thousand

tons, bigger than the volume in Jul. The turn-over of Aug is 57 million USD. The estimation of export pepper for the first 8 month is 83 thousand tons with the turn-over of 581 million USD. In comparison with the same period of last year, the volume is reduced 16.7%, but the value

of export increases 3.7%.

The biggest markets which import pepper from Vietnam are: USA (13.5% market share), Germany (11.5%), and v̄a The United Arab Emirates (8,7%).

Continuously, Olam, a foreign-invested enterprise has kept its leading position in pepper export in Vietnam. The average price of export pepper for the first 7 months of 2012 is 6,855USD/ton, increasing 25.3% in comparison to the last year.

LEGISLATION DOCUMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUED IN AUGUST 2012

Date of issue	Contents
From Prime Minister	
27/08/2012	Decision No 1152/QĐ-TTg By the Prime Minister stipulating the mechanisms on performance of the hi-tech application zone in Hau Giang
23/08/2012	Letter No 1256/TTg-QHQT approving the category of “clean water and environmental sanitation program in 08 provinces of the Red river delta” funded by the WB
17/08/2012	Letter No 1239/TTg-ĐMDN on the review of the land used, land use planning for equalized agricultural and forestry farms.
06/08/2012	Instruction No 21/CT-TTg regarding the implementation of the strategy on diplomatic information development period 2011-2012
From the Governmental Office	
17/08/2012	Letter No 6317/VPCP-QHQT regarding the position of co-chaired and co-organized by MARD, Dutch Embassy, FAO and WB in the second International Workshop on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change in Hanoi from 03 to 07 Sep 2012.
Inter-ministerial circulars	
09/08/2012	Inter-ministerial Circular No 128/2012/TTLT-BTC-BLĐTĐBXH on the amendment and supplementation some items in the Inter-ministerial Circular No 112/2010/TTLT-BTC-BLĐTĐBXH dated 30/7/2010 by MOF-MOLISA guiding the management and utilization of the implementation budget for the project on “Vocational training for rural labors up to 2020” under the Decision No 1956/QĐ-TTg dated 27/11/2009 By the Prime Minister
From MARD	
23/08/2012	Circular No 43/2012/TT-BNNPTNT by MARD on the amendment and supplementation for some items of the Circular No 47/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated 29/06/2011 by MARD guiding the pilot implementation of the agricultural insurance in cultivation, husbandry, aquaculture under the Decision No 315/QĐ-TTg dated 01/03/2011 By the Prime Minister
21/08/2012	Circular No 42/2012/TT-BNNPTNT by MARD on the amendment and supplementation for some items of the Circular No 01/2012/TT-BNNPTNT dated 04/01/2012 by MARD stipulating the legal forestry profile and the checking for sources of forestry products
21/08/2012	Letter No 2660/BNN-TCCB instructing the implementation of the vocational training for rural labors.
20/08/2012	Decision No 1975/QĐ-BNN-CB approving the plan for organization of the agricultural exhibition in combination with forum for promotion of investment in agriculture and rural development in the Red river delta.
16/08/2012	Decision No 1950/QĐ-BNN-CB approving the plan for organization of the event on promotion of the agro-forestry-fishery products into the Russian market in 2012.
13/08/2012	Circular No 39/2012/TT-BNNPTNT stipulating the category of items under the risk quarantine before importing into Vietnam
03/08/2012	Decision No 1840/QĐ-BNN-HTQT approving the component under MARD in the project on constraint overcome for management strengthening in preservation zones of Vietnam.
03/08/2012	Decision No 1843/QĐ-BNN-HTQT approving the Project Document on “Begomovirus prevention: livelihood improvement for farmer in the Asian Tropical areas from the gen sources of Begomovirus resisted tomato, chili, green bean and comprehensive risk management”, funded by the AVRDC.
02/08/2012	Circular No 38/2012/TT-BNNPTNT approving the category for fishery diseases which have been announced as epidemic
30/07/2012	Circular No 37/2012/TT-BNNPTNT approving the amended and supplemented category for products which can be used in environmental treatment for the fishery aquaculture in Vietnam
30/07/2012	Circular No 36/2012/TT-BNNPTNT approving the amended and supplemented category for fishery animal feeds in Vietnam.
From MOF	
30/07/2012	Decision No 1895/QĐ-BTC approving the standard regulations on IT application in the administrative agencies and professional agencies under MOF.