

Context:

1. The year 2008 is the second year Vietnam is member of WTO. A lot of impact can be gradually visible which require stakeholders especially policy makers and decision makers at all levels to think of proper switch or adjustment. The government should take action to confront with the negative impacts.
2. It is also the third year the Agriculture and rural sector undertakes it's 5 year plan. With the assistance from SDC MARD is developing the M & E indicators to measure the achievements of the 5-year plan. Furthermore, Rural development is considered a focal interest in the Government's action plan in 2008 as decided in the 10th Communist Party Congress. MARD is assigned in coordination with other line ministries to formulate the Rural Development Strategy with emphasis on agriculture, farmers and rural area for the period 2010 – 2015 – 2020 and the vision beyond 2020. The deadline is in 2008. In this context, Agenda 21, MDGs and VDGs, CPRGS, result-based approach, and pro-poor concept are still important documents and should be taken into account. MARD leaders have shown their strong willingness to consult with donor community in both planning methodology and exercise. Donor assistance to planning process is highly appreciated. In this light, an Adhoc group on supporting MARD to formulate Rural Development Strategy 2010 – 2020 is in place with representatives from various agencies and donors including INGOs within ISG framework.
3. The national economy is on the way to booming development and achieved the highest growth rate in the 10 recent years: 8.48 % . Vietnam is preparing to be come the middle income country in 2010. There is a trend toward ODA reduction right at this moment, the Official Development Assistance is changing toward more selective and effectiveness and efficiency. Still important but it has to share its stage with a wider set of economic relationships ranging from membership in multilateral and regional trade groupings, to foreign direct and portfolio investment and public - private partnerships. . Instead, international cooperation will be shift to new and diversified models.
4. Food safety and Climate change has been paid due attention by both donor community and Government of Vietnam.
5. 2008 is the third year of the implementation of Hanoi Core Statement on Aid effectiveness. Donors are committed to align with the Government's development strategy as set out in the Socio- Economic Development Plan 2006 – 2010. On the other hand, Government of Vietnam has proved its commitments with the promulgation of Decree 131 replacing Decree 17 on ODA management, which has opened up to a greater decentralization and devolution in aid management. MARD is assigned with full responsibility for all aspects of ODA project management. MARD will need to strengthen its state management role to ODA resources by a new decision, replacing decision 45 on utilization and management of ODA for the ARD sector. . ISG process is expected to support this HCS implementation, particularly in the ARD sector, and in reality several activities have been carried out. Information sharing has been strengthened. Impact of HCS implementation will be spelled out soon. The revised EU guidelines which is in effective from January 2008 indicate to be behind and incompatible with the

labor market movements due to high inflation rate and increasing CPI .

6. The merge of two ministries : MARD and Ministry of Fisheries took place in late 2007 giving ISG to cover a larger scope of working and more stakeholders.
7. ICD has been assigned by MARD Minister as a coordination agency for external resources management, including foreign direct investment (FDI) within the sector. Also, international integration (ASEAN/AFTA, WTO, bilateral agreements and international organizations, etc.) and SPS focal point which is now established, and are the new key responsibilities of ICD. Therefore, ISG process is also expected to continue to assist ICD in coordination between MARD and donors for external resources (ODA, NGO, FDI) management.
8. In decision No. 2153/TTg-QHQT30 December 2005, the Government extended the operation of the Trust fund until 2010 and the counterpart fund arranged by MARD for ISG WP 2006-2010 has also be decided. This shows strong commitments and support for the GoV to maintain and develop the ISG forum. The New FA valid for the period 2007 – 2010 has been in effect.
9. Developments in ISG Secretariat capacity: ISG is recruiting one program officer and one coordinator of the International Cooperation Network

Development of ISG Work Plan 2008:

Based on the ISG framework work plan 2006-2010, the ISG annual progress 2007, and ISG performance analysis 2007, the ISG annual Work Plan 2008 will continue to focus its activities for following areas

1. Rural Development
2. Fisheries as new merged area

3. International Integration commercial resources for Rural development;
4. Planning process (M& E system)
5. Effective and efficient ODA management
6. Action plan for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector
7. Improvement of policies to tackle with food safety issues

Breaking down in five key areas: *three Core Key Areas and two Supporting Key Areas*. The two Supporting Key Areas are crosscutting in nature and are sub-component of each of the three Core Areas. The three Core Areas represent the three main functions of ISG. Following strategies are mentioned for achieving objectives of each Areas:

- KEY AREA 1: Policy Dialogue Platform
- KEY AREA 2: Donor and FDI coordination
- KEY AREA 3: Information Gathering and Dissemination
- KEY AREA 4: Capacity Building and Management Processes
- KEY AREA 5: Monitoring and Evaluation

Abbreviations

AFTA	ASEAN Free Trade Agreement
ADHG	Adhoc Group
ARD	Agriculture and Rural Development
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
CIO	Communication and Information Officers
CPRGS	Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
DARD	Provincial Department of Agriculture And Rural Development
DCRD	Department of Cooperatives and Rural Development

DOP	Department of Organization and Personnel (MARD)		
FA	Framework Arrangement	RWSS	Rural water supply and sanitation
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment	SB	Steering Board
FERD	Foreign Economic Relations Department (MPI)	SEDP	Socio-Economic Development Plan
FIA	Foreign Investment Agency (of MPI)	SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary
FSSP-P	Forestry Sector Support Program - Partnership	SWAP	Sector-Wide Approaches
FYP	Five-Year Plan	TAG	Thematic Ad-hoc Group
HCS	Hanoi Core Statement on Aid effectiveness	Tech Coords	Technical Coordinator
ICARD	Information Center for Agriculture And Rural Development	VAMESPII	Vietnam-Australia M&E Support Project- Phase II
		VDG	Vietnam Development Goals
ICD	International Cooperation Department (MARD)	WRD	Water Resources Department (MARD)
ICN	International Cooperation Network of Agriculture and Rural Development	WTO	World Trade Organization
Int'e	International Donors		
ISG Sec	ISG Secretariat		
ISGE	International Support Group for Environment (MONRE)		
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture And Rural Development		
MDG	Millennium Development Goals		
MoF	Ministry of Finance		
MoH	Ministry of Health		
MoT	Ministry of Trade		
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment		
MRB	Meeting Results Briefing		
MSCP	MARD-SIDA Cooperation Program		
NDM-P	Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership		
NGO	Non-governmental Organizations		
PAB	Policy Advisory Briefing		
PAG	Policy Advisory Group		
PD	Planning Department (MARD)		
PDP	Provincial Dialogue Platforms		
PO	Program Officer		

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	

KEY AREA 1 - Facilitation of Policy Dialogue																		
Objective: Regular results-oriented policy dialogue takes place between officials of MARD that are responsible for formulation of agricultural and rural development policy, and donor and FDI representatives that are responsible for formulation of foreign-funded programs and projects		Indicator: - Number of Plenary, Steering Board, TAG, and special meetings held. - Seniority level of stakeholders participating in meetings. - Meeting Results Briefs circulated in MARD and donors																
Approach: Continue to facilitate regular meetings between MARD, other line ministries, donors, and FDI representatives.																		
Activity																		
1. Plenary Meeting 2008	Discussion on most urgent/important issues of the sector													★				ISG SB, ISG Sec, ICD, MPI, MSCP
2. 14th meeting of ISG Steering Board	Approval of ISG performance analysis 2007, approval of annual WP 2008	★																ISG SB, ISG Sec.
3. 15th meeting of ISG Steering Board	Content and preparation of the Plenary Meeting 2008													★				ISG SB, ISG Sec.

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility
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<p>Objective: Specific dialogues among stakeholders to support Government of Vietnam to formulate the Rural Development Strategy 2010 – 2020 and implement the FYP 2006 - 2010 including FDI promotion polices</p>	<p>PABs on Food Safety , Rural Development, climate changes impact on agriculture and rural development – mitigation and adaptability, foreign investment in ARD submitted to MARD leaders and circulated to relevant stakeholders;</p> <p>No. of information, data update timely on ISG Website, monthly and quaterly newsletter.</p> <p>List of projects/programmes dealing with relevant areas selected</p> <p>List of key institutions involved in the selected areas including NGOs and civil service.</p> <p>No. of dialogues and consultation meetings held; Meeting briefs/reports</p> <p>No. of participants, seniority, sectors</p> <p>No. of Private sector and province stakeholders participants in relevant meetings and dialogues;</p>											
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Activity	Expected Output	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Responsibility
4. Facilitate dialogues on Food Safety issues (at Central and provincial level) as requested by MARD leaders and donors	<p>Enhancement of awareness of food safety policy issues among policy makers and implementers</p> <p>Policy comments on food safety</p> <p>Areas of support need or investment need identified</p>													ISG, ICD, technical institutions in MARD, MoH, MPI, Food producers/processing enterprises, provinces, sub sector Associations, Int'e and investors

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
5. Series of dialogues, meetings (at Central and provincial level) on Rural Development Strategy and Program	Draft of Rural Development Strategy and program draft circulated among donors and other international communities for comments and advices														ADHG on rural development strategy & programme, relevant stakeholders including provinces
6. Dialogues/business forum between local relevant stakeholders including State authorities, agro enterprises, agro related associations, farmers and FDI representatives in support FDI promotion in ARD	Policy comments submitted to MARD leaders and FDI policy officers, MARD new policies update and exposed to investment stakeholders														Embassies, Thailand embassy..., ICD, ISG Sec., MPI, Eurocham, Americancham.... National consultants
7. Facilitate dialogues on fishery area priorities for calling investment and assistance)	ODA coordination in newly merge fisheries sector improved; report with														ISG, Local consultants, Donors (WB)

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
	recommendations on priorities in fisheries areas for donors' references														
Approach: Establish annual Core Donor group meeting to review progress on implementation of FYP and to prepare for the Annual CG meeting.															
8. Organize meetings with core donors and other donors as requested and in need.					★										Manager, ISG Sec, and core donors and their POs
9. If desired, organize this meeting.															ISG Sec
Objective: Participation of the local stakeholders in the policy making process is improved in support to the decentralization policy of the government at the same time, policy makers' access to reality hence contributing to the feasibility and effectiveness and efficiency of development policies and strategies		Indicator: - Number of dialogues, forums and workshops held with donors, MARD and line ministries - Number of provincial field visits conducted - Number of opportunities for provinces to interact with donors and MARD officials to discuss policy issues; - Number of provincial Meeting Results Briefing produced; - Number of policy brief produced													
Approach: Organize provincial policy dialogues and workshops (as necessary) on key policy issues.															
Activity															
10. Provincial forums and workshops in support to the formulation of the RDS	Discussions held as required during the strategy formulation process; MRBs produced and														ICD, ISG Sec, AHG

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
	circulated															
Approach: Utilize the newly established ICN and existing provincial networks created through donor-funded and other projects, as well as DARDs to create and maintain vertical policy dialogues.																
Activity																
11. Continue to update and build the inventory of existing provincial networks; identifying new primary contact points as necessary.	Operational networks															ISG Sec
12. Increasing number of people and institutions receive ISG information and newsletters.	Newsletters received regularly by contact points															ISG Sec
13. Invite provincial contact persons to participate in relevant policy dialogues being sure to encourage their input.	Inputs shared with Province people															ISG Sec, TAG, ICN
14. Provide ICN members with new accounts to joint the online development forum and integrated database.	Accounts provided and forum online utilised															ISG Sec
15. Consolidate Provincial Dialogue platforms and integrate it into the international cooperation network as necessary in accordance with established sustainability and existing resources.	Platforms consolidated, recommendations provided, and activities proposed															ISG Sec, consultant
Objective: A two-way communication mechanism is in place so that outputs on MARD policy		Indicator: Number of meetings with members of ICN - Number of meetings Results Briefings produced														

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	

directions developed in the ISG process are communicated upwards to the highest levels of MARD, down to those involved in the day-to-day implementation of MARD policies, and to key provincial officials.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of decision-makers receiving meeting results briefings - Information and recommendations provided by ICN members shared on ISG website and newsletters - No of time participated by ICN members in ISG activities 														
Approach: Prepare “Policy Advisory Briefings” regularly on priority demand basis																
Activity																
16. Participate in PRSC dialogues in MARD	Inputs identified for ISG activities															ICD, ISG, WB
Approach: The ICN will be used as one of ISG communication focal points to provide inputs for policy dialogues and sharing experiences in international cooperation practices in MARD in particular																
Activity																
17. Two workshops on specific issues proposed by the Network	Policy and action recommended					★		★								ICN network coordinator, ISG
Objective: Coordination with all technical departments in MARD and pilot DARDs and partnerships consolidated and strengthened		Indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of attendances at ISG meetings by non-MARD ministries and MARD partnerships. - Level of satisfaction of key stakeholders as determined by annual survey. - Number of joint activities undertaken by ISG, Partnerships, donors and other Ministries. 														
Approach: Toward effective and better role of the owner of the ISG process. Consolidate the operation of International Cooperation Network, closely cooperated with MARD Policy Advisory Group, , and other partnerships like NDMP, RWSSP, FSSP, AI																
Activity																
18. Work with Partnerships to identify areas where ISG support/ collaboration may be useful.	List of dialogues events planned	<hr/>												ISG Sec, relevant partnerships		

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility		
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	by all partnerships in MARD; areas for collaboration and or support identified and implemented															
Approach Develop and consolidate the cooperation with other line ministries through assisting, providing experiences to the newly established ISG in other Ministries and keep stronger linkages with ISGE																
Activity 19. Closely cooperate with other ISG in relevant areas i.e ISGE in the area of Environment where applicable and authorized by MARD	Issues of common concern exchanged															ISG Sec; ISGE Sec., TAGs, ICDMONRE
Objective: Thematic studies are coordinated and facilitated to provide a solid basis for discussing and formulating policies to be adopted and carried out by MARD.		Indicator: Number of thematic studies requested and/or carried out successfully.														
Approach: At the request of the Minister and through the Expert team to formulate the RDS and Adhoc group to identify key issues for developing study proposals.																
Activity 20. mobilize consultants to support the formulation of the RDS	list of qualified consultants															AHG, ISG PO, consultants provided by donors, INGOs
21. Facilitate coordination for the RDS when in need																ISG

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
22. An initialed study to identify prioritizing areas of fisheries for calling investment and assistance	A report with list of prioritizing areas to be foundation for better ODA coordination in fisheries														ISG Sec. ICD, donors, International and local consultants.
23. Collect policy recommendation for MARD from international projects network, donors, investors...	PABs														ISG Sec, international rural related projects
KEY AREA 2 - Support Coordination of Foreign-funded Programs and Projects															
Objective Implementation of the Hanoi Core Statement on Aid Effectiveness is actively supported by ISG.		Indicator: Number of workshops for awareness raising and capacity building on Hanoi Core Statement held													
Approach: The awareness of HCS will be trickled down through ICN															
Activity															
24. Workshops on introduction of the circular guiding the implementation of decree 131 and revised decision 45 – MARD on ODA management in support to ICD	All members of the ICN knows the new decree and decision			★					★						ICD, ICN coordinator
Objective: Work is done to facilitate MARD, donors, and FDI representatives in developing a more comprehensive Agricultural and Rural Development Program to increase complementarities and reduces redundancies.		Indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of information on new policies and programs updated on ISG communication tools. - -No of meetings/workshops to share information on programmes/projects - No of participants by donors, other inter'l communities, local stakeholders attending the meetings/workshops 													

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of dialogues organized - List of MARD programs, projects functioning in MARD - Meeting briefs in place
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<p>Approach: Results of Policy Dialogues and ISG meetings are considered by MARD planners and reflected in more coordinate ARD development</p>	
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Activity	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility		
25. Continue to compile sector and sub-sector development programs/ policies for ARD sector if there is a new one.	<p>New policies, strategies and programmes updated timely and exposed to international communities</p> <p>Reduction of overlapped among foreign-funded projects and programs based on inventory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improvement of Complementarity between foreign-funded projects and MARD projects based on 														ISG Departments MARD, ICN	Sec; of

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	

	stakeholder assessments.														
26. Dialogues between MARD stakeholders and international donors on changes and or adjustments on donor assistance policy applicable in the coming time : Bilateral, multi-bilateral, banks, NGOs	Awareness and knowledge of ODA policy changes regulated by international donors in ARD hence improvement of mobilization and utilization process of international support for the development of the sector in supporting the implementation of the new Decree 131.														ISG Sec, ICN coordinator, ICD
27. Regular meetings with projects/programmes functioning in the sector	TOR of the kick off meeting,				x	x	x	x	x	x	x				ISG Sec., ICD project/program Management Units, national consultants, MACRO-MARD
28. Pilot basic will be undertaken with projects programmes working related to Administrative reform	Mechanism on coordination among projects and programs in the sector;					★						★			

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
	Information sharing, Outcome: Policy briefs Complementary practices for best efficiency and effectiveness														
KEY AREA 3 - Information Collation and Dissemination															
Objective The ISG Information System, including ISG website, integrated database, quarterly newsletter, monthly briefings and other formal communications are of a professional standard and continually improved to convey appropriate information for effective policy dialogue and donor coordination.		Indicator: - Number of downloads per month of information files contained on the ISG website organized by total and user classification. - Number of website hits per month. - Number of accounts established for access database, total and monthly. - Level of satisfaction of stakeholders based on annual survey. - Number of recommendation submitted and implemented. - Number of publications issued and distributed.													
Approach: provide related information via MIS tools and publications															
Activity															
29. Update activities of GoV/MARD and donors relating to ARD sector;	12 Monthly Briefings issued and shared to all stakeholders and ICD members.														ISG, ICN
30. Thematic reports and studies in brief are	4 Quarterly			★			★			★			★		ISG, ICN, relevant

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	

collected, published and shared.	Newsletters issued and shared to all stakeholders and ICD members.														stakeholders
31. Review ISG website	ISG website upgraded toward effective operation to suite readers' requirements														Consultancy, ISG
32. Support ICD to update the integrated database on regularly basis.	ICD website updated and its integrated database regularly supplemented with resources														ICN, ISG
33. Publish documents requested MARD, ICN, and donors if relevant	Other relevant publications issued if needed.														SG and relevant agency

KEY AREA 4 - Capacity Building and Management Processes														
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Objective All key staff of the institutions affiliated to MARD dealing with international cooperation have the competencies to professionally carry out their functions in support to the implementation of MARD Action Plan on post WTO. Capacity building for ISG Secretariat staff will	Indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of relevant officials participate in training courses/workshops held by ISG, Training/workshops, number of training courses , workshops, evaluation reports - TOR of the study tour, report on result of the study tour - Staff capacity enhanced
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Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility
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be a part of this process.														
Approach: Information is shared among network members, training is provided to fill the competency gap of the members required for holding international cooperation responsibilities														
Activity														
34. Training needs are identified	List of competencies needed													ISG Sec, ICN coordinator, national consultants
35. One training course held for ICN base on the competencies priority. Others will be introduced to related projects in MARD to seek cooperation	Training course conducted													ISG
36. At least 2 staff from ISG secretariat are trained shortly on relevant skills and knowledge	Staff development plan is approved				★			★						ISG manager, ISG Sec.,
37. Oversea study tour for ISG, ICD staffs and others enable to be exposed to international relevant experiences	Exposed to international experiences in ODA policy dialogue management and coordination in order to improve country ownership & leading in ODA management & policy dialogues							★						ISG Director, ISG manager, core donors, international consultants

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Objective Provincial policy making and dialogues and ODA management capacity improved		Indicator: Training needs assessment , plan in place, Number of training courses conducted for provinces Number of policy makers and decision makers participated in the training courses														
Approach Competence – based training, training through doing including, enhancement of knowledge of relating policies and procedures regulated by the Government and donors																
Activity																
38. Identify training needs of the province policy and strategy makers in selected provinces. The precondition for this activity rests with coordination and support from projects programs like STOFA- FSPS, MARD-MACRO....	Competencies frame, TOR for training courses															ISG sec. national consultants, DARD in 5 pilot provinces, and PAR, STOFA
39. Implement training program to meet the identified needs in coordination with relevant projects and programs	Implemented as scheduled															Manager-ISG Sec, training agencies
Approach: Get province people to involve in ISG planning process																
Activity																
40. Conduct field visits within Vietnam for ISG staff, staff of ICD and donor program officers to identify areas for inputs of policy dialogue and knowledge improvement	ISG staff and donors Po exposed to field knowledge improved ISG networking with province staff in policy dialogues strengthened; Topics for															Manager, PO, International projects, PAR

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	

	dialogues proposed and PABs														
KEY AREA 5 - Monitoring and Evaluation															
Objective An effective and manageable monitoring and evaluation system is in place and being used to measure the performance of ISG and its progress towards achieving its mission.		Indicator: - Annual Performance Analysis report is carried out by ISG staff. - Financial auditing reports are carried out in accordance with the Framework Arrangement and made available to appropriate stakeholders. - Annual stakeholder survey to measure satisfaction with ISG process and progress.													
Approach: Continue to use and seek assistance for improving the existing ISG monitoring and evaluation system.															
Activity															
41. Keep monthly progress report and workplan	Monitoring ISG activities	—————												ISG Sec	
42. Prepare annual performance analysis report	Performance analysis report produced													★	ISG Sec
43. Arrange for a financial audit (for 2007)	Reports produced.		—————												ISG Sec, consulting firm engaged
44. Prepare and submit 6-monthl and annual reports to Core Donors	6-monthly reports	★							★						ISG Sec
Objective Linkages are formed with M&E work within MARD and MPI to implement an M&E system for the effectiveness of ODA in the Rural and Agricultural Development Sector.		Indicator: ODA effectiveness M&E system is established and implemented in partnership with MPI.													

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Approach: Support efforts concerning development of an effective M&E system for MARD in conjunction with ongoing work in MPI.														
Activity														
45. Continued involvement in the M&E working group under DoP's SDC funded project on M&E for MARD's FYP 2006-2010	Comments contributed; participation in coordination meetings by the project; information and experience shared.	★												ISG, DOP, MESMARD