

Context:

1. The year 2009 is the third 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 fourth year the agriculture and rural sector undertakes its 5 year plan. "Agriculture, Farmers, Rural Areas" is considered a focal interest in the Government's action plan in 2009 as decided in Resolution No 26 - NQ/TW on Agriculture, Farmers, Rural Areas" was approved by Vietnamese Communist Party's Executive Committee on August 5th 2008 and later on the Action Plan to implement the Resolution No 26 - NQ/TW also was approved by the 7th Congress of the Section X Central Executive Committee on October 28th 2008.
3. 2009 is the fourth 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 indicating to be

behind and incompatible with the labor market movements due to high inflation rate and increasing CPI.

4. Climate Change adaptation, Poverty Alleviation, Food Security, Food Safety have been paid due attention by the Government and donor community.

Development of ISG Work Plan 2009:

Based on the ISG framework work plan 2006 - 2010, the ISG annual progress 2008, and ISG performance analysis 2008, the ISG annual Work Plan 2009 will continue to focus its activities for following areas

1. Agricultural and 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 Area:

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
ARD	Agriculture and Rural Development
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
DARD	Provincial Department of Agriculture And Rural Development
DCERD	Department of Cooperatives Economics and and Rural Development
DoP	Department of Planning (MARD)
EU	European Union
FA	Framework Arrangement
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FLET	Forest Law Enforcement Governing Trade
FSSP-P	Forestry Sector Support Program - Partnership
FYP	Five-Year Plan
GAP	Good Agriculture Practice
GoV	Government
HCS	Hanoi Core Statement on Aid effectiveness
ICD	International Cooperation Department (MARD)
ICN	International Cooperation Network of Agriculture and Rural Development
ISG Sec	ISG Secretariat
ISGE	International Support Group for Environment (MONRE)
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture And Rural Development
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
NDM-P	Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership
NGO	Non-governmental Organizations
PAB	Policy Advisory Briefing
PAG	Policy Advisory Group
OCCA	Standing Office of Steering Committee for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
PAHI-P	Partnership for Avian and Human influenza
MoH	Ministry of Health

MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PO	Program Officer
REDD	the Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RWSS	Rural water supply and sanitation
SB	Steering Board
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary
TAG	Thematic Ad-hoc Group
Tech Coords	Technical Coordinator
WTO	World Trade Organization

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 and FDI representatives														
Approach: Continue to facilitate regular meetings between MARD, other line ministries, donors, and FDI representatives.																
Activity																
1. Plenary Meeting 2009	Discussion on most urgent/important issues of the sector												★		ISG SB, ISG Sec, ICD, and relevant stakeholders	10,000\$
2. 16th meeting of ISG Steering Board	Approval of ISG performance analysis 2008, approval of annual WP 2009			★											ISG SB, ISG Sec.	1,500 \$
3. 17th meeting of ISG Steering Board	Content of the Plenary Meeting 2009								★						ISG SB, ISG Sec.	1,500 \$

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Objective: Specific dialogues among stakeholders to support Government of Vietnam to implementing Action Plan of the Resolution 26 - NQ/TW on Agriculture, Farmers, Rural Areas, and implementing the FYP 2006 - 2010 including FDI promotion polices		No. of participants, seniority, sectors Meeting Brief													
Activity															
4. Facilitate international and national consultative workshops for Draft Land Accumulation Decree and Draft Paddy Rice Land Management Decree	Supporting to Development of Land Accumulation Decree and Paddy Rice Land Management Decree In addition , policy briefings will be issued									★	★			ISG, ICD, Department of Cooperative Economics and Rural Development (DCERD), Department of Crop Production (DCP), international donors, consultants and other relevant institutions and line Ministries.	20,000 \$
5. Food safety: Coordination forum among food safety projects/programs of ARD: - Food safety information exchange/sharing - Training for ICN's members on food safety issues such as: Viet Gap, HACCP, GAP, Euro Gap and others	Enhancement of coordination among MARD and food safety projects and between MARD and other line Ministry Enhancement of awareness of food safety issues among										★			ICD, ISG, ICN coordinator, CIDA, technical institutions in MARD, Food Safety Projects, MoH, consultants, Donors and other relevant institutions and line Ministries	10,000 \$

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
	policy makers and implementers Besides Policy briefings will be issued																
6. Facilitate and International consultative inception workshop on forecasting and statistics work	Methodology, donors and human resources identified						★									ISG, ICD, IPSARD, MARD's CIS, international donors/organizations and relevant departments under MARD and others	10,000 \$
7. Climate change: Thematic study on Water resources in the circumstance of global climate change to support for Resolution 26 - NQ/TW on "Agriculture, Farmers, Rural Areas"	Improvement of mitigation and climate change Strengthening of coordination mechanism for climate change Increase in awareness of climate change Besides Policy briefings will be issues															ICD, Institute of Water Resources, ISG, and others	20,000 \$

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Approach: Establish annual Core Donor group meeting to review progress on implementation of FYP and to prepare for the Annual CG meeting.																
8. ISG review process	ISG review report, including new modality submitted													ISG Sec, and core donors and their POs, and consultants	6,000 \$	
Objective: Participation of the local stakeholders in the policy making process is improved in support to the decentralization policy of the government at them 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 held with donors, MARD and line ministries - 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																
9. Provincial policy dialogues - dialogue on Institution to link poor farmer with market - dialogue on Decentralization in Agricultural Extension System in line with Program 135 - Dissemination workshop for the Agricultural Extension Ordinance at provincial level	Policy briefs, PAB collected and disseminated to relevant stakeholders								★				★		IFAD, ISG, provinces, projects and others	8,000 \$
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																
10. Maintain and update profile on contacted persons and identify new primary contact points	Operational networks													ISG Sec		

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
as necessary.																
11. Increasing number of people and institutions receive ISG information and newsletters.	Newsletters received regularly by contact points														ISG Sec	
Objective: A two-way communication mechanism is in place so that outputs on MARD policy 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.		Indicator: - Number of regular ISG meetings Results Briefings produced - Number of decision-makers receiving meeting results briefings														
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																
12. ICN planning workshop	ICN annual action plan		★												ICN coordinator	2,000 \$
13. Capacity building on specific issues: - Project management (including ODA & NGO projects) - Capacity on international negotiation, communication, reception and other skills	Policy and action recommended				★		★								ICN coordinator	10,000 \$
Objective: Coordination with all Technical Departments in MARD and pilot DARDs and partnerships consolidated and strengthened		Indicator: - 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.														

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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, PAHI															
Activity															
14. Partnership coordination meetings	To strengthen support and collaboration among ISG and partnerships			★			★						★		ISG Sec, 2,000 \$ relevant partnerships
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															
15. 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, ICD MONRE
KEY AREA 2 - Support Coordination of 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													
Approach: The awareness of HCS will be trickled down through ICN															
Activity															
16. International Consultative Workshop for revised Decision 45 on ODA management of MARD	The international community know this revised decision				★										ICD, ISG 2,500 \$

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17. Study on the role and support of International Non- Government Organizations to ARD Sector – Proposals on Policy and Cooperation Mechanism for Mobilizing and Enhancing Effectiveness of the Support																13,000 \$
18. Summary workshop on ODA work for ARD (1993 - 2008)						★										ICD, ISG,
Objective: Work is done to facilitate MARD, donors, and FDI representatives in developing comprehensive Agricultural and Rural Development Program to increase complementarities and reduces redundancies.		Indicator: - Degree of overlapped among foreign-funded projects and programs based on inventory. - Degree of Complementarities between foreign-funded projects and MARD projects based on stakeholder assessments.														
Approach: Results of Policy Dialogues and ISG meetings are considered by MARD planners and reflected in more coordinate ARD development																
Activity																
19. Compile and update sector and sub-sector development programs/ policies for ARD sector	List of MARD programs and progress reports exposed to donors and investors															ISG Sec; Departments of MARD, ICN coordinator
20. Regular meetings with projects/programs functioning in the sector	Information sharing, Complementary practices for															ISG Sec., ICD project/program Management Units, national consultants, MACRO-MARD

Description	Expected Output	Time schedule (Month)												Responsibility			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
	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																	
21. Recruit a communication officer (CO)	To maintain ISG web and ISG Monthly Briefing and Quarterly Newsletter				★											ISG Sec.	
22. Recruit a international communication volunteer	To support to revise ISG web							★								ISG Sec., AusAid	
23. Monthly Briefings and Quarterly Newsletters issued on regular basis	Issuance of Monthly Briefings and Quarterly Newsletters on regular basis				<hr/>												CO, ISG, ICN coordinator

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24. Update activities of GoV/MARD and donors relating to ARD sector;	Issued Monthly Briefings and Quarterly Newsletters are updated and shared to all stakeholders and ICD members.															CO, ISG, ICN coordinator
25. Thematic reports and studies in brief are collected, published and shared.	4 Quarterly Newsletters issued and shared to all stakeholders and ICD members.			★			★			★				★		CO, ISG, relevant stakeholders
26. Update ISG website	ISG website upgraded toward effective operation to suite readers' requirements															International Volunteer, CO
27. Support ICD and ISG to update the integrated database on regularly basis.	ICD website updated and its integrated database regularly supplemented with resources															ICN coordinator, ISG

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28. Publish publications requested by MARD, ICN, and donors if relevant	Other relevant publications issued if needed.														ISG and relevant agencies
KEY AREA 4 - Capacity Building and Management Processes															
Objective All key staff of the institutions affiliated to MARD dealing with international cooperation has 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 be a part of this process.		Indicator: No. of relevant officials participate in training courses/workshops held by ISG, Training/workshops, number of training courses , workshops, evaluation reports													
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															
29. Training needs are identified	List of competencies needed		★												ISG Sec, ICN coordinator, national consultants
30. At least 1 training course for each staff from ISG secretariat is trained shortly on relevant skills and knowledge	Staff development plan is approved			<hr/>											ISG, ISG Sec. 3,000 \$
31. Oversea study tour for ICD, ISG, relevant Departments, province to China to expose to international relevant experiences	TOR of the study tour, report on result of the study tour; Capacity enhanced		★												ISG Director, PO, ICD 40,000\$ Done in February 2009 (activity approved by SB in 2008)

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32. Domestic study tours for ICN's members	TOR prepared, study tour report								★					ICN coordinator	3,000 \$	
Objective Provincial policy making and dialogues and ODA management capacity improved		Indicator: Training needs assessment , plan in place, No. of training courses conducted for provinces No. of policy makers and decision makers participated in the training courses														
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 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																
33. Keep monthly progress report and workplan	Monitoring ISG activities	—————												ISG Sec		
34. Prepare annual report	Report produced													★	ISG Sec	
35. Arrange for a financial audit (for 2008)	Reports produced.		—————												ISG Sec, consulting firm engaged	3,745.50
36. Prepare and submit 6-month 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														
37. 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