



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - Public distribution

Date: 4/24/2009

GAIN Report Number: VM9038

Vietnam

Agricultural Situation

News Summary #10

2009

Approved by:

Michael Riedel - Ag Attaché
US Consulate in HCMC

Prepared by:

Dong Phuong, Truong Dao, Tran Quan

Report Highlights:

* Rice exports soar 71 percent in 2009 *Cuban rice production to rise with a little help from a friend *Ho Chi Minh City approves plan to build timber market *Pepper exports nothing to sneeze at *United States supports Vietnam national single window to promote growth

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Ho Chi Minh City [VM2]
[VM]

Welcome to "News Summary" from Vietnam, an occasional summary of issues of interest to the U. S. agricultural community. The report includes information that has been garnered during travel within Vietnam, reported in the local media, or offered by host country officials and agricultural analysts. Press articles are included and summarized in this report. Significant issues may be expanded upon in subsequent reports from this office. Minor grammatical changes have been made for clarification.

DISCLAIMER: Any press summary contained herein does NOT reflect USDA's, the U.S. Mission to Vietnam's, or any other U.S. government agency's point of view or official policy.

Rice exports soar 71 percent in 2009

Vietnamese rice exports have risen dramatically so far this year compared to the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Rice exports volume has increased more than 70 percent and the value has climbed 80 percent since the beginning of the year, according to the Viet Nam Food Association (VFA).

World prices continued to rise slightly, said the VFA, adding that rice exporters have signed contracts to deliver 3.65 million tons of rice during the first half of the year.

(Source: Viet Nam News, Apr. 21)

Cuban rice production to rise with a little help from a friend

Vietnam is ready to cooperate with Cuba in agriculture - particularly rice production - in order to help Cuba reduce food imports, said Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Diep Kinh Tan, in a meeting with Cuban Agriculture Minister Ullises Rosales del Toro in Havana on Wednesday.

Tan expressed the hope that with a new agricultural policy, Cuba would be able to boost rice cultivation in the country.

Tan and his Cuban counterpart Juan Perez Lamas also signed a memorandum of understanding on a medium-term cooperation program on rice production in Cuba.

(Source: Viet Nam News Apr.24)

Ho Chi Minh City approves plan to build timber market

The Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee agreed to the construction of a Vietnamese timber market in Ho Chi Minh City.

Tran Quoc Manh, deputy chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City Wood Processing and Handicrafts Association (HAWA), said that the wood processing industry had undergone strong development from \$61 million in export turnover in 1996 to \$2.8 billion last year.

(Source: Viet Nam News, Apr. 21)

Post comment – This timber market will handle both imported and domestic wood, and should have a positive impact, since it will allow wood processing businesses (small and large) to source wood in the quantities they need and when they need it.

Pepper exports nothing to sneeze at

Black pepper exporters shipped more than 27,000 tons in the first quarter of the year, worth nearly \$66 million, an increase of 80 percent in volume and 16 percent in value over the same period last year, according to the Viet Nam Pepper Association.

However, the price of pepper remained depressed due to the global recession.

"This year's crop yields have fallen but the area under cultivation has increased, so overall yields are up", said association secretary Tran Duc Tung.

(Source: Viet Nam News, Apr. 21)

United States Supports Vietnam National Single Window to Promote Growth

PRESS RELEASE

HANOI, April 21, 2009 – Vietnam's customs authorities today launched a two-day workshop sponsored by the United States Government through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to further plans to implement a National Single Window that by 2011 will streamline cargo transfer and enhance trade efficiency.

This initiative speeds customs clearance and release of cargo by enabling data and information for imported goods to be submitted and handled in a single integrated process. Vietnam and other ASEAN Member States have agreed to create their National Single Windows by 2012, a necessary step to achieve an ASEAN Single Window (ASW). The ASEAN Single Window will allow the National Single Windows of Vietnam and other ASEAN Member States to interconnect in order to generate increased regional trade and economic growth.

"The vision for any single window is simple: create a policy and information technology environment that will improve the handling of goods at borders so containers clear customs quickly and consumers enjoy secure and timely delivery of goods at a lower cost," said U.S. Ambassador Michael W. Michalak. "This is good for business, and what's good for business is good for growth."

The USAID ASW project, located in Jakarta, assists efforts by ASEAN to establish a regional single window toward its goal of establishing the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. This workshop in Hanoi marks the first time that the USAID ASW project has assisted a national single window program, underscoring the U.S. government's commitment to supporting Vietnam's economic development and regional economic integration.

(Source: April 21 U.S. Embassy Vietnam press release;
<http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/pr042109.html>, URL visited April 24)

POST CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Foreign Agricultural Service / Agricultural Affairs Office
U.S. Embassy – Annex Building
Rose Garden Building, 3rd Floor
170 Ngoc Khanh, Ba Dinh District, Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: 84-4-3850-5000
Email: AgHanoi@fas.usda.gov

Foreign Agricultural Service / Agricultural Affairs Office
U.S. Consulate General
Saigon Center, 9th Floor
65 Le Loi Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Tel: 84-8-3825-0502 Fax: 84-8-3825-0503
Email: AtoHoChiMinh@fas.usda.gov