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Report Name: Vietnam Government Restructuring - Major Changes and Expected Impacts

Country: Vietnam

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Report Highlights:

On February 18, 2025, Vietnam's National Assembly approved a major government restructuring, consolidating ministries and agencies, eliminating certain National Assembly and Party committees, and dissolving multiple state-run organizations to streamline operations and support economic growth. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) was formed by merging the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE). Led by Minister Đỗ Đức Duy, the former MONRE Minister, MAE began operating under the new structure on March 1, 2025. The specific functions of its departments will be clarified in forthcoming decisions. While these reforms aim to improve coordination and efficiency, they may also present challenges. Businesses should anticipate potential delays in administrative processes such as approvals, licensing, and permits during the transition period.

Vietnam's Ongoing Restructuring

In December 2024, Vietnamese leaders launched a comprehensive restructuring plan, described by Party Secretary General Tô Lâm as an institutional "revolution" – one of the most extensive in the country's history. The goal is to create a leaner, more responsive government that drives economic growth and supports Vietnam's ambition to become a modern industrial country with a per capita GDP of \$7,500 by 2030 and a high-income, developed nation by 2045. Vietnam aims for a national GDP growth of eight percent in 2025, with plans to maintain double-digit growth in the years ahead.

On February 18, 2025, the National Assembly approved these reforms, reducing the number of ministries from 22 to 17 and government-affiliated agencies from eight to five. Two new Vice Chairmen were appointed, including former Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Lê Minh Hoan, along with four new Deputy Prime Ministers. Similar restructuring is occurring at the provincial level.

Prime Minister Phạm Minh Chính continues to lead the government, overseeing the executive branch to ensure smooth operations and economic stability.

Ministries

As of March 1, 2025, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) oversees agriculture, forestry, fisheries, irrigation, disaster prevention, rural development, and environmental protection. It has also inherited the poverty reduction portfolio from the Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs.

Deputy Prime Minister Trần Hồng Hà continues to oversee MAE and has emphasized the importance of clearly defining its responsibilities to drive green transformation. His focus includes ensuring economic and social development while protecting the environment and aligning agricultural policies with sustainability and food security. Additionally, both Party and State leaders recognize innovation as a strategic imperative for achieving rapid and sustainable green growth.

Minister Đỗ Đức Duy aligns closely with the Deputy Prime Minister's vision, prioritizing digital and green transformation as key drivers of national development. His leadership reinforces Vietnam's commitment to innovation, technological advancement, and ambitious economic and social growth objectives.

The merger of MARD and MONRE has reduced 53 units to 30 (see the attached MAE organizational chart). Minister Duy is supported by ten Vice Ministers - six from MARD and four from MONRE - the highest number among the reorganized ministries. Some departmental responsibilities remain undefined, including the International Cooperation Department and the Department of Science and Technology. However, it is expected that Vice Minister Phùng Đức Tiến will continue overseeing livestock, animal health, and fisheries, while Vice Minister Hoàng Trung will retain oversight of crop production and plant protection.

Background on Minister of Agriculture and Environment, Mr. Đỗ Đức Duy



Minister Duy is one of four cabinet ministers from the youngest generation of leaders born in the 1970s. His appointment signals a shift toward environmentally conscious agricultural policies, with two primary objectives: 1) Promoting sustainable development by balancing economic, social, and environmental priorities; and 2) Advancing agricultural and rural development through strategic planning, market expansion, digital transformation, and poverty reduction programs.

Before his ministerial roles, Duy spent much of his career in the construction industry. He later served as Vice Minister of Construction and Secretary of the Yên Bái Provincial Party Committee from 2020 to 2024. In August 2024, he was appointed Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, and in February 2025, he became the Minister of Agriculture and Environment.

Expected Impacts on U.S Agricultural Trade

The restructuring of newly formed agencies may lead to operational delays, slowing application processing, license issuance, and other business-related procedures. Regulatory transitions can create uncertainty, as new agencies may hesitate to approve requests until their roles are fully defined. Additionally, gaps in the legal framework could hinder decision-making until updated laws are enacted.

The restructuring may also introduce new requirements and permit processes, adding administrative burdens. Personnel changes, office relocations, and ministry rebranding could further disrupt operations, with bureaucratic hurdles persisting across the public sector. Businesses are advised to stay informed about regulatory changes, maintain flexibility, and anticipate potential delays in approvals, licensing, and permits.

Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE)

International Cooperation Department

The new MAE International Cooperation Department is led by Director General (DG) Nguyễn Đỗ Anh Tuấn, the former DG at MARD.

Livestock Production and Animal Health Department

Post anticipates potential delays in the approval of meat, poultry, and seafood facility registrations. MAE's restructuring consolidates the Department of Livestock Production (DLP) and the Animal Health Department (DAH) into the Livestock Production and Animal Health Department, now led by Director General Dương Tất Thắng. Thắng was not involved in recent discussions on quarantine testing and facility registration. Consequently, Post may need to clarify concerns with the department's new leadership.

Crop Production and Plant Protection Department

MAE's restructuring merges the Plant Protection Department (PPD) and the Crop Production Department (CPD) into the Crop Production and Plant Protection Department, led by former PPD Director General Huỳnh Tấn Đạt.

Science and Technology Department

The former Department of Science, Technology, and Environment (DOSTE) of MARD has merged with MONRE's Department of Science and Technology. The new entity retains the name Department of Science and Technology. While food and feed approvals may now fall under the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Agency (NBCA), the Department of Science and Technology is expected to remain responsible for biotechnology research and technology adoption. Post will provide updates once MAE finalizes departmental responsibilities.

National Authority for Agro-Forestry-Fishery Quality, Processing, and Market Department

Director General Ngô Hồng Phong remains head of the National Authority for Agro-Forestry-Fishery Quality, Processing, and Market Development (NAFIQPM), which continues to oversee food safety under MAE, including for Siluriformes fish. Post expects that MAE's forthcoming decisions on functions and responsibilities of relevant departments will clarify the role of NAFIQPM and other food safety agencies for imported products.

Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT)

Agency for Domestic Market Surveillance and Development

The former Domestic Markets Department within MOIT has merged with the Vietnam Directorate of Market Surveillance, forming the new Agency for Domestic Market Surveillance and Development. Post will continue engaging with its leadership regarding ethanol oversight.

Department of Foreign Market Development

The Departments of European and American Markets and Asian and African Markets have merged into the Department of Foreign Market Development. This is the Department handling U.S. – Vietnam bilateral trade within MOIT, and it is now led by Director General Tạ Hoàng Linh.

Post will continue to monitor upcoming regulations regarding the state management functions and responsibilities of departments and their leadership. Should U.S. exporters have any questions regarding Vietnam's restructuring process, please feel free to reach out to us at: aghamoi@usda.gov.

Attachments:

[MAE organizational structure.docx](#)