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## **Vietnam**

### **Agricultural Biotechnology Annual**

### **2014 Biotech Annual**

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**Report Highlights:**

All of the necessary regulations required for commercializing agricultural biotechnology in Vietnam were completed by the first quarter of 2014. Specific traits are still being reviewed and evaluated by both the Biosafety Committee and the Feed and Food Safety Committee. The review of applications for Feed and Food Use Certification is reported to be almost complete for the first tranche of traits and Certifications could be issued as early as August 2014. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) reports that actual commercialization of agricultural biotechnology in Vietnam will likely happen in the first quarter of 2015.

**Section I. Executive Summary:**

In early 2014, Vietnam completed the main regulatory documents required to commercialize biotech crops. On January 24, 2014, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) issued Circular 2/2014/TT-BNNPTNT to promulgate the Approval Process of Issuing and Withdrawing Certification for Genetically Modified Plants for use as Food and Feed. As soon as MARD's Circular entered into force, in March 2014, biotech developers submitted dossiers for Food and Feed Certification and it is reported that the first several Food/Feed Certificates will be approved as early as August 2014.

The actual commercialization of biotech crops hinges on the Bio-Safety Committee review led by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE). Biotech developers submitted dossiers to MONRE in July 2013. These dossiers are still being reviewed by MONRE, although the 210 working day timeline, stipulated in MONRE's Circular 8/2013, has long been passed. Biotech developers hope to get the first approvals of Bio-Safety Certificates in late 2014, and the first biotech crops (corn) can be grown in Vietnam in the first quarter of 2015.

The past year, 2013, the Vietnam achieved substantial progress in the development of Vietnam's regulatory structure for agricultural biotechnology. In May 2013, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) issued Circular 8/2013/TT-BTNMT on the procedure for granting and revoking Bio-Safety Certificates, paving the way for cultivation of agricultural biotechnology crops in Vietnam. Additionally, MARD continues to work on a draft Circular on labeling of biotech products.

## ***Chapter 1: Plant Biotechnology***

### **Part A: Production and Trade**

**a) Product Development / b) Commercial Production:** As of July 2014, the commercial production of agricultural biotechnology and trade in biotech seeds are not allowed in Vietnam as Bio-Safety Certificates and Feed/Food Safety Certificates have not yet been issued for any biotech traits. In May 2014, MONRE's Bio-Safety Committee held a meeting to review dossiers applying for Bio-Safety Certificates that were submitted in July 2013. However, biotech developers were requested by the Committee to submit more information and integrate specific Committee questions into a new draft of each dossier. FAS-Vietnam understands that the developers are currently working to address the Committee's questions and will re-submit the dossiers. Regarding the Feed / Food Certificates, the Food / Feed Committee formed by MARD is reviewing dossiers actively and will likely issue Certificates soon.

**c) Exports:** Vietnam does not export GE products.

**d) Imports:** In 2013, Vietnam imported about 2.74 Million Metric Tons (MMT) of soybean meal from different countries including Argentina, Brazil, the United States, and China. Vietnam's import of soybeans in 2013 were 1.26 MMT, mainly from Brazil, Argentina, Canada, Uruguay, and Paraguay (see more details in VM 4018). The majority of these products are derived from biotech soybeans.

Vietnam’s corn imports in MY 2013/14 were estimated at 2.2 MMT. India and Brazil are key corn exporters to Vietnam. In 2013, Vietnam imported about 237,000 MT of DDGS and corn gluten meal (CGM). All DDGS and most of the CGM are derived from biotech corn (see VM 4017 for more details).

In 2013, Vietnam imported 581,000 MT of cotton (or 2,665 thousand bales). U.S. cotton accounted for 37 percent of total imports. The United States and India, two GM cotton producers, remained the top cotton exporters to Vietnam (see VM4016).

e) **Food Aid Recipients:** Vietnam is not a food aid recipient.

**Part B: Policy**

a) **Regulatory Framework / b) Approvals:**

**Vietnam Ministry of Finance’s (MOF) Circular 36/2014/TT-BTC promulgating the regulation on payment fee for Bio-Safety Certificate.** On March 24, 2014 MOF issued Circular 36/2014/TT-BTC regarding the Regulation on Collection, Payment, Management and Use of Fee for Appraisal of Dossiers Applied for Bio-Certificate of GM Plants. The fee for each Appraisal is set at VND 70 million (\$3,300 at the exchange rate of 1\$ for VND 21,200 as of July 11, 2014). The Circular entered into force on May 15, 2014.

As stipulated by the Circular, 20 percent of the fees collected for the appraisal of each application will go to the Government budget, while the remaining 80 percent will be managed by the appraisal agency (MONRE) for expenses relating to reviewing dossiers.

**Vietnam’s Over-arching Bio-Safety Decree (see VM 2071)**

On June 21, 2010, Vietnam’s Prime Minister approved the Bio-Safety Decree 69/2010/ND-CP, replacing Vietnam’s Bio-Safety Regulation approved in 2005, which was the first-ever biotech regulation in Vietnam (VM5062). The Bio-Safety Decree provides the legal framework for bio-safety management of genetically modified organisms (GMO), genetic specimens, and products derived from GMOs. This Decree does not regulate pharmaceutical products originating from GMOs. The Decree entered into force August 10, 2010. In order to bring Decree 69 in compliance with provisions on the management of food derived from agricultural biotechnology, regulated under the Vietnam Food Safety Law, in November 2011, Prime Minister Dung signed Decree 108 revising Decree 69 and changing the responsible Ministry for certification for food use from the Ministry of Health (MOH) to MARD.

*Table 1: Responsibilities of Vietnam’s Government Agencies in Management of Bio-Safety as described in Decree 69, and amended by Decree 108*

<i>Government Agency</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
<i>Ministry of Natural Resources and</i>	<i>Acts as lead government agency</i>	1. <i>To issue Bio-Safety Certificate based on the</i>

<p><b>Environment (MONRE)</b></p>	<p><i>in Bio-safety Management;</i></p>	<p><i>following conditions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Request from Applicants</i></li> <li>- <i>Results of field trial approved by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)</i></li> <li>- <i>To publish Applicant's information for public comment (for 30 days).</i></li> <li>- <i>It takes 180 days from the date of receiving applications for processing and issuing of Bio-Safety Certificate</i></li> </ul> <p>2. <i>To withdraw Bio-Safety Certificate based on following conditions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>There is scientific evidence showing that the product is not safe</i></li> <li>- <i>Applicant provides mis-information</i></li> <li>- <i>There is evidence that the approval decision of Bio- Safety Committee was not science based.</i></li> </ul> <p>3. <i>To develop list of GM products granted Bio-Safety Certificate</i></p> <p>4. <i>To develop regulation on storage, package and transportation of GMOs specified in the Article 1 of the Decree.</i></p> <p>5. <i>To develop and manage database on GMOs</i></p>
<p><b>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)</b></p>	<p><i>To regulate field trial of GM crops. To approve GM products used for animal feed and food (as a result of Decree 108)</i></p>	<p>1. <i>To issue Permit for Field Trial of GM crops</i></p> <p>2. <i>To accredit MARD's agencies for conducting field trial of GM crops</i></p> <p>3. <i>To conduct Field Trial of GM crop</i></p> <p>4. <i>To approve GM products used for food and animal feed; GM products that can be approved for use as food and animal feed, must meet the following conditions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>application must be approved by the Bio-Safety Committee for food and animal feed determining that GM products can be used as food and animal feed and not pose any harm to the environment;</i></li> <li>b) <i>GM products are approved for food and animal</i></li> </ul>

		<i>feed in at least five developed countries.</i>
<b>Formally: Ministry of Health (MOH) now MARD</b>	<i>To approve GM products to use as food</i>  <b><u>NOTE: Decree 108/211 moved Food Certification Authority to MARD</u></b>	
<b>Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)</b>	<i>MOST is the key government agency to manage research and development of GMOs</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Accreditation of GM research labs</i></li> <li>2. <i>Management of GM projects</i></li> <li>3. <i>To coordinate with relevant government agencies on developing of labeling regulation</i></li> </ol>
<b>Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT)</b>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>To coordinate with relevant ministries including MARD to manage use of GM products as inputs in food processing industries.</i></li> </ol>

## **Core GVN Regulations Governing Commercialization of Agricultural Biotechnology**

### **MONRE Biosafety Certification Regulation**

On May 16, 2013, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) published Circular 8/2013/TT-BTNMT, providing the procedure for granting and revoking Certificates of Biosafety. Circular 8 lays out the regulatory structure to evaluate the biosafety of agricultural traits derived from biotechnology. A biosafety certificate is required before an agricultural biotech event can be commercially cultivated in Vietnam. This Circular entered into force on July 1, 2013 (see [VM3042](#) for more detail).

It is reported that soon after the Circular entered into force, in July 2013, two biotech developers formally submitted the applications for the Bio-Safety Certificate for GE corn varieties to MONRE. If the review timeline had followed the timeline proscribed in Circular 8, these two companies expected to receive Bio-Safety Certificates by the middle of 2014. It is now anticipated that the actual MONRE review could take longer than the time proscribed in Circular 8 (180 working days), based on current assessments of progress.

### **MARD approved Food/Feed Use Certification Regulation**

On January 24, 2014, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) issued Circular 2/2014/TT-BNNPTNT to promulgate the Approval Process of Issuing and Withdrawing Certification for Genetically Modified Plants for use as food and feed (see VM 4020). The Circular provides the

Approval Process of Issuing and Revoking the Certificate for Genetically Modified (GM) Plants to be Used as Food and Feed. The Circular entered into force on March 10, 2014.

As soon as MARD's Circular 2/2014/TT-BNNPTNT entered into force, companies submitted dossiers for different trait food and feed approvals. MARD formed a Committee to review and evaluate the dossiers. The Committee consists of 11 experts and scientists representing different Ministries including MONRE, MARD, MOH, MOIT, the Vietnam Academy of Sciences, the Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and Ho Chi Minh City's Biotechnology Center.

To date, the Committee has not approved any of the dossiers currently under review. As stipulated in Article 18 of Circular 2/2014/TT-BNNPTNT, within one (1) year from the effective date of the Circular (March 10, 2015) all events of GM plants must be registered for the Certification before continuing to be allowed for use as food/feed in Vietnam.

### **Additional GVN Regulations Governing Aspects of Agricultural Biotechnology**

#### **MONRE Regulation on Supplying, Exchanging Information, and Databases on GMOs**

On August 22, 2012, MONRE issued Circular 09/2012/TT-BTNMT on the Regulation of Providing and Exchanging Information, and Databases on GMOs. The Circular entered into force on October 8, 2012.

The full Circular in Vietnam can be downloaded from:

<http://antoansinhhoc.vn/upload/Thong%20tu%2009.2012.TT-BTNMT.pdf>

The Circular is applied to government agencies, local individuals, organizations, foreign individuals, and organizations operating activities related to providing or exchanging information, and databases on GMOs (as defined in the regulation).

Information and databases on GMOs include: 1) bilateral or multilateral agreements on Biosafety of GMOs that Vietnam participates in or has already signed; 2) Current regulations on GMOs; 3) Results of research projects and programs on safety of GMOs kept by authorized agencies; 4) Bio-Safety Certificates; Food/Feed Approval Certificates, Permits for Field Trials; Validation of Field Trial results; Decisions to accredit or revoke laboratories qualified for conducting research on GMOs; Decisions on which facilities are allowed to conduct GMO field trials; Permit or Decision on Imports of GMOs that are not on the list of GMOs allowed for use as food /feed; 5) Reports as regulated in Appendix I, II, III, IX of Decree 69; and 6) Information on field trials of GMOs, GM crop growing areas, and the list of local/foreign consultants on biosafety - and modern biotechnology and other biotech related information or documents.

GMO databases are grouped into: National GMO database developed and managed by the Vietnam Environment Administration (VEA), MONRE; Sectoral GMO databases developed and managed by related ministries; Local GMO databases developed and managed by Provincial/City People's Committees.

## **MOST Regulation on Guidance to Certify Laboratories Qualified for GMO Research**

On October 20, 2012, MOST issued Circular 20/2012/TT-BKHHCN regarding the Regulation of the Procedure to Certify a Lab Allowed to Conduct GMO Research. The full Circular in Vietnamese can be found at: [http://antoansinhhoc.vn/upload/TT20\\_2012\\_BKHHCN.PDF](http://antoansinhhoc.vn/upload/TT20_2012_BKHHCN.PDF).

## **MOST Regulation on Biosafety Management of GMO Research and Development**

On November 20, 2012, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) issued Circular 21/2012/TT-BKHHCN regulating the Research and Development of Genetically Modified Organisms in Vietnam. The Circular applies to individuals and organizations conducting research and development of GMOs and genetic specimen activities within Vietnam.

**Article 4, Chapter I of Circular 21** regulates the principles of biosafety management for research on GMOs and states that all GMO research must be in compliance with Item 19, Article 20 of the Science and Technology Law (<http://antoansinhhoc.vn/Noi-dung/Luat-Khoa-hoc-va-Cong-nghe-sua-doi-2013/2452962>); Article 87 of the Environment Protection Law; Article 7 of Bio-Diversity Law ([Luật số 20/2008/QH12 - hongchuyen.com | 2452579](http://antoansinhhoc.vn/Noi-dung/Luat-An-toan-thuc-pham-/2452601)); and Article 44 and 50 of the Vietnam Food Safety Law (<http://antoansinhhoc.vn/Noi-dung/Luat-An-toan-thuc-pham-/2452601>). Research on GMOs must be implemented within the framework of science and technology development (project or research topics) approved by relevant competent authorities. All research on GMOs must be carried out in MOST certified laboratories, in accordance with Circular 20/2012/TT-BKHHCN.

Please contact FAS-Vietnam if you need further information regarding this Circular. The Circular in Vietnamese can be downloaded from:

[http://antoansinhhoc.vn/upload/TT21\\_2012\\_BKHHCN.PDF](http://antoansinhhoc.vn/upload/TT21_2012_BKHHCN.PDF) .

### **c) Field Testing**

#### **MARD Regulation on Field Testing of GM Crops ([see VM2071](#))**

On October 27, 2009, MARD issued Circular 69/2009/TT-BNNPTNT outlining the regulatory process for conducting agricultural biotech field trials before commercialization. The Circular covers both confined and multi-location field trials. Circular 69 establishes the criteria to evaluate entities and facilities that wish to conduct biotech field trials. Based on this criterion, MARD has approved the following MARD institutes/agencies to conduct agricultural biotech field trials:

- Agricultural Genetics Institute (AGI), and Plant Protection Institute (PPI), Both are part of the MARD Vietnam Academy for Agriculture Science (VAAS)
- Northern and Southern New Seed Testing Centers, Crop Production Department, MARD
- Nha Ho Cotton Research Institute

MARD also regulates which GE crops are allowed for field trial, and ultimately commercialization, through Circular 72/2009/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 17, 2009. Thus far, only three GE crops namely: Corn (*Zea may L.*), Cotton (*Gossypium spp.*), and Soybean [*(Glycline max (L.) Merrill)*] are approved for field testing.

#### Field Testing: Trials of GE Corn from 2010 – 2013

Based on MARD's permission, the first ever confined field trials of GE corn were launched in two locations, one in the North and one in the South in May 2010. In August 2010, an additional company was granted permission to conduct confined field trials of GE corn. All confined field trials of GE corn were successfully completed in late 2010, and MARD subsequently granted permission allowing the same biotech developers to conduct multi-location field trials for the same GE corn varieties initially approved by MARD for confined field trials. All multi-location field trials of GE corn were completed in late 2011.

Results of those multi-locations field trials were validated by MARD in the summer of 2013. This was a significant accomplishment, and a prerequisite of the MONRE Bio-Safety Certification process.

Following the initial variety field trials conducted during 2010-2011, biotech developers have gained MARD approval to begin additional field trials for other biotech varieties. In November 2012, MARD granted permission to conduct a confined field trial for another biotech corn variety. The confined field trial of this corn variety was completed in late 2013. The timeline for the multi-location field trial is yet available.

Additionally, in August 2013, MARD granted a biotech developer another approval to conduct a multi-location field trial for another corn variety. The confined field trial for this variety had been completed and approved by MARD in late 2010.

Although, Vietnamese regulations allow for field trials for three biotech crops (corn, soybeans, and cotton), so far, biotech developers and MARD have only conducted field trials for corn varieties.

**d) Stacked Event Approvals:** According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment's (MONRE) Circular 8/2013/TT-BTNMT dated May 16, 2013, like single event plants, the stacked event-plant derived from biotechnology can be considered for granting a Bio-Safety Certificate. The procedure of issuing the Bio-Safety Certificate is described in detail in [VM3042](#). Similarly, the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development's (MARD) Circular 2/TT-BNNPTNT dated January 24, 2014 (see [VM4020](#)), regulates procedures on issuance of Certification on Approval of GM plants allowed to use as food and feed for both single and stacked event plants derived from biotechnology.

**f) Coexistence:** There is a small market for certified organic products in Vietnam. However, the market potential for organic products remains very limited due to the low average income level in Vietnam.

#### **g) Labeling**



## Labeling of GMOs and GM Products (as defined in Decree 69).

MARD is currently in the preliminary stages of drafting a Circular on Labeling of GMO products. The draft is not available for public comment as it is still under development. FAS-Vietnam will continue to monitor and report on any developments of this Circular.

Currently, both the Food Safety Law and the Bio-Safety Decree have imposed labeling requirements for GMOs, GM food, and GM products. However, the provisions of labeling of GM products in the Food Safety Law and the Bio Safety Decree are not consistent. The Food Safety Law requires labeling only “high risk” GM foods while the Bio Safety Decree requires labeling of all GMOs and products with GM content greater than 5 percent. The two laws also lay out two different agencies to manage labeling requirements. In the Food Safety Law, the Vietnam National Assembly (NA) assigned MARD responsibility for taking the lead and coordinating with Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) in providing detailed guidelines on the labeling of foods containing GMOs and GM products. While in the Bio Safety Decree, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) is tasked to take the lead in developing guidance to implement the labeling provision. To date, no legal documents guiding how Vietnam will implement the labeling provisions as regulated in the Food Safety Law and the Bio-Safety Decree are available. Post and interested U.S. organization are monitoring developments on this issue closely.

The following table provides more details on the various requirements of labeling of GMOs, GM products in the Food Safety Law and the Bio-Safety Law.

	<b>Vietnam Food Safety Law</b>	<b>Bio Safety Decree 69/2010/ND-CP</b>
<b>Approved date</b>	June 17, 2010	June 21, 2010
<b>Enforce date</b>	July 1, 2011	August 10, 2010
<b>Labeling requirement</b>	Several GM foods that might be harmful to human health.	All GMOs and GM products with content of 5%, or more.
<b>Implementing agency</b>	The Vietnamese Government is assigned to develop list of high risk GM food for mandatory labeling.	Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) is working with relevant ministries to develop guideline on labeling of GMOs, GM products.

**h) Trade Barriers:** As of July 2014, there are no trade barriers in place affecting GE agricultural products.

**i) Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**

**Intellectual Property Law (IPL) 50/2005/QH11:** In principle, Vietnam has a regulatory structure in place to protect the rights of plant variety developers. The IPL provides the foundation for intellectual property rights protection in Vietnam and covers plant varieties, including agricultural biotechnology. The IPL was ratified by the National Assembly (NA) in 2005 and entered into force on July 1, 2006.

The Law consists of six parts and Part Four outlines the rights and protections for plant varieties. Part Four covers the process for obtaining and the rights of Plant Variety protection and consists four chapters (Chapters XII to XV) as follows:

- Chapter XII: Conditions for Protection of Plant Varieties
- Chapter XIII: Establishing the Rights for Plant Varieties
- Chapter XIV: Contents and Limitations of Rights for Plant Varieties
- Chapter XV: Transfer of the Rights to a Plant Variety

Section 2 of Chapter XIII provides details on the application forms and the process to obtain plant variety protection in Vietnam.

As stated in the Article 174, the application must include: a) a registration form using the prescribed form; b) photo and technical questionnaires using the prescribed form; c) letter of authorization if the application form is completed by a representative; d) documents demonstrating the right to register the variety, if the registrant has been transferred; e) documents justifying the claim for prioritization; and f) fee receipt.

Article 176 of the Law outlines the application review process, stipulating that after 15 days from the date of receiving document, the application will be examined by a state competent authority to see if it is qualified for further processing, requires additional information, or should be rejected.

Article 178 outlines the content examination criteria and includes: a) examination for novelty and the denomination; and b) examination of the Technical Test results of the variety. The Technical Test is conducted to determine the Distinctness, Uniformity, and Stability (DUS) of the registered variety. The Technical Test will be done by a competent agency or institute assigned by MARD.

As stated in Article 169, the Certificate of Plant Variety Protection is valid for 25 years for trees and grapes; and 20 years for other crops. The Certificate applies for the whole of Vietnam.

The full Law in English can be found at:

<http://pvpo.mard.gov.vn/DetailInfomation.aspx?InfomationID=IN0000>

**Government Decree 88/2010/ND-CP:** Decree 88 was published on August 16, 2010 and provides additional clarification on aspects of the IPL as it relates to plant variety protection. The full Decree 88 in English is available at: [http://pvpo.mard.gov.vn/ImageNews/201308090928Decree No. 88-2010-ND-CP.pdf](http://pvpo.mard.gov.vn/ImageNews/201308090928Decree_No._88-2010-ND-CP.pdf)

The fee for registration for Certificate for Plant Variety Protection is stipulated in the Ministry of Finance's (MOF) **Circular 92/2002/TT-BTC**, dated October 12, 2002. The full Circular in English is available at: <http://pvpo.mard.gov.vn/FileUpload/circular92.pdf>.

To implement the IPL and Decree 88, MARD has also issued a number of Circulars. MARD's Circular 56/2007/QĐ-BNN, dated June 12, 2007; Decision 103/2007/QĐ-BNN, dated December 25, 2007; Circular 33 /2009/TT-BNNPTNT, dated June 10, 2009; and Circular 11/2013/TT-BNNPTNT, dated February 6, 2013 provide the list of plant species protected and designates MARD agencies approved to conduct DUS testing. These decisions and circulars are available at: <http://pvpo.mard.gov.vn>

On February 28, 2013, MARD issued [Circular 16/2013/TT-BNNPTNT](#) which stipulates the Guidelines on Protection of Plant Variety Rights. The Circular guides the implementation of a number of established content rights for plant varieties, representing rights to plant varieties, assessment of plant variety rights, and forms of protection of plant varieties.

**j) Cartagena Protocol: Vietnam joins the Nagoya Protocol.** On March 17, 2014, Prime Minister Dung signed Resolution 17/NQ-CP regarding Vietnam joining the Nagoya Protocol, which covers access to genetic resources and equitable sharing, reasonable interests arising from the use of genetic resources within the Biodiversity Convention. Accordingly, MONRE is assigned to coordinate with relevant agencies to evaluate Vietnam's collaboration with foreign organizations and individuals regarding the access to genetic resources in Vietnam for the period of 2000-2013; and to develop a project on "Enhancing capacity on management of access to genetic resources and equitable sharing, reasonable benefits arising from the use of genetic resources", that will be reported to the Prime Minister in the fourth quarter of 2014; as well as develop a Decree on the "management of access to genetic resources and equitable sharing, reasonable benefits arising from the use of genetic resources" for submission to the Government in the third quarter of 2015. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is assigned to complete all necessary diplomatic procedures in accordance with existing law and regulations.

Vietnam became a member of the Cartagena Protocol in April 2004 and regularly participates in Cartagena Protocol Meetings. As stipulated by the Cartagena Protocol, the Vietnam Environment Administration (VEA) of MONRE is the Cartagena Protocol Focal Point of Vietnam. MONRE has already developed a website: [www.antoansinhoc.vn](http://www.antoansinhoc.vn) which serves as the clearinghouse for biotech information, regulations, and Certificates issued by MONRE and MARD. Although Vietnam is in the beginning stage of implementing the Cartagena Protocol, the Vietnamese Government actively tries to incorporate requirements and obligations of the Protocol into regulations on bio-safety management.

**k) International Treaties/Fora:** Vietnam became a member of International Plant Protection Convention in 2005. Also, Vietnam became a member of Codex Alimentarius in 1989. The Vietnam

Codex Office is under management of Vietnam Food Administration, Ministry of Health:  
<http://codexvn.org>.

**l) Monitoring and Testing:** As of July 2014, Vietnam does not have a monitoring or testing regime in place to evaluate the biotech content in imported or exported food products or food products domestically-produced for consumption in Vietnam.

**m) Low Level Presence:** As of July 2014, Vietnam does not have a policy for Low Level Presence.

## **PART C: MARKETING**

### **a) Marketing Acceptance / b) Public/Private Opinion:**

In the period of September 2013 to July 2014, anti-biotech campaigns remained active in Vietnam. A number of unscientific articles were published on different media criticizing the technology. Despite an active anti-biotech campaign, the Vietnamese government actively recognizes the importance of GE crops in the agricultural and manufacturing economy in Vietnam. The Minister of MARD has publicly expressed support for the cultivation of GE agriculture in Vietnam. The livestock, fishery, and textile / garment industries depend heavily on imported materials including soybean, soybean meal, corn, and cotton of which the majority is derived from agricultural biotechnology, and the GVN, led by MARD, clearly understands that necessity.

## **PART D: CAPACITY BUILDING AND OUTREACH**

**Activities:** During September 2013-July 2014, FAS/Vietnam and the U.S. State Department continued to work with Vietnamese agencies to support the development of the biotech regulatory framework and biotech acceptance. The following were some of the key activities in that effort:

**June 21 and June 23, 2014:** Under funding from USDA, in collaboration with the Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS), the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA) organized two *Symposia on Agricultural Biotechnology and its Benefits for Vietnam*” in Hanoi on June 21 and June 23, 2014. Participants attending the June 21st Symposium were members from Committee of Science, Technology and Environment of the Vietnam National Assembly, while attendees of the Symposium conducted on June 23rd were senior officials from key corn growing provinces in Vietnam.

**June 8-14, 2014:** Four senior officers from MARD, MOIT, MOH and MONRE attended the international training on agricultural biotechnology in Bogor Agricultural University in Indonesia. The training was organized and conducted by Michigan State University in partnership with USDA and ISAAA.

**September 23-24, 2013:** Two workshops under the theme “Growing the Future” were held in Hanoi using funding from the State Department. The workshop’s participants ranged from senior government

regulatory officers and scientists to journalists and students. Significant favorable media coverage was generated.

**August 12-23, 2013:** Under funding from the U.S. Soybean Export Council, FAS-Vietnam helped to recruit four participants; including two lecturers from Hanoi Agricultural University, one official from the Vietnam Women's Union, and one participant from the Ministry of Industry and Trade to attend a short course titled, "2013 Agricultural Biotechnology Regulation Immersion Course" at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri.

**August 4-17, 2013:** Under USDA's Cochran Fellowship Program, eight Vietnamese government extension officers representing the National Agricultural Extension Center (NAEC) of MARD and Agricultural Extension Centers of some provinces attended training titled, "How to Educate Farmers about Biotech Crops" in Missouri and Iowa.

**July 6-20, 2013:** Under USDA's Cochran Fellowship Program, nine Vietnamese journalists working for different agricultural newspapers participated in a short course titled, "Training Journalists on Benefits Biotechnology" in Tennessee, Missouri, and Iowa.

**May 9-14, 2013:** In coordination with FAS/Vietnam, the International Food Information Council Foundation (IFIC) conducted a series of Risk Communication Workshops on Agricultural Biotechnology in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, respectively. Participants included regulatory officers and researchers from agricultural institutes and universities. A half-day workshop, titled "Media Workshop on Food Science" was also organized in Hanoi and in HCMC. Targeted participants for these workshops were journalists.

**February 15- April 12, 2013:** Under USDA's Borlaug Fellowship Program, the Deputy Head of the Department of Molecular Biotechnology Institute of Biotechnology at Can Tho University was selected for a fellowship focused on the "Identification of genetically engineered in foods." He was trained on Rice Breeding and Pathology at the USDA-ARS Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center (Stuttgart, Arkansas), and on Genetically Modified Plant Identification and Regulation at Monsanto in St. Louis, Missouri.

**September 26-29, 2012:** FAS-Vietnam received a FAS Emerging Markets Program (EMP) Grant, funding an international expert to visit Vietnam to work with MONRE on the Draft Circular on the procedure to issue the Bio-Safety Certificate.

**September 16-20, 2012:** FAS-Vietnam provided funding for international airfares to a representative from MARD and a representative from MONRE to attend the 12th International Symposium on the Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (ISBGMO 12) hosted by the International Society for Biosafety Research in St. Louis, Missouri.

**August 6-9, 2012:** Under funding from State Department and FAS/Hanoi, a series of workshops on Biotech: Growing in Future were held at Can Tho University and Ho Chi Minh City.

**April 7-14, 2012:** Ten Vietnamese government officials representing MARD, MONRE, and Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) attended a State Department sponsored Volunteer Visitor's Program focused on supporting agricultural biotechnology through science-based regulation that was conducted in Washington, D.C. and Missouri.

**Strategies and Needs:** Vietnamese regulatory Ministries are focused on building the capacity of the individuals on the technical review committees who are evaluating the Food / Feed Certificate and Bio-Safety Certificate Dossiers for the five traits currently submitted. Additionally, focus has been placed on conducting outreach to producers and consumers of products derived from agricultural biotechnology to highlight the benefits of the biotechnology.

## *Chapter 2: Animal Biotechnology*

### *PART E: PRODUCTION AND TRADE*

**a) Product Development:** As of July 2014, GVN and MARD do not have legal regulations in place governing the research and development or regulatory approval process for animal biotechnology applications. However, there is some research on gene technology for improving animal productivity, animal disease treatment, and production of vaccine for animals utilizing biotechnology.

**b) Commercial Production:** As there are no regulations in place to govern animal biotechnology, there is no commercial production in Vietnam.

**c) Exports:** None.

**d) Imports:** None.

### *PART F: POLICY*

**a) Regulation:** No regulations cover animal biotechnology.

**b) Labeling and Traceability:** None.

**c) Trade Barriers:** None.

**d) Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):** None.

**e) International Treaties/Fora:** None.

### *PART G: MARKETING*

**a) Market Acceptance:** Not applicable.

**b) Public/Private Opinions:** None at this time.

**c) Market Studies:** None.

***PART H: CAPACITY BUILDING AND OUTREACH***

**a) Activities:** None to date.

**b) Strategies and Needs:** None at this time.