

WELCOME TO THE NEXT DECADE

Rarely do we begin a year with the 2010's promise and potential agriculture to look our further goals of 2020. The new decade will have broad and strong interest in and concern about agriculture to help Vietnam become an industrialized country from agro-based systems.

Combined with the extraordinary progress, IAS is making in agricultural research, this augers well how the IAS will deal with the sobering set of problems and challenges. All of this comes as the IAS turns 85 years old when we have faced various threats and casual disasters as flooding, drought and typhoons due to LaNina influence, brown plant hopper outbreak with virus disease transmission, bird flu, serious animal foot and mouth disease, PRRS (porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus).

2010 is the year in which we look forward to new horizons of rice research and imagine how it can change our farmer life for the better. Rice growing areas developed 7.51 million ha (1% increased) with rice production of 40 MT roughly (2.74% increased) and average yield of 5.32 t/ha (1.6% increased). The new record of milled rice export was 6.7 MT. year⁻¹ and it obtained the value of \$ 3.22 in 2010.

Maize growing area is 1.13 M ha with average yield of 4.09 t/ha (1.9% increased). Total maize production gained 4.61 MT (5.4% increased).

Cassava growing area is 469,200 ha (2.3% reduced) and obtained 8.52 MT with cassava productivity of 17.17 t/ha

Vegetable areas increased up to 780,100 ha (6.1%) with the average yield of 16.58 t/ha and the production of 12.94 MT

Sugarcane developed 266,300 ha (0.3% increased) with the production of 15.95 MT and average yield of 59.88 t/ha

Soybean growing area is 197,800 ha (34.6% increased) with the production of 296,900 ton and the average yield of 1.50 t/ha

Groundnut growing area is 231,000 ha (5.7% reduced) with the production of 485,700 ton and the average yield of 2.10 t/ha

Cotton area is 9,100 ha (5.2% reduced) with the average yield of 1.46 t/ha and the production of 13,300 ton.

Rubber increased up to 740,000 ha including 483,500 ha for production of 754,500 ton of latex. The average yield offered 1.72 t/ha.

Cashew nut cultivated area is 391,400 ha including 340,300 ha for production with the productivity of 0.85 t/ha (0.6% reduced) and the production of 289,900 ton.

Black pepper is welcome to its promotion of 51,300 ha with good price in the market. Pepper production obtained 111,200 ton and the average yield gained 2.50 t/ha (2.5% increased)

Coffee growing areas is 548,200 ha including 514,400 for production with the average yield of 2.15 t/ha and the production of 1.10 MT (4.6% increased).

Coconut cultivated area is 140,200 ha including 123,000 for production (0.7% increased) with the average yield of 9.59 t/ha and the production of 1.18 MT (3.1 % increased).

Thanks are due to fruit trees' development with 778,000 ha. Fruit production is estimated as 7 MT (increased 227,641 ton)

The livestock population of the country in the year keeps a stable development level, in which buffalo developed 2,913, 400 heads with the meat production of 84,214 ton (6.5% increased). Cow developed 5,916,300 heads (3.1% reduced) with the meat production of 278,911 ton (11.3% increased). Dairy cow developed 128,600 heads (11.3% increased) with the dairy product increment of 10.23%.

Pig developed 27,373,000 head (0.92% reduced) with the meat production of 3.03 MT (0.23% reduced)

Poultry developed with the increasing rate of 7.3% in which chicken increased 9.1%, 16.5% and 7.6% in bird, meat, and egg, respectively.

Generally, in husbandry, total meat production obtained 3,957,300 ton (1.5% increased as compared to the last year).

The total export turnover of agro-forestry and fisheries exceeded the sector's annual target, hitting US\$ 19.15 billion in 2010, up nearly 23% as compared to 2009. Major agricultural exports reached \$ 9.95 billion, up nearly 24 per cent; fisheries brought in \$4.94 billion, an increase of nearly 16 per cent; and forestry exports earned \$3.63 billion, rising 30 per cent over the last year. Thanks to the recovery of the world economy, demand for these products has significantly increased. Export volume and value of most agro-forestry and fisheries products have increased. Rubber has been the most expensive export commodity. On average over the first 10 months, rubber cost over \$2,800 per ton, surging \$1,270 as compared to the same period in 2009.

The sharp rise in global food and fuel prices in 2007–08, the financial crises of 2009, and the consequent global recession with continuing high prices of food staples globally has brought to acute notice that there is an urgent need for reemphasizing and reorienting agricultural development in Vietnam. The input cost increased continuously from early nine months. Most agro-production costs have also increased up to more than 30% such as fertilizer, gas oil, and animal foodstuff.

The world now also faces new challenges that will affect future food production. These are a looming crisis in availability and use of water for agriculture; the availability of fertilizers, especially phosphates; and climate change that will bring temperature rise, shift in rainfall patterns, erosion of land and increased degradation and rise of sea levels in fertile deltas across the world, rapid spread of diseases and pests, among several others.

Spectacular growth in agriculture and the consequent ability to meet the national demand in 2020 was attained through concerted application of science and technology to agricultural development.

Agriculture is now more complex and becoming more knowledge intensive. Without collaboration, it will not reach its imperative goals to become a real industrialized country in 2020.

We are looking forward to receiving the collaboration and partnerships in development for strengthening friendly ties, improving trade, sharing information, knowledge, skills and technology and contributing to national, regional and global security, especially of food and nutrition.

Welcome to the next decade!

BUI CHI BUU
Director General