

TO MEET FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN COMING YEARS

Truly, this is an inconvenience divergence of more and more people depending on less and less arable land, pasture land, and forest from which they must obtain food and other vital resources. 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. The availability of potential land and water for agriculture is declining. Otherwise, we will need to produce as much food as possible in coming years, not only for export but also for food security. We have faced a stricky test in striking the right balance between maintaining growth and containing inflation.

The IAS is making in agricultural research with impressive progress in 2011 under economic crisis influences with the emphasis on inflation of 18.6%. It has helped us tackle problems associated with more people and less land, unfavorably cultivable environments (drought, flood, sea water incursion, pests and epidemic diseases).

2011 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 7.65 million ha (2.2 % increased) with rice production of 42.3 MT roughly (5.8 % increased) and average yield of 5.53 t/ha (3.6% increased). The new record of milled rice export was 7.2 MT. year⁻¹ and it obtained the value of \$ 3.7 billion in 2011.

Maize growing area is 1.13 M ha with average yield of 4.20 t/ha (2.7% increased). Total maize production gained 4.64 MT (0.4% increased).

Cassava growing area is 559,800 ha (2.4% increased) and obtained 9.87 MT with cassava productivity of 17.64 t/ha

Vegetable areas increased up to 792,000 ha (1.5% increased) with the average yield of 16.8 t/ha and the production of 13.31 MT

Sugarcane developed 271,000 ha (1.8% increased) with the production of 16.80 MT and average yield of 62.0 t/ha

Soybean growing area is 200,000 ha (1.1% increased) with the production of 302,000 ton and the average yield of 1.51 t/ha

Groundnut growing area is 235,000 ha (1.7% increased) with the production of 500,600 ton and the average yield of 2.13 t/ha

Cotton area is 13,000 ha (42.9% increased) with the average yield of 1.50 t/ha and the production of 19,500 ton.

Rubber increased up to 834,200 ha including 471,900 ha for production of 811,600 ton of latex. The average yield offered 1.72 t/ha.

Cashew nut cultivated area is 360,300 ha (5% reduced) including 331,300 ha for production with the productivity of 0.96 t/ha (4.9% increased) and the production of 318,000 ton.

Black pepper is welcome to its promotion of 51,500 ha with good price in the market. Pepper production obtained 113,500 ton and the average yield gained 2.52 t/ha (0.7% increased)

Coffee growing areas is 570,900 ha including 533,800 for production with the average yield of 2.19 t/ha and the production of 1.17 MT (5% increased).

Coconut cultivated area is 141,500 ha including 137,500 for production (11.8% increased) with the average yield of 8.69 t/ha and the production of 1.19 MT (1.3 % increased).

Thanks are due to fruit trees' development with 779,000 ha (2,700 ha increased).

The livestock population of the country in the year keeps a stable development level, in which cattle developed 8.12 million head with the meat production of 406 thousand ton (11.8% increased). Cow developed 5.4 million head (8.7 % reduced), buffalo of 2.72 million head (6.6% reduced). Total dairy production obtained 346,000 ton (12.8 % increased).

Pig developed 27.8 million head (1.6 % increased) with the meat production of 3.2 MT (5.7% increased)

Poultry developed with the increasing rate of 8.2% (325 million bird) in which meat and egg production increased 15% and 8.0%, respectively (708,000 ton and 6.34 billion egg).

Generally, in husbandry, total meat production obtained 4.31million ton (7.7% increased as compared to the last year).

The total export turnover of agro-forestry and fisheries exceeded the sector's annual target, hitting US\$ 25 billion in 2011, up nearly 29% as compared to 2010. Major agricultural exports as fisheries brought in \$ 6.1 billion, forestry exports earned \$ 4.1 billion, then milled rice of \$ 3.7 billion, rubber of \$ 3.3 billion, coffee of \$ 2.7 billion, cashew nut of \$ 1.5 billion. Export volume and value of most agro-forestry and fisheries products have increased.

People's livelihoods should assume a more important role in setting macroeconomic policy because such needs affect "social harmony and stability". Agriculture is a manifestation of evolution. Human dietary requirements for specific nutrients evolved through human lineage during the past history. These requirements are of much higher quality (energy and nutrient). Vietnam becomes a good example to demonstrate that agriculture remains a powerful engine for economic growth, food security, and poverty reduction. Investment in agricultural research and extension must be substantially increased. Closing yield gap for the main crops such as rice, maize, cassava, sugarcane is critical to increase agricultural productivity to meet the food security challenge.

Climate change is once again on the agenda of challenges that agronomists and their allied agriculturists must address in the design and management of future production system. The challenge now is to grow more stable food crops with less land, less water, and less labor amidst climate change.

We call for the international and national collaborations.

BUI CHI BUU
Director General