



**Australian Government**

## **COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

# **Aide Memoire**

**Between**

**The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

**The United Nations Industrial Development Organization**

**The Australian Government**

**and**

**The Provincial People's Committee of Son La Province, Viet Nam**

### **1. Son La Province**

The Son La province is endowed with great potential for production of vegetables, fruits and other valuable products compared to others in the country. Son La also keens on policy solutions to promote sustainable agricultural development under the Agriculture Restructuring Program, in combination with National Target Programme on the New Rural Development (NTP-NRD). The province is now open for technical assistance, cooperation and investment to implement the program.

### **2. Development Partners**

#### **2.1 FAO and UNIDO**

Since 1978, FAO has actively been providing support to Vietnam's agriculture and rural development. In the period 2017-2021, FAO's priority areas are firstly ensuring food security and nutrition; ii) reducing rural poverty; iii) making agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable; iv) enabling inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems; and finally increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

UNIDO has been present in Viet Nam since 1978 and has provided technical assistance to the Government of Viet Nam in accordance with high international standards. UNIDO focuses on three main thematic areas, in which it seeks to achieve long-term impact: productive capacity-building, trade capacity building, and sustainable production and industrial resource efficiency.

FAO, UNIDO and other UN organisations are jointly implementing the UN Joint Programme to Support to the National Target Program for New Rural Development (NTP-NRD). Of which, FAO is the leading agency.



## 2.2 Australian Government

The Australian Government's integrated approach to aid delivery is looking to support a new five year investment initiative with Son La province to support women equitably engage in the agriculture sector at all levels.

The Australian Government uses individual skills, strengths and expertise of a range of government departments and agencies to effectively deliver the Australia's aid program.

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is a statutory authority of the Commonwealth of Australia and operates as part of the Australian aid program. ACIAR supports collaboration between Australian, Vietnamese and international researchers to use their skills for the benefit of developing countries and Australia. ACIAR funds research projects that are developed within a framework reflecting the priorities of Australia's aid program and national research strengths, together with the agricultural research and development priorities of partner countries.

## 3. Agreements

### 3.1 FAO and UNIDO

In the new phase of National target program, FAO and UNIDO keep their commitment to support the Central government and local provinces to achieve the Program's objective. With a view to promote mutual interests and cooperation, the delegation from FAO, UNIDO, made an official visit to Son La province and strategic discussions with Ministry of Agriculture and rural development. At the end, the Son La PPC FAO Vietnam and UNIDO have developed this Aide Memoire, in which the parties agree to:

- Explore opportunities to formulate joint activities to support the quality improvement and supply capacity of key agricultural commodities including vegetables and fruits by applying proper technologies along the value chain; to improve the organizational and managerial structure of the production and processing along these value chains; and to strengthen the capacity of agricultural cooperatives and farmers' groups of Son La province.
- Explore opportunities for joint resources mobilization in support of the agriculture and rural development in Son La province.
- Facilitate the cooperation between Son La province, FAO, UNIDO and other development partners in agriculture and rural development.
- Share knowledge and lessons learned from the cooperation activities.



**Australian Government**

### 3.2 Australian Government

Through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) the Australian Government has a substantial program of agriculture research for development collaboration with Son La province. This partnership is focused on:

- Providing technical assistance for the development and application of initiatives in transferring technical advances to promote the agricultural practices that are sustainable, environmentally friendly, climate change responsive, and profitable for safe vegetable production in Son La province.
- Providing technical assistance in planning tropical fruits production in Moc Chau based on the biophysical and socioeconomic research. The research outcomes are to serve as a basis for the development of plans for temperate fruit production in the region, including developing nursery sites, new types and varieties, orchard management and market linkages for tropical fruits (plum, persimmon, peach).
- Assisting with capacity building for extension staff and farmers, especially in the districts of Thuan Chau, Mai Son, Moc Chau and Van Ho, in safe fruit and vegetable production, sustainable farming on sloping land, agroforestry, conservation agriculture, sustainable intensive livestock production, and linking to profitable markets.
- Providing technical assistance in establishment and development of value chains based on scientific research about the market, chain linkages, trademark registration and management, food safety, value chain financing, to encourage farmers and local businesses to participate in production and sales of the products with competitive advantages for the province.

The Australian Government, through ACIAR provides ongoing support for technical cooperation with Son La province directed towards the development of vegetable, fruit and other valuable agricultural value chains benefitting the rural poor. Subject to endorsement of this program in a national consultation in late 2016, ACIAR will seek to continue this technical collaboration with Son La province into the medium term.

The Australian Government will explore opportunities for joint resources mobilization to support women equitably engage and benefit from agriculture and rural development in Son La province.

### 3.3 Son La Provincial People's Committee

- Ensure the favourable conditions for development partners to implement technical cooperation projects in Son La province.
- Assign Son La Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (*Provincial coordination office of National target program on new rural development*) plays as focal agency.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Australian Government

4. None of the paragraphs in this Aide Memoire impose any binding power, obligation or responsibility on the parties. All of the paragraphs in this Aide Memoire do not impose binding power, obligation and responsibilities on the parties. FAO, UNIDO, Australian Government and Son La PPC will make a prompt and all-out effort to accomplish the goal of this Aide Memoire.
  
5. This Aide Memoire shall take effect from the day of countersigning by FAO, UNIDO, Australian Government and Son La PPC. Done in duplication in the English language at Son La province, both texts are being equally authentic.

*Date: 07 July 2016*

On behalf of

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



JongHa Bae

Position: FAO Representative, Viet Nam

On behalf of

The Provincial People's Committee of Son La Province



Lo Minh Hung

Position: Vice Chairman, Son La PPC

On behalf of

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization



Le Thanh Thao

Position: National Program Officer

On behalf of

The Australian Government



Nguyen Thi Thanh An

Country Manager, ACIAR Vietnam