

The total rubber-growing area of 242,540 hectares of the country produces annually some 110,000 tonnes of latex worth about VNĐ1,482 billion; 31 billion of which is sent to the national treasury and other 615 billion become profit for rubber companies.

The Lộc Ninh Rubber Company with its development has been the most remarkable success story of Vietnam's rubber industry.

Piece-work model before equitization applied by the Lộc Ninh Rubber Company was appreciated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and was considered as a



President Lê Đức Anh, accompanied by Lê Văn Thanh, Director of the Lộc Ninh Rubber Company, visited the Memorial House of the Company (Photo : Anh Tuấn)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN "WHITE GOLD" DISTRICT

by ANH TUẤN

new way of doing business in the rubber industry.

The Lộc Ninh Rubber Company is an enterprise affiliated to the Vietnam Rubber Corporation. It has plantations and factories in 8 villages of Lộc Ninh district (Sông Bé province) with its boundary of 175 km lying along the frontier between Vietnam and Cambodia.

Situated in an area of complex physical features and bad climatic conditions, the Company has tried its best to produce some 4,500 tonnes of white gold supplying to domestic and foreign markets every year thereby greening the basaltic borderland of the country.

After the Liberation Day, Lộc Ninh is a war-torn district. The revolutionary government took over a series of uncared-for plantations and factories in this district. But today, returning to Lộc Ninh, one could find that all damage caused by war had been repaired and developments had changed the face of this district. The workforce of the Company has increased to some 3,000 workers who exploited 4,550 hectares of rubber trees and gained many remarkable achievements.

The latex processing factory of the Company has been equipped with modern machines with a view to producing latex of international standards, so its products were appreciated by both local and foreign buyers.

The novelty in the Company is its administrative reform: the middle management was removed. Up to now, there are only the top management and 12 production teams in the Company. This reform has helped the Company reduce overheads and improve business performance.

Lê Văn Thanh, the director, is the author of the piece-work before equitization model which was awarded many certificates by the Government.

Reviewing the amount and value of public works completed by the Company in the period between 1992 and 1995, we could see the incessant development of the Company:

- Housing: 1,732 houses with a total area of 65,105 sq.m have been built, 559 houses of which (totalling 2,050 sq.m) are of the 4th grade (worth VNĐ400,000 per sq.m); 973 houses (34,055 sq.m worth VNĐ100,000 per sq.m) are semi-concreted. The Company has spent VNĐ4,625,500,000 on this scheme.

- Schools: A system of kindergartens and schools occupying an area of 4,800 sq.m has been built. The Company spent some VNĐ240 million on the building and equipment and 523 million on teacher's salary on average every year.

- Road network: the Company has spent VNĐ32,730 million on building of 496km of roads in the district.

- Electricity supply: an amount of VNĐ2,052,790,000 has been spent on the building of the lines of medium and low voltage.

- Health care service: the Company has built a health center and a system of first aid stations equipped with many medical machines such as an X-ray machine, an ultrasound scanner worth VNĐ300 million, equipment of a dentist office worth VNĐ800 million. Annual salary paid to this service mounts to VNĐ200 million.

As for recreational activities, musical shows are organized regularly, papers and magazines are supplied to workers, and VNĐ740 million were spent on the building of a TV aerial system with a power of 100W.

It's worth noting that the Company has built a charitable complex for old people and orphans on an area of 4.6 hectares including a health service center, 14 houses and a workplace. This complex costed the Company VNĐ1,335 million.

In addition, the Company has spent VNĐ600 million on planting 90.46 hectares of rubber trees in a program to help nomadic ethnic groups settle; VNĐ75 million on the building of houses for five "Heroic Mothers", and made a contribution of VNĐ200 million to the Lộc Ninh High-school.

With its plantations and factories scattered over the district the Company has to pay attention to the protection of its property: last year, 142 latex thieves were caught (45 cases were put on trial) and 55,158 kg of latex were retrieved.

At the Lộc Ninh Rubber Company today, workers' quality of life is improved: many of them have tile-roofed houses and orchards. Potential resources of this white gold district are being tapped well ■