

With an agricultural working population of 49 million (equal to 66.6% of total population), agriculture is being a main field of Vietnam economy. Although it makes up a majority, such a population has only contributed a modest share to GDP. In 1990, this share was 40.3%, and in 1994, only 35%. The agriculture is also weak on the rate of growth in comparison with other productions. While heavy industry and industries in general grow at rates of 20% and 30% per year respectively; agriculture remains to grow strenuously at rate of 3% to 4% per year. Earned income of the majority of peasant was poor at an average of about VND 100,000 per month in comparison with VND 160,000 per month of urban population.

Agricultural sphere is a "weak" industry in comparison with other fields. Actually, such a situation is a common fact in developing countries, and even in developed countries like Japan, England, France, etc, because of features of the agronomy.

Some analysis of Vietnam agronomy's difficulties, and measures to overcome them are proposed as follows:

#### I. THE DIFFICULTIES OF VIETNAM AGRONOMY IN RECENT YEARS

Increasing the agricultural production is not a hard work, the difficulty is the very lack of surplus-profit market for agricultural products. In 1994, An Giang still got a good yield of rice at over 2 million tonnes, though it suffered losses wrought by flood. Although export of rice reached a level of 1.5 to 2 million tonnes, the State has still to set up a stabilization fund to make up for a drop in prices and a loss in export market. Not far from here, orchid and catfish were goods that get a high price, now they are on a heavy drop. Cactus is yielded good, but it doesn't sell easily. In 1994, though coffee beans come into an increase of price, it would meet with a decline of price in the coming years.

Hard as an extending the agriculture is, the peasant has a tendency to shift to urban areas, look for different trade, and then become urban population.

#### II. MEASURES TO SOLVE DIFFICULTIES OF THE AGRICULTURE

The most efficacious way is pushing up faster the rate of industrialization and modernization. The industry creates a source of jobs for a shift of the peasant to urban areas. The industry answers the requirements of inputs such as pesticide, gas, manure, pump,

## THINKING ABOUT INCREASING THE GROWTH RATE OF VIETNAM AGRICULTURE ON SPRING DAYS

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farming implement, tractor, etc, for the agriculture. Also the consumption of farming outputs would be better if Vietnam has got more processing factories. Notice that the Mekong River delta has not got a sugar refinery yet, though this area is the great of sugar cane production.

The second way is the fact that one shouldn't culture a plant or a kind of animal alone but a variety of those; and in case of a drop in prices, one should draft a plan to make up. Within this trend, one should select export lines that can be sold at a highest price: trionychis turtle (US\$25 to 30 per kilo), shrimp (US\$ 4 to 13 per kilo), goby (US\$3 to 10 per kilo), etc, for instance. Also, one should select exporting processed goods instead of raw materials, because the turn-over could be twice as many.

Materially, Vietnam has got an area of 13 million ha of bare hill, while it has got only an area of 6 million ha of farming land. After four years of cultivation, one hectare of margose plus rattan could yield a turn-over of US\$70,000 which is twice as high in comparison with rice. One cinnamon tree that is ripe for reaping is worth VND 400,000 to 500,000. Cashew, rubber have a green effect on bare hills, and yield an income that is higher than rice. Presently, the share of 6 million ha of paddy farming land is occupying the great of agricultural output. After it was one intensive farming hectare of rubber, one hectare of bare hill would yield an income that is equivalent to four hectares of rice. Thus, greening with intensive farming forests on 14 million ha of bare hill would create not only jobs for million of peasant, but also a multifold increase of the share of agriculture in GDP.

#### III. EFFECT OF THE ABOVE MEASURES ON THE RATE OF AGRICULTURAL GROWTH

Quote the breeding line of milch

cow as an example. Although there are milch cow farms in Lâm Đồng and Mộc Châu which abounds in grass field that is lushly green, cow breeding hasn't still grown up. On the contrary, since there is the purchase of milk at a high price from milk companies, the cow breeding in HCM City grows fast. In 1994, leaning on the foundation of several HCMC - based factories that makes bean milk, the cultivation of beans was fruitful. At Long Vinh village, Trà Vinh coastal district, although they have got only 1,000 sp.m of pond, Tân and his family earned the turn-over of VND 6 million after five months of breeding 2,000 units of breeder shrimp. Such isn't a particular case. The prosperity of thousands of households that breed shrimp and caged-in fish is current in coastal provinces. Even in fresh water areas as Đồng Tháp province, the earnings of households like those stated above is the triple to the quadruple of households that monocultures paddy. It is reported from the Economic Times magazine that Mr. Phạm Văn Triển led his family to high hill, and then compartmentalized a small spring into a pond of 3 sào (around 1,800 sq.m) where he breeds fish. Annually, he earned an output of several quintal of fish. Gradually, by means of short investment to feed long investment, he has brought land into cultivation at an area of 10 ha, among which there are 3 ha of tea, thousands of cinnamon tress. Like that, his return would be rather good in several coming years.

In the countryside, there's a differentiation between rich households and poor households in spite of a rather uniform distribution of land. The main cause of such a situation is in the fact that rich households applied the garden-pond-fish model; feeded long investment by means of short investment; cultured highly valuable strains such as margose, rattan, shrimp, goby, cinnamon tree; joined breeding with processing. Income of households that put garden-pond-fish model into practice is the triple to the quadruple of monoculturing households.

In short, industrialization, modernization, culturing preferably plants and animals that has a highest export price, organizing of purchasing and processing stations among farming zones are the most effective ways to increase quick the gross agricultural product. Because 66.6% of Vietnam population earned their living by farming, an increase to 6-7% of this gross product, instead of 3-4% as the things stand, is enough to raise considerably the income per capita and the rate of economic growth ♣