

Technological Application to Farm Production in Lâm Đồng Province

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Science and technology are motivation for the agricultural industrialization and modernization. The application of new technological achievements will enhance productivity, add value to products and help restructure the agriculture towards modernization.

The Lâm Đồng Service of Agriculture and Rural Development has boosted research activities and brought scientific advances to farm production. The Service also uses biotechnology in programs of selecting plant and animal species and post-harvest preservation technologies.

The Service has established farm stimulation stations to transfer techniques to farmers and answer their questions. It also invests its budgets in importing modern equipment and technologies and good plant species. It renovates its managerial systems, especially financial and personnel systems to enhance research quality and technical transfer.

The Lâm Đồng Service of Agriculture and Rural Development has planned the following projects to implement the hi-tech agriculture program:

- Drying sapodilla and processing coffee: The Service has transferred the technology of drying sapodilla plums and processing coffee beans by the wet processing method to farmers in ĐaSar village, Lạc Dương District. The district's coffee tree growing area totals 1,350 ha with a combined output of

1,675 tonnes, most coffee trees are of Arabica, this kind is suitable with the wet processing method and the quality of processed products is rather good and stable. The district's sapodilla area amounts to 340 hectares with an output of 1,100 tonnes. There were formerly some sapodilla drying establishments but they went into dissolution because their equipment and techniques were very obsolete and their products could not meet the market requirements. As a result, drying machine SH 100 and coffee processing machine MXQ-1 have reduced farmers' energy and losses after harvest; shortened the drying time, and increased the product quality as well as prices. These both machines are easy to use.

- Cashew processing: The cashew nut processing capacity of existing factories needs to be promoted to 5,000-6,000 tonnes from current 3,000 tonnes for export.

- Sericultural production: Vietnam Sericulture Corporation now owns five modern factories producing silk and there are 30 establishments of cooperatives and individuals in the province.

- Vegetable and mushroom production: the province will increase the current food processing capacity to 80,000-100,000 tonnes and build a factory producing 3,000-5,000 tonnes of concentrated tomatoes. In the 2006-2010 period more plants will be

set up to produce 200,000-300,000 tonnes of materials.

- Flower production: the province will build more refrigeration factories and use modern packaging technologies suitable for each export market.

- Sugar processing: at first, a sugar mill will be built with an output of 800-1,000 tonnes per day in Đức Trọng District.

- Animal feed processing: the province will establish an animal feed processing factory in Đức Trọng District where there is currently a vast area specialized in growing maize for material supply with an initial capacity of 20,000-30,000 tonnes/year.

- Milk processing: A milk processing plant will be founded with an estimated output of 12,000-13,000 tonnes/year.

- Processing forestry products: the province's forestry advantages will be fully tapped for industrial development and career expansion in rural areas. Initially, the existing capacity of 124 establishments in 12 districts and towns will be exploited, then the province will modernize processing lines and give priority to making wooden furniture, souvenir, materials for toothpick, incense and pulp production.

- Using high technologies in producing vegetable, flower and strawberry: Đà Lạt City and Districts of Lạc Dương, Đơn Dương and Đức Trọng will make great efforts to increase hi-

tech areas to 2,000 hectares by 2010.

- Using good tea species and expanding high-quality cultivation areas in Đà Lạt City, Bảo Lộc, Bảo Lâm and Di Linh Districts to 4,000-5,000 ha by 2010.

- Building and implementing the program breeding hi-quality beees with total 12,000 heads by 2010 and increasing the heads of milking cow to 10,000 until 2010.

- Speeding up the afforestation for material supply with the goal of 2,000-3,000 ha by 2010.

The Lâm Đồng province should make favorable conditions for the implementation of these programs, for example, allocating land, leasing land, providing soft loans, providing investment and technical assistance as well as establishing administration boards of hi-tech agricultural areas in districts and towns.

In addition, relevant agencies have to provide necessary supports and practical solutions in technical research and transfer as well as goods consumption. They should also pay full attention to the selection of high quality species and post-harvest preservation technologies. In addition, the local government is required to make policies encouraging technological innovation in processing factories and technical improvement of farmers, for example, a farmer has transformed a grass-mowing machine into a rice reaping one in Cát Tiên District. ■