



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

1400 Independence  
Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC  
20250-2000

August 14, 2008

TO: Nancy Hirschhorn  
Chief  
Grant Management Branch  
Foreign Agricultural Service

FROM: Larry Sivers  
Director  
International Programs Office

SUBJECT: Proposed Emerging Markets Program FY 2009 Funding of NASS  
International Statistical Cooperation Projects, VIETNAM

### **GENERAL:**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is proposing to continue a collaborative project with the Government of Vietnam to improve its capability to collect and disseminate reliable agricultural statistics. This request is for the second year funding of a three-year proposal.

### **BACKGROUND:**

During attendance at the Asian Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics meeting sponsored by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization in September 2006 in Thailand, the US delegation (Larry Sivers) was approached by the Vietnamese delegation regarding technical assistance. Delegates from both the Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development (MARD) and the General Statistics Office (GSO), Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery requested NASS assistance in providing technical advice on how to improve the system and methods of agricultural data collection in Vietnam. During these discussions assurance was given that this is an area where no other outside group is providing any assistance.

The Emerging Markets Program of the Foreign Agricultural Service funded the first year of a three year project in January 2008 for FY2008. In that year NASS completed an initial assessment of the agricultural statistics program in both GSO and MARD. This assessment was coordinated by the FAS Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City staff and included their active participation and support of the activity. NASS hosted a two week US study tour for GSO and MARD staff July 17 – August 9, and will conduct a one week seminar in Vietnam during September 2008.



NASS - Fact Finders for Agriculture  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

## **AGRICULTURE INFORMATION SYSTEM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROJECT IN VIETNAM**

Proposal Date: August 14, 2008

The project is proposed by:

National Agricultural Statistics Service,  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Primary Contact:

Larry Sivers, Director,  
International Programs  
Room 6035, South Agriculture Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
ph 202-720-4505  
fax 202-720-0506  
email [larry.sivers@nass.usda.gov](mailto:larry.sivers@nass.usda.gov)

DUNS number 92-933-2310  
TIN number 471600000

### **I. PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION.**

Vietnam Agricultural Statistics Improvement Project (FY2009): This project proposal would provide second year funding to develop and implement an approach for improvement of the capability of the Vietnamese government to develop accurate and timely statistics for Vietnamese agriculture.

### **II. RATIONALE.**

The availability of unbiased and timely data is necessary for efficient functioning of agriculture markets. Agricultural statistics must be timely and accurate to be used effectively. The government and private sector need improved data and information to make informed decisions related to the agricultural sector.

The capability to perform commodity situation and outlook reporting and economic and policy analysis is necessary for a market economy. To effectively perform these functions, timely and accurate data is needed. Improved data on Vietnam's agriculture would be of benefit to foreign agricultural interests, including the United States.

### **III. PROJECT PARTICIPANT IDENTIFICATION.**

This project would work extensively with the Vietnam government organizations that have responsibility for agricultural statistics, primarily the General Statistics Office and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

#### **Institutional Capability:**

As the statistical agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has as its mission “to provide timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.” NASS has also been helping to establish and improve agricultural statistics programs in countries around the world for nearly 60 years.

NASS specialists provide technical assistance and training on a reimbursable basis in all aspects of statistical surveys, censuses and data systems. The institutional relationships established between NASS and counterpart organizations, which generally continue long after projects are completed, have been mutually beneficial for understanding and addressing improvement issues.

With a total staff of more than 1300 employees, a large portion of which are professionals experienced in various aspects of census and survey work, NASS can draw from a large and diverse set of skills to support international projects. NASS is the United States’ only source of a large permanent staff experienced in the practical application of the technology and latest operational developments in the field of agricultural statistics.

### **IV. RESOURCES REQUIRED.**

The amount of resources identified in this proposal to assist in improvement of the agricultural statistics systems is for training and technical assistance. This support will be for NASS experts’ travel to Vietnam to work with counterparts, with costs reimbursed at U.S. Government travel allowance rates and salary for NASS staff involved at actual daily rate/individual plus 19.9% benefit and 20.9% leave factor rates. This will be done with the equivalent of 10 TDYs/yr (10 days each) to Vietnam by NASS staff.

**BUDGET NEEDS:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>FY2009</b>	<b>FY2010</b>
	(Already Funded)	<b>Amount \$(000)</b>	
<b>Salary</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Travel</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>

In addition to the resources provided from the U.S. side for technical assistance, significant resources in the way of National staff, regional staff, and local staff, travel expenses, data collection and processing cost would be provided by the Vietnamese government collaborating agencies.

**V. IMPLEMENTATION.**

The initial review of the agricultural statistics system in Vietnam has shown the General Statistics Office and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development share the responsibility for producing agricultural statistics. The system is based on the historic planned economy model of accounting from the bottom level of government up to the central level, with very little verification of the data at each stage. The project would introduce techniques and methodologies to help produce statistically defensible information from both organizations' systems.

Major activities for the year would include technical assistance and seminars on

- 1) sampling methodologies with sampling frame development,
- 2) survey methodologies including questionnaire design and interviewer training,
- 3) data analysis, and
- 4) remote sensing for crop condition monitoring and tree crop area estimation.

The technical assistance would be conducted in country as well as through a study tour in the United States with NASS. The project activities will be closely coordinated with the FAS Hanoi office.

**VII. KEY CONTACTS.**

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) management of the project would be under the guidance of:

Larry Sivers, Director  
International Programs

In-country contacts include:

Dr. Do Thuc, Deputy Director General  
General Statistics Office

Pham Quang Vinh, Director  
Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fishery Statistics  
General Statistics Office

Pham Minh Tri, Head of Statistics Division  
Information Technology and Statistics Centre,  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Mr. Duong Long Tri, Vice Director,  
Information Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development