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PRESS RELEASE

EU supports Vietnam at improving compliance with plant protection for products exporting to the EU

Ho Chi Minh City - The European Commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of Vietnam, is holding a public seminar on EU law applicable to Plant Health (introduction into and spread within the EU organisms harmful to plants or plants products, principles of plant quarantine and pest management standards) and Plant Protection Products (Registration and Good Agricultural Practices).

The event, opened by Ambassador – Head of the EU Delegation to Vietnam Dr Franz Jessen and Dr Nguyen Huu Dat, Director of Post Entry Plant Quarantine Center 2, Ho Chi Minh City, gathered participants from the companies exporting products of plant origin to the European Union.

The training aims at increasing participants' knowledge of EU rules as well as at improving their ability to assess information on the biology, distribution, host range and economic status of plant pests of the exporting country in order to protect itself against spreading of undesirable harmful organisms on its own territory. Requirements as regards the registration, use and control of plant protection products including control of pesticides residues in food will be also covered. This will also lead the country to exercise quarantine practices consistent with international standards which will effectively prevent the introduction of harmful organisms and have minimal impact on trade at the same time.

At his opening remarks, Ambassador - Head of the EU Delegation to Vietnam Dr Franz Jessen said "*Customers at the European Union pay a lot of attention to quality and safety of products. This kind of event is very important as it helps Vietnamese exporters improve their capacity and reach the overseas markets*".

Dr Dat Nguyen Huu added that "*One of the key factors in promoting agriculture product trade is to protect plants from pest damages and to improve the safety of export products and accordingly, meet all requirements set by importing countries.*"

This seminar is taking place during a regional training workshop on the same subject during 8th to 12th September 2014. Around 45 national-level control staff involved in the fields covered by the workshop from 8 ASEAN member States, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam are to attend.

Supported by the European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Consumers' Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme, the workshop is part of a series of regional workshops on Food Safety and Plant Health to be organised in Asia from 2014 to 2016. Other subjects of workshops will include Plant Health, Fisheries products, Risk assessment, Food Information and Traceability.

For more information on BTSF, please see the link: <http://www.foodinfo-europe.com/>

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