



REPORT

**Issues relating to forest governance and measures against
the illegal timber trade and implementing
the VPA and EVFTA**

2020

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Updating the review of issues relating to forest governance and measures against illegal timber trade, EVFTA implementation in Vietnam in 2020

I. Introduction

Governance is often considered the art of “leading”, setting out a way to reach a goal; while management leans in favor of monitoring performance to ensure that is done properly in practice. Therefore, governance is a matter of leadership, direction and being at the core rather than management.

Forest governance is widely considered to be the key factor for the forestry sector’s success. Good forest governance revolves around three questions: i) Who makes the decisions? ii) who benefits? and iii) how is the decision formulated? In Vietnam, forest governance has begun to receive considerable attention through two of the most well-known and joint initiatives aimed at improving it, the Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (VPA/FLEGT) and Participatory Forest Governance Assessment (PGA) under the support of the Global Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (UN-REDD) program.

Forest governance is a highly social process that requires accountability and wide participation of different stakeholders at different levels. Initial research showed that in addition to technical issues, the participation of stakeholders, especially who depend on forests, is extremely important for the forestry sector’s sustainable development. The big concern now is that the tradition of communities in using and owning forests has not been institutionalized yet, although in many places they still consider themselves as forest owners and landowners over generations, leading to various potential disputes and conflicts. In addition, discussions and benefit-sharing between units and companies who have forest use management permits and local people are still “asking and giving” mechanism that mean many administrative documents regulate in this process, which is insufficiently transparent and equal on both legal documents as well as in reality, leading to frustration and dissatisfaction. The removal of forest dependent people or communities from the list of stakeholders in forest governance will create social instability in the short term and a long-term unsustainable scenario.

Vietnam has 14 signed and effective Free Trade Agreements, four- of which are under negotiation. The one with the European Union (also known as: Vietnam - EU Free Trade Agreement; referred to as: EVFTA Agreement) is considered one of the "New Generation Free Trade Agreements" that contains extensive and comprehensive commitments when compared to previous more "traditional" Free Trade Agreements with the deepest level of commitment (reduction or elimination of custom duties to almost about 0% with a short route); a strict enforcement mechanism and covering "non-traditional" areas such as labour, environment, state-owned enterprises, government procurement, transparency, and settlement of investment disputes, etc.

The EVFTA Partnership Agreement was signed in 2019 and came into effect from June 2020 with 30 Chapters including the 13th chapter on Sustainable Development. To oversee the implementation of the Sustainable Development Chapter in particular and the EVFTA agreement in general, it is necessary to establish Domestic Advisory Groups (DAGs). To implement the EVFTA Agreement, the Prime Minister approved an implementation plan which assigns responsibility for implementation of Chapter 13 to four ministries: Industry and Trade, Agriculture and Rural Development, Natural Resources and Environment and Labor Invalids and Social Affairs. The Ministry of Industry and Trade was assigned to act as the focal point in implementing the proposal to organize the domestic advisory groups (DAGs).

After the Agreements entered into force, the implementation of them should be monitored and regularly updated. This report will be the foundation for monitoring the implementation of these two Agreements in the coming years.

II. Objectives

- + To update information on activities related to forest governance and measures to combat illegal timber trade.
- + Update on VPA implementation.
- + Update progress against key indicators of EVFTA Domestic Advisory Groups (DAGs) from a CSO perspective.

III. Content

- 3.1. Activities related to forest governance and illegal timber trade practices***
- 3.2. Implementation progress of VPA in Vietnamese agencies and departments***
- 3.3. Activities of the non-governmental organizations social organizations implementing EVFTA***
- 3.4. Update on the EVFTA Domestic Advisory Group Index (DAGs)***
- 3.5. Specific activities that have been implemented***

IV. Methodology

- + Desk study
- + Data collection: from State Management Agencies, Research Institutes oriented interviews with the support of questionnaires.
 - interviews with officials from 6 provinces distributed evenly across the country, specifically Vinh Phuc and Son La provinces in the north, Quang Tri and Hue Provinces in the centre, and Binh Dinh and Quy Nhon in the central south. These provinces are centers for wood processing and export as well as capable of supplying raw materials for export processing.
 - The units interviewed were the Departments of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Industry and Trade, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, and Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs.
 - The interviewees are the Director, Deputy Director, Deputy Head and other specialists of the Department and related to the import and export of agricultural and forestry products and the exploitation, processing of forest materials and agricultural products of the locality.
- + Interviews with officials, businesses and residential communities.
 - The enterprise interview survey focused mainly on the members of associations:
 - a) Vietnam Timber and Forest Products Association (VIFOREST); Handicraft and Wood Industry Association of Ho Chi Minh City (HAWA); Binh Duong Furniture Association (BIFA); Forest Products Association of Binh Dinh (FPA) and Vietnam Forest Owners Association.

+ Other documentary information collection from official websites of ministries and agencies.

V. Results

3.1. Activities related to forest governance and illegal timber trade

3.1.1. Situation of export and import of Vietnam agriculture and forestry products in 2020

a) Agricultural products

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, from 2015 to 2019, Vietnam's agricultural exports to the world market increased continuously from a value of 30.79 billion US dollars in 2015 to 41, 49 billion US dollars in 2019. In 2020 they are expected to be worth about 43 billion US dollars, while imports also increased continuously from 10.33 billion in 2015 to 14.94 in 2019. Thus, Vietnam exports agricultural products to the world increased 1.34 times and imports increased 1.44 times over the past five years. Vietnam exported 3.04 billion VND and imported 0.81 billion VND to the European market in 2010, and in 2019 exported 4.6 billion VND and imported 1.0 billion USD. Thus, the rate of increase is 1.51 times and 1.23 timesFigure 1 shows the import and export growth of Vietnam - Europe agricultural products.



Figure 1: the growth of Vietnam's import and export trade of agricultural products withEurope.

Some of Vietnam's major agricultural exports to Europe are coffee, cashew, pangasius and shrimp. Specifically, the EU is the largest consumer of Vietnamese coffee, according to the Coffee Association's statistics, the annual volume of Vietnamese coffee exported to Europe is 38-40% of the total coffee export volume of Vietnam. Cashew nuts

exported to Europe also make up 25% of the total cashew nut exports of Vietnam, similar to the percentage of seafood is 15%. The total export turnover of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery is up to 11.75% of Vietnam's agricultural exports (only to China and the US). Proportion of Vietnam's key products exported to Europe in 2019 (see figure 2).

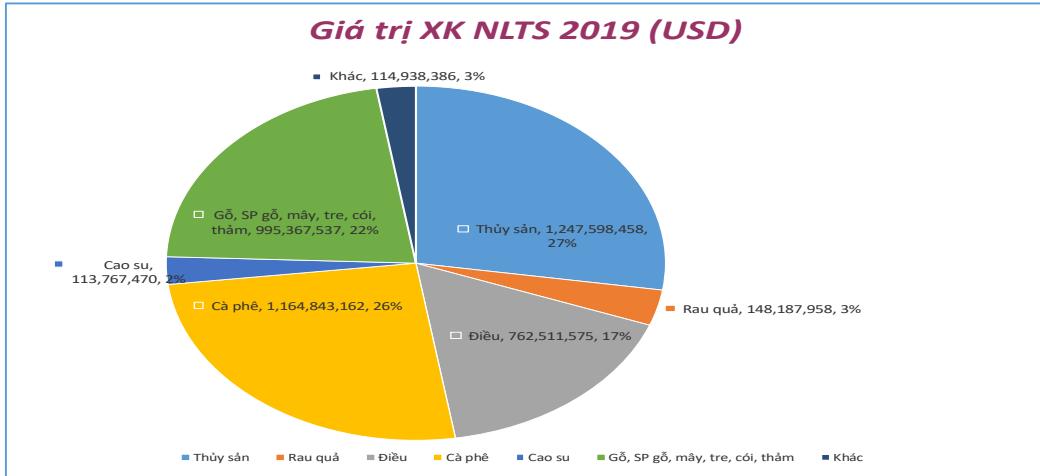


Figure 2: Export value of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries from Vietnam to Europe in 2019

b) Forest products

The forest product production and processing industry in Vietnam in the past 10 years has grown spectacularly, with annual steady growth over two digits ranging from 12-15% per year. Specifically, in 2010, Vietnam exported 3.44 billion USD of timber and timber products to the world market. In 2019, this figure is up to 10.64 billion USD, it is expected that by 2020, this figure will reach 13.2 billion USD (Figure 3).

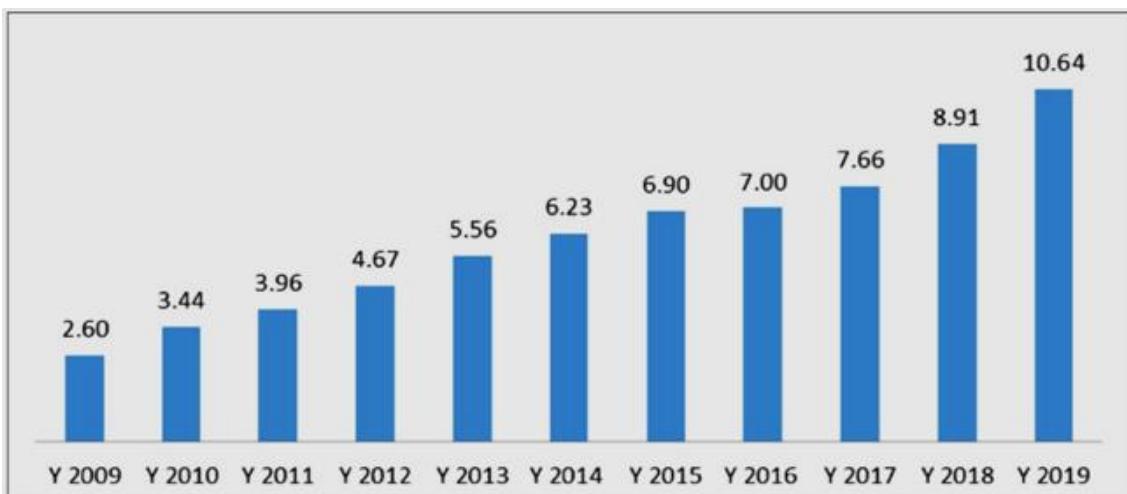


Figure 3: Export progress of forest and timber products of Vietnam, period 2009-2019

According to data published by the General Department of Customs, as of December 15, 2020, the export of timber and timber products reached 11.64 billion USD, up 16% over the same period in 2018. In which, the export of timber products reached 8.9 billion USD, up 22% over the same period.

The main export markets for Vietnam's forest and timber products to the US, Japan, China, South Korea and the EU are shown in Figure 4.

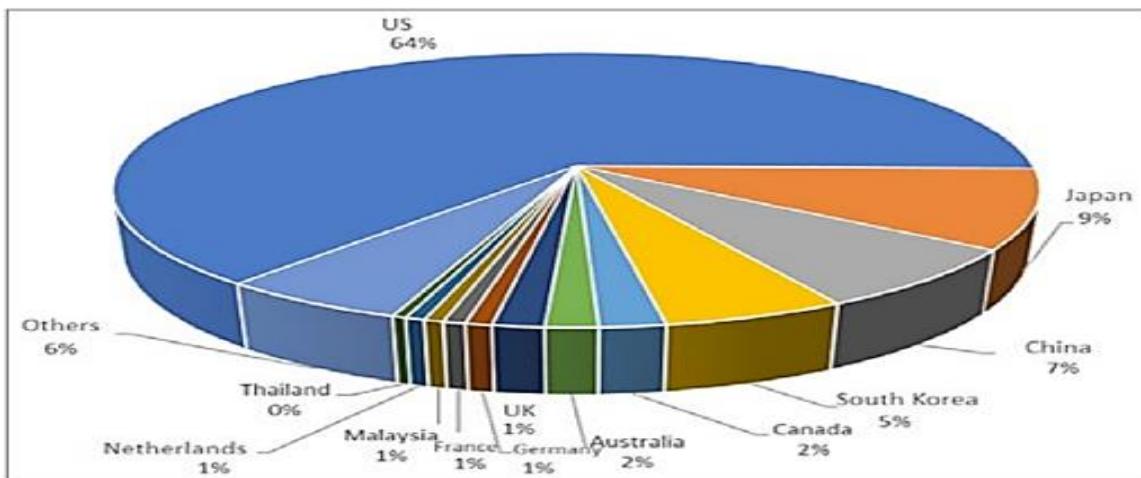


Figure 4: Major export markets for forest and timber products of Vietnam in 2019

The most valuable exports are furniture, chairs, wood chips, pellets and other products (Figure 5).

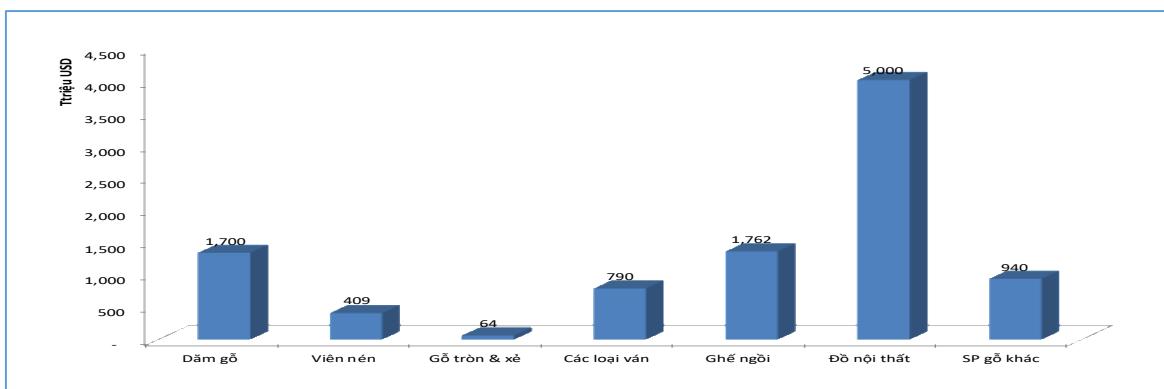


Figure 5: Vietnam's export value of key products for timber and timber products in 2019 (Source VIFOREST)

- According to data published by the General Department of Customs, the export of timber and timber products as of December 15, 2020 reached nearly 11.6 billion USD, rising by 16% compared to the same period in 2019. In which, exported timber products reached 8.9 billion USD, adding by 22% compared to the similar period.

- On import, the value of imported timber and timber products as of December 15, 2020 reached 2.4 billion USD, which is unchanged from the same period in 2019.

XUẤT NHẬP KHẨU GỖ VÀ SẢN PHẨM GỖ (CẬP NHẬT ĐẾN 15/12/2020)			
	15/12/2019	15/12/2020	%
Xuất khẩu			
GỖ & SẢN PHẨM GỖ	10,016,281,204	11,640,371,770	16%
SẢN PHẨM GỖ	7,315,035,377	8,954,555,436	22%
Sản phẩm mây, tre, cát và thảm	455,685,025	573,556,983	26%
Nhập khẩu			
GỖ & SẢN PHẨM GỖ	2,414,804,314	2,422,765,717	0%

Source: http://vietfores.org/xuat-nhap-khau-va-san-pham-go-15-4-2020/viber_image_2021-01-02_11-08-53/

Figure 7: Import and export of timber and timber products as of December 15, 2020

According to the results of the report of Vietnam Timber and Forest Products Association, Vietnam's timber and timber products processing clusters run from the South to the North and tend to gradually move to the North, where there is a large and abundant source of plantation materials. Specifically, the export value of industrial clusters is as follows:

1/ Binh Duong: 5 billion USD; 2/ Dong Nai: 1.5 billion; 3/ Ho Chi Minh City: 1.2 billion; 4/ Hanoi: 0.6 billion; 5/ Binh Dinh: 0.5 billion; 6/ Vinh Phuc: 0.199 billion; 7/ Nghe An: 0.161 billion; 8/ Quang Ngai: 0.157 billion; 9/ Quang Ninh: 0.151 billion; 10/ Quang Nam: 0.138 billion USD.

According to the survey results, Vietnam's forest products exports do not benefit from the tax reduction, because main product lines exported from Vietnam to the EU previously had an export tax of zero. However, due to the mandatory commitments of VPA/FLEGT, the control of timber legality is strengthened and a part of Vietnamese timber and forest products exported to the EU must comply with and require FSC Certification. The products with FSC certification that means those forests are sustainable management

3.1.2. Relevant policies, laws and regulations

- Develop the Government action plan to implement VPA/FLEGT. The Prime Minister issued Decision No. 1624/QD-TTg. on 14/11/2019 to approve the Plan to implement the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between Vietnam and the EU on Forestry Law Enforcement, Forest Governance and Trade (VPA / FLEGT).

- The action plan to implement VPA/FLEGT of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development was approved by Decision No. 4852 / QD-BNN-TCLN dated December 10, 2018 promulgating the Implementation Plan of Voluntary Partnership Agreement between Vietnam and the EU on Forestry Law Enforcement, Forest Governance and Trade (VPA/FLEGT).

- Decree No. 102/2020 / ND-CP dated September 1, 2020 on the Regulation on Timber Legality Assurance System

- Develop a plan to monitor the implementation of the VPA/FLEGT Agreement

- Issued Circular No. 27/2018 / TT-BNNPTNT dated November 16, 2018: Regulations on management and traceability of forest products

- Develop a decree guiding the implementation of the Law on Forestry Law No. 16/2017 / QH14 dated November 15, 2017, and issued Decree 156/2018 / ND-CP detailing the implementation of the Law on Forestry dated November 16. / 2018.

3.1.3. Review planning and decision-making processes

- The process of developing legal documents in Vietnam

The line agency with the support of specialized experts (possibly consultants) develops the outline of the project to develop legal documents and submit them to the governing body for approval (contents including targets and reasons for construction). On the basis of the legal documents, the government agencies can ask for fund to carry out this task the governing body shall issue a decision to establish a compilation group and an editorial group. The compilation group is responsible for drafting legal documents; The editorial group is responsible for giving suggestions and directions on the content and format of the document. Thus, the process of developing legal documents in general and laws in particular partly ensures accountability.

- Updating the activities' implementation

Updating and evaluating 3 pillars on the basis of 6 principles:

a) Accountability

The Government issued Decree 102/2020/ND-CP on Vietnam's Timber Legality Assurance Systems on September 1, 2020 which officially came into effect on October 30, 2020.

b) Effectiveness

c) Efficiency

- d) Fairness
- e) Participation

All interested citizens from Vietnam and abroad have the right to send their written comments to the Decree. There are weaknesses in how these comments are taken up or not, and the feedback given to those providing input such as for development of the law on forestry, VNFOREST received thousand of comments, more and related to forest protection, developments and timber processing, but not all comments can be put into the law. The law is very general and after improvement of the law, MARD could develop some circulars and Decree for implementation of the law on forestry.

- f) Transparency

The draft decree has been published by the Government/Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development/General Department of Forestry on its website. Therefore, all citizens have the opportunity to comment on the Decree. As a result, tens of thousands of comments have responded on the Decree's content.

3.2. Implementation progress of VPA in Vietnamese agencies and departments

3.2.1. The National Assembly

- The XIV National Assembly passed the Labour Code No. 45/2019/QH14 dated November 20, 2019, providing labour standards; rights, obligations and responsibilities of employees, employers, grassroots representative organizations, employers' representative organizations in labour relations and other relevant relations; state management of labour. The Labour Code 2020 came into effect on January 1, 2021, in compliance with the requirements of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

- The National Assembly issued Resolution No. 104/2020/QH14 on accession to the International Labour Organization's Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour (Convention No. 105). According to the resolution, the National Assembly decided to join the Convention No. 105 adopted on the Plenary Sitting of the International Labour Organization dated June 25, 1957 in Geneva, Switzerland.

3.2.1. The Government

- On June 1, 2019, the VPA/FLEGT Agreement came into effect and on November 14, 2019, the Government issued Decision No. 1624/QD-TTg approving the VPA implementation plan with the assignment of line ministries to implement the Agreement in the most effective by 6 tasks: 1/ Awareness raising and disclosure of information; 2/

Completing legal documents; 3/ Improving infrastructure to operate the ensuring timber legality system; 4/ Improving the capacity to implement the VPA/FLEGT Agreement; 5/ Managing the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the VPA/FLEGT Agreement; 6/ Completing mechanisms and policies for sustainable development of timber processing exporting industry; 7/ Strengthening regional and global cooperation on forest law enforcement, forest governance and trade in forest products.

- On August 1, 2020, the EU Vietnam Free Trade Agreement came into effect and on August 4, 2020, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 1175/QD-TTg on the designation of focal points for implementing the EVFTA; subsequently, on August 6, the Government issued Decision No. 1201/QD-TTg approving the Implementation plan for it, on August 10, 2020, the Office of the Government issued Document No. 6548/VPCP-QHQT promulgating the appendix attached to Decision No. 1201 of the Prime Minister on the implementation of the EVFTA.

- On September 4, 2020, the Government issued Decree No. 103/2020/NĐ-CP Regulating on approval of varieties of fragrant rice exported to the European Union

- On September 18, 2020, the Government issued Decree No. 111/2020/NĐ-CP on Vietnam's Preferential Export Tariffs and Special Preferential Import Tariffs to implement the EVFTA between 2020-2022.

- Issued Decree No. 102/2020/NĐ-CP regulating on the timber legality of Vietnam on September 1, 2020, which officially came into effect on October 30, 2020. Imported timber control is an important part of the decree, whereby "Imported timber is risk-controlled according to criteria that define whether the country is in a positive or negative geographic area, the negative area is the areas or countries are not available to manage forest in sustainable ways, such as some countries in Africa and the type of timber is at risk or not.

3.2.3. The VPA implementation of the Ministry of Industry and Trade

- On August 6, 2020, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued the plan to implement the EVFTA in Decision No. 2091/QD-BCT with specific contents assigning tasks to the Departments under the Ministry.

- On June 15, 2020, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued Circular No. 11/2020/TT-BCT including 5 Chapters, 42 Articles and 08 attached appendices. The Circular stipulates the implementation of the rules of origin in the EVFTA, applicable to

entities being C/O issuers, organizations and traders. The Circular is an important legal document guiding C/O issuers and organizations as well as the community in the implementation of rules of origin in the EVFTA. Circular No. 11/2020/TT-BCT being issued is a necessary condition for Vietnamese enterprises to take advantage of tariff preferences from early days when the EVFTA comes into effect. However, to take advantage of this opportunity in time, according to the Agency of Foreign Trade, enterprises need to understand the provisions of Circular No. 11/2020/TT-BCT to avoid being overwhelmed during implementation. Therefore, after the promulgation of Circular No. 11/2020/TT-BCT, the Ministry of Industry and Trade focused on dissemination, awareness raising and introduction of the Circular to businesses as well as related state agencies.

- On November 26, 2020, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued Circular No. 30/2020/TT-BCT guiding the implementation of the EVFTA on safeguards.

- The Ministry of Industry and Trade opened the portal on Free Trade Agreements including the EVFTA. The FTA Portal is designed with the following main features and contents: (i) Online search of tax commitments, rules of origin, services and investment under FTAs with partners to deals; (ii) data, market characteristics of FTA with Vietnam, required procedures for import - export, licensing, etc.; (iii) Updating action plans and implement FTAs of Vietnam from the authorities; (iv) Updating legal documents on FTAs implementation issued by regulators; (v) Updating dissemination and propaganda activities such as conferences, seminars, training courses and publication that support business. The above data and information are in both Vietnamese and English.

- From November 4th to 5th, the Ministry of Industry and Trade held an “Intensive Training Conference on Commitments in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the EVFTA” for representatives from local departments, agencies, businesses, industry associations and media agencies of several neighboring southern cities/provinces.

- The Ministry of Industry and Trade has built a website with information about EVFTA and related issues <http://evfta.moit.gov.vn> with News; Overview of the Agreement; Commitments; Agreement Document; Information on enforcement committees; Implementation plan; Legal documents implemented; Frequently asked Questions.

3.2.4. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

- Right after the VPA came into effect, on December 10, 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued Decision No. 4852/QD-BNN-TCLN on plans for implementing it.

- Decision No. 4832/QD-BNN-TCLN dated 27/11/2020 announced the list of timber species imported into Vietnam and the list of positive geographical regions exporting timber to Vietnam.

- The list of timber species imported into Vietnam including 322 scientific names of timber species imported into Vietnam, statistics from data sources provided by the General Department of Customs;

- MARD is developing criteria to classify enterprises
- Prepare to build the database on issuing FLEGT licences;
- Develop a sample import declaration dossier;

- Decision No. 3233/QD-BNN-HTQT dated August 20, 2020 on the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's EVFTA implementation plan.

- Decision No. 3156/QD-BNN-HTQT dated August 17, 2020 appointed the focal points for the implementation of the EVFTA of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, assigning to the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Ministry acts as the focal point to coordinate with the General Departments, Departments, Sub-Departments and relevant agencies of the ministry to implement the EVFTA Agreement.

- Consulting the Prime Minister on promulgating Decree No. 102 on legal timber
- Issuing Decree No. 27 on timber management

On forest governance

* Decree No. 83/2020/NĐ-CP dated July 15, 2020 of the Government on amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Government's Decree No. 156/2018/NĐ-CP dated November 16, 2018 on the enforcement of a number of articles of the Law on Forestry

* Decree No. 35/2019/NĐ-CP dated April 25, 2019 of the Government on penalties for administrative violations against regulations on forestry

* Decree No. 06/2019/NĐ of the Government dated January 22, 2019 on management of endangered, precious and rare species of forest fauna and flora and observation of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora

* Decree No. 01/2019/NĐ-CP dated January 1, 2019 of the Prime Minister on forest rangers and forest protection forces of forest owners

* Decree No. 156/2018/NĐ-CP dated November 16, 2018 of the Government on enforcement of a number of articles of the Law on Forestry

3.2.5. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

- Having issued Decision No. 1813/QĐ-BTNMT dated August 18, 2020 on the implementation plan of the CPTPP and EVFTA Agreement of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the action plan to implement EVFTA and TCPPP with a focus on public propaganda.

3.2.6. The Ministry of Labour, War invalids and Social affairs

- Decision No. 1061/QĐ-LĐTBXH dated September 3, 2020 promulgating the Ministry of Labour, War invalids and Social affairs' Plan to implement the EVFTA of.

- On December 14, 2020, the Government issued Decree 145/2020/NĐ on the enforcement of a number of articles of the Labour Code regarding working conditions and labour relations.

3.2.7. The Ministry of Planning and Investment

- Decision No. 1400/QĐ-BKHTT dated September 15, 2020 on promulgating the EVFTA Implementation plan.

3.2.8. The Ministry of Finance

Decision No. 1241/QĐ-BTC dated 24 August 2020 on promulgating the EVFTA Implementation plan

Earlier in 2019, the General Department of Customs and the Ministry of Finance issued a series of documents related to combating fraud, counterfeiting of origin and illegal transshipment of import and export goods including forestry and agricultural products, in particular

- On July 4, 2019, the Government issued Decision No. 824/QĐ-TTg on approving scheme for improvement of state management of prevention of evasion of trade remedies and origin fraud

- The Government's Resolution No. 119/NQ-CP on emergency measures for enhancement of state management regarding prevention and combat against origin fraud and illegal goods transport
- On August 23, 2019, the Ministry of Finance issued Decision No. 1662/QD-BTC on the implementation plan of Decision No. 824/QD-TTg.
- On September 5, 2019, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 62/2019/TT-BTC amending and supplementing Circular No. 38 regulating the inspection and determination of origin of exported and imported goods.
- Also amending a number of other relevant policies.

- In order to implement the tasks assigned by the Ministry, General Department of Customs, issued the following guiding documents:

* Document No. 5189/TCHQ-GSQL dated August 13, 2019 directing the Customs Departments of provinces, cities and units under the General Department of Customs on checking, determining origin, combating fraud and the infringement of Intellectual Property rights and illegal transmission.

* Directive No. 7988/CT-TCHQ dated December 25, 2019 of the General Director of the General Department of Customs on strengthening the synchronous implementation of measures to combat fraud, counterfeiting of origin, labeling improperly the transfer regulations and infringement of intellectual property rights.

* Plan No. 441/KH-TCHQ dated October 18, 2019, Plan No. 104/KH-DTCBL dated October 22, 2019 on inspection and verification against trademark counterfeiting and origin fraud

Document No. 5189 and Document No. 7988 clearly stated the economic context, documents on origin, fraudulent procedures; assign tasks to each unit under the General Department and local Customs; Provisions on the process of checking and controlling origin of goods from customs clearance to post-customs clearance; Regulations on information and data processing cycle of import and export goods to identify enterprises and goods with high risks; Prescribing methods of inspection at the production facility.

Decree No. 128/2020/ND-CP dated October 19, 2020 which came into effect from December 10, 2020 of the Government on penalties for administrative customs offences.

Decree 45/2016/NĐ-CP dated May 26, 2016 amending Decree 127/2013/NĐ-CP dated October 15, 2013 providing for the sanctioning of administrative violations and enforcement of administrative decisions in customs sector.

Particularly for timber products, the Ministry of Finance and the General Department of Customs have given guidance on the inspection and supervision of specific import and export from the early stages.

3.2.9. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Decision No. 1783/QD-BNG dated August 24, 2020 on the implementation of the Prime Minister's Decision No. 1201/QĐ-TTg of August 6, 2020, approving the Plan to implement the EVFTA.

3.2.10. Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

Decision No. 2482/QD-BVHTTDL dated September 4, 2020 on promulgating the implementation plan of the EVFTA and EVIPA Agreement of the Ministry of Culture - Sports and Tourism.

3.2.11. Ministry of Home Affairs

Decision No. 623/QD-BNV dated September 10, 2020 on promulgating the Plan to implement Free Trade Agreement between Vietnam and the European Union of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

3.2.12. Ministry of Science and Technology

Decision No. 2473/QD-BKHCN dated September 8, 2020 promulgating the Plan for the Implementation of Free Trade Agreement between Vietnam and the European Union (EVFTA) of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

3.2.13. Ministry of Information and Communications

Decision No. 1525/QD-BTTTT of September 8, 2020 on promulgating the Action Plan of the Ministry of Information and Communications to implement the Free Trade Agreement between Vietnam and the European Union (EVFTA).

3.2.14. Ministry of Defence

Decision No. 2847/QD-BQP dated September 14, 2020 on promulgating the Plan to implement the Free Trade Agreement between Vietnam and the European Union (EVFTA) of the Ministry of Defense.

3.2.15. Ministry of Justice

Decision No. 2055/QD-BTP dated October 2, 2020 on promulgating the Ministry of Justice's implementation plan of the Free Trade Agreement between Vietnam and the European Union.

3.2.16. Ministry of Construction

Decision No. 1286/QD-BXD dated September 30, 2020 on promulgating the implementation plan of the Free Trade Agreement between Vietnam and the European Union of the Ministry of Construction.

3.2.17. Government Inspectorate

Plan No. 1458/KH-TTCP dated August 24, 2020 on the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the European Union (EVFTA).

3.2.18. State Bank of Vietnam

Decision No. 1575/QD-NHNN dated September 4, 2020 on promulgating the implementation plan of the Free Trade Agreement between Vietnam and the European Union (EVFTA) of the State Bank of Vietnam.

3.2.19. The Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology

Decision No. 1328/QD-VHL dated September 1, 2020 on approving the implementation plan of the Free Trade Agreement between Vietnam and the European Union (EVFTA) of the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology.

3.2.20. Voice of Vietnam

Document No. 2171/TNVN-TKBT dated September 1, 2020 on the plan to propagate the Free Trade Agreement between Vietnam and the European Union (EVFTA) of Voice of Vietnam.

3.2.21. Updating from local regions

Currently, 57 provinces have developed action plans to implement EVFTA¹

¹ - An Giang; BA Ria Vung Tau; Bac Lieu; Bac Giang; Bac Kan; Bac Ninh; Ben tre; Binh Dinh; Binh Phuoc; Binh Thuan; Danang; Dak Lak; Dak Nong; Dong Nai; Dong Thap; Ca Mau; Cao Bang; Can Tho; Dien Bien; Gia Lai; Ha Giang; Hanoi; Ha Tinh; Hai Duong; Hai Phong; Hau Giang; Thai Binh; Hue; Hung Yen; Khanh Hoa; Kien Giang; Kon Tum; Lai Chau; Lang Son; Lao Cai; Lam Dong; Long An; Nam Dinh; Nghe An; Ninh Binh; Ninh Thuan; Phu Tho; Quang Binh; Quang Ngai; Quang Ninh; Soc Trang; Son La; Tay Ninh; Hoa Binh; Thai Nguyen; Thanh Hoa; TP. Ho Chi Minh; Tien Giang; Tra Vinh; Vinh Long; Vinh Phuc; Yen Bai.

- Content of the specific action plans included:

- a) Propagating and disseminating information about EVFTA and markets of EU countries
- b) Legal and institutional development
- c) Enhancing competitiveness and develop human resources
- d) Policies and guidelines for trade unions and workers' organizations at the enterprises
- e) Policies for social security, environmental protection and sustainable development
 - Developing an implementation roadmap for the first year period 2020 and the next 5 years 2021-2015
 - Assigning specific implementation responsibilities to the Departments of the province.

- Content of action plans of research provinces:

1/ Phu Tho province

- On December 2020, the People's Committee of Phu Tho province issued Decision No. 5594/KH-UBND on the Implementation of the Free Trade Agreement between Viet Nam and the European Union (EVFTA) in Phu Tho province with the following specific tasks:

- a) Propaganda and dissemination of information about EVFTA and markets of the European Union (EU) countries
 - Increasing dissemination of EVFTA among stakeholders;
 - Focusing on training staff of state management agencies as well as businesses;
 - Promoting the provision of information, forecasts about import and export markets, domestic markets. Therefore, provincial businesses can promptly grasp information, technical requirements, regulations on import and export management of EU countries.
- b) Legal and institutional building work
 - Departments, People's Committees of districts, cities, towns and related units continue to review legal documents issued by the Provincial People's Committee in the field of management of agencies and units to implement EVFTA;
 - Regularly monitor the law enforcement situation in the province.
- c) Enhance competitiveness and develop human resources

- Developing programs to support and improve competitiveness for industries and enterprises, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, farmers, in line with international commitments;
 - Creating a fair, safe, transparent and friendly business and investment environment for all economic sectors to attract investors from the EU. Preparing the necessary conditions in terms of premises, technical infrastructure, and the quality of human resources for the first wave of FDI coming from EU countries.
 - Organizing trade promotion activities; guiding and supporting enterprises to expand distribution channels, expand consumption markets domestically and internationally.
 - Promoting the application of science and technology in production and business, improving labor productivity in enterprises and manufacturing sectors.
 - Accelerating the restructuring process of agriculture and rural economy according to advanced production models, application of science and technology, safety and environmental friendliness.
 - Focusing on develop high-quality human resources, especially in engineering and technology, law and finance.
 - Strengthening the construction and development of traditional cultural values Ancestral Land towards sustainable development and associated with the development of tourism;
 - Development of infrastructure, services, human resources for information and communication; gradually perfecting mechanisms and policies to manage the development of information and communication. Building e-government aims to build government service of economic development, social figures.
 - Receiving feedbacks and recommendations from businesses to guide or propose the Provincial People's Committee to take measures to remove difficulties and problems for businesses and advise the Provincial People's Committee to issue the legal support plan for businesses.
- d) Implement policies and guidelines for trade unions and labour organizations at specific enterprise establishments:
- Implementing policies and guidelines for trade unions and workers' organizations in enterprises.

- Capacity building for staff of state management agencies on labor; support activities to promote dialogue, negotiation at the enterprise, the institutional mediation, labour arbitration.

d) Implementation of policies on social security, environmental protection and sustainable development

- Implement synchronous social policies, including financial support policies, vocational training for career change; propaganda and support in vocational training for employees.

- Surveys and statistics, impact assessment of the Agreement EVFTA to labor issues, employment and society in order to propose solutions to the effective implementation of EVFTA.

- Full implementation of Vietnam's commitments in the multilateral agreements on the environment, climate change, conservation and protection of wild animals and plants that Vietnam has participated; Implementation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (VPA/FLEGT).

- Develop programs and projects calling for foreign non-governmental funding in the fields of vocational training, environmental protection, sustainable development ...;

- Strictly and properly appraising all types of environmental records in accordance with the law; reviewing investment projects, newly built production facilities applying low-emission technologies, using clean and renewable energy sources, equipping pollution reduction equipment, and treating waste meeting environmental standards and regulations before being discharged into the environment

- Implementing regulations on receiving, solving and responding to recommendations, complaints and denunciations of communities, enterprises, domestic and foreign investors in implementing the provisions of the law on environmental protection.

2/ Son La province

Son La is located in the Northwest, representing the Northwest of Vietnam with hilly terrain, forest area and below average coverage. The province's low forest cover is due to abusive exploitation, deforestation for shifting cultivation, rice cultivation and maize cultivation in the late 20th century and the early years of the first decade of the 21st century. In 2019, Son La is assessed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as a

locality that has had a great development in agriculture, especially the area of growing fruit trees has increased rapidly, exporting a large amount of fruit to other countries. Son La is also the source of two large hydroelectric power plants, Son La hydroelectricity (the largest hydroelectricity in Vietnam) and Hoa Binh hydroelectricity. Two hydroelectric power plants supply more than 20% of the total electricity demand nationwide. The implementation of the PFES policy and the fruit tree development policy have significantly improved the lives of people in the uplands of Son La, thus negatively impacting forests in Son La has decreased significantly compared to before. Son La province also quickly issued the EVFTA Implementation Plan No. 182 / KH-UBND on 31st August, 2020.

The main contents of the Plan include:

- a) The dissemination of information about EVFTA and EU Market is assigned to the Department of Industry and Trade and the Department of Information and Communication to coordinate with other departments to implement.
- b) The review and formulation of legal documents are assigned to the Department of Justice, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment to coordinate with relevant parties.
- c) The improvement of competitiveness is assigned to the Department of Planning and Investment, the Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, the Department of Education and Training to coordinate with the relevant units.
- d) Completing policies of Trade Unions and Labor organizations in enterprises was assigned to the Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs for implementation.
- e) The implementation of policies on social security, environmental protection and sustainable development are assigned to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs.

The plan is divided into 03 phases, phase 1 is 2020 and phase 02 from 2021 to 2025, phase 3 is implemented after evaluating the performance of phase 2 from 2026-2030.

As for the forestry sector, it is strived that by 2025, the forest coverage will reach 50%.

The financial source for the implementation of the plan is provided by the State budget with the support of international projects.

Province has issued a variety of mechanisms, policies and focused direction to implement synchronization solutions, enabling enterprises to develop production and business; Many agricultural products of the province has achieved certifications of food safety as VietGAP. So far, the province has 18 agricultural products are granted protection titles. In which, 1 product of Moc Chau snow shan tea was granted a protection title in Thailand; 2 geographical indications (Moc Chau snow shan tea; Yen Chau round mango) are protected in the EU market under the EVFTA (Director of Planning and Investment Department - Le Hong Chuong).

3/ Quang Tri

Quang Tri is located in central Vietnam, nearly 400 km from Hanoi capital and has a total natural area of 473,744 ha, of which agricultural land is 388,042 ha, non-agricultural land is 40,866 ha, production forest land is 119,541ha. Main agricultural crops are rice, coffee, rubber, pepper tree, banana, timber tree and pine resin. Quang Tri has a convenient road through Laos convenient for exporting commodities to the EUThe road throw Laos doesn't carry productsbeing export to EU, Thay must be ship throw this port, especially Quang Tri is a province with a large plantation area and currently exploiting nearly 1 million m³ of wood annually for processing and exporting timber furniture to Europe. Implementing the Government's plan on EVFTA, Quang Tri Provincial People's Committee issued Decision No. 4156 / KH-UBND dated September 11, 2020 on the implementation of the EVFTA specifically, the agricultural sector has implemented the following activities:

- 41/41 plantation timber processing enterprises in the area were informed about the contents of the VPA.
- People's Committee issued many documents directing the implementation of the fight against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the province, especially the implementation of Document No. 1063 / TTg-NN dated 12/8/2020 of the Prime Minister on implementing Document No. 81-CV / TW.
- Training and guidance 125 shipowners and captains about how journaling electronic exploitation; coordinated with the Sub-Department of Sea, Islands and

Hydrometeorology to organize training courses on legal documents on islands and the 2017 Fisheries Law.

- 117 Party Secretaries, Village Heads of 16 coastal communes and towns and 30 leaders of People's Committees of communes and towns and fisheries officers trained and informed on regulations against IUU fishing.
- Having posted 08 articles on the fisheries sector on the website of the Department, information on the articles mainly propagating the provisions of the fisheries law; coordinated with the Provincial Television and Broadcasting Corporation to implement 04 propaganda modules on the Fisheries Law 2017 and regulations on combating illegal IUU fishing...
- 23519.7 hectares of plantations are FSC certified and from 5294 ha of plantation timber the annual volume of timber harvested in the province reached more than 945,000 m³.
- 160 fishing vessels installed cruise monitoring equipment to ensure compliance with regulations.
- As of 10th November 2020, the number of diaries submitted to the fishing port management board 1404 books, ships docked (2,031 arrivals). In which, there are 177 diaries at Cua Tung fishing port (385 times of landing) and 1227 diaries at Cua Viet fishing port (1646 visits to the port).
- As of 20th October 2020, 333 ships departing from the port and 225 ships docking at the port has been controlled, of which: at Cua Viet fishing port, 299 ships left the port and 201 ships landed (reaching 12.3% of the total number of ships docked) and at Cua Tung fishing port, 34 ships left the port, and 24 ships landed 6.2% of total ships docked).
- In the first 10 months of 2020, 25 patrol trips have been organized, of which: 20 trips at sea, 05 inland trips; inspected more than 380 ships, handled 17 violations (15 cases at sea, 02 cases in the field) in the fishery sector with the fine amount of 46.5 million VND.

4/ Hue province

On 1st September, 2020, the People's Committee of Thua Thien Hue province issued the provincial plan No. 196 / KH-UBND implementing the EVFTA with the main contents assigned tasks to Departments in the province on the implementation of propaganda and

dissemination of information about EVFTA Agreement and markets of EU countries; legal and institutional development work; Improve competitiveness and develop human resources; Policies and guidelines for trade unions and labor organizations at enterprise establishments; Policy of social security, environmental protection and sustainable development.

- University of Law, Hue University has developed a report on the EVFTA: Impacts on Textile Exports in Thua Thien Hue Province implementing by Master Tran Viet Long and Vo Thi Nha. The report clarifies the potential impacts of the Agreement as well as the advantages for the textile and garment industry of Hue in particular and Vietnam in general, especially the environmental issue of the fabric dyeing stage.
- On 21st December, the Department of Industry and Trade of Thua Thien Hue cooperated with the branch of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Da Nang to organize an intensive training session on commitments in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), EVFTA for officials, public servants and sector of the province.
- At the training session, representatives of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry Branch in Da Nang presented contents related to the CPTPP and EVFTA Agreement such as Vietnam's international economic integration process, CPTPP implementation documents of CPTPP; the process of negotiating and signing EVFTA, opportunities and challenges, trade and origin of goods, the trade defense measures, commitments, dispute settlement mechanism.... from EVFTA.
- Survey results from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Planning and Investment, Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, and Department of Industry and Trade all said that the EVFTA Agreement is still new and does not yet have conditions to organize training for staff across the province, although some officials of the Department of Industry and Trade have been trained by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and others, the information gathered can only be transmitted through the announcement letter and through the newsletters on television stations of central and local.
- The interviewed officials all wanted resources to disseminate the contents of the Agreement to enterprises and guide them to implement the Agreement. Through

training courses to disseminate knowledge, the understanding of the Agreement will be deeper and more consistent.

5/ Binh Dinh province

- On 11th September, 2020, the People's Committee of Binh Dinh province issued Decision No. 3755 / QD-UBND promulgating the Plan to implement EVFTA of Binh Dinh with the assignment of Departments in the province to perform the tasks for 2 phases. The first phase of the year is mainly focused on completing work related to the issuance of necessary documents to implement EVFTA in the province. All provincial departments and agencies must have a clear understanding of the necessity and benefits of EVFTA implementation and require all relevant agencies to develop their own sector plans for EVFTA implementation.

Phase 2 from 2021-2025

- Organizing systematic and methodical propaganda activities on EVFTA at different levels, paying attention to intensive and urgent contents, which limit general awareness raising activities.
- Continuing to provide training courses for officers working in Departments, Sectors, and Businesses on EVFTA and having a mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of training courses.
- Reviewing legal documents, issuing practical documents to implement EVFTA.
- Developing support programs to enhance the competitiveness of the business sectors in the province, focusing on the areas in which the province has strengths.

6/ Ho Chi Minh city

On 27th October 2020, the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City issued Document No. 4120 / KH-UBND on the Implementation Plan of CPTPP and EVFTA in Ho Chi Minh City.

3.3. Update activities of the non-governmental organizations and social organizations implementing EVFTA

3.3.1. FAO

FAO has paid more attention to Forest Governance and Sustainable Forest Product Development by funding agencies to implement small projects such as assisting the Vietnam Administration of Forestry in developing a Communication Plan and building

VPA/FLEGT implementation monitoring plan, the study on information status in forestry sector in the implementation of Annex VIII of VPA/FLEGT

Investing in supporting the Center for Forestry Economic Research/Vietnamese Academy of Forest Science to implement the project of IT application to support due diligence for households and small businesses.

3.3.2. GIZ

Support VNFOREST to finalize Decree 102 on the regulations of timber legality and support the Vietnam Timber and Forest Products Association to improve the Association's communication and administration capacity, and support CRD for some research. Regarding the impact of VPA/FLEGT on forest planters, they support Forest Trends with a number of studies related to the risk of the timber industry in the context of a shifting global trade and the threat to timber products imported and exported from Vietnam to the EU.

- Contract with NEPCon to conduct research to identify the risks of Vietnam's timber industry when importing timber from 10 countries in Africa, Laos and Cambodia.

- Support the Handicraft and Wood Industry Association of Ho Chi Minh City to implement the project of applying IT in implementing due diligence.

3.3.3. SRD

Organize training courses to improve the capacity of social organizations to monitor the implementation of EVFTA in the future.

Prepare to carry out some studies on the impact of EVFTA on timber resources from households, on problems and challenges in forest land management policies related to EVFTA, on the environmental and social situation according to the requirements of the EVFTA standards for Vietnamese timber and timber products importers and exporters to the EU.

3.3.4. VIFOREST

Collaborate with Forest Trends, funded by GIZ Bonn, to implement research projects on the situation of import and export of timber and forest products in Vietnam in the context of COVID 19, as well as some issues Vietnam has faced during the implementation process.

- *VPA/FLEGT:*

- Organizing a series of seminars related to import and export of timber and forest products
- Developing a proposal to the government to include the timber and forest product processing industry on the list of VND 62 trillion support packages for Vietnamese businesses affected by COVID19.
- There is a written notice to the Government, requesting the Government to let the legal authorities investigate a number of FDI enterprises that exhibit tax avoidance and transfer prices from plywood products exported from Vietnam to the US.
- On November 17, 2020, training for enterprises on Decree 102/2020/NĐ-CT, which is about imported timber for enterprises in the Central region <http://vietfores.org/tin-tuc/tap-huan-cho-doanh-nghiep-ve-nghi-dinh-102-2020-nd-cp-doi-voi-go-nhap-khau/>
- Organizing training courses on "Accountability and legal regulations on imported timber in Decree 102/2020/NĐ-CP on Vietnam's timber legality assurance system" dated December 23, 2020 . For businesses in the South <http://vietfores.org/tin-tuc/tap-huan-cho-dn-nhap-khau-ve-nghi-dinh-102-2020-nd-cp/>.

3.3.5 Enterprises

- Members of the Handicraft and Wood Industry Association of Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong, Dong Nai, Binh Dinh Province and VIFOREST reached a consensus about not using illegal timber for export processing, in order to keep the prestige of Vietnamese wood and forest products.

3.4. Information on formulating of the EVFTA's Domestic Advisory Groups (DAGs)

3.4.1. Process on forming DAGs

- The Ministry of Industry and Trade has sent a letter to all agencies interested in joining DAGs about sending registration documents to the selection list.
- Notifying Ministries of the requirement to participate in the selection of DAGs
- Developing criteria for selecting DAGs' members
 - + Criteria for selecting DAG's members under MARD, MONRE, MOIT and MOLISA: Currently in the process of drafting and submitting to the Prime Minister.

3.4.1. Composition and opportunities for social organizations to participate

3.5. Some specific conducted activities

+ On June 30, 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development coordinated with the Ministry of Industry and Trade to organize the Conference "Supporting businesses to take advantage of opportunities to develop agricultural, forestry and fishery exports to the EU and to effectively implement the EVFTA Agreement".

+ On August 6, 2020, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc chaired an online conference with the theme "Carrying out the EVFTA Agreement Implementation Plan". The conference was attended by leaders of 63 provinces and cities, media as well as leaders of business associations of Vietnam and EU. At the meeting, Minister Nguyen Chi Dung reported on Ministry of Planning and Investment's tasks and solutions to implement the EVFTA of the.

+ On November 4 and 5, 2020, the Ministry of Industry and Trade cooperated with the Department of Industry and Trade of Can Tho City to organize the "Intensive Training Conference on Commitments on the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Free Trade Agreement between Vietnam and the European Union (EVFTA)"

+ The Ministry of Industry and Trade introduced a set of information documents to support the export of 09 key and potential commodity sectors to the EU market, including: Textiles, Footwear, Seafood, Rice, Coffee, Vegetables, Timber and timber products, Rubber and rubber products, Plastic and plastic products. The set of documents is the official source of reference information, providing information about the consumer market, consumer tastes of the EU, regulations and technical standards to be met, assessing export trends and prospects for each industry, and at the same time providing clues to address useful information for businesses.

+ On December 18, 2020, at 20 Thuy Khue (Hanoi), the International Cooperation Department (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) organized the "Workshop to disseminate information about EVFTA Agreement and commitments in field of Agriculture and Rural Development".

+ Vietnamese National Assembly came to a consensus on ratifying ILO's 98th Convention on the right to organize and collectively bargain in June 2019, bringing the

total number of ILO Basic Conventions to which Vietnam has acceded to 6 out of the total 8 Conventions.

+ Vietnam passed the revised Labour Code in November 2019, with its closer contents to the basic ILO Conventions.

+ According to the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs, Vietnam is going to ratify the two remaining conventions, Convention 105 on the elimination of forced labor and Convention 87 on freedom of association and protection of the right to organize in 2020 and 2023 respectively.

+ On August 21, 2019, in Ho Chi Minh City, the Ministry of Industry and Trade cooperated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the City Party Committee and the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City to hold the Conference "Free Trade Agreement Between Vietnam and the European Union - Significant commitments in the agricultural sector and notice" to provide information, help businesses understand comprehensively important commitments in the agricultural sector of the EVFTA.

+ Decision No. 885/QD-TTg dated June 23, 2020 of the Prime Minister on approving the Scheme on organic agriculture for the period 2020 - 2030. Specifically, the target set for 2025 is that the area of agricultural land for organic production industry accounts for about 1.5 to 2% of the total area of the agricultural land group; The area for organic cultivated land accounts for more than 1% of the total cultivated land with key crops such as: rice, vegetables of all kinds, fruit trees, tea, pepper, coffee, cashew, coconut, etc.

+ On November 5, 2020, Hanoi Trade and Tourism Promotion Center (HPA) coordinated with the Import-Export Department (Ministry of Industry and Trade) and International Cooperation Department (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) to organize the Conference "EVFTA - The advantages of exporting agricultural products of Vietnam".

+ On August 21, 2020, the Ministry of Industry and Trade cooperated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to organize a Conference on EVFTA on important commitments in the agricultural sector and notice <https://trungtamwto.vn/su-kien/14960-hoi-nghi-hiep-dinh-evfta-cac-cam-ket-quan-trong-trong-linh-vuc-nong-nghiep-va-nhung-dieu-can-luu-y>

VI. Conclusion and recommendations

Although the EVFTA was just signed and came into effect on 1st August, 2020, the Government has actively developed a plan to implement the Agreement from National to Local levels and also mobilized all resources for implementation. The Ministry and local authorities already have a specific action plan to implement the Agreement so far.

EVFTA contributes to the development of export processing enterprises, especially enterprises in the Agriculture and Rural Development sector, timber processing and export forest products as well as the high competitiveness of Vietnam's agricultural products to the EU.

International organizations have also actively supported Vietnam in the implementation of the Agreement by providing consultancy assistance in developing, supplementing and completing legal documents as well as building capacity for organizations and communities in the process of implementing the Agreement.

Although Vietnam has also tried to stick to the contents of the Agreement in the implementation process, due to many reasons, a number of newly issued legal documents have not met all the expectations of EU countries requirements. It is necessary to continue to improve the Agreement for comprehensive implementation in the coming time.

VPA/FLEGT has its own characteristics, so the implementation is facing many difficulties. Along with the legal documents that need to be completed and adjusted, the capacity of the enforcement agencies as well as the infrastructure conditions for the implementation of the agreement are still facing many difficulties. Therefore, the state should organize the implementation step by step. According to a report by the VNFOREST, the implementation of FLEGT licensing can only be conducted in early 2022.

Updating information on the implementation of the Agreement is a difficult task because the subject and the amount of updated information spread across the country, from central to local level. Therefore, SRD recommends international organizations to support resources so that SRD can continue to implement more frequent updates with complete information and quality assurance in the coming time.

VII. Annex

Annex 1: Questionnaire on EVFTA Implementation Process in Viet Nam

I. General information

1/ Name of agency/officer; Address; Position?:

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2/ How many employees do you have?:

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3/ What is the business line?

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4/ Is there a labouring union?

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5/ Equipment/Factory::

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6/ General exports to the EU:

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7/ Proportion of goods exported to the EU:

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8/ Name of the main exported countries:

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9/ Expected plans of the company in the coming years:

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10/ Company development strategy:

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II. Information on the EVFTA

1/ Understanding on the EVFTA

Through media channels

a/ TV:

b/ Press:

c/ Conference

d/ The needs for capacity building?

d/ Other

Content knowledge:

a/ Taxes are reduced

b/ Conditions that need to be fulfilled when joining EVFTA

c/ Labor law/union

d/ Other

2/ The impact of EVFTA

a/ Enter the procedure

b/ Revenue

c/ Positive effects

d/ The effect of pepper can have

d/ Plan to overcome

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.....

Annex 2: List of officers participating in the interview

TT	Name	Organization	Position	Phone/Email
1	Cam Thi Phuong	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Son La	Deputy Director	0984.200.870
2	Hoan	Forest Protection Department in Son La	Head of Department	0912.131.885
3	Thi	Forest Protection Department in Son La	Deputy head of Department	0912.835.604
4	Tu Anh Son	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Phu Tho	Deputy Director	sonta.sonn@phutho.gov.vn
5	Nguyen Minh Tuan	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Phu Tho	Director	02103.846283 tuannm.sonn@phutho.gov.vn
6	Pham Van Long	Xuan Son National Park	Director	0944.457.035
7	Nguyen Dai Anh Tuan	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Hue	Deputy Director	0943.431.210 ndatuan.snnptnt@thuathienhue.gov.vn
8	Pham Ngoc Dung	Forest Protection Department in Hue	Deputy head of Department	0905.005.7075 pndung.snnptnt@thuathienhue.gov.vn
9	Le Van Hoa	Forest Protection Department in Hue	Deputy head of Department	0906.456.161 lvhoa.snnptnt@thuathienhue.gov.vn
10	Nguyen Hong Phuong	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Quang Tri	Deputy Director	0233.385.2573
11	Tran Van Ty	Forest Protection Department in Quang Tri	Head of Department	0913.485.707
12	Le Thi Thanh Huong	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Quang Tri	Deputy Head of Planning Department	lethithanhhuong@quangtri.gov.vn
13	Nguyen Thi To Tran	Department of Agriculture and	Deputy Director	02563.683.009 trantt@nnptnt.binhdin.gov.vn

		Rural Development in Binh Dinh		
14	Nguyen The Dung	Forest Protection Department in Binh Dinh	Deputy head of Department	0914.035.106
15	Nguyen Thi Anh Nguyen	Forest Protection Department in Binh Dinh	Deputy head of Department	0935.544.515
16	Tran Le Huy	Forest Products Association of Binh Dinh	General Secretary	0905.036.456
17	Ngo Sy Hoai	Vietnam Timber and Forest Products Association	General Secretary	0913.230.217
18	Cao Thi Cam	Vietnam Timber and Forest Products Association	Chief of staff	0904.357.589 caocamhp@gmail.com
19	Nguyen Tuong Van	VPA / FLEGT specialist		0912.350.526 vanfssp@gmail.com
20	Dinh Thi Thanh Huyen	Department of International Cooperation - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Expert	0979.153.479 huyendtt.htqt@mard.gov.v n

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