

**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**DECISION No. 102/2008/QĐ-BNN OF
OCTOBER 17, 2008, APPROVING THE
PLANNING ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE
PRODUCTION AND SALE OF TRA
CATFISH IN THE MEKONG RIVER
DELTA REGION UP TO 2010, AND
ORIENTATIONS TOWARDS 2020**

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Pursuant to the Government's Decree No. 01/2008/ND-CP of January 3, 2008, defining the functions, tasks, powers and organizational structure of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;

Pursuant to the Government's Decree No. 92/2006/ND-CP of September 7, 2006, on the formulation, approval and management of socio-economic development master plans, and the Government's Decree No. 04/2008/ND-CP of January 11, 2008, amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Government's Decree No. 92/2006/ND-CP of September 7, 2006, on the formulation, approval and management of socio-economic development master plans;

Pursuant to the Prime Minister's Decision No. 10/2006/QĐ-TTg of January 11, 2006, approving the master plan on development of the fisheries industry up to 2010, and

orientations towards 2020;

Having considered the report of the Aquaculture Department and the Agro-forestry Processing and Salt Industry Department;

At the proposal of the director of the Planning Department,

DECIDES:

Article 1.- To approve the Planning on development of the production and sale of Tra catfish (*Pangasius Hypophthalmus*) in the Mekong River delta region up to 2010, and orientations towards 2020, with the following contents:

I. DEVELOPMENT VIEWPOINTS

1. To rationally exploit and use natural resources in the Mekong River delta region for developing the sustainable Tra catfish rearing in accordance with the master plan on development of Vietnam's fisheries industry up to 2020, local socio-economic development plans and the planning on socio-economic development in the Mekong River delta region; to regard Tra catfish as a key fish species for rearing and Tra catfish production, processing and sale as an important economic activity serving local consumption and export.

2. To develop Tra catfish production, processing and sale according to market orientations, closely combining production with processing and expansion of sale markets towards modernization to turn out competitive products meeting domestic market and export requirements.

3. To develop Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale in compliance with regulations on rearing conditions, quality, bio-safety and environmental protection, ensuring harmony of the interests of consumers, catfish rearers, export-processing enterprises and the State.

4. To regard the development of industrial Tra catfish rearing as a central task, mobilizing resources of all economic sectors in which the State will provide supports for investment in the development of infrastructure of Tra catfish rearing zones in order to supply raw materials for the aquatic product processing industry.

5. To apply high technologies to Tra catfish production, processing and sale, first of all production processes according to good aquaculture practices (GAP), to turn out hygienic and safe products.

II. ORIENTATIONS, OBJECTIVES AND SOLUTIONS FOR DEVELOPING TRA CATFISH REARING, PROCESSING AND SALE

1. Orientations

1.1. Rearing of commodity Tra catfish:

To invest in building complete infrastructure for and apply advanced technological processes to culturing Tra catfish which are of high productivity, ensure food hygiene and safety and eco-environmental protection according to different levels of adaptability:

Level 1 (excellent): alluvial soil on big rivers (Tieu and Hau rivers);

Level 2 (good): land along big rivers, within a distance of 500 meters from riverbank;

Level 3 (fair): land along tributary rivers, within a distance of 400 meters from riverbank.

1.2. Production of Tra catfish breeds: To develop 3 production zones:

Zone 1: An Giang-Dong Thap-Vinh Long;

Zone 2: Can Tho-Hau Giang-Soc Trang;

Zone 3: Tien Giang-Ben Tre-Tra Vinh.

1.3. To build feed- and bio-preparation-processing establishments and service systems meeting Tra catfish production and sale development requirements, ensuring the sustainable development of Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale industry.

1.4. To build Tra catfish-processing establishments in association with raw-material zones; to diversify products; to apply advanced technologies for increasing the productivity and quality of Tra catfish products which meet food hygiene and safety standards and market requirements and which are environmentally friendly.

2. Objectives for Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale development

2.1. Overall objectives:

To develop Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale into an important, modern and environmentally friendly industry of Vietnam. Tra catfish products will be for domestic consumption and export, contributing to creating jobs and increasing foreign currency earnings for the country.

2.2. Specific objectives:

a/ Up to 2010:

- Area under Tra catfish rearing: 8,600 ha;
- Output of reared Tra catfish: 1,250,000 tons;
- Output of Tra catfish processed into finished products: 500,000 tons;
- Export value: USD 1.3-1.5 billion;
- Jobs to be created: 200,000.

b/ Up to 2020:

- The area under Tra catfish rearing will increase by 4.22%/year on average during 2010-2020 and reach 13,000 ha by 2020.
- The output of reared Tra catfish will increase by 4%/year on average during 2010-2020 and reach 1,850,000 tons by 2020.
- The export value of Tra catfish will increase by 5.9%/year on average during 2010-2020 and reach USD 2.1-2.3 billion by 2020.
- Laborers engaged in Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale will increase by 2.3%/year on average during 2010-2020. Around 250,000 jobs will be created by 2020.

(See the attached Appendix for details).

3. Major solutions

1. Markets and trade promotion:

1.1. To diversify products and markets. To consolidate and expand export markets along with developing local consumption markets in order to efficiently exploit potential for developing Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale, ensure the sale of all reared catfish, and reduce risks due to negative market fluctuations.

1.2. To increase association between catfish rearers and processing and selling enterprises under economic contracts in which prices are adjusted on the principle of sharing benefits and risks in case of fluctuations in input product markets for Tra catfish production and sale.

1.3. To regularly organize Tra catfish auctions at an appropriate place in the Mekong River delta region, gradually putting the Tra catfish raw-material market under professional management.

1.4. To increase exchange of information on Tra catfish outlet markets with enterprises and producers in order to work out appropriate production plans.

1.5. To encourage and support enterprises to join quality management systems (such as HACCP, ISO, SQF,...) and register product and goods trademarks so that their products and goods can penetrate into markets with strict quality requirements

1.6. To attach importance to expanding the domestic market and establishing stations for transporting products to big cities such as Ho Chi Minh City and northern provinces.

2. Science and technology:

- To collaborate with universities and research institutes in developing production, processing and sale processes suitable to each ecological sub-zone.

- To research the production of appropriate feeds with a view to reducing cost prices of products and increasing production efficiency and competitiveness.

- To research the production of quality breeds for the rearing of commodity Tra catfish.

- To research and experiment microorganisms for improving the environment of Tra catfish rearing ponds.

- To study measures to effectively prevent and treat Tra catfish diseases.

- To apply advanced methods of product quality management; 100% of Tra catfish processing enterprises must submit to product quality management according to HACCP and international standards; 100% of production workshops must reach branch standards

3. Environmental protection:

- To treat water environment with combined solutions: mechanical filtering, chemical and biological treatment before discharge into the surrounding environment. To conduct mechanical filtering through ponds; to use permitted chemicals for chemical treatment (treatment of germs); to use bio-products for biological treatment (environmental treatment).

- To combine rearing with cultivation for using wastes from Tra catfish ponds as crop fertilizers, thereby reducing polluting sources.

- To apply branch standards to Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale.

- To intensify supervision by functional agencies; to establish wastewater standards as a basis for comparison, assessment and imposition of appropriate penalties.

- To take coordinated actions for eco-environmental protection in order to minimize adverse impacts of economic activities.

- To build observation and warning stations at the start and end of water sources of catfish rearing

areas in order to give warnings and take handling measures in time

- To encourage the setting up of production teams for involving more people in the environmental protection, implementation of the Planning and flexible adjustment of prices so as to facilitate the development of Tra catfish production and sale, ensuring community benefits.

- To enhance propagation and education to make producers fully aware of their roles and responsibilities in environmental protection.

- To improve legal documents on environmental protection and food hygiene and safety assurance.

4. Human resource training and development:

- To develop textbooks on the subject of Tra catfish production, processing and sale for different training levels and teach this subject in fisheries schools.

- To regularly organize short-term training courses on technical guidance and transfer for producers through fisheries extension organizations, academies and schools.

- To increase the training of fisheries administrators in professional and social knowledge so that they will be able to effectively manage and develop the industry in a sustainable manner. To train a contingent of inspectors and controllers for controlling breeds, foods and food hygiene and safety and supervising, guiding and managing the Planning. To train a contingent of cooperative and community managers for Tra catfish rearing zones.

5. Mechanisms and policies:

- To enhance administrative management capability from the provincial level to commune

level for the effective management of production, processing and sale.

- To implement current policies towards the production and sale of agricultural, forest and fishery products.

- To elaborate, review, amend, supplement and improve legal documents related to Tra catfish production, processing and sale in order to facilitate the management and implementation of the Planning on Tra catfish production and sale.

6. List of programs and projects on Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale:

6.1. A project to build the capacity for making statistics of and a database on Tra catfish production, processing and sale;

6.2. To formulate standards and regulations on Tra catfish production, processing and sale in order to turn out products which ensure food hygiene and safety and are environmentally friendly;

6.3. A program to improve the quality of Tra catfish breeds;

6.4. A program to research industrial feed nutrients and bio-products for Tra catfish;

6.5. A program to prevent Tra catfish epidemics;

6.6. A program on environmental observation, warning and management for Tra catfish rearing and processing zones;

6.7. A scientific and technological program on Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale;

6.8. A fisheries extension program on Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale;

6.9. A program to invest in the construction of infrastructure for Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale;

6.10. To train human resources.

6.11. A program on quality management of raw materials, products and by-products processed from Tra catfish,

6.12. To build Tra catfish production and sale models to link Tra catfish rearers, Tra catfish processing entities and sellers under contracts;

6.13. A program to build and advertise brands and promote trade of Vietnamese Tra catfish.

7. Investment mechanisms for Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale:

- To invest in developing Tra catfish rearing under the mechanisms specified in the Prime Minister's Decision No. 224/1999/QĐ-TTg of December 8, 1999, approving the Program on aquaculture development during 1999-2010, and the State Budget Law.

- To encourage domestic and foreign economic sectors to invest in rearing, producing breeds and feeds for, processing and selling Tra catfish; transfer technologies and train human resources for Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale.

- To continue applying financial mechanisms for implementation of the program on development of rural roads, aquaculture infrastructure and rural craft-village infrastructure under the Prime Minister's Decision No. 132/2001/QĐ-TTg of September 7, 2001.

- Central budget allocation for local budgets will be invested, together with local budgets, in building aquaculture infrastructure such as irrigation

systems (canals, ditches, water supply and drainage sewers), roads, etc., under approved investment projects.

- To formulate a mechanism for providing trust-based loans to commodity Tra catfish rearers and Tra catfish breed producers in planned zones under sale contracts in compliance with management requirements of functional agencies.

8. Organization of Tra catfish production, processing and sale:

- To establish new production relations on the basis of models of production association between Tra catfish service, production, processing and sale organizations and individuals.

- To link raw-material production areas with export-processing factories in order to reduce risks related to outlet markets.

- Functional agencies shall, through fishery extension activities, provide guidance on rearing seasons and density suitable to each eco-zone; and take appropriate handling measures against cases of non-compliance.

- To carry out breed production activities in certain areas, to facilitate inspection and control and reduce transportation expenses.

- To enhance control under HACCP, ISO 9002 and SQF 2000^{CM} programs) in Tra catfish processing; to accelerate equitization and resolutely relocate enterprises into designated processing areas in industrial parks in each locality according to regulations.

- To turn farms into main production units while continuing developing production capability of the private sector and agents providing services for

Tra catfish production, processing and sale activities.

- To build fishery extension capacity in terms of organizational apparatus, equipment and financial sources to promote Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale.

- To improve the organization of societies and associations and establish the Vietnam Tra Catfish Association to assist one another in experience exchange and price valorization; to supply and exchange information on markets and coordinate production and association activities of Tra catfish production, processing and sale organizations and individuals.

III. ORGANIZATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

1. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development shall:

- Assume the prime responsibility for, and collaborate with ministries, branches and localities in, formulating, and organizing the implementation of, the agriculture and rural development sector's program of action for Vietnamese Tra catfish production, processing and sale;

- Assume the prime responsibility for, and collaborate with the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Ministry of Finance in, listing, or setting criteria for determination of, key projects eligible for investment supports;

- Assume the prime responsibility for, and collaborate with concerned ministries and branches in, annually summing up and reporting to the Prime Minister results of Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale, and proposing

solutions for the sustainable development of Tra catfish rearing in the Mekong River delta provinces;

- Promulgate standards and regulations on Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale ensuring food hygiene and safety; direct localities in applying GAP to Tra catfish rearing; build brands for Vietnamese Tra catfish; direct and examine the implementation of the Planning on Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale; organize the production and sale of Tra catfish and disseminate updated information on markets and scientific and technological advances in Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale among people and enterprises in order to increase production efficiency and maintain the eco-environment;

- Direct fishery extension work, especially the building of hi-tech production models for Tra catfish and Basa bocourti culture, processing and sale.

2. Concerned ministries and branches shall, within the ambit of their functions and tasks, ensure conditions necessary for Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale according to the approved Planning.

3. People's Committees of provinces and centrally run cities in the Mekong River delta shall:

- Direct the formulation and approval and organize the implementation of their local plannings on Tra catfish production and sale up to 2015, and orientations towards 2020.

- For localities with approved plannings on Tra catfish production and sale development plannings, direct the review, adjustment and supplementation of these plannings according to the levels of

adaptability determined in the Planning under this Decision and organize the implementation of the adjusted plannings.

- Direct the building of models for associated production, processing and sale of Tra catfish products under contracts;

- Direct the application of technical advances to Tra catfish rearing, processing and sale and production practice under GAP. Direct the development of Tra catfish raw-material zones near export-processing establishments, ensuring economic, social and environmental benefits.

Article 2.- This Decision takes effect 15 days after its publication in "CONG BAO."

Article 3.- Ministers, heads of ministerial-level agencies, presidents of People's Committees of provinces and centrally run cities in the Mekong River delta, and concerned agencies shall implement this Decision.

*For the Minister of
Agriculture and Rural Development
Vice Minister
NGUYEN VIET THANG*

**APPENDIX TO THE PLANNING ON DEVELOPMENT OF TRA CATFISH
PRODUCTION AND SALE IN THE MEKONG RIVER DELTA REGION UP TO 2010,
AND ORIENTATIONS TOWARDS 2020**

*(Attached to Decision No. 102/2008/QĐ-BNN of October 17, 2008, of the Ministry of
Agriculture and Rural Development)*

No.	Criteria	Up to 2010	Up to 2015	Up to 2020
1	Area (ha)	8,600	11,000	13,000
1	An Giang	2,100	2,450	2,500
2	Dong Thap	2,300	2,550	2,700
3	Can Tho	1,300	1,500	1,600
4	Vinh Long	550	700	800
5	Ben Tre	750	950	1,400
6	Soc Trang	650	800	1,200
7	Tra Vinh	400	700	1,100
8	Tien Giang	250	600	700
9	Hau Giang	300	750	1,000

II	Rearing output (ton)	1,250,000	1,650,000	1,850,000
1	An Giang	305,000	368,000	375,000
2	Dong Thap	334,000	383,000	400,000
3	Can Tho	188,500	225,000	240,000
4	Vinh Long	80,000	105,000	120,000
5	Ben Tre	110,000	142,000	180,000
6	Soc Trang	94,000	120,000	155,000
7	Tra Vinh	58,000	105,000	150,000
8	Tien Giang	37,000	90,000	100,000
9	Hau Giang	43,500	112,000	130,000
III	Processing output (ton)	500,000	660,000	740,000
1	An Giang	122,000	147,200	150,000
2	Dong Thap	133,600	153,200	160,000
3	Vinh Long	32,000	42,000	48,000
4	Can Tho	75,400	90,000	96,000
5	Tien Giang	14,800	36,000	40,000
6	Soc Trang	37,600	48,000	62,000
7	Tra Vinh	23,200	42,000	60,000
8	Ben Tre	44,000	56,800	72,000
9	Hau Giang	17,400	44,800	52,000
IV	Export value (USD million)	1,300	1,850	2,300
1	An Giang	317	413	450
2	Dong Thap	347	430	480
3	Vinh Long	83	118	144
4	Can Tho	196	252	288
5	Tien Giang	38	100	130
6	Soc Trang	98	134	202
7	Tra Vinh	60	118	198
8	Ben Tre	114	160	238
9	Hau Giang	45	125	170