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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary - Public

Date: 4/2/2010

GAIN Report Number: VM0021

Vietnam

Post: Ho Chi Minh City

News Summary No.2

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

Vietnamese cashew industry plants seeds throughout Indochina

General Information:

Author Defined:

Vietnamese cashew industry plants seeds throughout Indochina

Vietnamese cashew growers are setting up shop in Laos and Cambodia as the industry works to improve its image and earn a fairer share of the global profit pie.

In a ceremony at the Golden Cashew Festival in Binh Phuoc Province last week, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Truong Vinh Trong handed two cashew seedlings as symbols to his Laotian and Cambodian counterparts. The seedlings represented 200,000 high-yield gift from the Vietnamese government to their foreign counterparts, as the country's cashew businesses begin renting land to grow Vietnamese cashews next door.

Vietnam plans to downsize its plantations in a move to focus on quality and capacity, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Deputy Chairman of Binh Phuoc Province's People Committee Tran Van Thach said his area's local cashew plantations would be reduced to an area of 130-140 hectares by 2020 from 162 hectares currently occupied in the province, the country's major cashew growing locality. Thach said the province was the Vietnamese cashew capital, as 20-25 percent of its GDP was produced by cashew trees. He said local authorities would give financial and technical support to farmers who improve their crops and yields.

(Thanh Nien News, March 28, 2010)