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| **Teleconference reviews 10 years of rural development**  Hanoi – A national teleconference took place on Saturday to review outcomes of the 10-year implementation of the Party Central Committee Secretariat’s Conclusion 61 and the PM’s Decision 673 on rural development.  Conclusion 61, issued on December 3, 2009, focuses on a project on improving the role and responsibility of the Vietnam’s Farmers’ Union (VFU) in the development of agriculture, new-style rural area building and the building of Vietnamese farmer class. Decision 673 was issued on May 10, 2011, covering the VFU’s implementation of and collaboration to run a number of rural socio-economic and cultural development programmes and projects for 2011-2020.  Delivering a report at the event, VFU Chairman Sung said the two documents had been important resources for the VFU to **organise** activities for agricultural growth, rural economic restructuring, human resources improvement, new-style rural area building, poverty reduction, and better living standards.  The nation now has 27,000 farmers’ households whose annual income exceed VND1 billion, with the rural poverty rate under 3 percent this year.  Under Decision 673, the VFU has conducted a project on **overhauling** for the fund for supporting farmers, which received more than VND2.64 trillion from the Government and municipal and provincial authorities. The fund has so far assisted 568,737 households in building production and business models.  **Vocational** training and consultation for farmers, as well as communication campaigns to encourage farmers to engage in new-style rural area building, were also key activities over the last decades, Sung added.  To date, Vietnam has 5,177 communes, or 58.2 percent of its total, granted new-style rural area status.  Concluding the function, PM Phuc said despite natural disasters and diseases, under the Party’s leadership and the Government’s management, the VFU had worked with ministries, sectors and local authorities to build rural infrastructure, boost economic development, protect the environment and ensure security and farmers’ living standards.  He said Vietnam’s agricultural exports topped $41 billion this year, becoming one of the top nations in ASEAN in terms of farm produce.  “Vietnam is moving toward safe and agriculture and Vietnamese farmers boast improved knowledge and skills.”  “There is a need to have a new generation of farmers who can access advanced science and technology and digital economics,” he added.  He urged the VFU to continue promoting the key role in agricultural development and new-style rural area building in contributing to building a modern and sustainable rural area and agricultural sectors as well as to helping farmers engage in and benefit more from the **nation’s industrialisation and modernisation**. | **Organise:** to arrange methodically or in order.  **Overhauling:** to make necessary repairs on.  **Vocational:** guidance for profession chosen as a career.  **nation’s industrialisation and modernisation:** công nghiệp hóa và hiện đại hóa đất nước. |