

## Vietnam aims to rise aquatic product exports to USD 10 billion

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nguyen Xuan Cuong expects to rise aquatic product export turnover to USD 10 billion in 2019.

In a conference where he reviewed the sector's last years achievements, Minister Cuong expressed his wishes to increase the sector's production value by 4.25 per cent this year, reaching a total productivity of 7.9 million tonnes, reports VNA.

He also said that the implementation of the Law on Fisheries had been requested to the Directorate of Fisheries, as well as the development of the sector in line with planning.

The export turnover of aquatic products in 2018 reached USD 9 billion, an increase of 8.4 percent.

Phung Duc Tien, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, said Vietnam had a fishery production of 7.74 million tonnes in 2018, the highest production ever, which represents an increase of 7.2 percent.

Export revenue of tra fish (pangasius) had an increase of 26.4 percent, reaching USD 2.23 billion. Besides, tuna shipments also increased reaching a 13.9 percent (USD 675 million). Other fish groups reached USD 1.52 billion (an increase of 15.5 percent), and the molluscos group reached USD 785 million ( 9.1 percent more than last year).

Tran Dinh Luan, Vice General Director of the Directorate of Fisheries, said Vietnam's aquaculture area grew a 6 percent, reaching 1.3 million hectares in 2018. On its part, tra fish industry also saw a growth on its cultivation area to a 3.3 percent compared to 2017.

As regards shrimp industry, which suffered a decline in its price last May, the Directorate of Fisheries recommended shrimp farmers to agree with technical standards and encouraged to follow value chains to reduce risks.