

Vietnam to strengthen Agri, dairy and fisheries trade with Belarus

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Vietnam's Deputy Minister Phung Duc Tien held a discussion cooperation activities regarding economic and trade cooperation, according to statistics of Vietnam Customs, the total bilateral trade turnover between Vietnam and Belarus in 2023 is expected to reach \$113.9 million,

In 2022, Vietnam's agricultural, forestry and fishery exports reached more than \$53 billion and export to more than 200 countries and territories. The main agricultural products Vietnam exports to Belarus include: seafood, rice, cassava, cashew nuts, and tea.

Seafood is another strong agricultural products of of Vietnam accounting for a high proportion of Vietnam's export structure to Belarus. There are 54 Vietnamese seafood processing establishments that are allowed to export seafood to the Eurasian Economic Union (Belarus is a member of this Union).

Currently, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has licensed Belarus to export milk/dairy products.

Nguyen Van Long, Director of the Department of Animal Health, suggested that Vietnam and Belarus need to develop a cooperation agreement on veterinary medicine to promote trade in livestock products between the two countries.

This agreement will cover five issues like;

- Cooperation to better understand the veterinary capacity of each country, thereby resolving issues related to trade in animal products
- Cooperate to ensure products come from disease-free areas as required by the World Organization for Animal Health
- Cooperation on veterinary hygiene and food safety
- Unify measures on animal quarantine
- Exchange of information between the two veterinary agencies of the two countries to serve as a basis for solving related issues.

Ambassador of Belarus to Vietnam Uladzimir Baravikou said "Vietnam and Belarus have a long historical relationship.Â Uladzimir Baravikou hoped that the two countries would make efforts to promote closer cooperation.Â Regarding trade in agricultural products, in the coming time, trade procedures and barriers should be removed".