

## **ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND REFORM OF VIETNAMESE SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED AGRO-INDUSTRIES**

**Pham Hong Nhat**

*Tropical Technology and Environmental Protection (VITTEP),  
Hochiminh City, Vietnam*

### **ABSTRACT**

The development strategy of Vietnam is to become one of the top agricultural countries in the world by the year 2010. As a result, agro-industries will play an even more important role in the industrial sector than they are doing at that moment. In Hochiminh City, the largest industrial and economic center of the country, small and medium-sized agro-industries (SMAIs) account for almost one half of the total of 30,000 existing enterprises. These SMAIs attract an important number of employees from the city and surrounding provinces, and contribute a considerable share to the economic output of the city and the country as a whole. Because of the characteristics of their production process, and their location within residential areas, SMAIs also have a negative impact on the local people's health and the surrounding environment by discharging untreated liquid, gaseous and solid wastes. This especially is the case in the Hochiminh City region and the southern provinces of Vietnam. This study provides an analysis of the negative environment impacts caused by some major sub-sectors of SMAIs in the Hochiminh City region and in South Vietnam, and analyses the causes of the present poor environmental performance and management of SMAIs. The study discusses some steps in moving an adequate environmental reform strategy for SMAIs.