LAND RESOURCES OF CAMBODIA: In Brief

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OVERVIEWS

- The soils of Cambodia developed in humid to sub-humid tropical climatic conditions with alternate wet-dry seasons of six-month duration .
- The soils are very diverse. The soil potential vary greatly ranging from very good to very poor.
- It was reported that the first soil study related scientific work in Cambodia commenced at mid of the century.
- Saeki et al. (1959), the first workers to conduct detailed and specific studies of the soils in main agricultural production areas.
- In 1963, Crocker done the first national soil survey classified soils into 16 units at a Great Soil Group level (soil taxonomy), and soils were mapped at 1:1 000 000.
- Yasuo (1966) attempted to develop a classification by relating soil groups to agronomically important soil properties.

OVERVIEWS (CON'T)

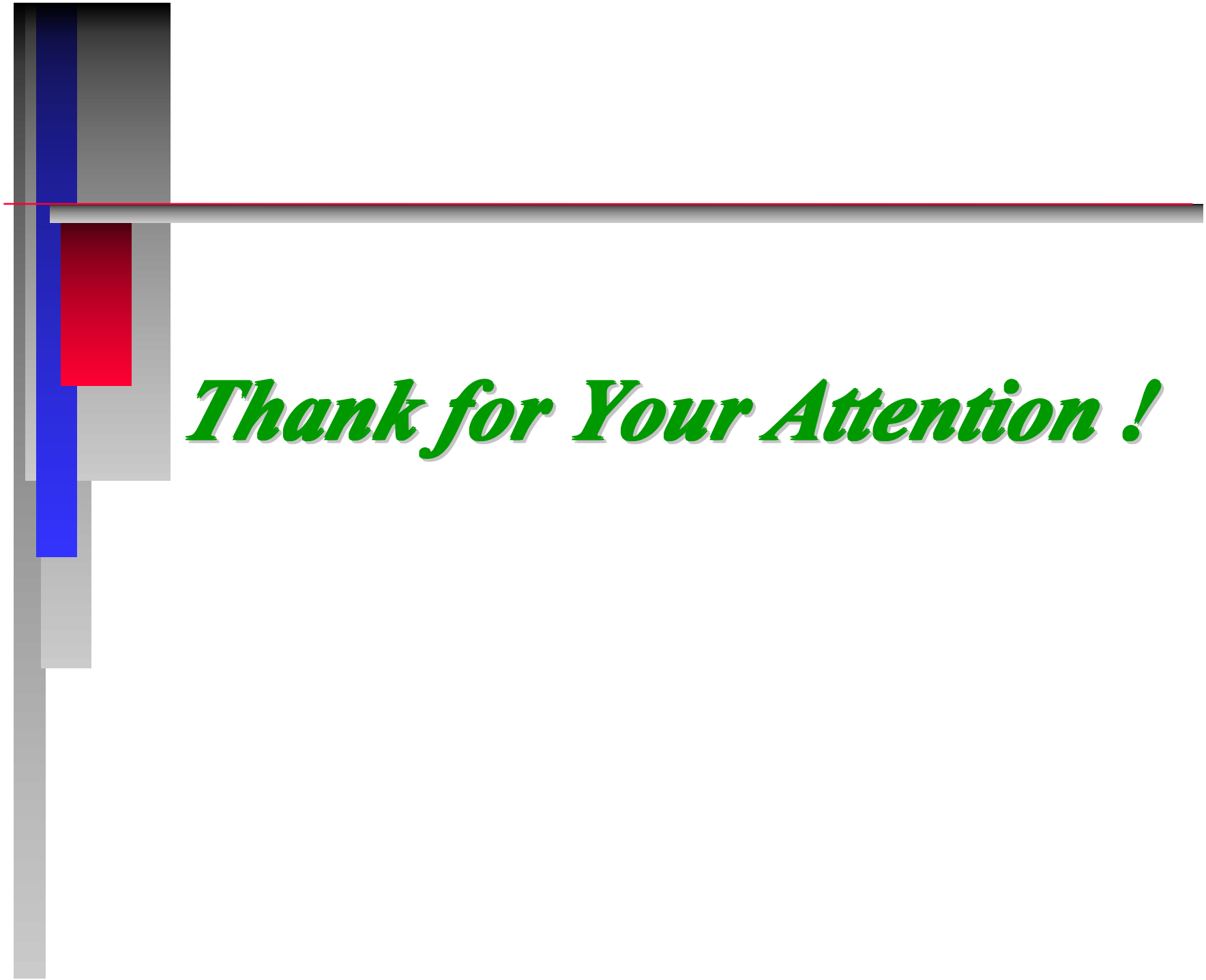
- **Kawaguchi and Kyuma (1974) conducted a large survey on Southeast Asian soils including Cambodia. A pedogeo-morphological map at 1:1 000 000 was produced, 17 Soil Units were classified using FAO guidelines, and then mapped at a scale of 1:250 000.**
- ***Most soil information was lost during a civil war 1975-1979.***
- **Till late 1990s, there was not much published information providing guidelines for soil use and management. In addition, there was no system to enable the simple recognition and communication about the different soils in the field.**
- **A soil classification workshop was held 8-12 May 1995 to consider about rice soil classification in Cambodia. This gave a mandate for the development of a simple agronomically orientated soil classification.**

OVERVIEWS (CON'T)

- The Cambodian Agronomic Soil Classification System (CASC) was developed to complement the first comprehensive soil taxonomy classification to improve the management and use of the country soil's resources.
- CASC indentified 11 Soil Groups in the main rice growing areas, and soils were mapped at 1:900 000.
- Early 2000s with a project supported by JICA, conducted a country-wise agricultural land use and produced a map.
- Since 2003, land capability and suitability classification have been thoroughly studied for rice crop in the lowlands, but very little done for non-rice crop in the uplands.
- Land capability for field crops classified into five classes based on assessment of soil pH, nutrient availability, surface condition, surface soil structure, rooting depth, waterlogging, inundation, soil water storage, soil workability, water erosion risk, and phosphate export.

OVERVIEWS (CON'T)

- In 2009-10 we conducted a preliminary assessment of land degradation in a country-wise, and produced some maps .
- The dearth of updated knowledge about land resources and lack of policy instruments have been ones of the major constraints on the productive and sustainable use of agricultural lands.
- The conversion of agricultural lands to other uses, and the unproductive use of lands are also the constraint facing the country's land resources.
- In response to the need, Cambodia has recently prepared and documented:
  - Agricultural Land Law (in progress)
  - National Action Programme to combat land degradation
  - Sustainable Land Management: Best Practices (technology & approach).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