

**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION**

NATIONAL REPORT

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

COUNTRY	KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
DATE OF REPORT	01 May 2006

INSTITUTION OR COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORTING
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

Focal point	
Name	H.E. Dr. CHAN SARUN
Position	Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Telephone	+ (855) 23 215-984
Fax	+ (855) 23 215-984
E-mail	maff.ico@bigpond.com.kh; tuot_saravuth@yahoo.com

Section 1: Priority Food Security Issues and Progress Towards the World Food Summit

I. Overall Situation

Emerging from nearly three decades of war and about four years of systematic annihilation of the country's physical and social structure, human resources and even the agricultural land by a political regime from 17 April 1975 to 07 January 1979. Cambodia was reborn in 1979 and had to be rebuilt itself from ground zero. The country lost the opportunities to participate in the rapid growth of Southeast Asia and faced enormous development challenges. The country remains one of the poorest in the region and continues to lag behind its neighbors in terms of socio-economic development indicators relating to education, nutrition, health and sanitation.

The latest (2004), it is estimated that 35 percent of the country's population is below the national poverty line down from an estimated 47 percent a decade earlier. Over these ten years, Cambodia has consolidated peace and achieved economic growth of about 7 percent per annum, and approximately 90 percent of the poor population lives in the rural areas. It is also believed that a large portion of the rural population live near the poverty line, and poverty is most prevalent among the vulnerable groups of people affected by the long civil conflict: internally displaced people, returned refugees, and war widow. Given the high incident of rural poverty, agriculture has an utmost important role to play in reducing poverty and improving the economic situation in the country.

Cambodia is one of the lowest-income countries in the world with its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita being estimated at \$245 in 2001 (provisional estimate for 2001). Real Gross Domestic Product growth dropped from 8 percent in 1996 to 7.7 percent in 2000 which total

economic output at US\$ 3.82 Billion and to 6.3 percent in 2001 with total economic output at US\$ 4.07 Billion. Cambodia's economic performance in 2001 was slightly affected by the sluggish global economy or the terrorist attack on 11 September 2001. Paddy production, in spite of disruption by floods reached 4.099 million tones in 2001 and there was a surplus of 0.567 million tones.

The share of Cambodia's GDP from services and industry sectors has been rising continuously, while from agriculture, it is proportionally falling. In 2001 the services sector, representing 46 percent of the GDP and employing 17 percent of workers, was the strongest. In the same year the industry sector, representing 24 percent of the GDP, employed about 7.6 percent of total workers; in contrast, agriculture contributed nearly 31 percent of the GDP though it absorbed up to 72 percent of the total workers in year 2004.

Despite the importance and potential of agriculture, its growth during the 1990s has been rather sluggish and has widely fluctuated due to its heavy dependence on rain fed rice cultivation and irregular weather conditions. Crop yields have shown significant increases. The country's average paddy yield is increased from 1.68 t/ha to 2.479 t/ha for rain fed and 3.0 t/ha to 3.091 t/ha for irrigated dry season rice. These low yields can be attributed partly to the lack of irrigation facilities, inadequate drainage and flood control works and partly to poor soil fertility condition. The use of chemical fertilizers is low and the method of its application is often wrong, while pest control practices are not developed and the availability of appropriate high-performance rice varieties adapted to the specific water management conditions in Cambodia is limited.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) is responsible for managing and controlling the exploitation of natural resources within Cambodia's major primary production activities, i.e. agriculture, aqua-culture, fisheries, forestry and wildlife primary agro industries, and also responsible for the policy on agro-chemicals utilization. MAFF has an organized and developed administrative system at national, provincial, district and even commune levels.

Food security and agricultural development have been recognized as the first development priority for the Cambodia. The Consultative Group meeting between the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and the donor community in Tokyo held in July 1996 and in Paris in 1997 confirmed and singled out agricultural development as the most urgent priority for the country. At the meeting of the world leaders in November 1996 at the World Food Summit in Rome, Italy they also reaffirmed the right of every one to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of every one to be free from hunger. They also recognized among other things that poverty is a major cause of food insecurity and sustainable progress in poverty eradication is critical to improving food security. At that time they pledge their political will and their common view and national commitment of achieving food security for all with an immediate goal of reducing the number of undernourished people to half from their present level not later than 2015.

Convinced about the multifaceted character of food security and the need for concerted nation action and effective international effort to supplement and reinforce national action, the leaders suggested seven commitments and pledged their actions and support to implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

To ensure that every Cambodian has reliable access to adequate food supply, the Royal Government of Cambodia has formulated a long-term agricultural development strategy that focuses on poverty reduction through employment generation and incomes, improvement of infrastructure (both within roads, and irrigation system), and removal of marketing constraints, with special provisions for and support given to vulnerable groups in society.

Against this backdrop, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in close cooperation and consultation with the Ministry of Planning under the supporting of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has formulated its specific targets for agriculture development and food security to be achieved by year 2010 in a document entitled "Strategy for National Agricultural Development-Horizon 2010".

The agricultural production is remained as a critical and importance component in the strategic development of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) for improving the living condition of the people and also contributing to the poverty reduction as well as national economic development. This is a core activity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to be carried out with the strengthening the capacity and efficiency of the supporting services.

The concerned authorities, national and international communities, especially the farmers recognized and are aware of the importance of the sector and they participated in the process for development.

The cultivated areas for agricultural production can be expanded widely and even the production is still under the strong affect from the change of weather condition, but the threat from this condition was reduced due to the huge investment in the rehabilitation and the construction of irrigation system, water control and management.

The other major events observed are the prevention of the bird flu and outbreaks of several infectious diseases, the illegal movement of livestock, and anarchy on the natural resources especially in the illegal destruction of forest and illegal grabbing on public land. There is considerably the progress in technology application in order to enhance the quality as well as the quantity of agricultural productivities. The marketing issue is also the major problem for the Ministry of Agriculture and other concerned institutions which needed to be solved for enhancing the farmer income.

This document presents actions taken by the RGC in pursuance of the commitments of the world leaders, and provides a brief description of the country overall food security situation and the priority problems made progress made related to Commitment Three, Commitment Four, Commitment Six and Commitment Seven of the Plan of Action.

II. Evaluation studies and impact assessment

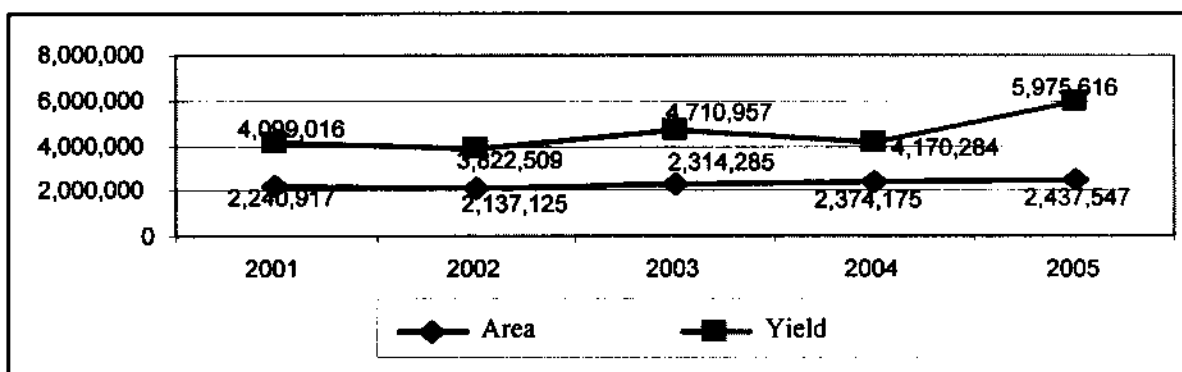
1. Crop Production:

1.1. Rice Production

- Total cultivated areas for rice production were 2,443,530 ha and 69,355 ha larger than last year, in which wet-season were 2,121,591 ha and 210,758 ha bigger than last 10 years (1996-2005).
- Total damaged areas were 29,075 ha, in which wet-season were 28,027 ha but these have been restored 5,493 ha.
- Total harvested areas were 2,414,455 ha and 305,615 ha were higher than last year, in which wet-season were 2,093,564 ha (277,945 ha bigger than last year).
- Average yield for the year 2005 was 2.479 tons per ha and 0.501 tons per ha higher than last year, in which wet-season were 2.261 tons per ha (0.536 ton per ha higher than last year), dry season yield was 3.091 tons per ha.

- Total production of 2005 was 5,986,179 tons and 1,815,895 tons higher than last year, in which wet-season were getting 4,734,300 tons (1,601,719 tons higher than last year) and for the dry season was 1,251,879 tons.
- Food balance: surplus of 1,319,511 tons of rice, equal to 2,061,830 tons of paddy, 1,411,646 tons of paddy higher than last year and 1,500,892 tons higher than in the average past 10 years.

Graphic of Rice Production, 2001-2005:

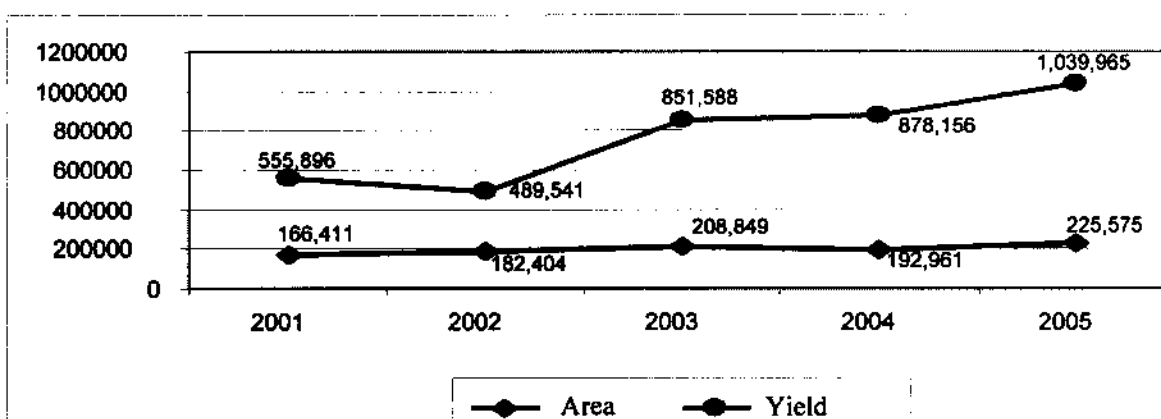


Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

1.2. Secondary and Industrial crop production

- Secondary Crops: Total cultivated areas were 225,575 ha, which increased 32,614 ha larger than last year.
- Industrial Crops: Total cultivated areas were 229,931 ha, which increased 52,233 ha larger than last year.
- It is noted that the increasing of production for secondary and industrial crops is slowly made.
- The factors affected to the increasing of the crop production are due to the prices of those products, markets and weather condition.

Graphic of Subsidiary Crop Production, 2001-2005



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

1.3. Soil Nutrient Management and Conservation

The main activities are founded out new agricultural technologies and introduce the results to farmers. The outputs of this component are:

- Conducted 400 field trials in 14 provinces and provided the extension program to 700 farmers,
- Educated 1.200 farmers in 14 provinces to collect and use compost pits,
- Introduce 420 farmers on integrated crop production in 3 provinces.

The activities have been done through implementing field trials, field demonstrations, field days, training courses, and producing Ag-note (soil nutrient management) to distribute to farmers.

1.4. Seed Production

The main activities of this component were the production of qualified seed for rice, Mung Bean, soybean, corns and vegetable varieties in state farms (Chamcar Leu and Toul Samrong), and the Experimental Stations (Kbal Koh and Prey phdau). In addition, the qualified seed has been distributed to and recognized by farmers in 12 provinces through conducting field demonstration, organizing field days, holding the training courses and publishing the extension materials, agricultural packages. On the other hand, the seed producers have also been organized, especially farmers who produced Sen Pidor rice seed, KK2 mung bean, and DT 84 soybean seed.

III. Information on external assistance programs (from 2000-2005) including a description of their impact on hunger reduction and lessons learned is given below:

1. Crop Production Assessment and Conclusion

Generally, these could be assessed that even there have been some difficulties encountered in the early and mid of the season, the wet season rice production is considered to be greatly achieved with better production.

The total rice production received around 5,986,179 tons this year that this is a great and historical output achievement.

The market price of rice in 2005 is mostly as same as the price last year. The local purchase of paddy and rice for export is considerably carried out on better movement. It is observed that during the last few years, the markets and market price for paddy is stable that leded in the encouragement of the farmers to produce rice, despite the paddy markets relied mostly on the neighboring countries.

In conclusion, the production for all crops, 2005-2006 is considered as in favorably progressive if compared with last year as well as last many years. This favorable achievement made is because of the improvement of quality and quantity of products through better supporting services & infrastructures provided.

2. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The IPM program has been implemented with the collaboration and the assistance from DANIDA, APIP and FAO and the achievement made as follows:

- ✓ 270 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) have been conducted for 6,211 farmers,
- ✓ Creation of 300 farmer clubs which are consisting of 6,080 farmers, and
- ✓ Organization of 30 Farmers Congress which are consisting of 1,620 farmers.

Additionally, the IPM Program has also been introduced in the formal education through the provision of the training for the teachers, students as well as the integration IPM into the school curriculums. Furthermore, the farmers who participated in Farmer Field Schools by IPM Program have been organized as IPM Farmer Groups for the implementation of organic agriculture production.

The Cambodian National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme called National IPM Programme was established by MAFF since 1993 with the overall goal to promote food security in Cambodia by enhancing the sustainability of intensified crop production systems through the promotion of Integrated Pest and Crop Management skills at farm level. During 2000-2005 this program has received major external assistances as below:

1. **DANIDA IPM Farmer Training Project (DANIDA IPM Project):** This project was supported by Danida with the overall objective to improve the livelihood of rural communities by enhancing the capacity of trainers to conduct trainings and empowering farmers to apply sustainable agricultural production systems within farming communities to promote food security.
2. **Integrated Farmer Field Schools on Rice, Fish and Vegetable Production:** This project was supported by the Canada Food Security Initiatives Fund of CIDA with the overall objective to enhance food security for rural farmers, with particular attention to improved nutrition through increased and more diverse production focusing on enhancing farmers' technical knowledge and skills in the management of integrated rice, fish and vegetable production.
3. **FAO Vegetable IPM Project:** This project was supported by FAO Regional Vegetable IPM Programme to support the Cambodian small-holder vegetable farmers in five major vegetable growing areas in achieving more sustainable livelihoods and food security by assisting with efficient, profitable, healthy and environmentally sound production of vegetables through Integrated Pest Management training.

The key impact derived from these assistances is following:

- Pesticide use sharply reduced as a result of IPM training in term of the frequency of applications, volume and WHO class 1A and 1B chemicals.
- The incomes from rice and vegetables rose significantly as results of the increase of yield, for on average the rice yield increased about 605 kg/ha in wet season and 917 kg/ha in dry season and reduction of input costs. For example the cost of pesticide in IPM plot in tomato crop was 70% less compared to farmer plot.
- The general knowledge of farmers related to crop protection and production increased about 34 percents and as a result farmers had confident in making informed decision to manage their crop efficiently and effectively.
- The relationship and network between farmers have improved such as information flow, sharing their farming experience and local farmer organization. Also farmers gained self-confident, improved the problem-solving capacity and are eager to communicate and take action on cultivation practice and community development issues.

- In conclusion the IPM training leads to more sustainable and cost-effective production, reduction of ecological disruption and environmental contamination, reduction of public health and toxic residues in food and improvement of livelihood, biodiversity and marketability of produces. This makes a huge contribution to food security promotion, poverty alleviation, and ultimately to the national economic growth which are the priorities of the Royal Government policy and strategy.

The Agricultural Productivity Improvement Project (APIP) was established in 1999 under World Bank loan assistance. The Agronomy component covered 6 sub-components:

1. Technical Coordination and Capacity Building (TCCB)
2. Soil Fertility Management and Conservation (SFMC)
3. Seed Production Program (SPP)
4. Plant Protection Service (PPS)
5. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
6. Farming System and Agricultural Economic (FSAE).

The component objective is to improve capacity of DAALI to undertake seed multiplication, applied/adaptive research, and technology transfer through participatory on-farm methods, focusing on major crops and cropping system. The achievements made are following:

- Institutional capacity has been strengthened through building capacity of technical staff in the way of providing series of both general and technical training, and on-the-job training.
- The productivity of Agricultural production both non-rice crop of seed production has been improved in term of larger arrears of qualified seed production and quantity of seed has been increased which are available for farmers in the internal and external locations.
- The implementation of agronomy, seed and plant protection component has been realized a lot of outputs. The institutional arrangement were in place, equipment, furniture, vehicle, motorcycles, were delivered for the project use and the capacity of the staff has been enhanced, strategy, procedures and guidelines has been in place.
- Technology has been transferred to farmers through training, field demonstrations, and dissemination of extension materials and agricultural notes in result to increase in rice and other crop yields and reduce production inputs and health hazards of using pesticide as well as contribute to income generation and poverty reduction.
- The achievements of institutional capacity building are concrete foundation for the Department of Agronomy and Agricultural Land Improvement toward realizing its vision in the future.

IV. Lessons learn:

The commitments taken during the previous World Food Summit affect all sectors of the economy and the social conditions of the country. Implementing of the proposed policies, strategies and programs and monitoring the progress achieved by the government on the Plan of Action is proven to be a long and difficult task.

The alleviation of poverty and food security among Cambodia's population through economic progress and social development is the highest priority of the RGC. The first and the second Socioeconomic Development Plan and the Poverty Reduction Strategy outline the strategies and policies for achieving this goal. The implementation of these strategies and policies is achieved

through a focused and priority Public Investment Program (PIP). The PIP is designed within the framework of a three-year rolling plan to capture priority proposals and needs on an on-going basis. The programs and projects that constitute Cambodia's public investment program will be financed both from the National Budget and with assistance of our external development partners. At the five CG Meetings for Cambodia held so far, Cambodia have worked hard to keep our resource mobilization targets for external assistance at around US\$500 million per annum to cover on-going and new projects, including budgetary/balance of payment support. Moreover agriculture and food security have not received enough attention from donor community, the RGC is looking for more financial support in order to extend its policy on food security and agricultural development at a larger scale.

The agencies in charge of carrying of implementing of reform and monitoring of its progress are key central agencies (Ministry of Economy and Finance and Ministry of Planning) and those sectoral ministries. As previously indicated that for poverty alleviation and food security only the ministries dealing with the development of agriculture sector are the leading agencies, which include the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and fisheries, the Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Women's and Veterans' Affairs. The process of building national partnerships has begun and the RGC is determined to move ahead in forging relationships with all of its national development partners.

The most effective method to educate farmers is to apply "learning by doing" approach using the Farmer Field School (FFS) model and the training methods are based on the principles of non-formal adult education with emphasis on a discovery learning approach. This approach allows farmers to participate in a season long training covering one full crop cycle with intensive field practice. To support the training exercise a crop is grown for field study activity. Farmers observe and analyze the field situation to discover the dynamic relationship between plants, pests, natural enemies, nutrients, soil, water and other components in the crop ecosystem. After thoroughly analyzing the field situation the participants discuss findings and together make decisions about crop management.

Although significant progress has been achieved in reducing poverty and improving food security situation in the country, food deficits still remain to be a problem in several provinces. It is a priority for the government to come up with feasible solutions to move food from the surplus areas to the deficit areas. Of course this could be achieved by improving the road infrastructure (national and rural), the agricultural marketing systems and the purchasing power of all citizens, particularly for the urban and the rural poor. However the priority should be to provide more support and more investment for agriculture and food security.

It is also important to keep in mind that when many ministries involved in the process, it is often discovered that the delegated responsibilities are not carried out properly and timely. It is important for the leading agency to come up with a way to effectively monitor the progress of the work done by the ministries involved. For poverty reduction and improvement of food security, the information on poverty profile, on nutrition, on the impact of natural disasters and man-made, on agricultural production and consumption by commodities are needed on timely basis to prevent disastrous situation and to provide recovery, rehabilitation and future development.

Some of the policies and strategies were difficult to implement given the human and financial capacity of the government. Given the political regime of the country has changed to an open-market economy and the institutional framework is extremely weak, the policies and strategies for reforms should be planned and implemented based on a longer-term perspective. Over the years, our external development partners have been generous in providing support to Cambodia's public investment program. However capacity building of the country's human resources would take time and financial resources.

The need to improve aid coordination and aid management is a priority, so that more resources are channeled to priority areas. In order to enhance effects of poverty reduction and food security strategy through effective utilization of donor assistance, it is essential to seek genuinely effective aid coordination by paying careful attention to the situation in Cambodia and examining the comparative advantage of various aid modalities.

The RGC cooperates with the Committee on World Food Security in providing information and reports for monitoring the implementation of World Summit Plan of Action.

Finally it is important to keep in mind that poverty reduction and food security strategies will remain on the paper if there is no mechanism in place to implement and monitor them. Poverty monitoring needs to be systemized. Therefore, identification of appropriate indicators for monitoring and assessment process is essential for the government in particular in the agriculture/food security area, which is the first step of a real poverty reduction in Cambodia.

Section 2: Follow-up of the WFS Plan of Action

COMMITMENT ONE:

"We will ensure an enabling political, social and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty and durable peace, based on full and equal participation of women and men, which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security for all. "

The year of 2005 is the second year of the third mandate of Royal Government of Cambodia. Under the intelligent and committed leadership of **Samdech Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Kingdom of Cambodia, the country has been greatly developed with obtaining a great successfulness and comprehensive achievements in implementation of the internal & external policies towards contributing to the socio-economic development and also poverty reduction.

Moreover, the internal security is considerably characterized stability with better law enforcement & social order in democratic frameworks. The stability of the macro-economics is considered to be strengthened and the economic activities by sub-sectors are also gradually progressed from year to year with better competition. The economic growth is expected to be around 7% in 2005 which is considered as high growth rate if compared to previous period and this growth is certainly derived from the huge part of the contribution of agriculture sector. The strengthening of cooperation between the Government, international communities and the private sector has been strongly made to solve the problems encountered and together coordinate in the formulation of the action plan as well as to review the effective implementation of those development programs. The external policy and the international cooperation are considered to be greatly progressed, especially the expansion of international markets for increasing the export of Cambodian agricultural and also industrial products.

In the year of 2005, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) has been trying all the best to enhance the implementation of the policy and Rectangular Strategy which is launched for employment creation, efficiency and the core strategy is good governance. The Rectangular Strategy is consisted of 04 main areas:

- (i) Enhancement of Agriculture Sector;
- (ii) Rehabilitation and reconstruction of physical infrastructure;

- (iii) Employment and private sector development;
- (iv) Capacity building and human resource development.

The general situation for agriculture sector, 2005-2006 is considered to be progressive with better achievements made during the implementation. There have been observed that the production of all major crops has been in great performance because of the better weather condition if compared to last year. For the livestock production, even there is some difficulties in bird flu outbreak occurred several cases but the prevention measures have been made timely and there was not a problem in livestock development. The natural resource management, forestry, fisheries, land has been encountered several issues, especially the anarchy of the forest land grabbing as well as the clearance of forest land. In the mean time, the Royal Government of Cambodia, under the leadership of Prime Minister **Samdech Hun Sen**, all measures have been released to cease these illegal activities.

COMMITMENT THREE:

“We will pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices in high and low potential areas, which are essential to adequate and reliable food supplies at the household, national, regional and global levels, and combat pest, drought and desertification, considering the multifunctional character of agriculture”

1. Special Program for Food Security (SPFS)

Agricultural development, food security, and poverty reduction have been recognized as the first priority for the RGC. Due to the resource constraints, it would be very difficult to tackle simultaneously all the components that are considered strategic. Decisions have to be made based on a clear understanding of what is doable and on a full appreciation of the development potentials and constraints as well as the foreseeable adjustment to rapid changes in the national and internal environments.

In 1994 the Special Program for Food Security (SPFS) was first launched by FAO on a pilot basis in 15 countries to combat hunger and poverty and to achieve food security at national and household level. The Program was endorsed during the World Food Summit of 1996 as a world wide Program that put Food Security as a global priority for the 84 Low-Income and Food Deficit Countries (LIFDC).

Presently, the RGC is using the SPFS for implementing the national strategy for boosting agricultural production and improving food security in the country.

The Special Program for Food Security (SPFS) is within the framework of the Strategy for National Agricultural Development: Horizon 2010 of the RGC and in line with the specific objectives of the global Special Program for Food Security. The Special Program for Food Security (SPFS) has the following objective:

“To develop a strategy to maximize national food self-reliance and reduce the risks of disruptive variations in supply by demonstrating and facilitating a rapid increase in agricultural productivity and food production on an economically and environmental sustainable basis”.

More specifically the objectives in the short-run of the pilot phase of the SPFS to assist the country are:

- to identify and demonstrate appropriate technologies related to water control to increase agricultural production, to intensify production through improved varieties, soil fertilization and integrated pest management and to increase farm income through output diversification;
- to identify farmers' requirements and constraints in the introduction of technologies and establishment of community participation;
- to create an effective local capacity to provide sustainable support services to farmers in the introduction of the improved technologies;
- to develop the critical thinking abilities of farmers; and
- to prepare recommendations to extend the pilot SPFS into national and regional programs linked to the agricultural development and investment programs by other donors.

2. Pilot Phase Operation of the SPFS in Cambodia

The SPFS was started in Cambodia in 1998 and is now operational in seven pilot sites in four provinces covering 26 communes and 53 villages of the seven districts with the active participation from the farmers. These pilot sites represent different agro-ecological zones of Cambodia and are situated in irrigated areas with potential for substantial improvement. During the pilot phase of SPFS, the program has implemented activities in the areas where potentials for agricultural improvement existed which are not yet exploited and at the same time, farmers face food shortages.

3. The SPFS Approach in Cambodia

The special Program for food Security is composed of four interrelated and complementary components: water control and irrigation, agricultural intensification and diversification, farm integration systems through livestock and aquaculture and constraint analysis. Specialists from different background work as multi-disciplinary team.

A SPFS Steering Committee consists of senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Water Resources and Meteorology. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Women's and Veteran's Affairs were later included in the Steering Committee.

Farmer Seasonal Planning (FSP) is carried out in each of the new pilot sites at the beginning of the season. Information collected during this exercise serve for curriculum development of the Integrated Farmer Field School (IFFS) and field activities. Field Day (FD) is organized to allow participants to share their experience to other neighboring farmers.

The Integrated Farmer Field School (IFFS) approach is Community Participation. Farmer's participation plays a key role in the IFFS. Bottom up approach is used to stimulate farmer's participation in decision-making.

At the end of each production season, SPFS staffs are invited to present the results of the activities, problems faced during implementation and at the same time training on technical subject related to irrigation, crops, livestock and fisheries and methodologies of IFFS are discussed.

Another very important aspect of the approach in term of capacity building and the sustainability of the program is the utilization of national capacity with the SPFS structure under the minimum financial support from FAO during the pilot phase.

Following encouraging results obtained during the SPFS pilot phase, the project activities of the phase one are proposed to be extended. The extended project title is "Extension of the Special Program for Food Security to Improve Food Security and Income-generation of Poor Farmers in Cambodia". This project will be built upon the great success that the SPFS program has achieved over the past four years since its inception in 1998. Its focus is on increase food security and income-generation of poor Cambodian farmers. The key element of success of the SPFS was the introduction of an innovative training and extension approach, creating a local capacity for effective technology transfer. Keys to this are the IFFS, in which farmers through a process of participatory rural appraisal techniques define priorities and adopt new technologies suitable for their environment. This project will be supported by the Human Security Fund of the Government of Japan. The coverage of the proposed project is to strengthen the existing 4 pilot activities of the SPFS and extend those activities to 2 more provinces. The total number of the primary targeted beneficiaries of the project will be 3,170 households from the 15 districts in 6 provinces. These beneficiaries will be the vulnerable households in the project sites especially the poorest and female-headed households. Priority is also given to those households that are headed by disabled people in the rural areas. The SPFS Steering Committee, in which the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, Ministry of Women's and Veteran's Affairs, and Ministry of Health are represented, will be the national implementing agency with technical assistance provided by FAO.

The Government of Italy will fund another project "Integrated Irrigation Development Project in Battambang Province in support of SPFS in Cambodia". The focus of this project on increased food security, water use efficiency and institutional change of the Komping Puoy irrigation system in the province of Battambang, Cambodia. The strategy of this project will be built upon the significant work that has been realized during the phase one of the SPFS program with the establishment and strengthening of productive and more secure food production systems. The project will make important contribution to the consolidation of results obtained during phase one. In addition to this, the project will take advantage of valuable experiences of an NGO, with the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure, farmer support and community-based services. The project will expand the level of intervention from the field and farm level towards the irrigation system (scheme) level including main, secondary and tertiary level. This project will be implemented by the SPFS Steering Committee with technical assistance provided by FAO.

In addition to the above SPFS programs, a request for Technical Coordination Program for the coordination of the SPFS will be submitted to the FAO headquarter in Rome for financial assistance. The focus of this project is to assist the SPFS Steering Committee to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the SPFS programs in Cambodia. Other Programs (financed by international organizations or bilateral donors) of the RGC that directly contribute agricultural development and improvement of food security include: Agriculture Sector Program; Rural Credit and Saving Project; North Western Rural Development Project; Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project; Stung Chinit Project; Agricultural Improvement Project; Social Fund of the Kingdom of Cambodia Project; Emergency Flood Control Project (also by ADB); Agricultural Quality Improvement Program; Cambodia-IRRI-Australia Project; Agricultural Extension Project; Integrated Food Security Project; World Food Program; SEILA Program; and PRASAC Project.

COMMITMENT FOUR:

"We will strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market oriented world trade system."

The early efforts of the RGC to formulate the pro-poor trade sector strategy - initially under the umbrella and with the support of the Integrated Framework for Trade Related Technical Assistance (IF) - coincide closely with the Poverty Reduction Special Paper (PRSP) effort. The IF is the outcome of a commitment made by six multilateral Agencies (IMF, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, WB, and WTO) to ensure better integration of trade policies with national development strategies and to increase the benefits that Least Developed Countries (LDCs) derive from trade-related technical assistance made available to them by the international community. On 17 April 2001, Cambodia was designated as one of the three pilot countries for pro-poor trade sector strategy formulation under the IF initiative.

The Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia applied for accession to the World Trade Organization in October 1994. At its meeting on 21 December 1994, the Preparatory Committee for the WTO established a Working Party to examine the application of the Government of Cambodia to accede to the World Trade Organization under Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO.

Accession to the WTO was one of the highest priorities for the Royal Government of Cambodia. Closer integration into the world economy was seen as a powerful instrument to alleviate poverty and the main driving force for socio-economic development. In reforming its trade system, his Government had paid particular attention to aligning its policies and practices to WTO rules, especially the principles of MFN and national treatment. Cambodia has become a first LDCs country full membership of World Trade Organization in September 2003 decision to admit Cambodia into the WTO was made at the Cancun Ministerial meeting.

The Tokyo Road Map essentially provides all the necessary inputs required to formulate a robust pro-poor trade sector strategy for Cambodia that can become a critical cornerstone of the country's poverty reduction strategy.

Following the presentation of the Tokyo Road Map, The RGC and donors agreed to conduct a Diagnostic Study of Cambodia's Integration and Competitiveness into the international trading systems. This study identifies obstacles and institutional development needs to address the demands of increased engagement in the international economy facing Cambodian households and firms and focuses on strengthening and developing a number of product-sectors for export, especially product-sectors (rice, diversified agriculture, fisheries, garments, tourism, labor services).

Cambodia has made considerable progress in establishing a modern regime. Over the last several years the RGC has embarked on a comprehensive program of economic and trade policy reforms. On the trade side, all quantitative restrictions limiting the ability of firms and individual to engage in international trade were largely removed. More recently, the tariff regime has been significantly simplified with the number of rates falling from 12 to 4 in April 2001 and the top rate reduced to 35 per cent. The currency is convertible with dollarization pervasive. Thus in many respects the trade regime is relatively open.

Rice is an important source of food for most rural households. An evolution is occurring from rice as a source of food security to rice as a source of trade and income. Rice trade both within the country and across the border is currently constrained by poor transport infrastructure. In addition, export procedures and 'Facilitation fees' pose a significant tax on rice exports. A detail exposure of these unofficial charges is needed to reduce constraints on current and potential exporters of rice.

Diversification of agriculture away from rice is increasingly common. The key obstacles to developing non-rice agriculture are similar to those for rice. They include poor transport infrastructure, high energy costs, weak information systems, inherited distrust among buyers and

sellers, inadequate access to credit and limited business development and management skills. Cambodia could definitely benefit from the increasing demand for niche agricultural products, such as spices, herbs, special tropical fruits, sesame seeds and essential oils. To do so, action is needed on several fronts. First, the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Commerce needs to be strengthened. Second, assistance is needed to help small farmers and processors with their informal needs. This could include the facilitation of establishing associations interested in marketing, technology and purchasing inputs.

Fisheries sector development is hindered by intervention of government agencies in almost every aspect of market transactions. Besides the traditional fisheries helping the needs of the local population building a competitive and market responsive fisheries sector will require a change in the corporate culture in the sector to nurture market-based transactions. Regulation of management regimes to control over fishing is required. In management, the work is needed to examine the incentives for short-term exploitation, unregulated common property fisheries. Assistance is needed in developing a regulatory system for exports to the US and the EU and enabling the private sectors to collectively develop a long-term strategic vision for the fisheries sector.

At a broader level it is crucial that Cambodia continues to strengthen its international relations and deepen its commitment to open markets and trade as a member of ASEAN. The country will strengthen its engagement with the international system through accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Cambodia must continue to increase its international participation not least because discussions and rules on such issues as trade, foreign investment and the international financial architecture have implications for its development and poverty reduction efforts. Cambodia must ensure that it is not excluded from such negotiations because of lack of capacity or lack of access to negotiations. On the trade issues the RGC has put significant efforts to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security by taking the following measures:

The decision made by the RGC to join the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) and World Trade Organization (WTO) are the political will, which enables the country to cope with globalization;

- 1) Cambodia has become a full member of ASEAN on 30 April 1999. One of the main policies of the RGC is the extension of economic cooperation among ASEAN member countries through the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) mechanism. The AFTA is the way to open-up trade and was followed up by the agreement upon a Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT);
- 2) Cambodia has become a first LDCs country full membership of World Trade Organization in September 2003 decision to admit Cambodia into the WTO was made at the Cancun Ministerial meeting.
- 3) the initial idea of the CEPT scheme is to substantially reduce tariffs and eliminate non-tariff barriers for import and export of goods among member states;
- 4) As member of ASEAN, Cambodia will cooperate with its partners in the promotion of agriculture and industry, the expansion of trade, infrastructure development and the raising of the living standards of its people;
- 5) Regarding market access, Cambodia is harmonized with all of ASEAN Agreement and tariff provisions. Cambodia still has problems with Sanitary and Phytosanitary

requirements due to limited skills, laboratory equipments and human resources availability.

COMMITMENT SIX:

“We will promote optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry systems, and rural development, in high and low potential areas”.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is endeavoring to implement a coordinated set of laws, programs, action plans, and institutional arrangements regarding forest resources which are directed toward enabling the achievement of national goals of environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction, socio-economic development, and good governance, as described in the Policy Statement of the Royal Government of Cambodia on Forestry, the Socio-economic Development Plan, the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and the Governance Action Plan. This set of national goals directed to the sustainable development of the Nation provides the overall development framework for the conservation and management of the country's forest resources.

The Royal Government of Cambodia considers the ecologically, socially and economically viable conservation and management of forest resources as a major pillar of public welfare directly contributing to environmental protection, poverty reduction and socio-economic development.

The Royal Government of Cambodia commits itself to the conservation and management of the country's unique forest resources in a sustainable manner now and for future generations. The results and the follow up processes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 are taken into account to consider the concept of sustainable forest management within the framework of the sustainable development of Cambodia. The Royal Government of Cambodia acknowledges the multiple perceptions, interests and objectives of the numerous forest interest groups of the country's society, in the region of the Mekong Basin and at the global level regarding the conservation and sustainable management of forest resources.

The commitment to accomplish the national forest goals:

For the achievement of the national goals of environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction, economic development, and good governance, during the period 2002-2006, the Government has accomplished the following tasks:

1. Forest Resource Conservation:

Reclassify and to dedicate the major part of remaining natural forest stands to their ecosystems protection and biodiversity conservation functions. A total of 1,490,500 ha have been designated by the Royal Decree, Sub-decree, and Declaration, to be set aside as Protected Forests. A total of 3,134,471 ha have been designated by the Royal Decree to be set aside as Protected Areas. The grand total of forest protection is 4,624,971 ha. Compare to the total country's areas, 18,103,500 ha, the percentage of Cambodian forest for protection is approximately 26% which is the highest percentage compared to other countries in the region. These protected forests have been managed by strategies such as protected forests, watershed management, genetic and wildlife resources conservation, eco-tourism, and special management areas with a maximum participation of the local population. The RGC has also adopted and implemented the strict application of the Code of

Practice of the ITTO as regulatory framework for the sustainable management of forest resources and forest concessions.

2. Good Governance:

The RGC strengthens the capacity building and research programs at all levels, conducts education, training and public awareness campaigns, with particular regard to the participation of local populations within conservation and sustainable forest management plans. The new forestry administration has been established to give necessary steps of devolution of decision-making power to local levels. The new structure encourages the implementation and coordination of multi-stakeholder processes that enable the harmonization of the different perceptions, interests and objectives of the various forest interest groups at local, regional and international levels. The Public Affairs Unit based at the Forestry Administration has been established to promote transparent information for the forest sector.

3. Socio-Economic Development:

To promote the high socio-economic value of forest ecosystems protection and biodiversity conservation functions of natural forest resources, the RGC works closely with the Conservation International (CI), WCS, and Wild Aids on the ground, especially at forest protection areas. To promote the substitution of timber supply from natural forest stands by timber plantations through encouraging private investment and public participation, 25,264 ha of plantation has been established since 1985, and 33,163,811 seedlings has been distributed for tree planting activities by people. Additionally, Forest Plantation Program by military has been initiated by Samdach HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia. To optimize the use, processing and marketing system for forest products especially plantation forest products to support domestic demand, and export markets, local coup management system has been introduced to supply timber to local as well as international markets.

4. Poverty Reduction:

To recognize legally and protect the traditional rights of local populations to use forest resources under the framework of food security and poverty reduction, the RGC has set up its policy, law, and sub-decree on community forestry to encourage participation from local communities in natural resource management. The new forest policy and forestry law were adopted in 2002, while the Sub-decree on the Community Forestry Management was adopted in 2003. To date, the draft community forestry program and guidelines are under discussion and development. The objective of these new set of policy, law, and regulation is to optimize the benefits to local populations from the use and management of forest resources through the implementation of forestry and wildlife conservation concept based on the participation of local populations. 274 forest communities covered the areas of 218,647 ha have been established by 2004. The projects have been implemented nationwide at local levels which support up to 62,411 households (266,002 populations).

In addition to the set of national goals directed to the development framework for the conservation and sustainable management of forest resources the Royal Government of Cambodia acknowledges international issues, processes and commitments occurring as a result of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and its follow-up processes relevant to the country's forest resources.

Investor confidence particularly that of international business community can be bolstered if efficient institutions and a sound legal framework are in place to provide assurance that their interests are well protected and that the rule of law is upheld. Effective legal and property rights should be in place for markets to develop. Transparency and consistency of laws as well as predictable of policies are also major concerns of investors. In this context, agreements should be honored and are seen to be honored. Steps should be taken to minimize bureaucratic interference, abolish rent-seeking activities, improve corporate governance as well as develop and strengthen financial institutions and banking systems and supervision. Measures needs to be taken to simplify registration procedures, reduce price controls to a minimum, dismantle trade barriers, as well as create a commercially oriented infrastructure. Priority is given to ensure the clarity of laws, regulations and official procedures such as tax and customs requirements.

The Law on investment was enacted in 1994 to provide various incentives for eligible investors by strengthening the country's legal and regulatory framework to support private sector investment and business activities, particularly foreign direct investment (FDI). Except for matters regarding land ownership, the 1994 Law of Investment provides similar treatment to foreign and domestic investors. Foreign investors may, however, obtain lease land for up to 70 years with the possibility of renewal as stipulate in the Land Law 2000.

The efficacy of the 1994 Law on Investment can be measured in term of project approval. For the period 1994 to 1999, a total of 655 manufacturing projects were approved. However industrialization in Cambodia depends on the development of its own natural resources in a sustainable basis. It encompasses the agro-based, rubber-based and wood-based sectors. The development of the agro-based industries depends upon progress made in the country's agriculture sector to ensure availability and reliable of supply. Since agriculture sector employs nearly 85 percent of the labor force, the development of agro-industrial industries is one of the keys to solve the problems of poverty and food insecurity alleviation and the engine for economic development of the country. It would be very difficult for the agriculture sector to improve without the value-added activities created by the agro-industrial sector.

Although agriculture sector is recognized as an engine to drive the economic growth of the country, the investments in that sector are far being sufficient. The distribution of the priority planned development programs in the PIP for 2002-2004 by sector provides only 7.2 percent for agriculture compared with the 30 percent contribution to the GDP. More efforts should be made by the RGC to encourage and to provide incentive to investors interested in this sector.

The RGC have taken the following general measures for the promotion and allocation of investments:

- 1). the consolidation of peace, stability and social order by taking concrete steps to strengthen the rule of law, uphold human rights, promotion democracy with the view to establishing favorable political and security environment for sustainable development over the long term;
- 2). reform of fiscal policy through actions taken to increase domestic resource mobilization and implement budget reforms aimed at enhancing and rationalizing public expenditure. The thrust of this policy is to gradually cut defense and security expenditures and embarks the savings for public investment in physical infrastructure and social sectors. The objectives are to avoid domestic financing of the budget, and increase gradually the current budget surplus with the view to creating and enhancing savings to finance public investment. Moreover, in terms of long-term strategy Cambodia cannot forever rely on foreign capital. Therefore, endeavors should be geared toward increasing domestic saving, including both public and private. Hence, apart from efforts deployed to improve the public expenditure management and enhance revenue collection, development the financial industry and the banking system in

order to encourage private savings to the level that is responsive to the increasing needs of economic development;

3). investment promotion and facilitation through and mobilization of foreign aid and attraction of foreign direct investment. Cambodia needs massive influx of investment during the next few years to generate economic energy and accelerate the speed for its take-off. The RGC has made tremendous efforts to attract foreign direct investment and is working on how to improve the investment climate. Attention is accorded to ensuring a social environment conducive to stability, security, transparency, accountability and predictability, which will favor and promote investment in Cambodia;

4). shifting the investment outlays to priority sectors and improving the productivity of agriculture in order to build a solid foundation for economic growth. Improvement of agricultural productivity through development effective agricultural support services including agricultural research, extension, on-farm water management, quality inputs supply and distribution, development sustainable infrastructure such as small scale farmer's controlled irrigation facilities and farm-to-market roads, formulating and implementing a comprehensive water resources policy framework and plan of action, combating land grabbing and landlessness, developing and implementing sound land tenure and land use policies and protecting the environment;

5). building institutional capacity and strengthening good governance is key to the concept of sustainable development with equity. This is also linked to the establishment of the rule of law, administrative reforms, the promotion of transparency and accountability and the combat against corruption, which will have direct impact on poverty alleviation and trickle down economic growth to all strata of the society;

6). Integration of Cambodian economy into the region and the world with the aim to increase the economies of scale by expanding the markets, improve factor mobility and reduce the prices of imported and exported products. Cambodia's participation in the regional economic integration into the region and the global economy will increase the attractiveness of Cambodia to investors, promotion higher factor productivity, and create and develop comparative advantages of the nation through the participation in international competition and specialization. Cambodia can develop competitive edge in the production of agricultural products (e.g. rice, corn, vegetables) and processed meat products. If economic integration can be properly implemented and handled, it will play a crucial role and have positive and direct or indirect impact on economic development, food security and poverty alleviation;

7). Human development is defined as a process of enlarging people's choices by expanding human capacities and functioning. Investment in human capital, especially investment in education, agricultural research, vocational training, job creation and health, is key to ensuring economic take-off and reducing poverty as well as the integration of Cambodia's economy into the region and the world; and

8). Attention is accorded by the RGC to maintenance and the strengthening of partnership with the donor community and NGOs, which have provided valuable technical and financial assistance to Cambodia over the last few years. Without such assistance Cambodia could not have achieved such remarkable progress and prosperity and will not be able to overcome the difficulties facing the country in the future.

COMMITMENT SEVEN:

“We will implement, monitor, and follow-up this Plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community”.

The importance of poverty eradication and food security improvement for Cambodia has been fully underlined by the RGC and by the different international and Donor Organization present in the country. In the past effort to reduce poverty, often resulted in the identification of single projects, which are often not sustainable without donor support. Little attention was given to the broader policy and institutional environment of poverty reduction. However it is well accepted that sector wide approaches and programs are the best way to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of external aid and strengthen local capacities in a coordinated and cohesive matter.

By strengthening links between the different organizations and a better aid-coordination, the burden on the government will be reduced and effective ways to transfer know-how and develop the national capacities will be improved. This will lead to a greater impact on poverty reduction and food security in the end resources are better directed to priority areas.

As part of implementation, monitoring and follow-up actions of this Plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community, the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries are the two main agencies for developing, reviewing and revising agricultural development policy, strategies and programs to promote agriculture sector in order to achieve food security for all citizens.

The RGC works very closely with all local institutions, and international agencies and particularly with FAO in providing the information and reports for monitoring of the implementation of policy, strategies and actions undertaken to improve the food security in the country.

Recognizing the importance of raising the rural productivity and improving food security in the rural areas, the RGC has implemented the Special Program for Food Security (SPFS) in 1998 with the cooperation of FAO. The pilot phase of the SPFS implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM), Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Women’s and Veterans’ Affairs (MOWVA) will be extended to the national level to implement activities in villages with a package of agricultural technologies according to the needs of the farmers including nutrition and health. A Steering Committee was created and responsible for the formulation and implementation of the Program. In addition the Steering Committee provides advice on policy and monitors the progress of the implementation and reports it to the government.

Forging effective partnerships with our external development partner is one of the challenges that the RGC has embarked upon and there is a need for the support of all our external partners to face this challenge. For its part the RGC has tried to develop monitoring process and cooperation partnerships with the NGOs, the civil society, and the private sector, as well as building effective partnerships with donors and external development partners including neighboring countries through South-South cooperation to report progress of the implementation of WFS Plan of Action.

- Given the seriousness of the food security situation in Cambodia, food security and nutrition were at the forefront of discussions among policy-makers in Cambodia to incorporate key food security and nutrition-related goals and objectives in national strategies and frameworks, such as the Cambodia Nutrition Investment Plan (CNIP), National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS), and the Cambodia Millennium

Development Goals (CMDGs), with the aim of improving and diversifying agricultural production, creating income-generating opportunities for rural households, and encourage the participation of communities in planning and decision-making processes.

- In the mandate of the new Government, the agriculture policy, as stated in the Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency, is to improve agricultural productivity and diversification, thereby enabling the agriculture sector to serve as the dynamic driving force for economic growth and poverty reduction. In this regard, the RGC has invested substantial domestic resources to promote agricultural intensification and diversification to bolster economic growth, create employment, and generate income in the rural areas, thus ensuring nutritional improvement, food security and increased agricultural exports. The policy of the RGC also promotes aquaculture to respond to the increasing needs for protein, enhance income, and reduce the pressure on natural fisheries resources.
- The RGC is well aware of the ecological and health dangers posed by pesticides and have approved a "Sub-decree on Standards and Management of Agricultural Materials", including lists of pesticides which are permitted to and banned from use in the Kingdom of Cambodia. This sub-decree is the basis for a future regulation of the sale of pesticides by applying internationally recognized registration procedures. The sub-decree aims at regulating the use of pesticides on crops and animals, at ensuring that pesticides are truthfully labeled in the Khmer language, and makes provisions for penalties for those who break the law.
- The MAFF attached great importance to IPM training and committed to introduce IPM as a means to ensure food security on a sustainable basis. MAFF has declared IPM to be a key priority strategy and approach to crop management in Cambodia and designated the National IPM Programme as responsible for the overall oversight and coordination of all such IPM activities. MAFF has recognized the importance of Integrated Crop and Pest Management for promotion of food security and sustainable agricultural production, for the environment and health and for the ability of farmers to make crop management decisions.