

Country report – Cambodia
The IPPC High-level Symposium on Cooperation
Phytosanitary Measures among the Chinese Initiative “One Road” Countries
25-28 September 2018, Nanning, Guangxi, China

I. General information

Agriculture is the backbone of Cambodia's economy and rural livelihoods. The share of GDP contributed by the agriculture sector was estimated at 26.3% in 2016 compared with 31.3% and 42.4% from the industrial and service sectors, respectively. Of the agriculture GDP share, the crop sub-sector makes up the largest share (60%), followed by fisheries sub-sector (22%), livestock (11%) and Forestry (7%). Cambodia's economy has been diversifying in recent years and this has created employment opportunities beyond agriculture. Still agriculture will continue to play a key role in building economy and fighting poverty in the next decades. The agriculture is not the unique solution to future growth and rural poverty challenges but it will remain an important part of the solution in Cambodia. In terms of socioeconomic development, Cambodia is now at a critical point as it moves steadily towards graduation from the least developed to lower middle income status by 2015-2016, finally the high middle income status by 2030.

Cambodia became a member of IPPC since 1952 and has a role to make provision to the best of its ability for an Official National Plant Protection (NPPO) with the main responsibilities for the issuance of certificates in relation to the phytosanitary regulations of the importing contracting party for consignments of plants, plant products and other related articles. The General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA) with its Plant Protection, Sanitary, and Phytosanitary Department (PPSPSD) is mandatory to play a key role as Cambodia NPPO.

II. Cambodia in WTO

Cambodia submitted, on 22 July 2003, its acceptance of the terms and conditions of membership set out in the Accession Protocol which was approved by the Ministerial Conference on 11 September 2003 and signed by Cambodia subject to ratification.

Cambodia became the 148th member of the WTO on 13 October 2004. Cambodia is the second LDC to join the WTO through the full working party negotiation process.

http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/a1_cambodge_e.htm

Members have the right to take SPS measures necessary for the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, provided that such measures are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement.

III. Cambodia under ASEAN Charter

ATIGA: CHAPTER 8 : SPS MEASURES/ Article 79 -85, ATIGA: Article 49 : Establishment of the ASEAN Single Window Member States shall undertake necessary measures to establish and operate their respective National Single Windows and the ASEAN Single Window in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement to Establish and Implement the ASEAN Single Window and the Protocol to Establish and Implement the ASEAN Single Window. AFTA/ ATIGA will be a Duty Free Trade Area (Eliminate Tariff and Custom Taxes, Chapter2: TARIFF LIBERALISATION; Article 20: Elimination of Tariff Rate Quotas; CHAPTER 4 NON-TARIFF MEASURES; Article 41 General Elimination of Quantitative Restrictions; Article 42: Elimination of Other Non-Tariff Barriers...), But SPS Must be Strengthening (to protect Country Economy).

III. Cambodia in IPPC

Cambodia entered the International of Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in 1951 and came in force in 1952, Amended in 1979, 1991 and 1997 as 182 member countries in 2015. The National Plant Protection Organization - NPPO is Department of Plant Protection Sanitary and Phytosanitary.

IV. Government's Rectangular Strategy III

1. Good Governance

Good governance remains at the core of achieving social justice and sustainable and equitable socioeconomic development. In order to further strengthen good governance, the Royal Government has firmly implemented key reform programs, including: (1) the fight against corruption; (2) legal and judicial reform; (3) public administration reform; and (4) reform of armed forces. The ultimate objective of the reforms, as well as that of other reform programs including public financial management reform, land reform, and forestry and fisheries reform, is to strengthen the capacity, efficiency and quality of public services to raise public confidence in government and respond to the needs and aspirations of the people and business community.

2. Promotion of Agriculture Sector

Cambodia's agriculture continues to play an important role in supporting economic growth, ensuring equity, securing food security, and promoting development of the rural economy. The Royal Government's vision is to modernize Cambodia's agriculture, based on a new approach and with changed scope and pace, to transform this sector from extensive stage of development, i.e. primarily depending on expanded use of available resources (such as land and other natural resources) and traditional agricultural inputs, into an intensive stage of development that primarily depends on the application of techniques, new technologies, R&D, mechanization and increased capacity of irrigation to improve productivity, and diversify into high value crops and other agricultural products including livestock farming and aquaculture while taking into account the need to ensure efficient management of land and sustainability of environment and natural resources. Moreover, further promotion of commercialization and agro-industry development will increase added-value of agricultural products and income of people.

3. Development of Physical Infrastructure

Infrastructure development and modernization is a key factor for supporting economic growth, enhancing economic efficiency as well as strengthening competitiveness and promoting Cambodia's economic diversification, especially for reducing poverty incidence. To respond to the demands of the next higher stage in the long term development of the country, the Royal Government will draft a master plan for achieving comprehensive connectivity by addressing both hard and soft aspects of the transport, electricity and information technology and telecommunication sectors, in addition to further development of irrigation system and clean water supply sectors. Alongside, the Royal Government will be more attentive to the development of urban infrastructure. All these initiatives will be undertaken consistent with the framework of land management and urban planning.

4. Private Sector Development and Employment

The Royal Government views the **"private sector as the locomotive of economic growth"**. The private sector plays a key role in promoting growth and socio-economic development, especially in realizing the Royal Government's objective of diversifying the production base, streamlining modern technologies and generating creative ideas aimed at improving economic efficiency and competitiveness as well as employment creation in order to reduce poverty and promote people's living standards. To respond to the needs of the next higher stage of development, the Royal Government will continue to promote private sector development through a package of comprehensive measures for improving existing policies and designing new policies including those addressing the legal, governance and institutional frameworks as well as related services and instruments, supporting and facilitating resource mobilization, and the development of financial and banking sector and labor market. To achieve the desired results, the Royal Government will introduce the **"Industrial Development Policy"**, designed to elevate Cambodia's economy to a higher level in the regional and global value chain.

5. Capacity Building and Human Resource Development

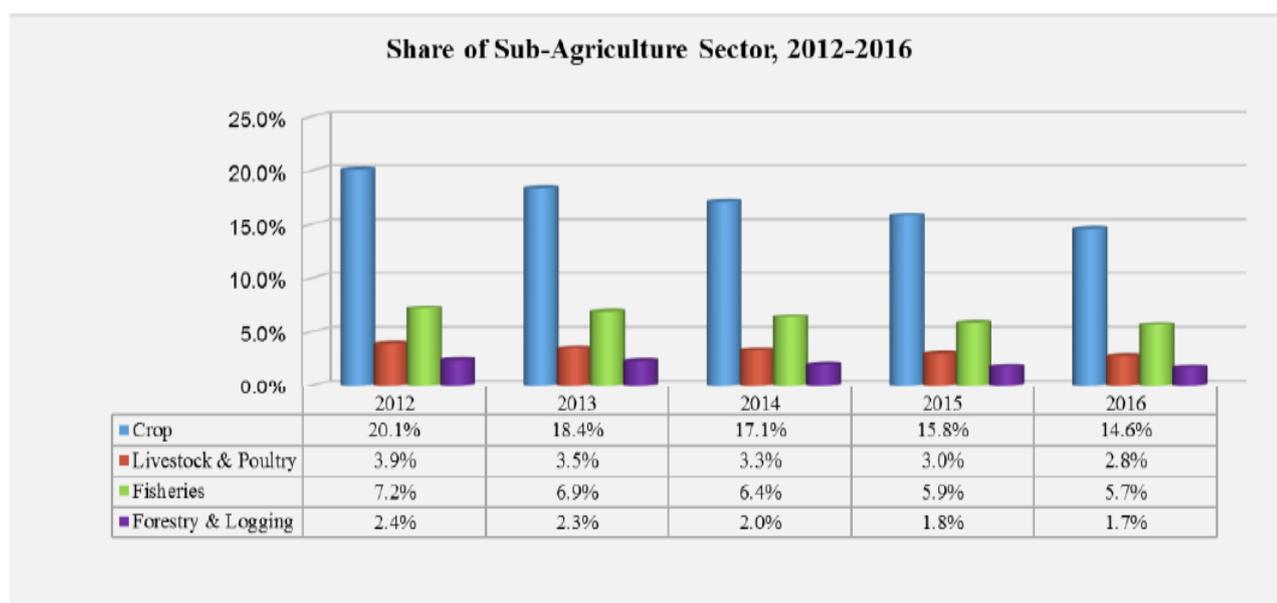
The development of high quality and capable human resources with high standards of work ethics is key to supporting economic growth and competitiveness of the country, both in the present and the future. This is even more important for Cambodia's transition from a lower-middle income country status to be reached in the near future, to an upper-middle income country by 2030 and a developed country by 2050, as envisaged by the Royal Government. Keeping this in view, human resource development, especially for the youth, will target capacity building without gender discrimination, in terms of establishing a reliable social safety net system, developing knowledge and know-how, entrepreneurship, skills, and creativity and innovation in every sector particularly in science and technology, and R&D along with enhancement in terms of improving physical health and conditioning, ethic attributes, a sense of personal responsibility, national conscience and professionalism.

VI. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Policy Directions

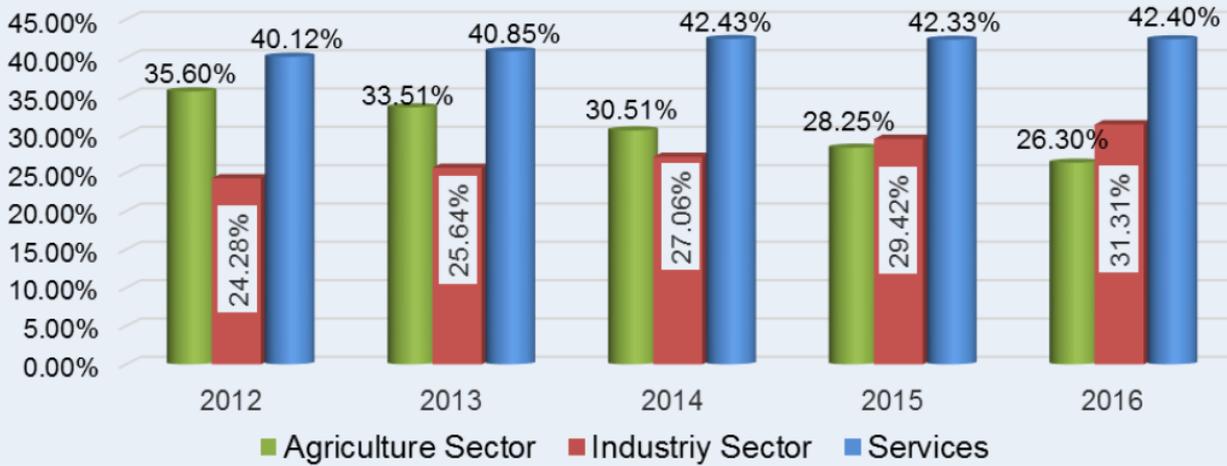
Long-Term Vision: Adequate & safe food availability for all people, reduce poverty, increase GDP per capita and sustainable natural resource management & conservation...

Mission:

To contribute to accelerating Cambodian economy through provision of quality services ensuring adequate supply of safe food, and increased agricultural productivity and value-added on the basis of sustainability and efficiency.



Share (%) of Agriculture in GDP, 2012-2016



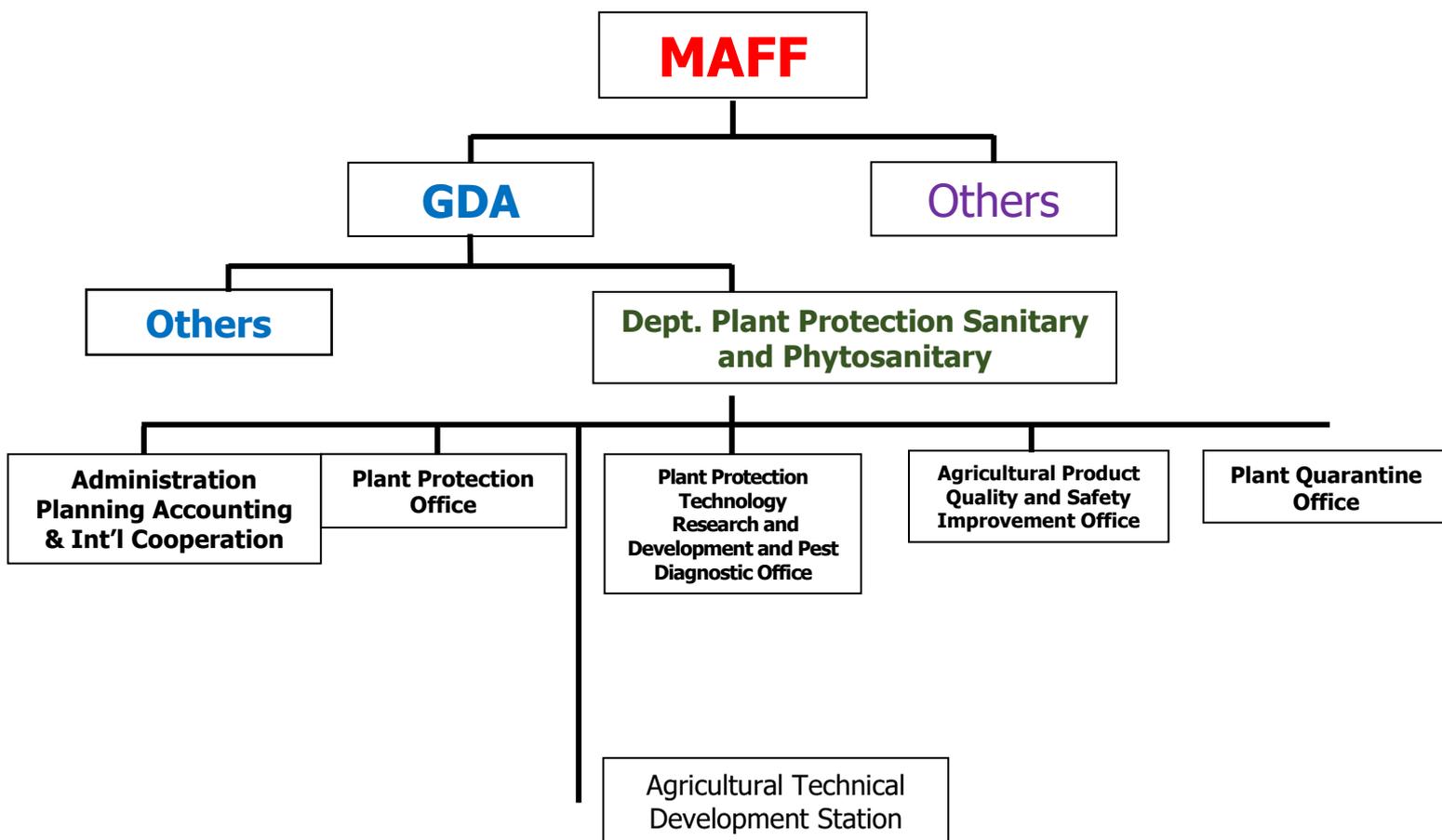
Gross Value Added for Agriculture, 2007-2016



Agricultural Growth (%)



VII. Organization Chart of NPPO of Cambodia



1. Mandate of Plant Protection, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Department (PPSPSD)

The General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA) was established in 2008 and PPSPSD is one of 10 Departments under the GDA umbrella. The PPSPSD consists of 5 offices namely: (1) Office of Administration, Planning, Accounting, and International Cooperation; (2) Office of Plant Protection Research and Diagnostics; (3) Office of Plant Protection; (4) Office of Plant Quarantine; and (5) Office of Agricultural Products Quality and Safety Promotion. The main roles and responsibly of PPSPSD are following:

- Prepare the policy, plan, programs, and measures to reduce the crop product caused by pests and to manage chemical substances and biological agents used in plant protection or soil fertility improvement in order to increase productivity in a sustainable and an environmentally sound manner;
- Prepare the quality standards and insurance system of safety of plant product to improve and assure their quality and safety for consumers, local markets and export of plant products;
- Prepare the regulations and implement the regulatory services in the management of plant protection work and safety of foods originally derived from plant products and phytosanitary inspection according to the Government policy and SPS agreement of WTO;
- Conduct research and extension activities on plant protection and phytosanitary measures in cooperation with relevant agricultural extension and research institutes to improve the productivity, quality and safety of products for increasing the benefits and income of all involved stakeholders;

- Ask as a technical advisor and a service provider in pest control intervention, in assessment of all types of chemical pesticides and all biological agents used for the above mentioned purpose and for soil fertility improvement;
- Liaison, cooperate and implement the conventions and agreements at national, regional and international level and implement other duties as given by GDA and MAFF.

2. The Progress of Phytosanitary measures

2.1. Development of regulations related to phytosanitary measures

- Upgrading the NPPO from office to Department hierarchical level under GDA which provides more empower by Government;
- Cambodia IPPC official focal point is assigned to the director of PPSPSD with the mandates to work on phytosanitary, pests and pest outbreak management and pesticide management;
- Plant Protection and Quarantine law is being developed which will replace the Sub Decree No.15 on Phytosanitary Inspection, dated 13/03/2003).

2.2. Revision of national pest list and interception of pest and progress of PRA

- The Quarantine Pest List has been revised and endorsed by Ministerial Decision which consist of 184 plant pests;
- The pest list of potential crops for export is being developed in response to the development of export plant products.
- There was no plant pest that has been intercepted within the import activities, due to the absent of PQ inspectors at border check points
- But new pest regionally invaded are Tapioca mealy bug and Citrus greening and they are under special eliminating program
- The NPPO's technical staffs have been trained on pest surveillance and they have prepared necessary information to support PRA process of importing countries. The PRA team has conducted the general PRA on 14 commodities imported to Cambodia.

2.3. Emergency action, contingency plans, and establishment of New Pest Free Area

- The Provincial Departments of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (PDAFF) monitor pests in their responsible territory and take actions to control in term of alert, control methods, and interventions in case of necessary. PDAFF submit reports to PPSPSD on pest infestations, new pest invasions, and requests for technical assistances and advices.
- Establishing the plant protection unit/office under PDAFF for providing more effective actions in plant health monitoring and management and creating 4-5 PPSPS regional branch offices under PPSPSD for quick emergency response, regional/domestic PQ and trade facilitation of plant products.
- Government has allocated limited budget for expenses related to pest control and SPS activities.
- Development partners have provide some financial supports for contingency cases of pest outbreaks and new pest invasions.
- No Pest Free Area has been established since the full structures of regional/domestic PQ have not been yet developed and due to the geographical situation of Cambodia, it is very difficult to establish and maintain the pest free area and low pest prevalence.
- However, geographically pest free and low pest prevalence (natural distribution) has been recorded.

2.4. Surveillance, pest outbreaks and invasive species management

- *Pest Surveillance Capacity Development*: The NPPO-Cambodia joined the implementation of the Project titled "Support to Capacity Development in Implementation of Plant Pest Surveillance and Information Management in South-East Asia in Cambodia in June 2013. Throughout the course of project implementation, the NPPO-Cambodia participated in a range of capacity development activities and meetings which were conducted in order to strengthen capacity of plant protection researchers and technicians of the NPPO-Cambodia. In total 16 staff members of the NPPO-Cambodia were involved in in-country and regional training workshop series conducted throughout the project periods, 2013-2016. These include: training workshop on moth; training workshop on scale insects; expertise training workshop on "Virus"; special training workshop on nematodes; in-country expertise training workshop on "stored product insect pests"; expertise training workshop on fungi; 1st regional expertise training workshop on Pest Information Management; 3rd regional expertise training workshop; and training workshop on pest information systems.
- *Pest Information Systems Restoration*: As part of the technical assistance to be delivered by the GCP/RAS/286/ROK Project, the NPPO-Cambodia was provided with new Pest Information Systems developed by Korea. Training workshop was held on 8 December 2016 in Phnom Penh with 10 Cambodian participants. The participants were introduced to main features of the PSI including the master management, information management, surveillance and inspection, announcement and forum. With the introduction of the new PSI, the participants have gained basic and specialized knowledge on pest information system and database management.

2.5. Other related initiatives

In an effort to strengthen pest diagnostic capacity and update the country's current pest list, the NPPO-Cambodia has also implemented pest surveillance activities supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Australian Government.

1. *The Project on Improved Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Handling in Greater Sub-region (GMS)* Supported by ADB: It aims at primarily strengthening surveillance and inspection program as part of effort to enhance regional cooperation and harmonization on
2. *The Project on Enabling Improved Plant Biosecurity Practices*: It is a regional project funded by the ACIAR of the Government of Australia and involved Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand. It aims at strengthening diagnostic and establishing pest information database for plant protection officers and researchers in the participating countries. The project is focused on developing pest diagnostic capacity of researchers of the NPPO-Cambodia for virus and bacteria on some vegetables and cassava.
3. The implementation of these 2 Projects has contributed significantly to improved capacity of the NPPO-Cambodia in carrying out its pest surveillance activities to generate pest data and information necessary for developing and/or updating the country's pest lists for rice, maize, citrus, cassava, and mango.
 - **Rice**: Pest surveillance was conducted in 4 provinces (Takeo, Prey Veng, Pursat, and Battambang) where 2,194 pest samples consisting of 1,468 insect, 665 weed, and 91 disease samples were collected and preserved in laboratory for identification and classification in order to update the current pest list on rice.
 - **Maize**: Pest surveillance were conducted in 5 provinces (Takeo, Kandal, Kampong Speu, Kampong Cham, and Battambang) where 422 pest samples consisting of 275 insect, 42 weed, 105 disease samples were collected and preserved in laboratory for identification and classification in order to update the current pest list on maize.
 - **Citrus**: Pest surveillance were conducted in 5 provinces (Kratie, Kampot, Pursat, Battambang, and Kampong Cham) where 128 pest samples consisting of 114 insect, and 14 disease samples were collected and preserved in laboratory for identification and classification in order to update the current pest list on citrus.

- **Cassava:** Pest surveillance were conducted in 5 provinces (Kampong Cham, Tbong Khmum, Kratie, Battambang, and Banteay Meanchey) where 231 pest samples consisting of 202 insect, 22 weed, and 7 disease samples were collected and preserved in laboratory for identification and classification in order to update the current pest list on cassava.
- **Mango:** Pest surveillance were conducted in 5 provinces (Kampong Speu, Kampong Cham, Siem Reap, Battambang, and Banteay Meanchey) where 280 pest samples consisting of 242 insect, and 38 disease samples were collected and preserved in laboratory for identification and classification in order to update the current pest list on mango.

VIII. Key constraints and challenges

Despite the significant progress made in recent years, the NPPO-Cambodia's efforts to strengthen and expand its surveillance programs and develop pest lists are still facing with many potential constraints and challenges such as (i) lack of legislative framework for the field of plant protection and phytosanitary, (ii) under-staffing and limited financing support; (iii) lack of specialized manpower especially in the field of plant pathology, (iv) underdeveloped Pest Information Systems,

IX. Future plan

In order to overcome the constraints and challenges, the NPPO-Cambodia is pushing the implementation of the following actions:

- Enacting the law on Plant Protection and Phytosanitary. This overarching legislation is deemed quite a necessity for providing the NPPO-Cambodia with greater political and financial supports needed for fulfilling its missions;
- Expanding and implementing capacity building programs on pest surveillance, diagnosis, pest recordings, and pest risk analysis.
- Finalizing the updated pest lists for rice, maize, mango, cassava, and citrus;
- Conducting surveillance activities on banana, soybean, black pepper, and cashew nut;
- Updating and transferring the existing plant pest database into the new system (PSI)
- Need technical assistance in the field of (i) the conduct of advanced degree training programs that would help build larger pool of specialized expertise in the fields of entomology, plant pathology, and weed science, and (ii) dispatch of short-term experts to assist the NPPO-Cambodia in the field of plant quarantine.