**Workshop report**

Launching workshop

“Network for Agriculture and Rural Development for Thank-tanks in Mekong Sub-region Country (NARDT)”

27 December 2017

Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel, Cambodia

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| **Participants:** |

There were 48 people attended the workshop. They are from government sectors, education sectors, NGOs, development partners, farmer associations, private sectors and mass media (see Annex 1).

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| **Opening session:** |

There were three opening remarks. The first welcoming remark was delivered by Dr. CHEM Phalla, acting executive director of CDRI. He started with a brief of reginal members and donor of NARDT, iFAD. He mentioned how honor it is for CDRI to be a Cambodia co-recipient in NARDT. He continued with objectives of NARDT. Then, he gave an overview of CDRI and Cambodia agriculture. CDRI is one of the leading policy research institutes in Cambodia, and has been working in the areas of agriculture, economics, education, environment, governance and other sectors such as gender equality, climate change adaptation etc. Agriculture is a leading sector in supplying food and improve socioeconomic. NARDT was formed on the right time that Cambodia is working on increasing export. Finally, Dr Phalla wished for a successful workshop and thanked the audience.

The second welcoming remark was delivered by Mr. NGUYEN Thanh Tung, program officer of IFAD Hanoi Hub. He provided some remarks on the NARDT objectives and IFAD expectations, and then suggestions for the workshop discussions.

Finally, Mr KHY Kosal, deputy secretary general of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery of Cambodia, delivered the opening remark. On behalf of MAFF and his, he was very honor and delighted to attend the launching workshop of NARDT. He carried on with Cambodia agriculture vision which is to modernize agriculture from traditional practice focus on available resources to intensive farming which focus on high-technology, smart irrigation to increase productivity, crops diversification, and other sectors such as livestock, aquaculture, reforestation, social welfare, land management, environment, and sustainable natural resource management to enhance national socioeconomics, increase jobs, and share benefits from this economic growth equally and inclusively. MAFF is doing their duties in educating, researching, training, disseminating, and building human resources to serve agricultural sector, which is one of Cambodia’s priority visions, along with other inter-sectors to help Cambodia to become one of the fast-economic growth countries. Mr Kosal briefed about agricultural situation, support from government sectors, private sectors, development partners, and NGOs to the farmers. Then, he proposed ten recommendations for the participants to consider. There were:

1. Encourage researchers and promote studies of new varieties that are qualified, climate resilient, high disease resistant, high yield, use less inputs, and meet market demand.
2. Include new studies about modern technology such as machinery to reduce labor in agriculture and remote senor to create more agricultural human resource.
3. Strengthen human resource and develop infrastructure at existing agricultural extension stations to transform those stations to Agriculture Center of Excellence to provide consultation or training and also a field visit for researchers.
4. Widely promote good agricultural practices to producers, distributors, and consumers. Improve laboratory by getting national and international recognition to ensure quality and food safety especially public welfare.
5. Establish partnership mechanism between publics, privates, communities, and development partners to address issues in agricultural value chain in order to ensure that agriculture production is competitive and meet market demand.
6. Extend promotion and training about sustainable land management, ecosystem, benefits of natural resources, agriculture residue and toxicities management to stakeholders and improve law enforcement to prevent violations.
7. Increase investment on transportation on waterways and railways to increase load of agriculture products transportation, reduce time and cost
8. Improve river basin management especially plain areas that are potential for agriculture and improve irrigation capacity
9. Continue providing electricity with stable supply and competitive with neighboring countries
10. Encourage investors and agriculture communities through offering loan with acceptable interests to attract investments on agro-processing which can support local producers and increase export and value added.

Mr Kosal again thanked CDRI, iFAD and the participants and declared the opening of the workshop.

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| **Presentation 1:** |

Mr SIM Sokcheng, head of agriculture unit of CDRI, and Cambodia-NARDT project coordinator, gave a presentation on “Regional Grant Project: Network for Agriculture and Rural Development Think-tanks for Countries in Mekong sub-region (NARDT)”. NARDT project is funded iFAD, started in 2019 and ends in 2023. There are 4 regional countries members namely Vietnam (Institute of Policy and Strategy for ARD – IPSARD), Myanmar (The Centre of Economic and Social Development – CESD), Laos (National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute – NAFRI), and Cambodia (Cambodia Development Resource Institute – CDRI). The overall goal of NARDT is to improve quality of policy formulation and impacts of policy implementation in ARD sector in the Mekong sub-region. Mr Sokcheng briefed about key activities in the two main components of NARDT which are to establish networks for policy learning and advocacy, and to improve knowledge sharing, capacity building, research and policy dialogue. He went on with outcomes, outputs, and NARDT organizational structure before moved to Cambodia-NARDT organizational structure. Mr Sokcheng also shared with participants the benefits from NARDT membership and ended his presentation with the scaling up and sustainability of NARDT.

**Q&A**

**After the coffee break, Dr DANG Kim Son, senior expert of IPSARD, clarified on common interest and benefit of each member country.**

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| **Presentation 2:** |

Mr MOK Mony, director of department of planning and statistics of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, gave presentation on “Policy and Strategy for Agricultural Development”. Agriculture sector contributed 23.5% to GDP in 2018. He started with status of agriculture sector and displayed data of agriculture share in GDP from 2014-2018, share of sub-agriculture sector from 2013-2018, gross value added for agriculture from 2009-2018, and labor force by economic sector in 2013 and 2017. Then, he talked about results of policy and strategy implementation, challenges and opportunities of agriculture development. The last contend of his presentation was policy and strategy for agriculture development 2019-2013. To ensure the agricultural develop goal, government set out five action which are 1) enhancement of productivity, crop diversification and agri-business, 2) enhancement of animal production and anima health, 3) fisheries resources management and aquaculture development, 4) management and development of forest resource and wildlife, and 5). Enhancement of effective support services and human resource development.

**Q&A**

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| **Group discussion:** |

After Mr Mony’s presentation, all participants were divided into four groups to discuss government agriculture priority policy and issues related to operating and benefits from NARDT.

After the discussion, representatives from each group presented their results. (see Annex 2)

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| **Closing:** |

Finally, Dr Phalla wrap up the workshop and gave closing remark.

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| **Cambodia-NARDT members** | |  |  |  |
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# Annex 1: List of participants

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
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# **Annex 2**: Results from group discussion

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| Questions | Group 1 | Group 2 | Group 3 | Group 4 |
| Q1. What and how do you think will make the network (think tanks) run effectively? | - Regular communications  - Experts (technical & research)  - Focal point  - Common interest  - Groups of large network | - Set-up regular meeting with NARDT stakeholders  - Establish guideline for stakeholders  - Provide regular report of new innovation to stakeholders via workshop media (TV) or existed network or online (website/group) | - Stakeholders share their experiences & knowledge  - Regular meeting among the stakeholders  - Concrete action plans  - Examine/ determine indicators | - Workshop every semester  - Fund (should look for fund or NARDT provides fund to researchers)  - working as a secretariat for region (collection information and information sharing)  - Involve more research institutions with research fund support such as CARDI, NADI, MADEC……. |
| Q2. Order priorities for 2020 research topic |  | 1. 1\_1  2. 1\_4  3. 1\_5 |  | 1. 1\_2  2. 1\_1  3. 3 |
| Q3. Identify specific research topics from the above priorities  Group1. Choose one priority from Crop  Group2. Choose one priority from Crop  Group3. Livestock  Group4. Aquaculture | - Competitiveness  - Climate resilient practices and technologies  - Safety issues | Study the challenges of mango export to 3rd country | - Understanding demand for livestock  - Capacity of domestic supply of livestock  - Breeding to meet market demand Ex: climate resilient  - Market awareness education program  - Study the input supplier sources (reliable)  - Set-up a station of livestock breeding  - Feasibility study on livestock raising cluster  - Understanding demand/supply for potential livestock in Cambodia  - How to promote market awareness for farmers?  - Feasibility study on setting a station of livestock breeding | - Strengthen fish breeding methodology (ត្រីគ្រុម និង​ត្រីខ្សាង) (high economic value and high market demand)  - Strengthen fish breeding methodology (ត្រីតុកកែ) (high economic value and high market demand)  - Disease management (Fishes)  - Good Agricultural Practices in aquaculture |
| Q4. What do you expect to learn from other network countries in terms of agriculture and rural development? | -Gov’t support of farmers & cooperative  - Productivity/ efficiency policy for farmers | - Inputs to achieve strategies plan 2019-2023 MAFF | - Expect to exchange knowledge about technical innovation & market information  - acquire better knowledge of smart agriculture to adapt climate change  - Learn about how to improve SMEs of livestock | - Obtain success experiences from other network countries in Agriculture and Rural development  - Extension services  - Clean water, sanitation for rural areas, especially for ethnicity  - Standard of agricultural products |