

Greater Mekong Subregion
15th Annual Meeting of the Working Group on Agriculture
Pu'er, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, 29-30 May 2018

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

1. The Working Group on Agriculture (WGA) from the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries, namely, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, met in Pu'er, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China on 29-30 May 2018 for the 15th Annual Meeting of the WGA (WGA AM-15). The list of participants and the WGA AM-15 agenda are provided in annexes 1 and 2 respectively.
2. The WGA commends the countries for the notable achievements and progress made by the GMS countries under the Core Agriculture Support Program Phase II (CASP2). At the forefront of agriculture transformation moving toward inclusively sustainable and modern agriculture approach, CASP2 has: (i) supported value chain integration involving smallholder farmers, rural women, and small and medium-sized agro-enterprises, and ensured piloted farms linked to markets; (ii) promoted climate- and environment-friendly agriculture practices, innovation, and technology; and (iii) advocated food safety and quality assurance and policy harmonization.
3. The WGA congratulates the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the successful organization of the Second GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (AMM-2) held in Siem Reap in September 2017. The AMM-2 provided strategic directions to the shaping of the next phase of CASP with the endorsement of the Strategy for Promoting Safe and Environment-Friendly Agro-based Value Chains in the Greater Mekong Subregion and Siem Reap Action Plan 2018-2022 (SASRAP); and catalyzed private sector involvement in CASP activities, in particular, the Food Industry Asia (FIA) in supporting the training of GMS scientists in laboratory methods for food safety and strengthening of agri-food product traceability in the GMS; and partnership with the Mekong Business Initiative in spearheading of innovation and promotion of technology through the Mekong Agri-Tech Challenge. The GMS Leaders in their 6th Summit Joint Declaration have recognized the program's achievements and contributions in addressing poverty, reaching marginalized groups, and increasing the extent of inclusive development.
4. The WGA recognizes the directives from the 6th GMS Leaders' Summit in March 2018 and the Ha Noi Action Plan (HAP) 2018-2022 adopted by the meeting. To support the HAP, the Regional Investment Framework 2022 was formulated to include the agriculture projects from the newly-endorsed SASRAP as well as from other GMS sector strategies. The focus now is on prioritizing and operationalizing of the action plan in SASRAP. The WGA AM-15 discussed the country action plans as identified during the strategy development and proposed recommendations to move the countries to joint actions as a unified GMS unit. The WGA AM-15 agreed that the WGA Coordinators will serve as contact point who will coordinate the updating and reporting on the progress of the RIF projects.
5. Cambodia, PRC and Lao PDR agreed to move forward the RIF project on animal disease control zone and request for ADB assistance in preparing the concept note by end of 2018.
6. Based on the preliminary assessment of the Siem Reap Action Plan implementation status in year 1, the WGA fully commits to the immediate implementation of the SASRAP. The countries with support from the WGA Secretariat will move forward the priority areas during year 1 of the strategy implementation. (Refer to the strategy document page 37). The WGA AM-

15 highlighted the importance of holding a workshop in June 2018. The WGA Secretariat will communicate with the WGA as to the modalities of the proposed workshop.

7. The WGA fully supports the follow on technical assistance (TA) that will support the implementation of the SASRAP and will lead the mobilization of resources to ensure that successful pilots, incubation work, collaboration with the private sector and other GMS sector working groups can be taken forward. The follow on TA will provide a platform to take these initiatives forward and further strengthen the WGA as an institution taking the leadership in coordinating GMS activities related to safe and environment-friendly agro-based value chains.

8. The WGA is pleased to acknowledge the delivery of a number of notable knowledge products under CASP2 and the completion of the development phase of the GMS Agriculture Information Network Services v2.0.

9. The WGA deeply appreciates the support provided by co-financing partners: the Government of Sweden, the Nordic Development Fund, the Water Financing Partnership Facility and the ADB, and looks forward to their further support to successfully implement the SASRAP. The WGA will continue to explore synergies and complementarities with other development and implementing partners and private sector's work in the region to maximize development effectiveness.

10. The WGA extends its gratitude to the PRC Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs for hosting and organizing the WGA AM-15. The meeting acknowledges the PRC General Administration of Customs' participation in the WGA AM-15.

11. Finally, the WGA thanks the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for accepting to host the WGA AM-16 in 2019.

Endorsed in Pu'er, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China on 30 May 2018.
