



Greater Mekong  
Subregion  
Sustainable  
Agriculture & Food  
Security Program



# ADB TA-9916: GMS Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Program

## WORKSHOP: COVID-19 FOOD SECURITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS IN THE GMS

### BACKGROUND AND AGENDA

Wednesday 1 September 2021 / 9:00 – 15:30 (BKK time, GMT+7) / Virtual (via Zoom)

#### Background

At a regional dialogue in June 2020 on post-pandemic agricultural recovery the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Working Group in Agriculture (WGA) requested that the ADB provide targeted support to assist the GMS agricultural sector recovery from the pandemic. The Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Program (TA 9916) will contribute to the ADB assistance to the COVID-19 agricultural sector response, and assist to promote GMS wide cooperation in the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

Click [here](#) to **register in advance** for the Zoom meeting.

Meeting login details:

**Webinar ID:** 955 2703 0172

**Passcode:** AdBta9916

The expected **impact** of the TA 9916 is: 'GMS vision of being a leading supplier of safe and climate-friendly agri-food products realized'. The **outcome** of the TA is: 'GMS investments in and capacity for climate-friendly, safe, and sustainable agri-food value chains increased'. The TA has three **outputs**: (1) COVID-19, Climate-friendly, inclusive, and gender-responsive agri-food value chains and agribusinesses strengthened; (2) Harmonized crop and livestock safety and quality systems adopted; and (3) Climate-adaptive agriculture in the context of the water-energy-food security nexus enhanced. ADB is the executing agency for the TA. The GMS WGA, in collaboration with relevant departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and other ministries (e.g., commerce, environment, finance, industry, science and technology, trade), will oversee the implementation of the TA.

During the TA 9916 inception from December to May 2021 a comprehensive survey of COVID-19 policy responses and actions in each of the six GMS countries was undertaken. The initial findings from the survey were presented at the TA 9916 Inception Workshop in May 2021. Further survey work was undertaken during June and July 2021 that has contributed to the TA 9916 Knowledge Product 1: COVID-19 Response and Recovery Experience in the GMS. This **COVID-19 Workshop** presents the first Knowledge Product (KP1) of this TA, offering an up-to-date overview of COVID-19 risks and responses and their implications for agri-food value chains around the GMS.

The purpose of this dissemination exercise is to inform national counterparts and relevant public and private stakeholders, soliciting their insights and comments to adapt KP1 and TA implementation strategy to local needs. Thus revised and improved, KP1 will be released for public information and used as a basis for COVID-19 advisory services targeted to four GMS economies.

The COVID-19 workshop will also provide the opportunity for donor partners, regional organizations, agribusinesses, and GMS government departments to contribute their COVID-19 response and recovery experience and lessons.



## Objectives

1. To present the TA 9916 **Knowledge Product 1: COVID-19 Food Security Response and Recovery Actions in the GMS** for stakeholder review and feedback, and
2. To facilitate inclusive, transparent, and robust sub-regional policy dialog on meeting the challenges COVID-19 presents for agri-food value chains, with special emphasis on livelihoods and food security.

## Target participants

- GMS WGA representatives
- Technical department representatives from all GMS Ministries of Agriculture, responsible for COVID-19 policy responses and actions
- Departments from other Ministries involved with COVID-19 policy responses and actions
- Private sector (agribusiness) representatives
- Development partner representatives
- Regional organizations
- ADB
- TA 9916 consultant team

## Expected outputs

1. Improved understanding of shared COVID-19 challenges to sub-regional national livelihoods and food security, and
2. Contribution, commitment, and support more determined policy dialog and coordination on managing COVID-19 risks to subregional agri-food value chains, and
3. Shared experience and lessons of agri-food sector policies and actions to support farmers and agribusinesses.

## Agenda

The virtual inception workshop will be conducted in **English** language. The workshop program is presented below:

Date / Time (GMT+7)	Subject	Presenter / TA / Country
<b>Wednesday, 1 September 2021</b>		
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome and Meeting Guidelines	<b>Ms. Kristina Reyes</b> , Meeting Facilitator
09:10 – 09:15	Introduction	<b>Dr. Srinivasan Ancha</b> , Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB
<b>Session 1: GMS COVID-19 Food Security Response and Recovery Actions</b>		
09:15 – 09:45	Keynote Presentation: COVID-19 Food Security Response and Recovery Actions	<b>Dr. David Roland-Holst</b> , TA 9916 Post-Pandemic Agricultural Response and Recovery Specialist
09:45 – 10:45	Panel Discussion: COVID-19 Response and Recovery Experience in the GMS	Facilitator: <b>Mr. Stewart Pittaway</b> , TA 9916 Team Leader <b>Mr. Mak Mony</b> , Director, Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Cambodia <b>Ms. Hu Xinmei</b> , Deputy Division Director (Acting Director), Division of Foreign Exchange and Cooperation, Yunnan Dept Agriculture and Rural Affairs, PRC <b>Dr. Phommy Inthihack</b> , Deputy Director General, Dept Planning and Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Lao PDR

		<p><b>Ms. Benjawan Siribhodi</b>, Expert on International Agricultural Economics Policy, Office of Agricultural Economics, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), Thailand</p> <p><b>Dr Nguyen Anh Phong</b>, Director, Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Viet Nam</p>
<b>Session 2: GMS Regional Cooperation COVID-19 Response</b>		
10:45 – 11:40	Donor Partners and Regional Organisations: Initiatives and Experience	<p>Facilitator: <b>Dr. David Roland-Holst</b></p> <p>ADB: <b>Ms. Michiko Katagami</b>, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist</p> <p>IFAD: <b>Mr. Nguyen Thanh Tung</b>, Country Program Officer</p> <p>FAO: <b>Mr. Ilean Russell</b>, Senior Policy Officer</p> <p>Grow Asia: <b>Mr. Reginald Lee</b>, Director Programs</p>
11:40 – 12:00	Question and Answer Session	Facilitator: <b>Dr. David Roland-Holst</b>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break	
<b>Session 3: GMS Agri-Food Markets and Value Chains – Response Experience</b>		
13:00 – 13:45	Country and Agribusinesses	<p>Facilitator: <b>Mr. Stewart Pittaway</b>, TA 9916 Team Leader</p> <p><b>Mr. Nguyen Quang Hieu</b>, Director, International Cooperation, Plant Protection Department/ Member of Working Group 970 on Covid responsiveness in the South, Ministry of agriculture and Rural Development</p> <p><b>Ms. Jutarat Pattanatorn</b>, Head of Quality Services, Siam MAKRO, Thailand</p> <p><b>Mr. Thai Rithy</b>, General Manager, Natural Garden, Cambodia</p>
13:45 – 14:00	Question and Answer Session	Facilitator: <b>Mr. Stewart Pittaway</b> , TA 9916 Team Leader
<b>Session 4: Concluding Comments</b>		
14:00 – 14:30	<b>Food Summit Statement: Comments</b>	<b>Dr. Srinivasan Ancha</b> , Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB
14:30 – 15:00	<b>Final Expressions: COVID-19: Support Priorities</b>	<p>Facilitator: <b>Mr. Stewart Pittaway</b></p> <p><b>H.E. Dr. Prum Somany</b>, Advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) / Director, Department of International Cooperation / WGA Coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Cambodia</p> <p><b>Ms. Liu Xiangzhou</b>, Level 4 Investigator (Deputy Director level), Division of Asian and African Affairs, Department of International Cooperation, MARA and <b>Ms. Zhang Bin</b>, Associate Researcher, Asia Regional Cooperation Division / WGA Focal Point, Foreign Economic Cooperation Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), PRC</p> <p><b>Dr. Thatsaka Saphangthong</b>, Director General, Department of Policy and Legal Affairs / WGA Coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Lao PDR</p> <p><b>Dr. Vanida Khumnirdpetch</b>, Director, Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs, Office of the Permanent Secretary/ WGA Coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand</p> <p><b>Mr. Nguyen Thanh Dam</b>, Head of Multilateral Cooperation Division / WGA Focal Point, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Viet Nam</p>
15:00-15:15	<b>Next Steps and Conclusion:</b>	<b>Mr. Stewart Pittaway</b> , TA 9916 Team Leader