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ចែករំលែកចំណេះដឹងដើម្បីជម្រុញ
ការអភិវឌ្ឍវិស័យដំណាំបន្លែ

Regional Vegetable Forum 2018
 Sharing knowledge to promote
 development of the vegetable sector

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**Innovations of production and supply
 chain systems for improved
 off-season vegetable**





OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

- Share knowledge to promote innovative technology in production and supply chain systems to improve quality and productivity, especially off-season vegetables
- Forge networks between public, NGO and private sector professionals in the regions for future communication and collaboration
- Form a process and structure for creating this event annually

Innovations of production and supply chain systems for improved off-season vegetable

The vegetable sector is becoming more of a focus for research, development and the private sector in Southeast Asia due to the high nutritional and economical value that can be generated. However, the sector faces key challenges including (1) low average yields of vegetable production in many places; (2) poor competitiveness within the region as well as outside the region; (3) postharvest losses as high as 40%; (4) produce that does not conform to quality and safety demands of consumers; (5) and problems meeting market demand during the wet season.

Vegetable production is concentrated mostly in the dry season, when producers take advantage of more suitable climatic conditions, and often conventional and relatively simple techniques can be used to grow vegetables. Improving off-season (wet season) production potentially helps farmers take benefits of higher prices and fill production gaps, but it does require different technical applications to manage production, postharvest handling and market access. Many research, development and private sector partners have been working on techniques to develop innovative production and supply chain systems that enable the vegetable industry to meet consumer demand year-round.

A forum was held in 2017 with the focus on 'Fostering a safe and sustainable vegetable sector'. The more technical aspects of production as well as supply chain systems were identified as topics of interest at the previous event, and it is timely to bring together key stakeholders to share research and development results for improving off-season vegetable production and quality.

The regional vegetable forum 2018, as a part of this series of events, has been again initiated by the ACIAR project ASEM/2012/081 – Improving market engagement, postharvest management and productivity of the Cambodian and Lao PDR vegetable industries. The theme of this forum is '**Innovations of production and supply chain system for improved off-season vegetable**'.

This forum is proudly sponsored by Agroecology Learning Alliance in South East Asia (GRET/ALiSEA), Life With Dignity (LWD), World Vision International Cambodia (WVI-C), DanChurchAid (DCA), Banteay Srei, Cambodian Horticulture Quality (CHQ of Plant and Food Research PFR) New Zealand, Oxfam, Caritas Cambodia, World Renew, and Anakot Kumar (AK). The ACIAR project ASEM/2012/081 is the collaboration between the University of Adelaide, Charles Sturt University, Department of Primary Industry NSW, General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA), Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), iDE global, SNV, National University of Laos (NUOL), National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute Lao PDR (NAFRI) and Clean Agricultural Development Centre (CADC).



About the program

The forum will cover a range of issues related to off-season vegetable production and improved quality, including innovative production techniques, postharvest practices and market access. It will allow stakeholders to showcase research and experiences, and raise awareness among policy makers, researchers and commercial partners. It will build links for regional stakeholders across the vegetable industry, fostering trans-disciplinary approaches to vegetable production within the farming system. Throughout the event, there will be an exhibition of posters and displays highlighting the many organisations, projects and initiatives involved in the development of the vegetable sector. A forum handbook will be published which summarises the many programs and projects being undertaken and will provide a reference for developing further collaborations within the region.

This forum will be held on the **7th September 2018** at **Cambodiana Hotel**. The event will look to share knowledge of innovative production systems for off-season vegetable and include an overview of trialled low cost, high performing protective cropping systems and other production innovations, planting methods, irrigation and nutrition, and disease and pest management. The latest studies, lesson learned, and/or research of innovative technologies for off-season vegetable in the region including postharvest handling and management and market access will be shared as the part of the supply chain system. The program will consist of the interactive panels discussion about how the innovative technologies both production and supply chain systems could transfer or share within the vegetable industry in the region. A casual networking forum dinner/cocktails drinks will be hosted at the end of the forum giving participants opportunities to develop connections with agribusiness, agricultural development agents, government actors and research institutes regionally.

You are cordially invited to attend the evening event starting at 6.30 PM.

Future forums

This forum is part of a program facilitated by the ACIAR project ASEM/2012/081 'Improving market engagement, postharvest management and productivity of the Cambodian and Lao PDR vegetable industries'. The program aims to identify key needs within the vegetable sector and develop opportunities for stakeholders to meet, network and collaborate for the benefit of all participants in the vegetable supply chain.

Subsequent forums can address the key issues raised by participants and aim to foster a regional focus, where appropriate. Events allow stakeholders to showcase research and experiences, raising awareness among policy makers, researchers and commercial partners. Importantly, these forums will help to build links for regional stakeholders across the vegetable sector, fostering communications, collaborations and trans-disciplinary approaches to vegetable production within the farming system.

All stakeholders in the region are invited to support and/or be involved in future events.

Suggested program			
When	Theme	Location	Focal topic
7 th Sept 2018	Innovations of production and supply chain systems for improved off-season vegetable	Phnom Penh, Cambodian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing protective cropping systems in different structural forms • Planting techniques • Integrated pest and disease management • Irrigation and nutrition • Innovative supply chain management • postharvest practices and market access
Mar 2019 TBC	Supporting effective engagement in developing vegetable sectors (proposed)	Vientiane, Laos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking the chain- Suppliers, producers, traders and policy markers • Capacity development • Marketing vegetable in the region



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Contacts

Dr Sonnthida Sambath	sonnthida@gmail.com	+855 99 886 885	Cambodia
Ms Heang Chanthou	hgapline@yahoo.com	+855 77 833 386	Cambodia
Dr Thongkhon Sisaphaithoung	Thongkhounhrc1@gmail.com		Laos