

## WGA-5 MEETING



22-24 September 2008  
Vientiane, Lao PDR



### PROGRAM AND AGENDA

**Meeting Objectives:** (i) to identify priority strategic interventions in subregional agricultural cooperation that address critical food security, energy security, and climate change concerns; (ii) to review and refocus WGA's work program towards speedy implementation of priority initiatives under the Core Agriculture Support Program as an integral component of the Vientiane Plan of Action; and (iii) to catalyze support from development partners to implement CASP initiatives.

#### 22 September 2008, Monday

<b>10:30 AM-12:00 NN</b>	<b>Closed WGA Executive Session (ADB, WGA Delegates and selected Development Partners)</b> Venue: Plaza Hall (Mezzanine Floor)  The closed executive session will discuss the proposed RETA on Accelerating the Implementation of the CASP. ADB, WGA delegates and selected development partners will discuss the RETA's key components.
<b>12:00 NN-1:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch (WGA-5 Participants)</b> Venue: Dok Champa Restaurant (Ground Floor)
<b>1:00-1:30 PM</b>	<b>Registration</b> Venue of WGA-5: Grand Ballroom (Lobby Floor)
<b>1:30-2:00 PM</b>	<b>Opening Session</b>  <b>Welcome Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Phouangparisak Pravongviengkham, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR</li></ul>

	<p><b>Introduction and Agenda Setting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Urooj S. Malik, Director, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB</li> </ul> <p><b>Delegates' Group Photo</b></p>
	<p><b>Session 1: Significant Developments in the Core Agriculture Support Program (CASP)</b></p> <p>This session will revisit the CASP components and review status and achievements by component. Also to be discussed are the relevant steps that the WGA should take in the context of implementing the CASP and refining/refocusing WGA's work program. The key components to be covered under this session are the Rural Renewable Energy Initiative, Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology (Biotechnology and Biosafety), Agriculture Information Network Service (AINS), and Transboundary Animal Disease Control (TADs).</p>
<p><b>2:00-2:15 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Session 1.A: Updates on the CASP Priority Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Marilou Drilon, Natural Resources Economist, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Drilon will present directives of the Third GMS Summit relating to agriculture as contained in the Joint Summit Declaration, particularly on CASP priority projects included in the Vientiane Plan of Action that the GMS Leaders endorsed. She will also discuss developments in the effort to implement the CASP priority projects in the context of mobilizing external resources. A summary of concept papers and proposals for donor funding submitted by national consultants from GMS member countries and other CASP updates will be presented.</p>
<p><b>2:15-3:15 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Panel Discussion on CASP Projects</b></p> <p>The panel discussion will focus on current status and forward-looking directions for cooperation regarding ongoing CASP projects. Discussants are given 10 minutes each to discuss their assigned topic, followed by open forum to draw additional insights from WGA and development partners to ensure successful project implementation.</p> <p><b>I. Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology: Forward Look and Implementation Plan (10-minute presentation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Nizar Mohamed, ADB Consultant</li> </ul>

	<p>Dr. Mohamed will give a recap of the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology: Biotechnology and Biosafety. He will discuss the next steps to implement the Strategy and Action Plan, the resources required, including related financial arrangements.</p> <p><b>II. Agriculture Information Network Service (10-minute presentation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Wensheng Wang, Deputy Director General, Agriculture Information Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science, PRC</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Wang will discuss the status of the AINS, future operational requirements, including technical and financial requirements to ensure successful project operation and sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussant: Mr. Ian Makin, Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB</li> </ul> <p><b>III. Transboundary Animal Disease Control (10-minute presentation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Subhash Morzaria, Chief Technical Adviser, FAO</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Morzaria will discuss the thrusts, features, and components of Phase 2 of the regional technical assistance on TAD control co-financed by PRC and ADB. Project updates since approval in March 2007 and next steps will be discussed.</p>
<b>3:15-3:45 PM</b>	<b>Open Forum</b>
<b>3:45-4:00 PM</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>4:00-4:20 PM</b>	<p><b>Session 1.B: Prospects for Renewable Energy in Rural GMS: Regional Strategic Framework for Rural Renewable Energy (RRE) Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Mercedita Sombilla, ADB Consultant</li> </ul> <p>The presentation will cover an overview of the global energy security trend and concerns, discuss implications on the agricultural sector, and suggest some options for a collective response for WGA to consider as part of its work program. It will also present findings of the GMS RRE study. The draft Strategic Framework on Rural Renewable Energy Development will also be presented for</p>

	endorsement, including suggested key projects and activities to implement the RRE development framework.
<b>4:20-4:40 PM</b>	<p><b>Global/Regional Biofuel Modeling (G/RBM) Study: Findings and Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Huanguang Qiu, ADB Consultant</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Qiu will present the findings and recommendations of the impact assessment study on biofuel development in the GMS. He will discuss the next courses of action for subregional cooperation that WGA could consider as part of the work program for the CASP.</p>
<b>4:40-5:00 PM</b>	<p><b>Panel Discussion on Rural Renewable Energy Development</b></p> <p>The panel discussion will focus on issues and options for RRE development and specific initiatives of FAO and ADB (10-minute presentation for each discussant).</p> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Andreas VonBrant, Project Coordinator, FAO</li> <li>• Mr. Mahfuz Ahmed, Senior Agricultural Economist, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB</li> </ul>
<b>5:00-5:15 PM</b>	<p><b>Wrap-up and Synthesis of Day 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Urooj Malik, Director, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB</li> </ul>
<b>6:30- 8:30 PM</b>	<p><b>Welcome Dinner hosted by ADB</b> Venue: May Hall (Mezzanine Floor)</p>
<b>23 September 2008, Tuesday</b>	
	<p><b>Session 2: GMS Economic Corridors: Cross-border Challenges and Opportunities for Agriculture</b></p> <p>The session will feature selected presentations and discussions on emerging challenges and opportunities for cross-border agriculture trade arising from increased physical connectivity in the GMS. Issues for WGA to consider, implications for food security, poverty reduction, and the environment, and</p>

	<p>future implementation of related CASP projects (including those on cross-border contract farming, regional food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, and demand and supply of key agriculture products and cross-border agriculture resource and market information system) will also be discussed, and potential areas for development partner interventions identified. An open forum follows the presentations.</p>
<p><b>9:00-9:30 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Agriculture Nexus in Accelerating GMS Economic Corridor Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ronald Antonio Q. Butiong, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, Southeast Asia Department, ADB</li> </ul> <p>The presentation will include (i) the economic corridor approach as one of the main platforms for subregional cooperation and development in the GMS; (ii) key developments arising from the Third GMS Summit concerning the establishment of an Economic Corridors Forum; and (iii) opportunities for harnessing the economic corridors for agriculture development, as well as for using agriculture to enhance economic activities and complement the broader priorities for the corridors as integrated centers of economic activity in the GMS.</p>
<p><b>9:30-10:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Cross-Border Contract Farming and Market Facilitation for the Poor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Sununtar Setboonsarng, Senior Research Fellow, ADBI</li> </ul> <p>The presentation will cover issues and opportunities for cross-border agriculture trade and investment. Also, status and findings of cross-country studies on contract farming conducted by ADBI will be presented.</p>
<p><b>10:00-10:30 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
<p><b>10:30-11:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Operationalizing the Economic Corridor Development Agenda: A Case of Lao PDR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Atsuko Toda, Country Programme Manager, Asia and Pacific Division, Program Management Department, IFAD</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:00-11:30 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Open Forum</b></p>
<p><b>11:30 AM-1:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> Venue: Dok Champa Restaurant (Ground Floor)</p>

	<p><b>Session 3: Food Security and Climate Change: Strategic Directions and WGA Response</b></p> <p>This session will review recent global and regional issues on food security, discuss implications on agricultural policy, exchange ideas on regional cooperation opportunities presented by the prevailing food crisis, and agree on concrete steps to be pursued as WGA’s collective response. The session will be composed of two parts.</p> <p>The first part will make room for an intervening GMS Development Dialogue (GDD) on Food Security. The GDD is a separate event organized under the Phnom Penh Plan for Development Management. Although intended as a separate and distinct event from the WGA-5 Agenda and Program, the GDD is seen as an important platform for generating fresh ideas on meaningful individual and collective responses to address the food security challenge. Highlights of the GDD will be presented and discussed at the WGA-5 meeting as inputs to the working group’s deliberations on the next steps to be taken to address food security concerns within the context of the CASP.</p> <p>The second part will focus on climate change, its impact and implications on subregional agricultural cooperation, and subregional priority initiatives to respond to the threats of climate change including natural disaster management.</p>
<p><b>1:30 PM</b></p>	<p>WGA Participants invited to the GMS Development Dialogue will assemble at the hotel lobby for transport to ADB Lao Resident Mission. Assembly time starts at 1:15 PM and shuttle leaves at 1:30 PM.</p> <p>Rest of WGA-5 participants will join a separate group for a field trip to selected sites in Vientiane for the remainder of the afternoon. Assembly time at 1:15 PM at the hotel lobby and shuttle leaves at 1:30 PM. Mr. Phouangphet Ketkeo of the host country Lao PDR will coordinate the field trip.</p>
<p><b>2:00-5:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>GMS Development Dialogue (GDD) on Food Security: A Phnom Penh Plan for Development Management Event</b> (By Invitation Only) (Venue: ADB Lao Resident Mission)</p> <p>The GMS Development Dialogue (GDD) is an activity under the Phnom Penh Plan for Development Management (PPP) --- a capacity building project under the framework of the GMS Economic Cooperation Program. It provides a platform for a cross-sectoral debate on development issues among government, academe, private sector, civil society organizations, and media to help decision makers appreciate the wider implications of policy choices. The GDD on Food Security will</p>

	<p>discuss, among others: (i) the emergence of food security as a global concern; (ii) anticipated impacts of food security on the GMS; (iii) implications for agricultural policy; and (iv) the role of regional cooperation in responding to the food security challenge. A separate Program for the GDD will be issued by the PPP secretariat.</p>
<p><b>24 September 2008, Wednesday</b></p>	
<p><b>9:00-9:30 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Highlights of the GMS Development Dialogue on Food Security</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Urooj Malik, Director, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB</li> </ul>
<p><b>9:30-10:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Climate Change and Food Security: Threats and Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Javed Mir, Principal Natural Resources Management Specialist, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB</li> </ul> <p>The presentation will give an overview of the threats of climate change to the GMS, discuss the impacts on the agriculture sector as well as the opportunities for subregional collaboration to mitigate the risks of climate change, and present agriculture-relevant initiatives. The presentation will discuss how food security can become a bigger issue as a result of climate change effects like floods, drought, and temperature and ecological changes. Response and adaptation mechanisms, such as new cropping systems, will be highlighted.</p>
<p><b>10:00-10:30 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
<p><b>10:30-11:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Issues and Prospects for Improved Rice Productivity and Food Security in the GMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Sushil Pandey, Senior Scientist, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Pandey will discuss the institution's strategic response to the challenge of improved rice productivity in light of unprecedented rise in the price of rice and other grains. Presentation will discuss how to reposition rice productivity in ensuring food security, the prospects and opportunities for subregional cooperation to improve the rice productivity outlook, in light of climate change effects and the prevailing fuel crisis which affect agricultural productivity and food security, and CGIAR projects (e.g. those on post-harvest technology) which are relevant to promoting food security.</p>

<p><b>11:00-11:30 AM</b></p>	<p><b>FAO's Initiatives on Soaring Food Prices and Response to the Rome High-Level Conference Declaration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Simmathiri Appanah, National Forestry Programme Advisor, FAO</li> </ul> <p>The presentation will provide an overview of the programme called Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) in line with the declaration of the Rome High-Level Conference in June 2008.</p>
<p><b>11:30AM-12:00 NN</b></p>	<p><b>Open Forum</b></p>
<p><b>12:00NN-1:30 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> Venue: Dok Champa Restaurant (Ground Floor)</p>
<p><b>1:30-2:30 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Response and Strategies of GMS countries on Food Security and Climate Change Issues</b></p> <p>Country delegations are encouraged to share their country strategies and experiences in addressing food security and climate change concerns affecting the agriculture sector. Individual country presentations of not more than 10 minutes are invited. The countries are advised to prepare in advance a one page summary of their statements/presentations.</p>
	<p><b>Session 4: WGA and CASP: Next Steps</b></p> <p>This session will recap on the strategic outlook for the implementation of CASP priority projects, including the financing gaps for which development partner support is critical. The discussion will draw fresh insights from WGA and interventions from interested development partners on specific topics of collaboration under the CASP for which co-financing could be identified.</p>
<p><b>2:30-3:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed New RETA: Accelerating the Implementation of the CASP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Marilou Drilon, Natural Resources Economist, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB</li> </ul> <p>The presentation will cover key components of the new RETA to implement the CASP priority projects in the Vientiane Plan of Action (identified by GMS countries) with no identified financing source will be discussed. Development partners will be invited to share their insights on areas/components relevant to their work programs and which could potentially be areas for donor funding. Co-chairs will facilitate the discussion on concrete measures to be taken to facilitate implementation of the CASP priority projects, taking into account the insights</p>

	from the earlier discussions on food security, climate change, and energy security.
<b>3:00-3:30 PM</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>3:30-4:15 PM</b>	<p><b>Interventions from Development Partners</b></p> <p>Development partners are invited to give statements and indications of their interest to participate in and/or support specific CASP initiatives through the new RETA or other suitable arrangements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● IFAD</li> <li>● FAO</li> <li>● Finland</li> <li>● Other partners</li> </ul>
<b>4:15-4:30 PM</b>	<p><b>Other Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Agreement on the tentative schedule and venue of WGA-6.</li> </ul>
<b>4:30-4:45 PM</b>	<b>Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs</b>