



គ្រឹះស្ថានប្រជាជនសម្រាប់ការអភិវឌ្ឍ
 The NGO Forum on Cambodia
 ធ្វើការរួមគ្នាដើម្បីការប្រសើរឡើងវិញ
 Working Together for Positive Change



THE NGO FORUM ON CAMBODIA AND CARD

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 6 November

MAJOR FORUM ADDRESSES CLIMATE CHANGE & FOOD SECURITY

Today over 400 representatives of civil society, Government, academy and farmer organisations met in Phnom Penh to help smallholder farmers in Cambodia adapt to climate change and address food security.

The NGO Forum on Cambodia, the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development and other NGOs organised the 3rd Annual National Farmers Forum to seek solutions to these pressing concerns. Government, academy, farmers and grass roots civil society organisations will all participate in bringing forward ideas and solutions over two days.

H E Yim Chai Ly, Deputy Prime Minister, addressed the gathering and outlined the Government's approach to food security.

RGC has created the Strategic Framework for Food Security (SFFNSN 2008-12) to support farmers. Focussing on the agriculture, water resource and health sectors, the document has listed five key objectives: 1) improving food availability; 2) improving food access; 3) improving usage and utilization of food; 4) increasing the reliability of food supply; and 5) enhancing the institutional and policy environment to improve food security and nutrition in Cambodia.

Mr Chhith Sam Ath, Executive Director of NGO Forum, said that it was vital to share expertise and seek new ways of addressing climate change and food security:

“Climate change is a cross-cutting issue affecting all of the sectors in Cambodia. In particular, the agriculture sector will be significantly affected by climate change. Smallholder farmers in rural areas are especially vulnerable, as floods and droughts cause unprecedented damage to food production”, he said.

The floods of 2011 were the worst to hit Cambodia in decades, affecting 1.5 million people, inundating about 400,000 hectares of cultivated land, killing 250 people and causing estimated losses of US\$ 520 million.

Mr Sam Ath also launched a new publication by The NGO Forum, **Impacts of Climate Change on Rice Production in Cambodia**. Rice is Cambodia's most important crop, occupying 84% of the country's total cultivated land. Rice output in Cambodia is directly correlated with climate variations, especially floods.

The study discusses how floods and droughts, two serious impacts of climate change, affect rice production. It recommends a number of strategies for the agriculture sector to help it cope with climate change. These include, education in new agricultural techniques and new varieties of rice crops which are more resistant to floods and droughts; rice banks, and community rice insurance schemes; climate forecasting for farmers, and more reservoirs and canals around houses.



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ក្រុមស្រាវជ្រាវមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល កម្ពុជា
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Representatives from several key Government agencies, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, Water Resources and Meteorology, Ministry of Rural Development, National Committee for Disaster Management, Ministry of Environment and the Council for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) are all speaking at the Forum. NGOs and farmer groups will also address the attendees.



Recommendations will be put forward to the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) and SFFSNS (2018-12).



In 2011, the Council for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) conducted a review in consultation with relevant stakeholders such as government agencies, development partners, and NGOs. The review found there has been considerable progress in the agricultural sector: intensification and diversification of agriculture is progressing, the country has become largely self-sufficient in its food production at the national level, and farmers produced a paddy rice surplus in 2010-11.



However, many challenges remain. Local food availability and access remains very vulnerable to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change, and there is a lack of needed cooperation between Ministries.



The farmer organisations present at the Forum include the Cambodian Farmers' Association and the Farmer Nature Network (FNN), covering several thousand farmers between them.



Topics covered during the Forum include: impacts, challenges and constraints of climate change on food security; proposed solutions to problems identified, and linkages between food security and the Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition in Cambodia and the Cambodian Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP).



H E Srun Darith, Deputy Secretary General of CARD, will on Wednesday present a Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition in Cambodia, and its linkages to social protection policies. He will outline the challenges to implementation of the framework.



The 3rd Annual National Farmer Forum will continue on Wednesday 7th November, at the Koh Pech Centre (E) in Phnom Penh.



Organisers are the NGO Forum on Cambodia, CARD, Caritas-Cambodia, CRS, Oxfam, JCCI, World Vision Cambodia, Action Aid, HKI, CAFOD, FINN Church Aid, LWD, Srei Khmer, Padek and CEDAC.



Media are welcome to attend.



MEDIA CONTACT: Mr Chhith Sam Ath, NGO Forum, 012 928 585