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Identify Food Safety Needs in Cambodia



MI's Food Safety Project (MI-FSP) team met with food safety key stakeholders from June 14-15, 2016 to explore opportunities for cooperation and consult them about development activities to address Cambodia's priority food safety needs.

With support from the New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP), this project aims to help food safety policy makers in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) create an enabling food environment which is connected to the private sector, and matches their needs and market aspirations.

[More >>](#)

■ TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

Launch of EU-Switch-Asia Project

MI signed the Partnership Agreement between MI-GIZ and GMS-FRETA for the EU-Switch-Asia Project implementation on June 2, 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, and entered into a grant contract for implementing the project on "Sustainable Freight Transport and Logistics in the Mekong Region."



[More >>](#)

Exploring Food Safety Needs in Lao PDR

MI's Food Safety Project (MI-FSP) team has met with key food safety stakeholders in Vientiane, Lao PDR from June 8-9, 2016. During the visit, various mid-to senior-level government officials, including those from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) met with MI representatives separately to discuss ways of implementing capacity development activities that will address the food safety needs of Lao PDR. [More >>](#)



Sustainable Rural Development

The five-day regional training program on Sustainable Rural Development was organized on June 13-17, 2016 at MI. Attended by 17 participants from Thailand and Lao PDR, the program is part of a series of trainings sponsored by Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD).



[More >>](#)

■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Dissemination Workshop on Cooperative Formation



The dissemination workshop on Cooperative Formation was held at the Department of Industrial and Commerce (DIC) on June 8, 2016 by PAFO (Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office) with support from MI and SNV (Netherlands Development Organization). The workshop was to disseminate information on cooperative formation. 46 government officials and six participants from the private sectors attended and shared their views and experiences.

2nd Series Training on GAP at Ban Phak Etou, Nongbok District

The second series training on GAP was held on June 3-4, and 7, 2016 at the Ban Phak Etou, Nongbok District, Lao PDR. The training aimed to disseminate knowledge to 14 farmers both in theory and in practice. Farmers discussed the newly elected management team and also on the rules and regulations set up for the groups.



1st Series Training on Integrated Pests Management (IPM)



The first series training on IPM was conducted on June 21, 2016 at Nongping Village, Nhomlath District, Lao PDR to 27 farmers who have been group members of NhommalathTai, and Nongping villages. The training is one of the main curriculums on GAP and focuses on production techniques, integrated pests prevention and management to meet GAP standardization.

4th series training of GAP: Writing on Rules of Internal Control System Manual, Field Practice



The 4th series training of GAP on “Writing on Rules of Internal Control System Manual, Field Practice” was conducted on June 23-25, 2016 at meeting hall of PAFO.

26 participants from four villages, group management teams, Internal Control System (ICS) committees, and government staff from PAFO (Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office) and DAFO (District Agriculture and Forestry Office) attended the training. The main objective is to provide knowledge and coaching on how to write ICS standard manuals to government staff and ICS committee members.

Up-Scaling Innovative Practices in Myawaddy

To improve farmers’ capacity to grow maize cost-effectively, the project team introduced the Myawaddy farmers to interested input



companies on June 3-5, 2016. Three input companies (Seed Asia, Myanma Sanpya and Armo) participated. During the cropping season, input companies will share their recommended cultivation practices. In total there are currently eight acres of land in three villages growing the input companies’ products (seed and fertilizers) guided their practices.

■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Product Competition Awards 2015 Winter Season



The 2015 winter season product competition awards for maize farmers and extension workers was organized by RLED- EWEC Myanmar project team on June 19, 2016 to motivate and encourage the outstanding farmers and DOA staffs based on their performance and to attract more farmers to participate and extend maize growing areas during the next season. Seven maize growing farmers and five extension agents from DOA were selected as outstanding persons in maize promotion.

Ministers of the State Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Planning, Finance and Municipal attended the event and expressed their appreciation to the award recipients. They also commended the project for encouraging the maize sector development in Kayin State. 70 guests attended the Awards event.

Small-Scale Coffee Processors in Vietnam



To support the small-scale coffee processors in Huong Hoa in improving the quality of their coffee products, MI invited the Khe Sanh Coffee Association and small-scale coffee processors in the whole district of Huong Hoa for a meeting on June 3, 2016. The participants were able to identify their current problems and the root causes of them, as well as to propose appropriate solutions. The information collected at the meetings shed light on the development of new and innovative directions and strategies.

Training on Credit and Savings in Vietnam



A 3-day training on setting up and operating a credit and savings fund was provided to Huong Do farmer group on

June 17-19, 2016 to respond to their growing need for mobilizing internal financial resources to proactively invest in their coffee gardens. Core members of the farmer group of Huong Do attended and gained better understanding of how to utilize the funds.

■ WHAT' S NEW

Visit of Yunnan Traffic Technician College



The Yunnan Traffic Technician College (YTTC), led by Principal, Mr. Yang Jungyuan, visited MI on June 15, 2016

along with other delegates from Lancang River Xishuangbanna Port Management Association. MI Program Director, Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, and, MI staff warmly welcomed the delegates and briefed them about MI and its ongoing program activities.

CLMVT Forum 2016: Towards a Shared Prosperity



The Ministry of Commerce of Thailand, in collaboration with alliance agencies from both government and private sectors, organized the CLMVT Forum 2016 on June 16-18, 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. The forum's theme was "Towards a Shared Prosperity", and the event showcased the opportunities in the region as well as its development, advanced trade, investment and tourism, and future potential. The event also facilitate business networking along the CLMVT countries-Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand. [More>>](#)

■ WHAT' S NEW

Silk Road Forum at Warsaw, Poland

As one of the founding members of the Silk Road Think Tank Network (referred to as 'SiLKS'), MI's Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath and Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director of Trade and Investment Department attended the SiLKS Annual Meeting and the Silk Road Forum held on June 20-21, 2016 in Warsaw, Poland. The forum was inaugurated by President XI Jinping of PR China. [More>>](#)



The 6th EWEC Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting



The 6th Project Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional and Local Economic Development on East West Economic Corridor Project was held at Mekong Institute in Khon

Kaen province, Thailand on June 28, 2016. The objectives of meeting were to share updates about project progress in the last six months and results from the mid-term review. The meeting received useful feedbacks and recommendations from all the participants.

Visit of Mawlamyine University

Six faculty members of Mawlamyine University, Myanmar, visited Mekong Institute on June 29, 2016.

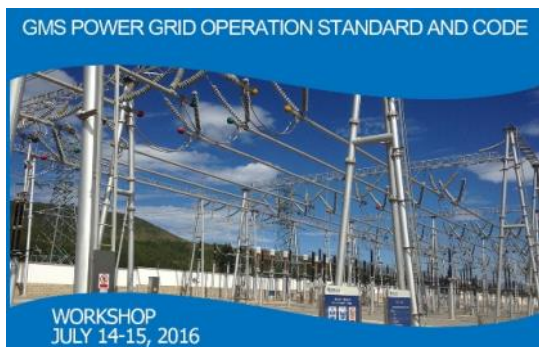
They were accompanied by the Center for the Khon Kaen University Civil Society and Nonprofit Management. The guests were welcomed by MI Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath who gave a brief background presentation on MI and its role in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.



■ UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Dissemination Workshop in Kunming	July 1
The Fourth Batch of Training of Trainers on International Trade Law	July 4-7
Workshop on GMS Power Grid Operation Standard and Code	July 14-15
Awareness workshop for senior officials on AEC – Policy Makers	July

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