



**MEKONG
INSTITUTE**

PROGRAM INFORMATION

**REGIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ON
TARGETED POVERTY ALLEVIATION
AND STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY
IN THE LANCANG-MEKONG COUNTRIES**

APRIL - AUGUST, 2023



**SUPPORTED BY
THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF P.R. CHINA**



Regional Training Program

Targeted Poverty Alleviation and Strengthening Food Security in the Lancang-Mekong Countries for Post-pandemic Recovery

Mekong Institute, Khon Kaen, Thailand | April 24-28, 2023

1. Background

Poverty and food security are intricately linked. Without income or resources to grow food, people experiencing poverty are vulnerable to high food prices resulting from external shocks like the ongoing pandemic and are prone to be chronically undernourished. Thus, reducing poverty is critical in policy development for food security. During COVID-19, the Lancang-Mekong (LM) Countries, Cambodia, P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam, have also developed targeted policies and measures to support vulnerable households. Despite the progress made in the sub-regional countries at varying degrees, poverty alleviation, and food security remains intertwined challenges to be tackled. In the CLMV countries, rural poverty and inequalities remain alarmingly prevalent.

Notably, the complications from the pandemic that severely hit the world for around three years caused a reversal in progress made in SDGs, including poverty and hunger-reduction. The ADB report mentioned that COVID-19 pushed 4.7 million more people in Southeast Asia into extreme poverty in 2021. Furthermore, the report FAO in 2022 also estimated that COVID-19 disruptions could drive an additional 13.6 million children into acute malnutrition. While there is no one-size-fits-all solution as a recovery model from the pandemic, it is recommended that all the countries work together and learn good practices from each other to weather the adversity of the crisis.

In continued support of global efforts in achieving sustainable development goals and regional cooperation, Mekong Institute (MI), funded by the People's Government of the People's Republic of China, is embarking on a regional learning program on "Targeted Poverty Alleviation and Strengthening Food Security in the Lancang-Mekong Countries for Post-pandemic Recovery". The learning program will include four (4) phases:

- Training in Khon Kaen, Thailand (April 24-28, 2023)
- Action Plan (May-August, 2023)
- Webinar (July 2023)
- Online Synthesis and Evaluation Workshop (August 2023).

2. Objectives

The project's ultimate goal is to contribute to regional cooperation in poverty alleviation and promoting food security through sharing good practices and lessons learned. It is expected that the participants will be able to

- Reflect on challenges and opportunities over poverty alleviation and food security in recovery efforts;
- Enhance the capacity of participants in developing two-prolonged approaches that could reduce poverty while promoting food security; and
- Identify the forward-looking recovery actions that could facilitate the resilience of national and regional food supply chains.



3. Contents of Regional Training (April 24-28, 2023)

Module 1: Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Food Security Governance in the Lancang-Mekong Countries

This module will articulate success stories and lessons learned in hunger reduction in the Lancang-Mekong Countries. The discussion will lead to the nature of sectors and stakeholders involved in food security governance. It will pay attention to national plans for recovery from the pandemic concerning building resilient food systems. The good practices and lessons learned will include utilizing innovative technologies and mainstreaming social inclusion in policies and measures.

Scope

- Food Security Governance in the Lancang-Mekong Countries
- Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Safeguarding Food Security
- Utilization of Innovative Technologies and Integration of Social Inclusion
- Resilient Recovery Plan for the Future of Food Security in the Lancang-Mekong Countries

Module 2: Strategic Food Security Programming

This module will examine the principles of food security programming in crises such as during the pandemic or natural disasters through a case study. It will introduce the tools for risk assessment, monitoring, and evaluating the programs. At the end of the inputs, the trainer will let the participants design the emergency food security interventions.

Scope

- Inter-Agency Coordination and Involvement in Food Security Programming
- Tools For Food Security Assessments
- Formulation of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Module 3: Action Plan Development

This module will expose participants to develop action plans which aim to disseminate the knowledge acquired from the training in their home countries.

Structured Learning Visits

The training will integrate the learning visits to the food security programs and projects in Khon Kaen, Thailand.

4. Target Participants

Twenty-Five (25) Participants: The target participants are government officials and representatives of academic institutes, businesses, and NGOs directly working on food security programs; rural development programs; and agriculture, livestock, and forestry sectors from Cambodia, P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.



5. Tentative Agenda

Day 1 (Monday, April 24, 2023)		
Time	Contents / Sessions	Resource Person/ Facilitator
08.30 – 09.00	Registration	MI
09.00 – 09.15	Welcome and Opening Remarks	MI
09.15 – 09.20	Group Photo	
09.20 – 10.15	Setting the Context <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Video Presentation – MI▪ MI Facilities and Course Introduction▪ Getting to Know Each Other	MI
10.15 – 10.30	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
10.30 – 12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Exploring Expectations▪ Training Norms▪ BOD▪ Pre-test	MI
12.00 – 13.30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
13.30 – 15.00	Module 1: Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Food Security Governance in the Lancang-Mekong Countries <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Food Security Governance in the Lancang-Mekong Countries	Dr. Yang Yong
15.00 – 15.15	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
15.15 – 16.45	Module 1: Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Food Security Governance in the Lancang-Mekong Countries <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Food Security Governance in the Lancang-Mekong Countries (cont.)	Dr. Yang Yong
16.45 – 17.00	BOD Meeting	MI and Participants



17.30 – 20.00	Welcome Dinner	
Day 2 (Tuesday, April 25, 2023)		
08.30 – 09.00	Recap	
09.00 – 10.15	Module 1: Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Food Security Governance in the Lancang-Mekong Countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Safeguarding Food Security 	Dr. Yang Yong
10.15 – 10.30	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
10.30 – 12.00	Module 1: Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Food Security Governance in the Lancang-Mekong Countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Safeguarding Food Security (cont.) 	Dr. Yang Yong
12.00 – 13.30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
13.30 – 15.00	Module 1: Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Food Security Governance in the Lancang-Mekong Countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilization of Innovative Technologies and Integration of Social Inclusion 	Dr. Yang Yong
15.00 – 15.15	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
15.15 – 16.45	Module 1: Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Food Security Governance in the Lancang-Mekong Countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resilient Recovery Plan for the Future of Food Security in the Lancang-Mekong Countries 	Dr. Yang Yong
16.45 – 17.00	BOD Meeting	MI and Participants
17:45-20:00	KKU Tour and Night Market Trip	
Day 3 (Wednesday, April 26, 2023)		
08.30 – 09.00	Recap	
09.00 – 10.30	Module 2: Strategic Food Security Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inter-Agency Coordination and Involvement in Food Security Programming 	Dr. Wongsala Laohasiriwong
10.30 – 10.45	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
10.45 – 12.00	Module 2: Strategic Food Security Programming	Dr. Wongsala Laohasiriwong



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tools For Food Security Assessments 	
12.00 – 13.30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
13.30 – 15.00	Module 2: Strategic Food Security Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulation of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework 	Dr.Wongsa Laohasiriwong
15.00 – 15.15	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
15.15 – 16.30	Module 2: Strategic Food Security Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulation of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (Cont.) 	Dr.Wongsa Laohasiriwong
16.30 – 17.00	Structured Learning Visits (Orientation)	MI
Day 4 (Thursday, April 27, 2023)		
08.00 – 12.00	Structured Learning Visits	Project (1)
12.00 – 13.00	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
13:30-17:00	Structured Learning Visit	Project (2)
Day 5 (Friday, April 28, 2023)		
08.30 – 09.00	Recap	
09.00 – 10.30	Module 3: Action Plan Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs 	MI
10.30 – 10.45	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
10.45 – 12.00	Module 3: Action Plan Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation 	MI
12.00 – 13.00	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
13.30 – 15.00	Module 3: Action Plan Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation 	Participants
15.00 – 15.15	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
15.15– 15.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-Test and Evaluation 	MI and Participants
15:40-17:00	Closing Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Report Speech from Participants Awarding of Certificates Closing Remarks 	MI and Participants