

THE LOWER MEKONG FOOD SECURITY DONOR MAPPING DATABASE PROJECT



COMPLETION REPORT

MEKONG INSTITUTE

June 2015

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Finally, we would like to thank Mr. Kipp Sutton, Regional Agriculture Team Leader in USAID-RDMA and the Award Officer assigned to this project, for his guidance and utmost support throughout the whole process.

Rural Development Department
Mekong Institute
July 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On October 1, 2013, the Mekong Institute was awarded a grant by the USAID/RDMA to develop an online platform that tracks and lists all foreign-funded food security and agriculture initiatives in the five countries of the Lower Mekong Region (LMR) – Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam.

The project consisted of two phases: Phase I which involved research and mapping of food security and agriculture activities in the region; and Phase II which entailed the set up and design of the database and the conduct of information dissemination activities.

Staff of the Rural Development Department under which the project was maintained carried out Phase I from October 2013 to mid-2014. Alongside this, Phase II began on December 2013 with the hiring of a website and database programmer to set up the system.

On May 2015, the project team completed the official version of the database. It is currently hosted in an in-house server at Mekong Institute and may be accessed at **<http://foodsecurity.mekonginstitute.org>**. The website was presented to USAID/RDMA and selected donors and development partners on June 29, 2015.

With a grant amounting to USD 108,400, the Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping Database project ran from October 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CARD	Council for Agricultural and Rural Development
CLMTV	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IT/MIS	Information Technology/Management Information System
LMI	Lower Mekong Initiative
LMR	Lower Mekong Region
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MI	Mekong Institute
RD	Rural Development Department
TICA	Thailand International Cooperation Agency
USAID/RDMA	United States Agency for International Development – Regional Development Mission for Asia

INTRODUCTION

On October 2013, Mekong Institute (MI) began the work of setting up an online platform that will track and list all foreign food security and agriculture activities and projects in the Lower Mekong Region (LMR). The project, funded by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development – Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA), aimed to respond to the need for more efficient information sharing of foreign-funded food security and agriculture initiatives in Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. Donor organizations themselves have expressed the need for a platform that will improve coordination and collaboration efforts in the region as far as the food security and agriculture sector is concerned.

The platform is also meant to support the agriculture pillar of the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI), a regional effort initiated by USAID/RDMA to promote regional collaboration between and among the LMR countries. By providing a platform that will facilitate the exchange of best practices of food security and agriculture projects in and among the LMR countries, enhanced food security programming is hoped to be achieved, resources harmonized, and redundancies and overlaps reduced.

This completion report summarizes the 21-month work undertaken by MI's Rural Development (RD) Department in setting up the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Food Security Donor Mapping Database. This report is organized as follows:

1. Project goals and objectives
2. Project expected outcomes and results
3. Implementation and management
4. Project achievements
5. Monitoring and evaluation (including users' feedback on usefulness and relevance)
6. Problems and challenges encountered
7. Success stories and lessons learned
8. Recommendations and ways forward
9. Conclusion
10. Financial statement



1 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Overall, the project aimed to improve donor coordination and collaboration in food security and agriculture projects in the LMR by making available and proactively disseminating information on donor priorities and programming in the food security sector.

In particular, it sought to:

- Increase transparency with regards donor priorities, activities and actors in the sub-region;
- Provide a tool to facilitate enhanced donor division of labor, collaboration and harmonization;
- Inform future USAID and donor programming in the sub-region; and
- Catalyze discussions to promote increased coordination of identified regional priorities outlined in the agriculture and food security section of the LMI Action Plan 2011–2015.

The project directly supports the LMI's goal of cooperation and USAID's coordination with donors, national financial institutions and multilateral organizations to increase efficiency, identify and meet programmatic and resources gaps, and avoid redundancy and overlap of activities (See Annex 1.1 Grant Agreement).



2 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The project had five major outputs as follows:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Output 1 | A user-friendly database containing information on agriculture and food security development activities at the regional and national levels |
| Output 2 | A publicly-available geographical donor map that visually maps the database list through the use of categorical filters |
| Output 3 | Agriculture and food security snapshots designed for high-level government officials that market activity achievements, milestones and donor coordination |
| Output 4 | Bi-weekly social networking tweets on relevant food security developments in the sub-region |
| Output 5 | Monthly newsfeeds that highlight food security projects and activities in the sub-region |

The format and content of these outputs were determined based on three criteria:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Accessibility | Easily accessible to a broad audience |
| Ease of use | Mapping should have a simple and user-friendly interface |
| Usefulness | Appropriate breadth and depth |



3 IMPLEMENTATION

The project was carried out in two phases: **Phase I** – Mapping Agriculture and Food Security Activities, and **Phase II** – Disseminating Information on Donor Agriculture and Food Security Activities for a period of 21 months (October 2013 – June 2015).

PHASE I

The mapping design phase involved data gathering activities to solicit information on foreign-funded regional and national food security and agriculture initiatives.

Desk Review and Comparative Analysis of Available Web-based Information

Comparison of Databases

From October 2013 to March 2014, the database project team conducted desk research to compare existing public geo-maps and databases to identify features, functionalities and models that may serve as examples for the database to be produced. Twenty databases and geo-maps were compared, and five were selected as possible references. These were Mapping for Results (World Bank), Beta mapping (AidData), Food Security Aid Map (International Fund for Agricultural Development) and databases and geo-map of USAID and World Food Programme.

Listing of Food Security and Agriculture Donors and Projects

An initial 22 major donors that provide grants and loans supporting food security and agriculture projects in the region were listed. Contact information of regional and country offices were collected for reference.

These included United Nations agencies such as the UN Development Programme, World Food Programme, World Health Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development; international financial institutions like World Bank and the Asian Development Bank; bilateral development partners like Australian Aid, Danish International Development Agency and Japan International Cooperation Agency; and international organizations like the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Oxfam, and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.

Projects in food security and agriculture were likewise collected from three sources:

- Publicly existing databases in the five countries
- Websites of government agencies
- Websites of major donors and development organizations working in the Lower Mekong Region countries.

As the type and kind of information provided in these three sources vary, a data collection template was devised to allow for uniformity and consistency in data entry (See Annex 2 Data Collection Template).

PHASE II

The second phase of the project consisted of the development and design of the geo-map database platform and information-dissemination efforts to promote the database.

Design and Development of a Publicly-available Geographical Donor Map

Mekong Institute contracted the services of an external database programmer to design and develop the web-based platform with a geo-map interface. The programmer worked with MI's Information Technology/ Management Information System (IT/MIS) unit to determine the critical features and functionalities of the platform, as well as procedures and protocols for its integration in the overall MI network. The database platform was designed as a classic website articulated around a homepage with a simple navigation through a main menu and contextual links.

Work on the design and set up of the database, including inputting of the information gathered, reviewing, and further content management, ran from January 2014 until May 2015.

A beta version of the site was made available on <http://www.mekongfoodsecurity.org>, while the official version may be accessed at <http://foodsecurity.mekonginstitute.org> and is hosted on MI's in-house server (See section on Project Achievements for details on the features and functionalities of the database).

Development and Production of Related Communication Materials

To draw further interest to the database and promote it to donors, development organizations and USAID and MI's own network, the project team also produced a number of communication materials integrated into the database platform. These materials were produced by a communication officer hired solely for the project and food security/agriculture experts who served as writer-consultants of the food security snapshots. These communication materials were:

- Food security snapshots designed for high-level government officials that detail the status, milestones, and donor activities in food security and agriculture in Burma, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam. Snapshots that also focus in on key sectors in these countries were also produced.
- Bi-weekly newsfeeds and articles posted on the website exploring relevant food security and agriculture issues in the region, as well as success stories and insights from selected food security and agriculture projects in the five countries.
- Bi-weekly social networking tweets on relevant food security and agriculture developments and issues in the region.
- Lower Mekong Food Security Database Handbook that explains the rationale, goals and objectives of the database and its key features and functionalities. (See section on Project Achievements).

PROJECT EXTENSION

Per grant agreement, the project was expected to end by April 2015. However, due to problems encountered in the development of the database, the project team requested for a two-month extension (May - June 2015) of the grant at no cost to provide for more time to complete the pending functionalities of the database, and carry out remaining project deliverables and activities including the production of the snapshots and the conduct of additional monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The request was submitted to USAID/RDMA on April 1, 2015, and was approved on April 28, 2015 (See Annex 1.2 Grant Extension). In addition to the original deliverables of the grant, MI also added the conduct of a database training and a database launch.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Mekong Institute, through the Rural Development (RD) Department, assumed overall responsibility in the management and implementation of this database project.

The Program Manager of the RD Department served as team leader and direct supervisor of the project team, which consisted of (1) researchers for each of the countries, (2) a communication officer who served as writer and content manager of the database, (3) a program facilitator who assisted the program manager in administrative tasks; and the (4) database programmer (external). As over-all supervisor of the project, the program manager provided technical leadership and administrative oversight.

The researchers, who were also full-time MI staff and personnel in the RD Department, collated all available data on food security and agriculture projects as well as donor and organization information.

Once the database was set up and the information collated by the researchers were inputted into the database, a communication officer was hired on November 2014 to write bi-weekly tweets and news articles and oversee the content management of the site. The communication officer, together with the program facilitator, also facilitated the conduct of monitoring and evaluation activities for the project.

Meanwhile, Mekong Institute's Director served as the principal institutional liaison to USAID/RDMA (See Figure 1. Management Structure).

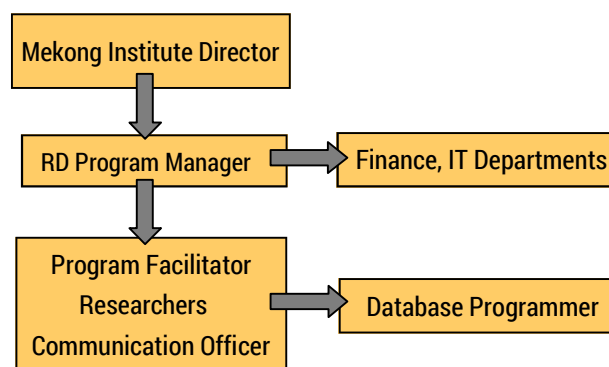


Figure 1. Lower Mekong Food Security Database project management structure.



4 ACHIEVEMENTS

GEO-MAP DATABASE

On May 2015, the official version of the Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping Database was completed and made accessible at <http://foodsecurity.mekonginstitute.org>.

The database is divided into two main parts: the project database which contains the listing of all foreign-funded food security and agriculture projects; and the website contents comprised of the stories and newsfeeds, social media tweets, snapshots, and other related online content. The platform is designed to allow for customization of the site itself and revision and easy updating of the information contained in the database.

As of writing time, it has recorded 763 food security and agriculture projects in the LMR and 519 partner organizations performing roles as donor, implementing organization and partner implementor.

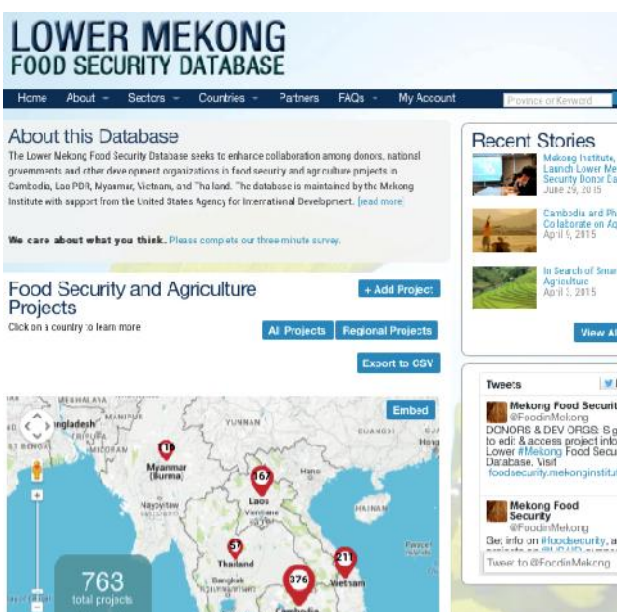
DATABASE MAIN PAGES

The **Homepage** features the geo-map plotting the respective locations of the food security and agriculture projects recorded in the database, as well as a summary of the projects for each of the five countries in the LMR.

The **Project** page contains information on the food security and agriculture initiatives recorded in the database. Following the data collection template devised in Phase I of the project, the project page contains the following information: **project title**, **project description** (including goals and objectives as well as complementary information), **project start and end dates**, **project location** (provinces or areas where the project is being implemented, also shown on a geo-map), **project status** (ongoing, completed or planned), **type of project** (regional, national or provincial), **gender component**, **budget**, **project website**, **organizations** involved including their respective roles, and **contact information** of the project team.

The project page also allows project managers and organization editors to add or upload related project documents and reports that users may access and download for further information.

The **Partner** page provides key information on all organizations that serve as donors, partners and implementing agencies of the projects. These include international and local donors and funding organizations, multi-lateral agencies, government agencies, research and academic institutions, international and local nonprofit organizations, and other civil society and private organizations.



DATABASE FEATURES AND FUNCTIONALITIES

Sectoral classification of projects

Projects in the database are classified according to ten pre-identified agricultural sectors set by MI and the USAID: (1) crop production, (2) postharvest management, (3) fisheries and aquaculture, (4) animal production, (5) nutrition and health, (6) policy, (7) market and trade, (8) rural credit and micro-finance, (9) climate change, and (10) research. Projects that pertain to other related areas like training, capacity building and agricultural extension are classified as "Others". New sectors may be added as needed in the future.

Editor access

One of the key features of the Lower Mekong Food Security Database is that it provides editor access to nominated individuals from donor and development organizations working in food security and agriculture in the region. An authorization code is given in order to complete their registration as editors. The registration for editors is available on the My Account tab of the database.

Editors are provided their own passwords to allow them to log in to the editor dashboard where they may (a) edit or update existing/current project and organization information; (2) create or add a new organization entry; and (c) create or add a new project. The editor dashboard also features an Announcement box where organizations may post announcements and invitations to trainings, workshops, and other events related to food security and agriculture in the region. These announcements are viewable on the public site.

Geo-map

Another major feature of the Lower Mekong Food Security Database is a Google Maps-based geographical map that plots the location of the food security and agriculture projects recorded in the database. This geo-map is also optimized with search filters so that users can directly click on the provinces or locations on the map to show projects at the country and provincial levels.



LOWER MEKONG FOOD SECURITY DATABASE

Similarly, users may use the map to search for projects of a sector in a country or province. The geo-map is found on the Homepage as well as on all project pages.

Advanced search capability

In addition to the search-enabled geo-map, the database also has optimized searching through an Advanced Search function on the Search bar. Targeted searching according to donors, budget, project duration, status, type, geographical location, sector and gender component is made possible through advanced search fields. Users may also search projects and database contents using keywords.

Monthly alerts and notifications

On the database's homepage, a subscription form is available where editors and non-editors alike can sign up to join the Lower Mekong Food Security Database's mailing list for monthly alerts and notifications. Subscribers get monthly news on updated projects (i.e., projects that changed their status), newly-added projects, new organizations recorded in the database, and a feature story on a selected food security and agriculture project.

Editors also receive monthly alerts and reminders to update project information and/or add new projects to the database. These monthly alerts are sent via MailChimp, an email service provider used for sending bulk mails to large lists and subscribers.

Multi-platform compatibility

The database was designed to make it compatible with popularly-used browsers (Chrome, Firefox and Internet Explorer) and smartphones and mobile devices. Such compatibility is designed to enable optimum viewing on these devices and platforms without distortion of pages, as well as contribute to enhanced user experience.

Analytics tracking through Google Analytics

Google Analytics is being used to provide monthly and regular tracking of website traffic, use and viewership (See section on Monitoring and Evaluation for Google Analytics report).

COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

MONTHLY NEWSFEEDS AND STORIES

As of writing time, 39 articles have been written and posted since November 2014. These include news stories on food security and agriculture events and issues curated from various online news sites and donor and development organizations' online news pages; blogposts on food security and agriculture issues concerning the region; and feature stories on selected food security projects in the database to highlight best practices and lessons learned (See Annex 3.1 List of Database Newsfeeds and Stories).

BI-WEEKLY SOCIAL NETWORKING TWEETS

On November 2014, the project team created a Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/foodinmekong>) for pushing out weekly/bi-weekly tweets about online conversations and postings concerning the food security and agriculture sector in the LMR. As of writing time, 61 tweets have been sent out since the account was opened in November (See Annex 7.3 Social Media Tweets).



The project's Twitter account is also linked to the database, and the tweets are displayed on the site's Homepage (See section on Monitoring and Evaluation for analytics report).

COUNTRY AND SECTORAL SNAPSHOTS

Four country snapshots were written, discussing the general food security and agriculture situation in the countries, key issues and challenges in the agriculture sector, current and existing interventions, and priority recommendations to address the mentioned challenges. The snapshots also included agricultural statistics presented as infographics.

Likewise, sectoral snapshots for the four countries were also produced, focusing on horticulture in Cambodia, livestock in Lao PDR, and rice in Vietnam and Myanmar. As with the country snapshots, the sectoral snapshots also present a closer look at the sector and its contributions and impacts on the overall food security and agriculture situation of the country, challenges and issues, notable donor and government interventions and projects, and recommended interventions and priority initiatives.

DATABASE BOOKLET

A booklet was also designed and produced to serve as the primary informational-promotional material of the database. The four-page booklet explains the rationale and purpose of the database project, its objectives and features, and provides a quick look at the food security and agriculture situation of the LMR countries.

The project team produced 100 copies of the database booklet, which were distributed to donors and guests during the Database Launch and to other partner organizations of MI (See Annex 3.3 Database Booklet).

TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

A technical documentation of the database was likewise drafted to guide technical staff members in accessing the system even after the contract with the hired programmer has ended. The document outlines in detail the software architecture, design and technical specifications of the database.

PROMOTIONAL WRITE-UPS

To further promote the database, the project team also undertook the publication and posting of articles about the database and related project activities. These were posted on MI's communication platforms, both print and online (See Annex 3.4 Database Promotional Write-ups).



- “MI, USAID Set up Lower Mekong Food Security Donor Mapping Database” (news feature), posted on Mekong Connection October – December 2014 Issue.
- “Harmonizing Efforts to Achieve Food Security: The Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping Database” (news), posted on MI website and Facebook on February 23, 2015.
- Social media announcements: March 23, 2015 (MI Facebook and MI Twitter)
- “MI to launch Lower Mekong Food Security Donor Database on June 29, 2015” (news), posted on MI website and Facebook on June 24, 2015
- In-house Training on Managing and Sustaining a Database System (photos), posted on MI Facebook on June 27, 2015
- “Mekong Institute, USAID Launch Lower Mekong Food Security Database” (press release), posted on MI website and Facebook on June 30, 2015
- “Working Towards Better Collaboration in the Food Security Sector in the Lower Mekong: The Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping Database” (news feature), to be released on Mekong Connection April – June 2015.

DATABASE FOCAL POINTS

Both the MI and USAID recognize that one of the biggest challenges in the management of a database is its sustainability, especially in ensuring that the content of the platform remains up-to-date and relevant. To address this, the project team facilitated the establishment of database focal points, selected national agencies and organizations in the five countries that will serve as liaison agencies and provide MI with information on new food security and agriculture projects in their country. These are agencies handling/implementing most, if not all, of the foreign-funded food security and agriculture projects, or are in-charge of the aid projects in their country, including those in the sector of agriculture and food security.

The country focal points are:

Cambodia

- Department of Health, Food Security and Nutrition, Council for Agricultural and Rural Development

Lao PDR

- Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Myanmar

- Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
- Planning Section, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development
- Department of Trade Promotion, Ministry of Commerce

Thailand

- Mekong Institute

An invitation to the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development, Vietnam was sent, but the agency has not provided any response to the invitation despite repeated follow-ups. As for Thailand, the project team has found from its meetings with the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives that there is no central agency that monitors and oversees foreign-funded food security and agriculture projects since the country's elevation to an "emerging donor" in the mid-2000s. Mekong Institute has therefore offered to serve as the focal point for Thailand as it is also engaged in agriculture and rural capacity-development activities in the country.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was originally planned to serve as a binding document between MI and the focal points. However, it was expressed during the discussions with the agencies that a MOU can pose complicated bureaucratic procedures and is only used for government-to-government collaborations. In place of a MOU, an Expression of Commitment was drafted instead, along with a set of working mechanisms, and were signed by the designated chief of party or officers in charge (See Annex 4: Focal Point Working Mechanism and Expressions of Commitment).



DATABASE TRAINING

A “Training on Managing and Sustaining a Database System” was organized at Mekong Institute on June 26, 2015 and was attended and participated in by 17 Mekong Institute staff and personnel, mostly from the RD Department and the Communication and Knowledge Management Department. The training introduced the database and its features and functionalities to key MI staff who are expected to undertake subsequent database management tasks in the future, and oriented them on the database’s administrator protocols and procedures. The one-day training covered three modules, namely:

- General overview of a database system
- Protocols and procedures of database management (using the Lower Mekong Food Security Database)
- Ways Forward and Database Management Practices

A member of the programming team that set up and designed the database, served as resource person.

Overall, many of the participants (46.7%) found the training relevant, and the three modules covered in the training were likewise found to be useful (Table 1). Most of the participants were also satisfied with the level of instruction and facilitation employed by the resource person.

One notable suggestion was to provide more time for exploring the database particularly its administrative and backend functions; and identifying errors and bugs as well as areas for improvement. For related trainings in the future, a more in- depth discussion on web-based database systems and advanced database management techniques and practices is recommended (See Annex 5 Database Training Plan and Schedule).

Table 1. Relevance and usefulness of the database training.

	Highly useful/ relevant	Useful/ relevant	Just right	Slightly useful/ relevant	Not useful/ relevant
Usefulness of the modules of the training					
<i>General overview of the database system</i>	53.3%	27%	13.3%	6.7%	0
<i>Protocols and procedures of database management</i>	40%	47%	6.67%	6.7%	0
<i>Ways forward and database management practices</i>	20%	40%	13.3%	13%	0
Relevance of the topics covered	20%	27%	46.7%	6.7%	0



DATABASE LAUNCHING

As final project activity, the database launch was organized to formally present the Lower Mekong Food Security Database to USAID and donors and development organizations. The launch was held on June 29, 2015 at the USAID office in Bangkok, Thailand. Director Watcharas Leelawath of Mekong Institute and USAID/RDMA Acting Director Carrie Thompson were present at the event. Also in attendance were representatives from the following organizations:

Donors

- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Delegation of the European Union
- World Food Programme
- Asian Development Bank
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency)

Academe

- Asian Institute of Technology

Research

- Asian Vegetable Research Development Center/
World Vegetable Center

Non-profit

- World Vision
- RAKS Foundation
- Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association
- ActionAid

Focal point representatives from Cambodia (Dr. Say Ung, Director of the Department of Health, Food Security and Nutrition, CARD) and Lao PDR (Mr. Savanh Hanephom, Deputy Director General of Planning and Cooperation, MAF) also attended the launch.

The main highlight of the half-day affair was the presentation of the database's features and functionalities delivered by project team leader and RD Program Manager, Ms. Maria Theresa Medialdia (See Annex 6 Database Launch Event Brief and Program).





5 MONITORING & EVALUATION

WEBSITE SURVEY REPORT

The project team carried out two rounds of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities to solicit general feedback on the database. A survey feedback form was drafted and made available online via Google Form containing questions aimed to determine the site's usefulness, access and ease of use. Statements were organized into Likert items that respondents had to rate using a 5-point scale with 1 as the lowest and 5 the highest (See Annex 7.1 Feedback Form).

The first round of M&E was carried out using the beta version of the site from February to March 2015. The invitation to answer the form online was sent via email to a mix of donors and funding organizations, national government agencies, development organizations working as implementers and MI's own alumni network. Recommendations gathered from this round were addressed/implemented on the official site prior to the 2nd round of M&E.

The second round was carried out from May – June 2015 when the project team had completed setting up the official version of the site. The same form was sent to the MI alumni network, and the donors and development organizations that did not respond during the first round of M&E.

Respondents

A total of 68 responses were gathered for the first round. Ten (16%) were donor representatives, while many were government employees of national agencies (37%), and some were researchers (21%). The rest were students and representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs).

Many of the respondents were from Cambodia and Vietnam, while the rest were from Lao, Thailand and Myanmar. Three respondents came from non-GMS countries: Philippines, Afghanistan and Nigeria.

The second round of M&E yielded only 52 responses. As with the first, donor response rate was low with only 10 responses from donor organizations. Around 40% of the responses came from government employees. The rest came from academic and research institutions and the private sector. Similar to the first round, more than 20% came from both Vietnam and Cambodia, and the rest from Lao PDR, Thailand and Myanmar. One respondent was a researcher from South Korea (See Annex 7.2 Website Survey Respondents).

Website Usefulness

Website usefulness was determined in terms of the following indicators: relevance of information, organization and presentation, and recommendation of the site to other users.

In both rounds of M&E, users found both site versions relevant with an average rating of 3.77 for the first round and 4 for the second round. About 58% rated the beta version 4 to 5, while a relatively higher percentage (77%) found the official database site as relevant to highly relevant (Table 2).

In terms of presentation and organization of information, both sites were also found satisfactory by the respondents (Table 3). About 42% rated the beta version of the site 4 (satisfactory) while a higher 52% in the 2nd round gave the same rating for the official database site.

Table 2. Relevance of information on the database site.

Relevance of the site	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
	1 st round		2 nd round	
Highly Relevant	16	25.81	13	25.0
Relevant	20	32.26	27	51.9
Just right	22	35.48	9	17.3
Somehow relevant	4	6.45	2	3.8
Not relevant	0	0	1	1.9
TOTAL	62	100	52	100

In the first round, a number of respondents suggested that the beta site can further improve the way information was presented. The recommendations included the addition of social media buttons; addition of a comment box; and a feature that will enable users to view/access project reports, documents and outputs. Respondents also suggested providing more information in the project description field and adding clickable links that open to project and organization websites for more information. These were all made available in the second, official version of the site, hence the relatively higher satisfaction rating in terms of presentation of website information.

Table 3. Presentation of information on the database site.

Presentation of information	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
	1 st round		2 nd round	
Excellent	11	17.74	8	15.4
Satisfactory	26	41.94	27	51.9
Just right	17	27.42	15	28.8
Needs improvement	7	11.29	2	3.8
Not at all	1	1.61	0	0

Furthermore, as shown in Table 4, both versions of the site were able to provide the information most of the users were looking for – 79% for the first site and 80% for the official site. These include mainly general information about the projects, information on donors and organizations, food security news and stories, contact and financial information. For both sites, most of the respondents also indicated that they are very likely to recommend the site to a colleague/fellow researcher looking for information on food security and agriculture in the Lower Mekong region, particularly the official site, according to 82.7% of the respondents.

Website Access and Ease of Use

The database was also evaluated in terms of user-friendliness and ease in navigation. Both the beta and

Table 4. Usefulness of the website.

Usefulness of the site	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
	1 st round		2 nd round	
Did you find the information you were looking for?				
Yes	49	79	42	80.8
No	13	21	10	19.2
How likely that you will recommend the site to a colleague?				
Highly likely	19	31	23	44.2
Likely	21	34	20	38.5
Depends	17	27	7	13.5
Not so likely	5	8	2	3.8
No	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	62	100	50	100

the official versions of the database platform were perceived by the respondents to be fairly easy to navigate and the features user-friendly (Table 5). In the first round of M&E, one of the notable comments was to make registration for the editors simpler and easier, an issue already addressed in the design of the official site.

A dedicated page (My Account) was set-up for registered editors to log-in. It also features a separate registration form for those who want to sign up as editor. An FAQ page for editors was likewise added to give quick information on how to sign up as an editor and access the editor dashboard of the site.

Table 5. Ease of use of the database site.

User-friendliness of the site	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
	1 st round		2 nd round	
Excellent	12	19.35	16	30.8
Satisfactory	26	41.94	21	40.4
Just right	20	32.26	14	26.9
Needs improvement	4	6.45	0	0
Not at all	0	0	1	1.9
TOTAL	62	100	52	100

The survey also sought to gather feedback on the site's overall visual design and appeal. Generally, the respondents found both versions of the site visually appealing (Table 6). A number of suggestions for further improvement of the official site were also gathered in the second round of M&E including the suggestion to make it more aesthetically appealing with the addition of more photos and graphics and more color elements. These are being addressed as part of the last phase of the programming team's work. A respondent commented that the official site is "useful, nice and clean and easy to navigate."

A number of the respondents commended the initiative to set up a database, saying that it is “easy to use” and can help “identify who does what and where.” A couple of respondents commented that it is a “useful” project. One respondent expressed: “Having this piece of information would surely help different stakeholders [identify] successful solutions and accurate baselines.”

In the second round particularly, the respondents stressed the importance of keeping the information in the database relevant and up to date. Spelling errors in the names of the provinces of Cambodia have been corrected as suggested. As part of the last phase of the programming team’s work, testing of the “Upload Reports/Documents” function is ongoing as a way to allow project managers and editors to provide more information about the projects and for users to have access to related reports including those that will show project results and impacts.

GOOGLE ANALYTICS REPORT

Viewership and usage of the site was also monitored using Google Analytics. However, as Google Analytics was set up only on the official site, this section does not include analytics report on the beta version of the database. The analytics report covered April 1 (upon completion of website structure and online activation) to July 13, 2015.

As indicated in Figure 2, there were 2,371 users or unique visitors (distinct individuals who accessed pages from the site) for the four-month period, translating into 3,104 sessions or the number of times the site was visited and users engaged with the database (i.e., viewed a page, clicked on a link etc).

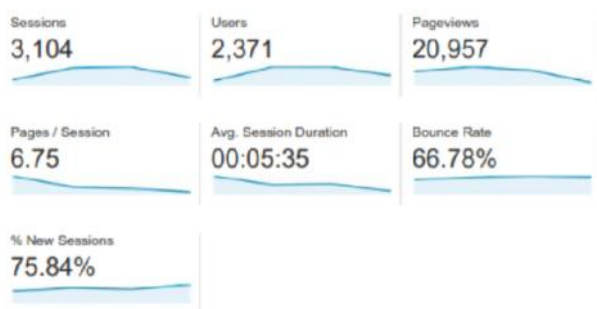


Figure 2. Google Analytics summary.

Table 6. Website visual appeal.

Visual appeal	Frequency		Percentage	
	1 st round	2 nd round	1 st round	2 nd round
Excellent	10	13	16.13	25.0
Satisfactory	25	23	40.32	44.2
Just right	19	14	30.65	26.9
Needs improvement	7	2	11.29	3.8
Not at all	1	0	1.61	0
TOTAL	62	52	100	100

A feature to allow organizations to add and post announcements to their events and make them visible to the public site will be added.

Likewise, the need to promote the website was also highlighted in one comment: “Making sure this resource is widely known is important. Promote it via regional networks...Also get partners and stakeholders to promote it where possible.”

This is relatively low and may be attributed to the visits made by the respondents who viewed the site as part of the M&E survey. Despite this, however, the report shows that pages per session and average session duration are relatively high. Around six to seven website pages were visited by most visitors/users, and the average length of time that visitors engaged with the page was five minutes. These are relatively high figures compared to typical metric goals of two pages per session and 2-3 minutes of average session duration (<http://pnmg.com/read-google-analytics/>). With further promotion of the site, it is hoped that there would be a significant increase in the number of users engaging with the database.

Significant to note also is the percentage of new sessions or the percentage of total users who visited the site for the first time. As indicated, about 75% of the users (Figure 3) were first-time visitors of the site, again possibly due to the respondents who were part of the second round of M&E.



Figure 3. Website visitors

Country	Sessions	% Sessions
1. United States	872	28.09%
2. Thailand	482	15.53%
3. (not set)	435	14.01%
4. Philippines	245	7.89%
5. China	119	3.83%
6. Australia	76	2.45%
7. Japan	73	2.35%
8. Laos	68	2.19%
9. Germany	67	2.16%
10. Cambodia	64	2.06%

Figure 4. Website visitors according to country

SOCIAL MEDIA MONITORING

Part of the project's promotional activities are its social networking tweets delivered through the project's dedicated Twitter account (@FoodinMekong). Performance of the tweets was monitored through Twitter Analytics.

On the whole, there is low follower and engagement rate as the account has only registered seven followers from time of creation of account (November 2014) up to reporting time. It should be noted that the project team has consistently promoted the project's Twitter page in all communications to donors, development organizations and national agencies. A number of announcements inviting the public to follow the Twitter page were also posted on MI's Facebook and Twitter account.

A total of 60 tweets (See Annex 7.3 Social Media Tweets) were sent out from November 2014 to June 2015 with an average of 7.5 tweets in a month (Table 7). The analytics report (as of July 13, 2015) also shows that there is relatively high tweet impression every month or the number of times that a tweet is seen by users of Twitter. The six tweets for January 2015 registered the highest number of impressions at 1148 while the tweets for June were only viewed a total of 211 times. However, engagement, which refers to the number of times that Twitter users interacted with the tweets (e.g., clicked on a link, opened the tweet, retweeted or favorited a tweet) is low. The total 50 engagements for the

eight-month period mainly consisted of: (1) clicks to expand details; (2) clicks to open a link; (3) clicks to visit/open the Twitter profile. There were also a number of retweets and favorites (See Annex 7.3).

Despite the low follower and engagement rate, the number of impressions suggests that while users do not purposely follow the project's Twitter account or interact with them, the tweets are highly visible to many Twitter users. The account also remains active as indicated by the number of profile visits (or the number of times users checked or visited the project's Twitter feed) and profile mentions. June had the highest profile visitors at 546. Consistent and continuous promotion of the project's Twitter account to MI's network will be done to boost follower and engagement rate.

Table 7. Social media tweets sent over an 8-month period.

Tweets/month	Frequency	Total impression per month	Total engagement per month	Profile Visits
November 2014	7	697	15	6
December 2014	6	868	10	0
January 2015	6	1148	4	78
February 2015	7	929	5	113
March 2015	12	960	4	256
April 2015	7	409	2	34
May 2015	9	455	5	32
June 2015	6	211	5	546
TOTAL	60	5,677	50	
Average tweets / month	7.5			



6 PROBLEMS & CHALLENGES

DATABASE SET-UP

Delay in completion of database features and functionalities

Work on the database began as early as December 2013 but it was only in May 2015 that the database was finally completed and the official version was launched. The long working period was due largely to problems in working with the first database programming team. Information have already been inputted in the first version of the database as early as the first half of 2014, but the site had pending functionalities and features from the round of reviews and feedbacking from the MI project team and the USAID/RDMA.

These recommendations and comments were forwarded to the database programmer. However, the pending features and functionalities remained unaddressed as late as February 2015 despite repeated and constant follow-ups from the project team. The team also had difficulty contacting the database programmer who designed the first version of the site; response was very intermittent.

It was on March 2015 when the project team finally decided to seek out the services of a new programmer to finish the site after it lost all contact with the first programmer. A new programmer was hired mid-March 2015. Without backend/administrator access to the site or technical documentation, it was decided that the best course of action was to rebuild a new site. Information from the first database version were extracted and uploaded onto the new website. The work also included adding of the new features and functionalities gathered from the first round of M&E, and reviewing and re-checking site content and project information.

ESTABLISHMENT OF FOCAL POINT

Difficulty in getting expressed support and commitment of agencies invited to be focal point

As early as November 2013 when research work on food security and agriculture projects began and donor and implementing organizations were being identified, the project team had drawn up an initial list of agencies targeted to be the country focal points. Research and data gathering trips included meetings with these identified agencies to discuss the invitation to be focal point.

Most, with the exception of Cambodia, turned down the invitation while others remained non-committal, citing heavy workload in their department/unit. It was also difficult to convince the agencies to be focal points when there is no expressed and assured incentive for being one. In the case of Thailand, discussions with TICA revealed that there is no central agency in the country that monitors and oversees aid projects since it became an emerging donor in the mid-2000s and aid projects in agriculture decreased.

It was also common practice that organizations would work directly with the departments without reporting to concerned agencies such as the TICA (in the case of Thailand) or the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There was also hesitation from some agencies to sign a MOU, which is allowed only for government-to-government projects, hence the decision of the project team to draft instead an Expression of Commitment.

A second list of possible focal points was drawn up based on recommendations from the previous agencies. Meetings and discussions were held from January to May 2015 with these agencies. The project team received the Expressions of Commitment from Myanmar's focal points in April, Cambodia in May, and Lao PDR in June 2015.

COMMUNICATIONS

Difficulty in hiring a qualified communication staff

Per grant proposal, a communication specialist should have been hired as early as March 2014 once the database platform has been set up. Since the first version of the site was only made functional on July 2014, the hiring of the communication specialist was also delayed.

Moreover, the project team also had difficulty hiring a qualified communication staff as the position requires proficiency in the English language and writing skills.

A part-time communication officer was hired on November 2014 until she came onboard as full-time staff on January 2015.

RESEARCH AND CONTENT MANAGEMENT

Lack of common understanding of activities and projects in the agriculture and food security sector

One of the challenges encountered by MI's research team was in developing a uniform criteria for identifying and classifying food security and agriculture projects. This stemmed from the fact that the term "food security" is defined in different ways by various organizations. As such, this posed some degree of confusion to the researchers in identifying what projects should and can only be included in the database, and what sectors these projects are to be classified in.

As very few projects are clearly defined as addressing food security issues, the researchers relied on their own personal judgment.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Slow and low response rate from organizations

As mentioned, two rounds of M&E were conducted in the whole run of the project. In both rounds, the feedback form and letters requesting to partake in the M&E were sent primarily to key donor and funding organizations as well as national agencies and organizations that are listed in the database as project implementors. The M&E was also sent to MI's own alumni network.

However, in both rounds, most of the responses came only from the latter, with significantly low response from the target organizations that serve as the main clientele of the database. Less than 20% of the respondents came from donors and funding agencies and key development organizations.



To ensure that the database also includes projects targeting food security in terms of access and production, the team expanded the scope of work to also include agriculture projects in the region that relate to or significantly impact food security at the provincial, national or regional levels.



Data gaps and limited available information on projects

As the first course of action, the project team used publicly-available existing databases of the countries and websites of donors and development organizations in gathering and collecting information on food security and agriculture projects. However, there is limited available information on projects in the databases and websites searched (i.e., only project titles were available; no project description or objective; missing or lacking information such as budget, project location). In other cases, the information provided were out of date (i.e., status and project start and end dates).

To clarify and solicit further information directly from the agencies, the project team arranged a number of data gathering trips to meet with and talk to key project staff. In other cases, the team sent via email a data collection template to the agencies and requested them to check the information provided and update and add new information. However, response was also slow.

Information Duplication

Another challenge encountered was information duplication and consequently, double counting of entries in the database. During the data gathering phase, the researchers found that some projects were divided into several sub-projects and implemented by different organizations. These sub-projects were documented separately by implementing organizations, but documented as one by the donors. In other cases, information about the same project is documented in several databases especially for regional projects being done in two or more countries.

The team reviewed and cross-checked most of these duplicate projects. However, there was limited way for the research team to verify and clarify with all the implementing organizations and donors whether projects are duplicates or part of an umbrella project, hence the double-counting of some projects.



7 SUCCESS STORIES LESSONS LEARNED

DEVELOPING EXPERTISE IN DATABASE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

Being primarily a capacity-building organization, Mekong Institute's activities have largely revolved around the design and conduct of training and capacity-building programs. Taking on the Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping Database project is not only different from the usual programs the Institute and the Rural Development Department in particular have been involved in, but it is also a first-of-its-kind.

The Lower Mekong Food Security Database is the first fully-funded project of the department where a database platform is the primary output, and not an off-shoot or a by-product of a related training program. While MI may have some experience developing a number of databases, the RD Department has minimal experience in the development and design of a full geo-map database platform, particularly one that also provides regular informational content (e.g., news and stories).

The project team has put in a significant amount of time and initiative in the design and development of the platform itself. The team researched and reviewed existing database platforms to identify the range of functions and features that may be included before finally identifying those that will work best for the platform being envisioned.

The importance of working closely with the database programming team, learning the technical language, and developing a sense of understanding of database management are crucial.

As no system is perfect at the onset, constant and regular sessions with the programming team to explore, test and debug the functionalities of the site were needed.

Moreover, feedback from the prospective users of the site is also important in designing and refining the database functionalities. The two rounds of M&E yielded a number of significant and notable recommendations that the project team has already added to the database, including the capability to upload and make available project documents and reports to provide additional information. The feedback gathered from the M&E have also provided the project team an idea of the public's reception towards such online information source – whether it is something they will find redundant or something they will find value in.

Still, as the project implementor, the team had to make value judgment on the feedback gathered and decide which recommendations merit valuable consideration given the project's goals and objectives and financial and administrative provisions. The advice and expertise provided by the database programmer was also instrumental to the team in making the best sense out of the recommendations. The programmer also provided options for how certain functionalities may be carried out in the database. Given the problems encountered with the original database programmer, it is a proud achievement for the project team to have rebuilt a new database platform, complete pending functionalities, and carry out testing and content management tasks in the remaining six months of the project.

ENCOURAGING AGENCY PARTICIPATION

Setting up the database country points proved to be one of the toughest challenges in the conduct of this project. The agencies' refusal to accept the invitation to be focal point due to heavy workload is understandable, particularly since these agencies take on the work already of monitoring the aid projects in their country and maintaining and overseeing their own country aid platforms and databases.

However, more than the workload, the issue of incentive or what the agencies get in turn for serving as focal point in such initiative is also an important question worth addressing, particularly for similar related projects in the future. In a project such as this where no separate funding is allocated for the agencies serving as focal point, or where the project does not offer direct and tangible outputs in the country, there is very little incentive for agencies to agree to be partners. It is important therefore that for similar projects in the future, incentives to agency partners should be considered and clearly identified at the start to encourage collaboration.



CONNECTING WITH DONORS AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

While the current information recorded in the database came from publicly-available databases and websites of the donors, reaching out and connecting directly with the organizations themselves also served as a valuable and integral ingredient in the implementation of the project. Firstly, the database cannot rely on publicly-available information alone, and therefore, getting the donors and development organizations to provide and update the information on the database is of primary import.

Secondly, as the database is also an informational resource designed to provide more than a basic listing of projects in the LMR, connecting with donors and more importantly, with the implementing organizations to solicit information for the stories to be featured on the site and ensure new and relevant content is an essential part of the project implementation.

More often than not, the donors only have the basic information on the projects (i.e., goals, objectives, budget, etc.), but it is typically the partners and the implementing organizations working directly with the project beneficiaries that can provide detailed and richer information as to the project's impacts on the recipients, and its effects on food security and the beneficiaries' overall quality of life.

The data gathering meetings that the project team had with a number of donors and implementing organizations also served a three-fold purpose: inform them of the existence of the database, encourage them to be active editors and review the information on their projects, and solicit information on their project successes that may be featured in the site's Stories page.



POSITIONING THE DATABASE AS A RELEVANT, NON-REDUNDANT TOOL

One of the other issues the project team encountered was positioning the database and making it a distinct and unique online resource. It should be noted that the five countries in the LMR have set up their own respective databases and aid management platforms to track all foreign projects, such as Myanmar's Mohinga (<http://mohinga.info/en/>) and Cambodia's ODA Database (<http://cdc.khmer.biz>). This is in addition to other initiatives of organizations to track food security projects in the world, such as the NGO Aid Map of InterAction (<http://www.ngoaidmap.org>) and the Food Security Portal of the International Food Policy Research Institute (<http://www.foodsecurityportal.org>).

It became imperative then for the project team to position the database so that it is viewed as relevant and not redundant or duplicative of existing and current database initiatives.

A review of the database projects revealed that while they provide extensive information beyond the LMR and even Southeast Asia, many databases prove to be challenging to use since users will have to sift through numerous and varied information. In the case of the aid management platforms of the LMR countries, organizations would have to filter through thousands of aid projects including those that are not particular to food security and agriculture.

It was then decided to position the database as an easy, one-stop online resource for those who would like to get information specific to food security and agriculture in the LMR. The database provides an added layer of ease in use since projects are also classified according to agricultural sectors such as crop production, animal production, fisheries and aquaculture, etc. This makes searching easier particularly since agriculture is an extensive field and industry.



8

WAYS FORWARD

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 21-month run of the Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping Database project yielded a number of significant recommendations and suggestions for related and similar projects in the future.

MORE CAREFUL REVIEW OF DATABASE STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

From the scoping and review done by the research team, it is apparent that there is keen and strong interest among donors and funding organizations in database projects that aim to track and monitor the progress in issues like food security. These database projects are particularly popular among agencies that are heavily involved in providing technical and financial assistance in least developed and developing countries like the LMR.

Should MI and/or other organizations may be involved in another database design project, it is highly encouraged that a more careful, thorough and intensive review of available database platforms be made, including any universally-proposed or agency - endorsed guidelines in setting up and designing online information tools such as a database system.

The expertise and technical advice of a programming expert that has rich experience in developing websites AND databases and is familiar with critical database functionalities as well as website features that can enhance user experience is also critical.

WORKING WITH FOCAL POINTS AND KEY AGENCIES AT THE PROJECT ONSET

Establishing a sense of ownership of the database among the key agencies, particularly the focal points, is important to ensure commitment to collaborate and work in helping update and maintain the site. This may be achieved if the agencies are involved in the project as early as its conceptualization and data gathering stages.

Given the difficulty in soliciting the support of the focal points, it is therefore imperative that one of the first things to be addressed and considered is the incentive that comes with the agencies' participation.

Similarly, working closely with donors and implementing organizations in the data gathering stage can also prove useful in two ways. One, it will already introduce the database (or the initiative to set up a database) to the donors, and two, help in facilitating easier and faster review and collection of information to be included in the database. As the organizations are made aware of the initiative at the onset, they can also provide comments and suggestions on how the platform can be designed according to their information needs, and consequently, develop a deeper appreciation for and willingness to help sustain the database since they are part of its design and development.

AGGRESSIVE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In the design of information tools such as a website, the testing of features by the users themselves (and not just by the project team and the programmer) is a vital part of the development process. While the project team may have an idea of the kind of functionalities they want and the programmer can advise on the best ways to carry out these features, it is the users who can determine whether said features are relevant and easy to use.

Engaging the users to test and explore a site even at the early stages of its development can yield important insights that can help the project team design further functionalities and refine existing ones. As such, it is important that the monitoring and evaluation plan be designed to cover at least three rounds of feedback collection: initial site release when at least 30 - 40% of the features have been carried out, release of the beta site when 70-80% of the functionalities have been activated, and a final round of review and testing when all functionalities have been completed.

Likewise, a more targeted audience for the M&E may also be considered. For example, the first round may involve the project team, a few chosen individuals from the implementing agency and some select donor organizations; the second round may involve the funding organization and a larger set of donors and organizations; and the third round may involve all donors and organizations listed in the database.



WAYS FORWARD

The Mekong Institute, during the Database Launch on June 29, 2015, reiterated its pledge to continue the database and work to ensure its sustainability. In view of MI's commitment to the Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping Database, the following points for moving forward have been identified:

CONTINUE DATABASE TESTING AND DEBUGGING

With the launching and presentation of the database to donors and development organizations, the project team anticipates that there will be a greater number of people viewing the site and registering as editors. This would mean higher traffic and greater usage. As the functionalities and features have only been just rolled out, it is important that there is standby technical support as more users explore the site and its features. The programmer is still under contract for the next three months after project end to provide technical support and conduct continuous testing and debugging of the website features and functionalities.



FINALIZE WORKING MECHANISM WITH DATABASE FOCAL POINTS

The project team intends to discuss and finalize with the identified country focal points the working mechanism for updating and maintaining the database. These include (1) identifying the nominated person from the agency to be given editor access to the database; (2) agreeing on the frequency of updates to be done; and (3) alternative measures should the assigned individual or the agency focal point cannot update the database.

The project team hopes to meet with the focal points again to discuss and agree on ways to move forward to maintain the database. It also intends to resume discussions again with the invited agency focal point for Vietnam to get their approval or identify another agency that can serve as focal point.

CONTINUE TO PUBLISH MONTHLY ARTICLES AND MAINTAIN SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

The database is designed to be an informative, dynamic and interactive platform that provides relevant content on the food security and agriculture sector of the region. To ensure this, monthly articles will continue to be posted on the site's Stories page. An RD staff will be in-charge each week to write and post an article on the site. It could be a linked article from other news sites, a blog post or opinion entry, or a feature story on a selected project on food security and agriculture. The weekly staff in-charge will also be responsible for pushing out bi-weekly tweets on the project's Twitter account.

With the website now fully functional, the project team is also working on content-sharing where it can post stories and articles written and published on the websites of donors and various development organizations. The team, for example, is hoping to work with the Communications Department of the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), a multi-donor trust fund working in Myanmar, to publish on the Lower Mekong Food Security Database select project stories posted on its website, as well as share with the MI project team information that may be developed as possible stories.

CONCLUSION

The Mekong Institute sees its involvement in this 21-month project on setting up and developing the Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping Database as its own contribution in the continuing discussions on how to address and achieve food security in the region. This database, maintained by MI; supported by USAID/RDMA; and to be maintained and sustained by all donors, development organizations and national agencies in the LMR is envisioned to be a regional online source of information on food security and agriculture initiatives in the region, promoting better coordination among major players and key actors, and ultimately, enhancing regional and national programming and planning in food security and agriculture.

The project has produced a visible and tangible output in the form of the Lower Mekong Food Security Database, but it has also yielded a wealth of insights and lessons on developing information tools such as a database that will aid policymaking and planning. It has also strengthened MI's working relationship and opened more opportunities for collaboration with national government agencies, donors and funding agencies and other development organizations working in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1.1 GRANT AGREEMENT



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

September 20, 2013

Suchat Katima
Director
Mekong Institute
123 KhonKaen University,
KhonKaen 40002, Thailand

Subject: USAID Grant to a Public International Organization No. AID-486-IO-13-00002

Dear Dr. Katima:


Under the authority contained in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) hereby grants to Mekong Institute (MI), (hereinafter referred to as the "Grantee"), the sum of \$108,400 to provide support to undertake the project "Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Food Security Donor Mapping" as described in Attachment 2, entitled "Program Description".

This Grant obligation is made as of the date of this letter and will apply to expenditures made by the Grantee in furtherance of program objectives during the period beginning October 1, 2013 and ending April 30, 2015. USAID will not be liable for reimbursing the Grantee for any costs in excess of the obligated amount.

This award is made to the Grantee on condition that the funds are administered in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth in Attachment 1 (the Schedule), Attachment 2 (the Program Description), and Attachment 3 (the Standard Provisions).

Please sign the original and all enclosed copies of this letter to acknowledge your receipt of the Grant, and return the original and all but one copy to the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Rebecca R. White
Regional Agreement Officer
USAID/RDMA, Bangkok, Thailand

- Attachments:
1. Schedule
 2. Program Description
 3. Standard Provisions

ACKNOWLEDGED: Mekong Institute (MI)

BY: Suchat Katima SUCHAT KATIMA

TITLE: Director

DATE: 20 Sept. 2013

APPENDICES

AID-486-IO-13-00002

FISCAL DATA:

A. GENERAL

1. Total Estimated USAID Amount	: \$108,400.00
2. Amount Obligated this Action	: \$108,400.00
3. Total Obligated USAID Amount To Date	: \$108,400.00
4. Cost-Sharing Amount (Non-Federal)	: \$0.00
5. Activity Title	: Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Food Security Donor Mapping
6. USAID Technical Office	: General Development Office, USAID/RDMA, Bangkok, Thailand
7. Tax I.D. Number	: N/A
8. DUNS No.	: 661733967
9. LOC Number	: N/A

B. SPECIFIC

REQ-486-13-000121 Amount obligated under this action: \$108,400.00

C. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

(i) Grant Administrative Office:

Regional Office of Procurement (ROP)
USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA)
25th Floor, Athenee Tower
63 Wireless Road
Bangkok, Thailand 10330

(ii) Technical Office:

General Development Office (GDO)
USAID Regional Development Mission/Asia
Athenee Tower, 25th Floor
63 Wireless Road
Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand

(iii) Financial management (Payment):

Office of Financial Management (OFM)
USAID Regional Development Mission/Asia
Athenee Tower, 25th Floor
63 Wireless Road
Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand
Email: BangkokUSAIDPaymentAction@usaid.gov

APPENDICES

AID-486-IO-13-00002

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ATTACHMENT 1: SCHEDULE

A. PURPOSE OF GRANT

The purpose of this Grant is to provide support for the program described in Attachment 2 to this Grant entitled "Program Description."

B. PERIOD OF GRANT

1. The effective date of this Grant is October 1, 2013. The period of performance for this Grant is from October 1, 2013 to April 30, 2015.

C. AMOUNT OF GRANT AND PAYMENT

1. USAID hereby obligates the amount of \$108,400.00 for purposes of this grant.
2. Payment shall be made to the Grantee in accordance with procedures set forth in Attachment 3 (the Standard Provisions).

D. GRANT BUDGET

The following is the Grant Budget. Revisions to this Budget may be made only in accordance with the Standard Provision of this Grant entitled "Award Budget Limitation and Revision."

Line Item Description	USAID Amount (USD)
Total Estimated Cost	\$108,400

E. REPORTING AND EVALUATION

MI will provide reporting as indicated in paragraph 6. Reporting under "ATTACHMENT 2: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION"

The Grantee must prepare and submit a copy of the final report required by this grant to the Bureau for Program and Policy Coordination, Development Experience Clearinghouse PPC/DEI).

- (A) Via E-mail (Preferred) : docsubmit@dec.cdie.org;
- (B) Via U.S. Postal Service: Development Experience Clearinghouse,
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 210,
Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA;
- (C) Via Fax: (301) 588-7787; or
- (D) Online: http://www.dec.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=docSubmit_home.

The title page of all reports forwarded to USAID must include a descriptive title, the author's name, grant number, the project number and title, the grantee's name, the name of the USAID office, and the publication or issuance date of the report.

F. PROCUREMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND SPECIAL AWARD CONDITIONS

USAID has conducted an assessment of the administrative and financial management systems and procurement procedures employed by the Grantee. The assessment included, without limitation, a review of the application of prevailing procurement procedures, a review of the Grantee's compatibility with USAID transparency and accountability principles and the Grantee's capacity to adapt these procedures, as necessary, to comply with USAID requirements. In light of this assessment, the Grantee hereby agrees to the following measures:

1. MI will follow its procurement, financial management and project administration policies and procedures.
2. MI will take steps to ensure that its staff know and comply with such policies and procedures.
3. MI will establish a new written policy for the award and management of sub-awards.

- End of Attachment 1 -

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ATTACHMENT 2: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. Program Title: Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Food Security Donor Mapping

2. Background/Introduction/Problem Statement

The Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI), launched in July 2009, is a multinational effort intended to promote regional cooperation between and among the lower Mekong countries (Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam) and the United States in the areas of agriculture and food security, connectivity, education, energy security, environment and water, and health. These sectors form the six pillars of the LMI.

The agriculture and food security pillar, formed in July 2012 and co-chaired by Burma and the United States, was created to address these seven principal objectives:

- (1) Promote collaboration in research and development, extension, institutional capacity building, and human resources development;
- (2) Identify agricultural policies and enhance the implementation of agreements to improve food production, access, quality, and nutrition, through technical cooperation;
- (3) Enhance household capacity to meet food security and nutritional needs;
- (4) Promote the implementation of sustainable land and water use management for agriculture and aquaculture;
- (5) Strengthen regional cooperation for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture;
- (6) Encourage the sustainable trade of agricultural products; and
- (7) Promote public-private cooperation for agri-business development and investment.

To address these seven areas, donor coordination on food security projects will be critical. Such coordination can facilitate exchange of best practices and ensure that food security programming is complementary and not duplicative. Based on discussions between LMI and other development partners, and the secondary research done by the Mekong Institute (MI) however, it appears there is currently a lack of information sharing on food security projects available in the public domain for the Lower Mekong sub-region. In fact, as stated in the Attachment B, the LMI nations specifically requested the LMI to take the lead on improving donor coordination in food security since it is difficult for them to track all the ongoing activity in the sub-region.

In response through a grant from USAID, MI will map agriculture and food securities activities in the Lower Mekong sub-region and make this information publically available on the MI website. This information will be presented to provide USAID, other donors, the LMI governments, the private sector, research centers, and other potential users with important information about donor priorities and programming in the food security sector in the LMI nations.

3. Project Approach: Objectives and Outcomes/Results

3.1 Goal and Objectives

The ultimate goal of this project is to improve donor coordination on food security projects in the Lower Mekong sub-region by making available and proactive disseminating important information about donor priorities and programming in the food security sector. In particular, the project will:

- Increase transparency with regards to donor priorities, activities, and actors, in the sub-region;
- Provide a tool to facilitate enhanced donor division of labor, collaboration, and harmonization;
- Inform future USAID and donor programming in the sub-region; and
- Catalyze discussion to promote increased coordination on identified regional priorities outlined in the agriculture and food security section under the LMI Plan of Action 2011-2015.

This activity will also directly support LMI's goal of broad cooperation and USAID coordination with donors, international financial institutions, and multilateral organizations to increase efficiency, identify and meet programmatic and resources gaps, and avoid redundancy and overlapping activities.

MI will also review and assess food security programs and projects to see whether gender perspectives have been incorporated into the program/project design, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. As much as possible, data provided in the donor-mapping database for each project/program will be disaggregated to clearly show both the number of women and men involved and impacted. The team will also assess the degree to which the projects/programs in the database have furthered gender equality in the Lower Mekong sub-region

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and make the findings and recommendations known through different communication channels such as food security snapshots, bi-weekly social network tweets, and monthly news on food security issues.

3.2 Proposed Outcomes/Results

The project will contribute directly to the outcome of better food security sector donor coordination at regional and national levels in the Lower Mekong sub-region. This will be achieved by the utilization of the following project outputs by key stakeholders (development partners, LMI governments, development practitioners, research centers, civil society and private sectors):

1. Output one - a user-friendly database containing information on agriculture and food security development activities at the regional and national levels;
2. Output two - a publically available geographical donor map ('geo-map') that visually maps the database list through the use of categorical filters;
3. Output three – agriculture and food security snapshots (1-2 page documents) designed for high-level government officials that market activity achievements, milestones, and donor coordination;
4. Output four – bi-weekly social networking tweets on relevant food security developments in the sub-region; and
5. Output five – monthly newsfeeds that highlight food security projects and activities in the sub-region.

The specific format and content of the outputs mentioned above will be established by Mekong Institute based on the following criteria:

- accessibility (easily accessible to a broad audience),
- ease of use (the mapping should have a simple and user-friendly interface),
- usefulness of the data (appropriate breadth and depth).

4. Implementation Plan and Schedule

4.1 Implementation Plan and Phasing

This project will take place over 18 months from October 2013 to May 2015. The project implementation will start with a kickoff meeting in October between USAID/RDMA and Mekong Institute to discuss and agree on implementation details especially on the development of the database system (design, information requirements, scope and boundaries, file organization, applications, shareability, etc.), testing, and operational maintenance (monitoring the performance of the database system and maintenance of the database). The discussions and agreements reached during this technical meeting will be incorporated in a detailed Implementation Plan which will be submitted to USAID within 30 days after the date of the award. This plan includes the exact scope of the project and a clear definition of "donor project", target audience, and potential users to ensure regular communication and regular feedback from all stakeholders. Given the variety of food security programming interventions in the Lower Mekong sub-region, the activity will focus initially on collating public information on food security projects at the regional level and then moving on to the projects at the national level. The strategic advantage of Mekong Institute in carrying out this activity is that it can leverage its government focal points in each LMI nation to support the gathering of information on projects and activities at the national level. These focal points are mainly from the respective national planning agencies (e.g. Foreign Economic Relations Dept. of Ministry of Planning and Investment). These focal points will be appointed by MI Coordinating Agents¹ to work with this project. Part of the plan in seeking support from the country focal points is a workable mechanism that will allow continuous updating of national ongoing projects in the database even beyond project life. At a later point in time, depending on the availability of funding for a follow-on grant, the activity may be continued and expanded to collect information on food security interventions at the sub-national level.

The Donor Mapping project will be implemented in two phases as follows:

¹ Each of the Mekong countries appointed one government agency as MI Coordinating Agents to coordinate MI activities in the respective country.

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A. *Phase I – Mapping Agriculture and Food Security Activities (5 months: October 2013 – February 2014)*

In the first phase of this activity, the Mekong Institute will create a user-friendly database containing information on the development activities in food security at first, the regional level, and then, the national level. This will essentially be a list that will be housed on the Mekong Institute website. The list will serve as an “information center” on food security activities in the sub-region. Each entry will provide hyperlinks to the organization’s website for more detail on the activity, as well as providing contact details for additional information.

The Mekong Institute will collect information on each ongoing donor project, including:

- Name of project
- Name of donor
- Geographical location: country(ies) served, and sub-national provinces reached if applicable
- Point of contact (email, office phone)
- Brief project description that is categorized under identified sectors
- Dates of implementation (start date, end date)
- Total estimated funding over the life of the project
- Project website(s)

The agricultural and food security information will be organized under the following sectors: *crop production, animal husbandry, fisheries and aquaculture, post-harvest loss, climate-change, nutrition, trade, policy, research and market development*. After data collection, some more sectors may be added or removed for focus upon careful evaluation of the nature of donor projects/activities.

The following activities will be carried out as part of the mapping design process:

- (1) a desk review and comparative analysis of existing publicly available web-based information, including a recommendation on: (a) which one(s) may serve as appropriate models for this activity, and (b) which websites may be included in the listing, taking into consideration boundaries of time, cost and scope.
- (2) a desk review of publicly available information on ongoing and planned and completed programs/projects and activities implemented/funded by major development partners such as the United States, Japan, Australia, the European Union, Switzerland, Germany, England, Sweden, Denmark, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, PR China, Asian Development Bank, World Bank. Major international organizations projects and programs such as those of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), will also be reviewed.
- (3) Establishment of focal points in each LMI nation to help track activities and projects at the national level.
- (4) Telephone and/or in-person interviews with institutions and organizations to confirm the validity and accuracy of the information.

By mapping the agriculture and food security activities on a single site, USAID, development practitioners and LMI governments will be able to identify programming gaps and possibly overlaps, which will help with the identification of opportunities and the preparation of strategic plans in food security in the sub-region. The mapping will likewise help USAID and other organizations have a greater impact on shared high-priority objectives in the agriculture and food security area. On the part of MI, this project will begin to position MI as a knowledge management center on food security in the sub-region and advance the goals and objectives of the institute to become an integrated capacity building and research center for the sub-region.

B. *Phase II – Disseminating Information on Donor Agriculture and Food Security Activities (14 months: March 2014 – April 2015)*

Once this database of information is collated, and the list is posted online, Mekong Institute will use this list to generate outputs to promote the exchange of information and identify best practices on donor and development practitioner projects, including:

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- A **publicly available geographical donor map** ('geo-map') that visually maps the database list through the use of categorical filters. Pop-out boxes on the geo-map may include the basic project details above along with external links for additional information.
- **Food security snapshots:** 1-2 page documents designed for high-level government officials that market activity achievements, milestones, and donor coordination in food security. There will be approximately one snapshot for each sector. The project team will work closely with the LMI Coordination Hub at USAID/RDMA in designing these snapshots.
MI will gather regular feedback from potential users of donor mapping from the outset of the project, and outlines who this target audience may be and what constitutes a "donor project." A communication plan (including key messages) will be developed to disseminate the project information and stimulate interests of the target audience. An assessment of potential users of output materials will also be conducted to ensure wide coverage/reach. Examples of outputs include:
 - Bi-weekly social networking tweets on relevant food security developments in the sub-region.
 - Monthly newsfeeds that highlight food security projects and activities in the sub-region.
 - Inclusion of food security news in existing MI communication channels like a monthly E-Briefing and a quarterly Mekong Connection newsletter.

To draw further interest in the usefulness of the online database and geo-maps, Mekong Institute will leverage its regional network to regularly update the list and look for opportunities to share any pertinent information from the donor projects with a larger audience, such as through research reports, press releases, and upcoming events. Through the production of these regular outputs, this project will position MI as the intellectual hub on agriculture and food security in the Lower Mekong sub-region.

Details of the implementation plan are included in the following page.

4.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Mekong Institute will monitor the project regularly and ensure that the specified activities in the implementation plan are completed according to agreed scope and within the timeframe and budget. With regard to the database and online geographical map, a separate monitoring and evaluation scheme is required. As soon as the database and geo-maps have been created, careful testing for errors and identification of the strengths and weakness of the system will be conducted to further fine-tune the system and ensure that the database and the online geo-map are working well. Once posted for external access, monitoring and evaluation of the system performance will be regularly undertaken in terms of accessibility, ease of use and usefulness of the data, and the viability of the system as a whole. Feedback from the users may be sought to further refine the system and ensure that the database serves the purpose for which it was created. Suggested indicators include, but are not be limited to, website traffic (e.g., number of hits or unique visitors on website) and amount of time users spend on website and satisfaction of key stakeholders through periodic survey.

5. **Management Plan and Personnel**

5.1 The Project Team

The Mekong Institute will assume overall responsibility in project implementation and management. The USAID Donor Mapping project will be housed under MI's Rural Development Department (RDD) and, upon the guidance of the Director, the Program Manager will be responsible for overall management and direct supervision of the project team composed of five researchers: one each from Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. The core duties and responsibilities of the RDD Program Manager, serving as the project leader of this USAID project, include technical leadership, administrative oversight (project and financial management), and coordination with country focal points. The Program Manager, a full-time staff member of MI, will spend 30% of her time on the project with no additional remuneration. The Director will be the principal institutional liaison to USAID/RDMA and MI's point of contact. A computer programmer will be hired during the first phase of the project and a communication specialist will be added to the project team six months after project commencement to refine/edit information on the website and to write snapshots for each sector.

5.2 Implementation Arrangements

Country focal points are important to facilitate coordination and ensure cooperation from the five countries during data collection and on-going updating. These country focal points will play a very important role in providing data updates to a live database system after project completion. The Mekong Institute envisions working with

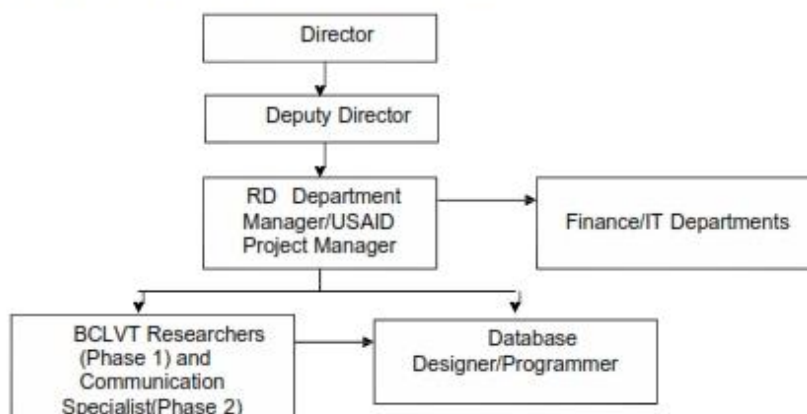
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government agencies in BCLVT responsible for recording and monitoring externally-funded projects and activities as country focal points (e.g International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Planning and Investment in Laos, Foreign Economic Relations Department of the Ministry of planning and Investment in Vietnam, etc.). Since Mekong Institute has established coordinating agencies in each country, the Mekong Institute will work with the identified agencies as country focal points. MI, specifically the researchers, will then work closely with the identified focal points to ensure that all relevant information are included in the database and devise a mechanism for continuous information updates. The partnership arrangements may be slightly different for each country in terms of data provision and updates but a mutually-beneficial agreement will be reached during the initial visit.

For the Phase 1 of the project, a computer programmer will be hired to develop the database system and accommodate the online geo-map in its design. In developing the database system, MI's RD Department Manager will work closely with both the MI Information Technology Department and the computer programmer in terms of hardware and software requirements and database design and application. During the Phase 2 of the project, the same set-up will be followed in the development of online geo-map. This time, a communication specialist will also be hired to take care of the bi-weekly social networking tweets, the monthly newsfeeds and the food security snapshots. The communication specialist will likewise be responsible for monitoring clients' access and usage, monitoring and evaluation of system performance, and regular assessments of the usability and usefulness of the project outputs.

The project's functional structure and staffing are as follows:



6. Reporting

MI will provide USAID quarterly financial reports (every three months). Progress reports will be prepared and submitted every 6 months according to the following schedule:

Reporting Month	Types of Reports
Within November 2013	Implementation Plan
January 2014	Financial Report
April 2014	Outcomes of the Kickoff Meeting in October and Preliminary Mapping Plans
	Database List of Donor Projects and Activities
	Financial Report
	M&E Plan

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July 2014	Financial Report
October 2014	Outcomes of the Preliminary Meeting on Geo-map Creation and Design
	Progress Report, including Monitoring and Evaluation Report
	Financial Report
January 2015	Progress Report, including Monitoring and Evaluation
	Financial Report
April 2015	End-of-project Report – highlights of project achievements, users' feedback on the usefulness and relevance of the database and the online geo-map, recommendations for additional applications or later extensions to the system based on donors' feedback
	Financial Report

The reports mentioned above are described as follows:

- Outcomes of the Kickoff Meeting in October and Preliminary Mapping Plans – this report will include all the agreements made between USAID and MI in terms of the technical details of project implementation and will include preliminary mapping plans based on the important issues discussed, information requirements and data collection plans for each country involved.
- Database List of Donor Projects and Activities – Upon completion of Phase 1, MI will provide USAID with a database list of donor projects and activities as posted in Mekong Institute website.
- Outcomes of the Preliminary Meeting on Geo-map Creation and Design – this report will include the major issues discussed between USAID and MI during the preliminary meeting, especially the design and features of the geo-map and the regular assessment plans.
- Progress Reports – this report will contain: a) current progress achieved towards objectives, b) keyed to project indicators, c) challenges and constraints encountered, d) Plan of activities for the next quarter, including upcoming events, and e) Success stories.
- End-of-Project Report – The final report includes both the project implementation report and the financial report. Achievements of the project will be highlighted and users' feedback on the usefulness and relevance of the database and the online geo-map will be included as basis for further refinements of the database and geo-map system. The same feedback will be used in formulating recommendations for additional applications or later extensions to the system. Moreover, assessment of sustainability, problems encountered, success stories and lessons learnt will also be included in the end-of-project report.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Reports and M&E Plan –An M&E Plan will be developed detailing the monitoring and marketing strategies and the frequency of conducting those activities. The M&E Plan will include M&E reports that contain the results of those activities such as: 1) results of careful testing for errors, strength and weakness of the system; 2) results of regular monitoring and evaluation activities in terms of accessibility, ease of use, and usefulness of the data; and 3) assessment of its usefulness to the donors and its impact on donor programming and coordination.

7. Information, Marking, and Branding

MI will give appropriate publicity to the Grant as a program to which the United States contributes. MI may disclose this Grant and information with respect to it in accordance with MI's Public Communications Policy. USAID may disclose this Grant and information with respect to it in accordance with the USAID's policy and legislative obligations.

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Detailed Implementation Plan

	2013			2014												2015			
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April
Preparatory Phase																			
Technical Meeting																			
Desk reviews																			
Preliminary Mapping Plans																			
Phase I: Mapping Agriculture and Food Security Activities (Oct 2013-Feb 2014)																			
Establishment of Focal Points in BCLVT																			
Primary Data Collection																			
Data Entry																			
¶ Listing of donor ongoing regional activities																			
¶ Listing of donor ongoing national activities																			
Database list of donor projects and activities posted to MI website – phase 1 completed																			
Phase II: Disseminating Information on Donor Agriculture and Food Security Activities (March 2014-April 2015)																			
Preliminary Meeting on geo-map creation and other outputs																			
Develop Online Geo-map System and Design																			
Testing Online Geo-map																			
Online Geo-map on Donor Projects launched																			
Monitoring and Evaluation																			
Creation of dissemination/marketing strategy																			
¶ Bi-weekly social networking tweets																			
¶ Monthly newsfeeds on food security project																			
Food security snapshots																			
Project Assessment: End of Project Report																			

- End of Attachment 2 -

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ATTACHMENT 3: STANDARD PROVISIONS

I. Mandatory Standard Provisions for Cost-Type Awards to Public International Organizations (PIOs)

1. Allowable Costs (April 2011)

a. The recipient must use funds provided under the award for costs incurred in carrying out the purposes of the award which are reasonable, allocable, and allowable.

(1) "Reasonable" means the costs do not exceed those that would ordinarily be incurred by a prudent person in the conduct of normal business.

(2) "Allocable" means the costs are necessary to the award.

(3) "Allowable" means the costs are reasonable and allocable, and conform to any limitations set forth in the award.

b. The recipient is encouraged to obtain the Agreement Officer's written determination in advance whenever the recipient is uncertain as to whether a cost will be allowable.

2. Amendment (April 2011)

The parties may amend the award by mutual agreement, by formal modifications to the basic award document, or by means of an exchange of letters between the Agreement Officer and the recipient.

3. Nonliability (April 2011)

USAID does not assume liability for any third party claims for damages arising out of the award.

4. Notices (April 2011)

Any notice given by USAID or the recipient will be sufficient only if in writing and delivered in person, mailed, or transmitted electronically by e-mail or fax. Notices to USAID should be sent to the Agreement Officer at the address specified in the award and to any designee specified in the award. Notices to the recipient should be sent to the recipient's address shown in the award or to such other address designated in the award.

Notices will be effective when delivered in accordance with this provision, or on the effective date of the notice, whichever is later.

5. Reserved.

6. Reserved.

7. Payment (Cost-Reimbursement) (April 2011)

The recipient must submit to the paying office indicated in the award an original and three copies of SF-1034 ([http://contacts.gsa.gov/webforms.nsf/0/57675C8BB6CE880B85256A3F004125BD/\\$file/SF%201034.pdf](http://contacts.gsa.gov/webforms.nsf/0/57675C8BB6CE880B85256A3F004125BD/$file/SF%201034.pdf)) and SF-1035 ([http://contacts.gsa.gov/webforms.nsf/0/213A354B84AE05B085256A81004632C8/\\$file/SF%201035.pdf](http://contacts.gsa.gov/webforms.nsf/0/213A354B84AE05B085256A81004632C8/$file/SF%201035.pdf)), normally once a month, but in any event no less than quarterly. Each voucher must be identified by the award number and must state the total costs for which reimbursement is being requested.

8. Audit and Records (Standard) (April 2011)

The recipient is required to maintain books, records, documents, and other evidence, in accordance with the recipient's usual accounting procedures to sufficiently substantiate charges to the award. The recipient confirms that its program will be subject to an independent audit in accordance with the recipient's usual auditing procedures, and agrees to furnish copies of these audit reports to USAID along with other related

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information, as may be reasonably requested by USAID with respect to questions or findings arising from the audit report.

An audit is considered independent if the auditors are determined by the USAID's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to be independent in accordance with the standards established in **International Auditing Standard (IAS/IFAC) Section 290, "Independence—Audit and Review Engagements,"** (<http://www.iasplus.com/ifac/0707ethicsed.pdf>) International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA). For recipients for which the CFO determined in its pre-award audit that the recipient's internal auditors meet the tests of independence in accordance with IAS standards and for recipients that are Category 1 PIOs, internal auditors may be used to satisfy the audit requirement. For recipients for which the CFO determined in its pre-award audit that the recipient's internal auditors do not meet the tests of independence, the recipient will be required to engage an independent audit firm to satisfy the audit requirement. All auditors must be considered competent under **International Education Standard (IES) 8, "Competence Requirements for Audit Professionals,"** (<http://www.iasplus.com/ifac/0504educationies8.pdf>) International Federation of Accountants.

9. Reserved.

10. Reserved.

11. Refunds (April 2011)

- a. If the recipient earns interest on Federal advances before expending the funds for program purposes, the recipient must remit the interest annually to USAID. Interest amounts up to \$250 per year may be retained by the recipient for administrative expenses.
- b. Funds obligated by USAID, but not disbursed to the recipient before the award expires or is terminated will revert to USAID, except for funds committed by the recipient to a legally binding transaction applicable to the award. Any funds advanced to, but not disbursed by, the recipient before the award's expiration or termination must be refunded to USAID, except for funds committed by the recipient to a legally binding transaction applicable to the award.
- c. If, at any time during the life of the award, or as a result of an audit, the Agreement Officer determines that USAID funds provided under the award have been expended for purposes not in accordance with the terms of the award, then the recipient must refund the amount to USAID.

12. Award Budget Limitations and Revisions (April 2011)

- a. The approved award budget is the financial expression of the recipient's program as approved during the award process. USAID is not obligated to reimburse the recipient for any costs incurred in excess of the total amount obligated under the award.
- b. The recipient must immediately request approval from the Agreement Officer when there is reason to believe that, within the next 30 calendar days, a revision of the approved award budget will be necessary for any of the following reasons:
 - (1) To change the scope or the objectives of the program or to add any new activity.
 - (2) To revise the funding allocated among program objectives by more than ten percent (10%) of the total budget amount unless the award states otherwise.
 - (3) Additional funding is needed.
 - (4) The recipient expects the amount of USAID authorized funds to exceed its needs by more than \$20,000 or ten percent (10%) of the USAID award, whichever is greater.
- c. The recipient will not be obligated to continue performance under the award (including actions under the "Termination Procedures" provision) or otherwise to incur costs in excess of the amount obligated under

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the award, unless and until the Agreement Officer notifies the recipient in writing that the obligated amount has been increased and specifies the new award total amount.

13. Termination Procedures (April 2011)

The award may be terminated by either party, in whole or in part, at any time with 30 days written notice of termination. After receiving a termination notice from the Agreement Officer, the recipient must take immediate action to cease all expenditures financed by the award and to cancel all unliquidated obligations if possible. The recipient may not enter into any additional obligations under the award after receiving the notice of termination, other than those reasonably necessary to effect the close out of the award. Except as provided below, no further reimbursement will be made after the effective date of termination. As soon as possible, but in any event no later than 120 days after the effective date of termination, the recipient must repay to USAID all unexpended USAID funds that are not otherwise obligated by a legally binding transaction applicable to the award. If the funds paid by USAID to the recipient before the effective date of termination are not sufficient to cover the recipient's obligations under a legally binding transaction, then the recipient may submit a written claim for such amount to USAID within 120 days after the effective date of termination. The Agreement Officer will determine the amount(s) to be paid by USAID to the recipient under the claim in accordance with the "Allowable Costs" provision of the award.

14. Financial Management, Procurement, and Evaluation (April 2011)

To the extent not inconsistent with other provisions of the award, USAID and the recipient understand that funds made available to the recipient must be administered in accordance with the recipient's own financial rules and regulations, and that the recipient will follow its own procurement and evaluation policies and procedures.

15. Dispute Resolution (April 2011)

USAID and the recipient will use their best efforts to amicably settle any dispute, controversy, or claim that results from, or relates to, the award.

16. Title to and Disposition of Property (April 2011)

Ownership of equipment, supplies, and other property purchased with funds under the award will vest in the recipient during the life of the award. Disposition of excess property financed under the award will be made in consultation with USAID and, where applicable, the host government of the country in which the activities financed under the award take place or other recipient organizations.

17. USAID Disability Policy and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Assistance (April 2011)

a. The principles of the present UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities include promoting: (1) respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons; (2) nondiscrimination; (3) full and effective participation and inclusion in society; (4) respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity; (5) equality of opportunity; (6) accessibility; (7) equality between men and women; and (8) respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities. The full text of the Convention can be found at the following Web site: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>

b. USAID requires that the recipient not discriminate against persons with disabilities in the implementation of USAID-funded programs and make every effort to respect the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in performing the program under the award. One of the objectives of the USAID's Disability Policy is to engage other U.S. Government agencies, host country counterparts, governments, implementing organizations, and other donors in fostering a climate of nondiscrimination against people with disabilities. To that end, and to the extent it can accomplish this goal within the scope of the program objectives, the recipient should demonstrate a comprehensive and consistent approach for including men, women, and children with disabilities.

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18. Terrorist Financing Clause (Standard) (April 2011)

U.S. Executive Orders and U.S. law prohibit transactions with, and the provision of resources and support to, individuals and organizations associated with terrorism. It is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure compliance with these Executive Orders and laws. This provision must be included in all contracts or subagreements issued under the award.

19. Reserved.

20. Reserved.

21. Reserved.

APPENDICES

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II. Required as Applicable Standard Provisions for Cost-Type Awards to Public International Organizations

1. Reserved.

2. Reserved.

3. Reserved.

4. Reserved.

5. Publications and Media Releases (April 2011)

- a. If the recipient intends to identify USAID's contribution to any publication, video, or other information/media product resulting from the award, the product must state that the views expressed by the author(s) do not necessarily reflect those of USAID. Acknowledgements must identify the sponsoring USAID Bureau/Independent Office or Mission and the U.S. Agency for International Development substantially as follows.
- b. "This [publication, video, or other information/media product (specify)] was made possible through support provided by the Office of _____, Bureau for _____, U.S. Agency for International Development, under the terms of Award No. _____. The opinions expressed in this [publication, video, or other information/media product] are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development."
- c. The recipient must provide USAID with one copy of all published works developed under the award and with lists of other written works produced under the award.
- d. Except as otherwise provided in the terms and conditions of the award, the author or the recipient is free to copyright any books, publications, or other copyrightable materials developed in the course of or under the award, but USAID reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use, the work for U.S. Government purposes.

6. Reporting of Foreign Taxes (Standard) (April 2011)

- a. Final and Interim Reports. The recipient must annually submit two reports:
 - (1) An interim report by November 17; and
 - (2) A final report by April 16 of the next year.
- b. Contents of Report. The reports must contain:
 - (1) Recipient name.
 - (2) Contact name with phone, fax and e-mail.
 - (3) Award number(s).
 - (4) Amount of foreign taxes assessed by a foreign government [each foreign government must be listed separately] on commodity purchase transactions valued at \$500 or more financed with U.S. foreign assistance funds under the award during the prior U.S. fiscal year.
 - (5) Only foreign taxes assessed by the foreign government in the country receiving U.S. assistance are to be reported. Foreign taxes by a third party foreign government are not to be reported. For example, if an assistance program for Lesotho involves the purchase of commodities in South Africa using foreign assistance funds, any taxes imposed by South Africa would not be reported in the report for Lesotho (or South Africa).

APPENDICES

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- (6) Any reimbursements received by the recipient during the period, regardless of when the foreign tax was assessed. Additionally, for the interim report, any reimbursements on the taxes reported in (4) received by the recipient through October 31, and for the final report, any reimbursements on the taxes reported in (4) received through March 31.
 - (7) The final report is an updated cumulative report of the interim report.
 - (8) Reports are required even if the recipient did not pay any taxes during the report period.
 - (9) Cumulative reports may be provided if the recipient is implementing more than one program in a foreign country.
- c. Definitions. For purposes of this clause:
- (1) "Agreement" includes USAID direct and country contracts, awards, cooperative agreements, and interagency agreements.
 - (2) "Commodity" means any material, article, supply, goods, or equipment.
 - (3) "Foreign government" includes any foreign governmental entity.
 - (4) "Foreign taxes" means value-added taxes and custom duties assessed by a foreign government on a commodity. It does not include foreign sales taxes.
- d. Where. Submit the reports to: bangkokusaidfa@usaid.gov
- e. Subagreements. The recipient must include this reporting requirement in all applicable subcontracts, subawards, and other subagreements.
- f. For further information, see **AAPD 03-12 Reporting on Taxation of U.S. Foreign Assistance** (http://www.usaid.gov/business/business_opportunities/cib/pdf/aapd03_12.pdf)

7. Reserved.

8. Foreign Government Delegations to International Conferences (April 2011)

Funds provided under the award may not be used to finance the travel, per diem, hotel expenses, meals, conference fees, or other conference costs for any member of a foreign government's delegation to an international conference sponsored by a public international organization, unless approved by the Agreement Officer.

9. Reserved.

10. Reserved.

11. Reserved.

12. Reserved.

13. Reserved.

14. Reserved.

15. Reserved.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1.2 GRANT EXTENSION

Mekong Institute
DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION



Ref. MI244 /2015

01 April 2015

Ms. Rebecca White
Regional Agreement Officer
USAID/RDMA, Bangkok, Thailand

Subject: Request for extension of the USAID Grant to Mekong Institute for project titled, *Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping*

Dear Ms. White,

This is with reference to the USAID grant made to Mekong Institute for the project, *Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping* amounting to USD 108,400.00.

We understand that per grant agreement, the project, which commenced in October 1, 2013, is due to end by April 30, 2015. Further, as indicated in the grant agreement, Mekong Institute is to submit the following outputs:

- Output 1: A user-friendly database containing information on agriculture and food security development activities at the regional and national levels;
- Output 2: A publicly-available geographical donor map (geo map);
- Output 3: Agriculture and food security snapshots;
- Output 4: Bi-weekly social networking tweets on relevant food security projects and activities; and
- Output 5: Monthly newsfeeds that highlight food security projects and activities.

The Rural Development Department under which the project is housed has reported that the first two outputs have been accomplished 80%, and work on the three others was started only in late 2014, pending completion of Outputs 1 and 2. In view of the Institute's commitment to deliver this project and ensure that it serves its fullest use to key stakeholders in the region, **we would like to request for an extension of the grant from its original end date April 30, 2015 to June 30, 2015 at no additional cost.**

This request for extension is being made as the project team believes that the additional two-month period will serve to benefit USAID and the Mekong Institute in ensuring that the project is able to deliver its expected outputs.

The project's cost savings achieved over the past months by using MI staff to carry out project activities will be used for the requested two-month extension and enable us to carry out other additional activities. One of these is a formal launch of the website among donors and development partners instead of the original publicity through internal networks. This formal launch is expected to generate greater awareness of the database among a larger network of donors and development organizations, thereby increasing demand for the platform.



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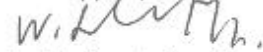
As the project had encountered some delays, particularly in the development of the database due to circumstances beyond the project team's control, the requested two-month extension will give us sufficient time to complete the pending functionalities of the database and carry out further testing to optimize usability. During this period, we also intend to conduct further monitoring and evaluation to determine the site's effectiveness.

We share USAID's vision to have this platform serve as a key tool in improving donor collaboration in the Lower Mekong Region. For MI's part, we consider this as part of our contribution to knowledge sharing on development initiatives in the GMS, as well as our assistance to USAID's and other donors' design and planning of food security and agriculture initiatives in the region.

Please find attached for your reference the timeline of activities for the extension period.

Thank you for your usual cooperation and support in this project, and we look forward to USAID's favorable response to our request.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Watcharas Leelawath
Director

Cc: Mr. Kipp Sutton
Grant Award Officer, USAID/RDMA, Bangkok

Ms. Sylvie Doutriaux
Senior Regional Food Security Advisor, USAID/RDMA, Bangkok

Encl: Timeline of activities

APPENDICES

Timeline of Activities for USAID Grant Extension

Activity	Agency/Person in-charge	2016				
		February	March	April	May	June
Hiring of new programmer	MI	x				
Hiring of specialist for snapshots	MI	x				
Signing of MOU with focal points	MI, coordinating agency	x	x			
Completion of database features (including testing and turnover)	MI, new programmer		x	x	x	
Writing of snapshots	MI		x	x	x	
Updating of database content based on additional features (including posting of snapshots)	MI, new programmer			x	x	x
Training program on database use	MI, new programmer				x	
Database launching	MI				x	
Monitoring and Evaluation	MI	x	x	x	x	
Project Final Evaluation	MI					x
Final Report	MI					x

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MODIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE			Page 1 of 1
1. MODIFICATION NUMBER: 01	2. EFFECTIVE DATE OF MODIFICATION: See Block 15	3. AWARD NUMBER: AID-486-IO-13-00002	4. EFFECTIVE DATE OF AWARD: 10/01/2013
5. GRANTEE: Mekong Institute 123 KhonKaen University, KhonKaen 40002, Thailand DUNS NO. : 661739967 REQW-496-13-000139 TIN NO. : LOC NO. :N/A		6. ADMINISTERED BY: Regional Office of Procurement USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia Athenee Tower, 25th Floor 63 Wireless Road Bangkok, Thailand 10330	
7. FISCAL DATA: Amount Obligated: \$0.00 Budget Fiscal Year: Operating Unit: Strategic Objective: Team/Division: GDO, RDMA Benefiting Geo Area: Object Class:		8. TECHNICAL OFFICE: USAID/ RDMA, Bangkok, GDO 9. PAYMENT OFFICE: Office of Financial Management (OFM) USAID Regional Development Mission/Asia Athenee Tower, 25th Floor 63 Wireless Road Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand Email: BangkokUSAIDPaymentAction@usaid.gov	
10. FUNDING SUMMARY:		Obligated Amount	Total Est. Amt.
Amount Prior to this Modification:		\$108,400.00	\$108,400.00
Change Made by this Modification:		\$ 0.00	\$0.00
New/Current Total:		\$108,400.00	\$108,400.00
11. DESCRIPTION OF MODIFICATION: The purpose of this modification is to extend the Grant completion date wherever it appears in the Grant from "April 30, 2015" to read "June 30, 2015" in lieu thereof. Other terms and conditions remain unchanged and in full force and effect.			
12. THIS MODIFICATION IS ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1951 AS AMENDED. EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY HEREIN AMENDED, ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE GRANT REFERENCED IN BLOCK #3 ABOVE, AS IT MAY HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN AMENDED, REMAIN UNCHANGED AND IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.			
13. GRANTEE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IS <input type="checkbox"/> IS NOT REQUIRED TO SIGN THIS DOCUMENT TO RECONFIRM ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE CHANGES EFFECTED HEREIN			
14. GRANTEE: BY: <u>W. Watcharas Leelanath</u> Dr. Watcharas Leelanath (Name Typed or Printed) TITLE: <u>Director</u> DATE: <u>April 29, 2015</u>		15. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BY: <u>Rebecca R. White</u> Rebecca R. White (Name Typed or Printed) TITLE: <u>Regional Grant Officer</u> DATE: <u>28 April 2015</u>	

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APPENDIX 3.1 LIST OF DATABASE NEWSFEEDS AND STORIES

TITLE OF ARTICLE	TYPE OF ARTICLE	DATE POSTED
Thailand Faces Drought Affecting Agriculture Production *	News	July 14, 2015
Insurance Option for Smallhold Farmers*	News	July 10, 2015
Mekong Institute, USAID Launch Lower Mekong Food Security Donor Database	News	June 29, 2015
Cambodia and Philippines to Collaborate on Aquaculture*	News	April 9, 2015
In Search of Smarter Agriculture	Blog	April 3, 2015
Thailand's Agriculture Reform to Focus on 5 Areas*	News	March 30, 2015
Addressing the Gaps in GAP	Feature	March 24, 2015
The Catastrophe that is Drought	Feature	March 19, 2015
FAO, Vietnam work to promote sustainable agriculture	News	March 16, 2015
Beyond Food Security: The Empowerment of the Displaced People in Sangklaburi District, Kanchanaburi	Feature	March 13, 2015
FSWG Myanmar's Regional Resource Centers: Managing Knowledge for Food Security	Blog	March 10, 2015
Learning For and With Farmers: The METTA Farmers Field School Experience	Feature	March 6, 2015
Thailand Readies for Intense Drought this Year	News	March 3, 2015
Cultivating the Seeds of Hope	Feature	February 26, 2015
Vietnam Looking to Expand Beef Cattle Farming	News	February 25, 2015
UNDP Myanmar Launches Climate Change Project for Farmers in Dry Zone	News	February 20, 2015
Shifting the Spotlight to Women in Fisheries	Feature	February 16, 2015
KOICA Supporting Lao PDR on Rural Development Project	News	February 13, 2015
Exploring the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus in the Lower Mekong Sub-region	Blog	February 10, 2015
A LEAP in Agriculture: The Laos Extension for Agriculture Project	Feature	February 6, 2015
Catching Fish	Feature	February 3, 2015
Thailand Launches Better Rice Initiative Asia in Northeast	News	January 30, 2015
What Exportation Says About Food Security	Blog	January 27, 2015
The Zero Hunger Challenge and What it Means to Feed the Hungry	Blog	January 23, 2015

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Myanmar Welcomes Reforms in Fish Farming	News	January 21, 2015
GMS Countries Hold 5 th Summit in Bangkok	News	December 29, 2014
Food Security in the Mekong: Looking Beyond 2015	Blog	December 26, 2014
GROWing ASIA: Partnership in Agriculture	Feature	December 19, 2014
Asia Pacific Region Welcomes Aquaculture 15-Year Plan	News	December 16, 2014
Rice Price Volatility: Serious Issue for Myanmar's Agriculture	News	December 12, 2014
Sustainable Hydropower, Possible?	Blog	December 9, 2014
Vietnam Welcomes Climate-Smart Villages	News	December 5, 2014
The Challenge of Biofuel Development in the Mekong Region	Blog	December 1, 2014
The Ties that Bind ICT and Agriculture	Feature	November 27, 2014
Diversify: Why Farmers Need To Do It Now	Blog	November 25, 2014
From Fields to the Market: Improving Agricultural Products Quality in Vietnam	Feature	November 20, 2014
Water in Agriculture: The Water Resources Management Sector Development Program in Cambodia	Feature	November 18, 2014
Finding a Cure for Farmers in Lao PDR	Feature	November 14, 2014
The Face of Women in Agriculture in Vietnam	Feature	November 11, 2014
Moving Forward to Address Food Security in 2014	Blog	November 7, 2014
World Recognizes Smallholder Farmers in 2014 World Food Day Celebration	News	November 4, 2014

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Cambodia's Pursuit of Food Self-Sufficiency

After overcoming the dark years that left Cambodia's physical, economic, and social structures in ruins, the country finally emerged as a strong middle-income economy in Southeast Asia, growing by 7.0% in 2014. In the social development aspect, the country is one of only 63 countries in the world to have achieved the MDG hunger target of halving the proportion of chronic undernourishment by 2015.

Central to this positive development is the growth of the agriculture sector. With **70% of the population depending on agriculture**, the Royal Government of Cambodia exerted efforts to hone the sector's potential, eventually enabling the country to achieve full rice-self sufficiency and catapulting it into a leading rice exporter in the region. The country's rice surplus is estimated to reach more than 3 million metric tons of milled rice, and the Government continues to actively pursue investments that could further boost agriculture productivity and increase the sector's competitiveness.

Food Insecurity in Cambodia

But success does not come easy. Economic prosperity does not automatically translate to prosperity for all. **One-fourth of Cambodians are still food deprived**, and eat less than the minimum daily requirement of calories. About 30% of Cambodian children are still underweight, while almost half (40.9%) are stunted. **Access to adequate amounts of nutritious food continues to be the main challenge**, with estimates showing that an average unskilled worker living in rural areas could purchase only 12.2 kg of rice/day, while those in urban areas are able to purchase only 11.7 kg/day. This hinted a **sharp decrease in the food purchasing power** of regular Cambodian workers, especially those living in the cities.



Children vulnerable to food insecurity

PILLARS OF FOOD SECURITY

Food security is "[when] people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Household food security is the application of this concept to the family level, with individuals within households as the focus of concern." Source: Food and Agriculture Organization

<p>AVAILABILITY</p> <p>sufficient quantities of food available on a consistent basis</p>	<p>UTILIZATION</p> <p>appropriate use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation</p>
<p>ACCESS</p> <p>having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate food for nutritious diet</p>	<p>STABILITY</p> <p>access to adequate food at all times with no risk losing access as a consequence of sudden or cyclical events</p>

Escalating food prices and decreasing wages of unskilled workers are viewed as the main culprits **limiting food access**, especially of the poor. Cambodia's food price index is relatively higher than its neighboring countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)¹, while wages for unskilled labor have been rapidly decreasing. The interplay of these two factors, among others, have led to restrictive food prices that limit food access of households with unskilled labor.

While **food availability** has significantly improved in the past decade and rice sufficiency has been met, crop variety has to be further diversified to avoid over-reliance on rice. The agriculture sector is also affected by low levels of productivity, with farmers relying mainly on rainwater for irrigation, thus making them more prone to flooding and droughts. And, while some infrastructure such as roads has improved, others such as storage facilities remain inadequate, resulting to high post-harvest losses.

The population relies heavily on aquatic and agricultural resources which have been abused by illegal logging and overfishing, threatening the future availability of these resources. Cambodia also remains **vulnerable to exogenous shocks and natural disasters that threaten the sustainability of agriculture**. **Current farming practices do not help ensure stability** and sustainability amidst sudden or cyclical events. As it stands, food stability measures already signal instability, with food price volatility increasing from 13.5 in 2010 to 14.7 in 2014.

INDICATORS

Availability

- Number of undernourished people: 2.4M (2012-2014)
- Average value of food production per person: \$270 (2013)

Access

- Prevalence of food inadequacy: 25% (2014)
- Road density (per 100 sqm of land area): 21.9 (2009)

Utilization

- Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are stunted: 41% (2010)
- Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are underweight: 29% (2012)

Stability

- Percentage of arable land equipped for irrigation: 8.8 (2010-2012)
- Per capita food supply variability: 22 (2011)

¹ Composed of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam

APPENDICES

Prioritizing Food Security

In response to the food security threats, and in recognition of the pivotal role of agriculture in economic development, Cambodia recently passed the **National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition 2014-2018** which emphasizes the need for an **integrated approach involving agriculture, forestry and fisheries, water resources, health, education, and social protection units**. On the operational level, the Royal Government of Cambodia created the Council for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD), a high-level policymaking body responsible for the government's agricultural and rural road map, and for coordinating nutrition-related efforts among line ministries and development partners.

Collaborative Approaches Toward Food Security

An example of a collaborative initiative is the Zero Hunger Challenge aimed at developing the National Action Plan to create an institutional platform for designing, implementing, and coordinating food security and nutrition policy measures. The Royal Government of Cambodia, UNICEF, FAO, and WFP are working together on this initiative.

To help translate policy objectives into actual outputs, the Government and its development partners have undertaken numerous initiatives that cut across the four themes of food security. Projects that aim to **increase food availability include infrastructure development (i.e., irrigation facilities) and capacity development to increase productivity and diversify crops**. Access is enhanced by targeted programs such as the **provision of nutritious food to mothers and children**. In times of **food crises, targeted programs** ensure that those at risk, especially women and children, are provided food.

Most projects address the need to increase farmers' productivity by promoting crop diversification and increasing farmers' incomes. They encompass sustainable agriculture and resource management, and climate-smart agriculture. The USAID's Feed the Future program is an example of one such project which helped develop agricultural solutions to a variety of challenges, including poor agricultural productivity, postharvest losses, food safety, lack of market access, environmental degradation, and the effects of climate change.

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US Government's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative Cambodia Feed the Future Program in Numbers		
11.6 PERCENT Percentage of people living in poverty in Feed the Future target regions	\$7.6 MILLION Value of Feed the Future General sales in FY13	12.5 THOUSAND Hectares tended with improved technologies or management practices in FY13
32 THOUSAND FARMERS Producers using new technology and skills with Feed the Future's help in FY13	6 THOUSAND Children under 5 reached with nutrition help in FY13	\$664 THOUSAND New private investment leveraged by Feed the Future in FY13

Source: <http://www.feedthefuture.gov/country/cambodia>

Future Directions

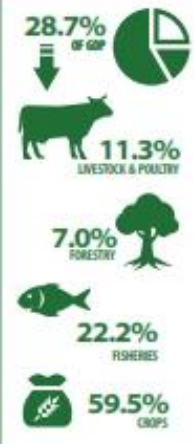
In terms of **food availability**, the reliance on rain for irrigation and the lack of storage facilities stifle the productivity of Cambodia's agricultural sector. The **use of irrigation systems, more efficient technologies and farming practices can help boost agricultural productivity**. The **construction of post-harvest infrastructure** such as storage facilities will help reduce losses, while increasing transport infrastructure could help grow agricultural trade opportunities. Farmers and farming households stand to benefit from capacity building on more efficient farming methodologies to increase yield, post-harvest skills to reduce losses, and crop diversification to lessen reliance on a single crop.

To address **food access** concerns, improving farm productivity and ensuring a steady supply of food products help control food prices by minimizing market-driven price fluctuations. Interventions that **help increase the income of farmers and unskilled labor** could help **boost food purchasing power**, while expanding the road and rail networks could facilitate the movement of people and improve their access to markets and goods.

For the sake of **sustainability**, the **promotion of sustainable and climate-smart agriculture and natural resource management will contribute to the long-term availability of food**, even amidst shocks and cyclical events that often affect the country. Irrigation systems play an important role in minimizing flooding and drought. **Capacity development** on the importance of sustainable farming practices and resource management will prove critical in ensuring a steady supply of food despite the threat of climate change. **Climate-resilient infrastructure** will also be essential in controlling damage and losses brought on by natural disasters, and in ensuring a steady supply of food for the population.

"promotion of sustainable and climate-friendly agriculture and natural resource management will contribute to the long-term availability of food"

AGRICULTURE SECTOR STATISTICS



"use of irrigation systems, more efficient technologies and farming practices can help boost agricultural productivity"

APPENDICES



Food Security Situation in Lao PDR

In Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), economic growth has not necessarily meant food security. While it is on track towards becoming a middle income country by 2020, it continues to be among the most food insecure in Asia. For instance, it has one of the most alarming undernourishment and stunting rates for children under five years in the region.

Since 62.45% of the population live in rural areas and grow their own food, most food production concerns are in smallholder farms. Issues like irrigation hamper productivity given only 21% of arable land is equipped for irrigation. Rice production dominates the sector, with rice being grown in 3% of all cultivated areas. Production inequality persists, for example, while Laos is already rice self-sufficient, almost half of its provinces continue to have a rice deficit.

Food availability is characterized by **low agricultural productivity in crops, livestock and fisheries**. Farmers regard lack of irrigation as the greatest single constraint on agricultural production. Land access for farmers has also been difficult due to factors like land conflicts and unexploded ordinance (UXO), rendering some parcels unavailable or unfit for agricultural use. **Access to food is unreliable and inconsistent, particularly for rural households**. Lack of permanent markets in villages and roads hamper access and transport of agricultural produce and food. In terms of **stability, Lao PDR is particularly vulnerable to environmental risks, primarily typhoons, droughts and animal diseases**.



Smallholder farmers need assistance



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Produced by Mekong Institute
Supported by United States Agency for International Development

PILLARS OF FOOD SECURITY

Food security is "[when] people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Household food security is the application of this concept to the family level, with individuals within households as the focus of concern."

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization

 <p>AVAILABILITY</p> <p>sufficient quantities of food available on a consistent basis</p>	 <p>UTILIZATION</p> <p>appropriate use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation</p>
 <p>ACCESS</p> <p>having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate food for nutritious diet</p>	 <p>STABILITY</p> <p>access to adequate food at all times with no risk losing access as a consequence of sudden or cyclical events</p>

Responses to Food Security Situation

The **Agricultural Development Strategy 2011-2020** serves as food security reference for the government and development partners. The strategy outlines two main goals, which reflect government's strategy to take an area-based approach to food production.

Key policies that are important to improve availability and access were developed only as recently as 2011, including specific policies for **irrigation, biodiversity, livestock, fisheries, forestry and disaster risk reduction and management**.

Because of the country's critical food security status, direct interventions that provide immediate access to food are important. This includes food aid in times of drought and floods, seed/input relief, restocking of livestock capital, enabling of market revival and establishment of social safety nets.

STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, 2011-2020

Key objectives:

- modernize lowland market-oriented agriculture production adapted to climate change, with a focus on smallholder farmers
- conserve upland ecosystems, ensuring food security and improving the livelihoods of rural communities

INDICATORS

Availability

- Number of undernourished people: 1.5 M (2014)
- Prevalence of undernourishment: 22% of population (2014)

Access

- Road density (per 100 sqm of land area): 17% (2011)
- Domestic food price index: 2.23 (2012)

Utilization

- Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are stunted: 44% (2012)
- Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are underweight: 27% (2012)

Stability

- Value of food imports over total merchandise exports: 10% (2012)
- Percentage of arable land equipped for irrigation: 21.7% (2012)

APPENDICES

Development Partners for Food Security

Major development partners work alongside government and academic institutions on policy formulation, coordination, and capacity-building. Key themes that cut across the four pillars of food security include:

- improving food and nutritional security through enhanced **policy, planning, and implementation** mechanisms
- introducing environmentally sustainable production for the market by small farmers using the **value chain approach**
- promoting **sustainable natural resource management** for crops, forests, fisheries and livestock
- **reducing risk and vulnerability** to natural and other disasters through **prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery**

USAID supported policy formulation and capacity building in Lao PDR, particularly for avian flu interventions, social services for vulnerable populations, policy support for improving transition to open markets, and promoting sustainable forest management.

Gaps in Food Security and Intervention Required

One policy area to address is the lack of a comprehensive national food security policy in Lao PDR that covers all the four pillars of food security. In terms of availability, increasing agricultural production is key, particularly for rice and other crops. This includes optimizing public resources like **irrigation and technology to support rice farmers**. Investing in rural **markets and infrastructure**, especially roads, will support access to inputs and final food products.

Resource rehabilitation, restoration and conservation, particularly of water, fisheries, and forests, are essential to ensuring food availability. For forestry in particular, main targets include improving existing forest areas up to 65% of total land area through watershed management, strict measures for avoiding deforestation, and developing monitoring mechanism to protect forests. Another measure is improving productivity in sustainable agriculture practices to avoid pressure on endangered resources.

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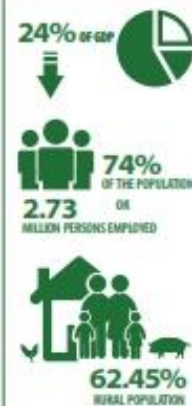
Land access to farmers difficult

Improving the **management of agricultural land concessions** to investors is important. In Vientiane alone, 15% of land area has been given to the private sector, primarily for mining, leaving very little land for food production. The government will need support in defining guidelines for granting land concessions or leasing contracts, since these are not developed yet.

The government foresees that one of its main roles is facilitating private investment, which would entail capacity building for local governments on **attracting and monitoring investment**. Such investments are needed for higher-value and more efficient agriculture, food production and distribution. Public-private partnerships are one desired mode of development, and the government is building linkages among farmer organizations and foreign investors. Such partnerships will ensure that Global GAP (certified good agricultural practices) is applied for sustainable management of agricultural land, improved rearing techniques for livestock and food safety.

As a **food stability** concern, Laos is highly vulnerable to climate change. It needs a proactive and integrated policy linking disaster risk management and reduction to food security. The country also needs to be better equipped to monitor and mitigate emerging zoonotic diseases.

AGRICULTURE SECTOR STATISTICS



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Myanmar Food Security Situation

With **more than half of the population depending on agriculture**, the sector plays a central role in the country's poverty reduction strategies. However, agriculture, which employs more than 60% of the population and contributes 30% of the GDP, has been growing slower in recent years, behind the services and industry sectors. This has impacted heavily on the poverty situation in Myanmar, where **25% of the population continues to live below the poverty line**. Majority of the country's poor live in rural areas, with the highest poverty incidence in the two major agricultural regions of Delta and Dry Zones.

Food availability continues to be a challenge. Myanmar's agriculture sector suffers from low productivity rates and has some of the lowest yields in Southeast Asia. Myanmar is also markedly rice dependent, rice being a domestic staple and a major export commodity. The country's integration into the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)¹ and ASEAN opens up opportunities for it to undertake higher-value agriculture activities and plant higher value crops, which could increase incomes for farmers and rural households. Local planting practices, such as the heavy concentration of paddy farming in only two months—November and December—also prove to be counter-productive and limit the food production potential of Myanmar.



Modern farming techniques and irrigation facilities needed

PILLARS OF FOOD SECURITY

Food security is "[when] people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Household food security is the application of this concept to the family level, with individuals within households as the focus of concern."

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization

 <p>AVAILABILITY</p> <p>sufficient quantities of food available on a consistent basis</p>	 <p>UTILIZATION</p> <p>appropriate use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation</p>
 <p>ACCESS</p> <p>having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate food for nutritious diet</p>	 <p>STABILITY</p> <p>access to adequate food at all times with no risk losing access as a consequence of sudden or cyclical events</p>

Still, **food access** seems to be the more problematic food security aspect in Myanmar. The country has the **highest price volatility in terms of rice**. With **60% of poor household incomes allocated to food**, these price spikes affect the ability of households to purchase food and could lead to nutritional shortages, especially among children. The **lack of infrastructure** also hinders consumers from accessing their daily food requirements; and limits the market access of sellers. Political instability and the increase in the number of displaced people exacerbate this access problem. As more of the **displaced populations are pushed back into the isolated borders** of Myanmar, their access to nutritious food diminishes.

In terms of **food utilization**, difficulty in accessing food due to increasing domestic food prices, and weak infrastructure systems result in the undernourishment of children and women. Those displaced by political in-fighting in Myanmar also face limited access to nutritious food. Myanmar has one of the highest percentages of children under 5 who are stunted, and of children under 5 who are underweight in the region. **Environmental hazards are also very real threats** to the country's agriculture sector. Myanmar's forests are heavily logged and the country is susceptible to natural hazards such as drought and flooding. These render the **stability of agricultural products vulnerable to shocks and external events**.

INDICATORS

Availability

- Number of undernourished people: 8.9 (2012-2014)
- Average value of food production: \$326 (2013)

Access

- Prevalence of food inadequacy: 26.8% (2014)
- Road density (per 100 sqm of land area): 5.6 (2011)

Utilization

- Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are stunted: 35.1% (2009)
- Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are underweight: 22.6% (2009)

Stability

- Value of food imports over total merchandise exports: 8 (2009-2011)
- Percentage of arable land equipped for irrigation: 21.3 (2010-2012)

¹ Composed of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam

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Responses to Food Security Situation

The Government of the Union of Myanmar has long recognized food security as an essential element of its **agricultural policy**. The agricultural sector itself has focused on two main areas: the **commercialization of agriculture and maintaining food security**. A national plan of action for food and nutrition was set in place. These strategic frameworks have given rise to various programs that help increase agricultural productivity and improve household food security.

Most donor-led initiatives focus on interventions that address the **needs of the vulnerable in society, resilience to climate change, rural and microfinance, market access, value chain and supply chain management**. The WFP Program on Supporting Transition by Reducing Food Insecurity and Undernourishment Among the Most Vulnerable is the largest funded single project at US\$200 million.

A collaborative approach in development funding is also being pursued through the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), a multi-donor fund managed by the UNOPS, and established to improve the lives and prospects of poor and vulnerable people in rural Myanmar. Current government donors include Australia, Denmark, the European Union, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. From the private sector, Mitsubishi Corporation is a donor. The United States, through USAID, contributes to this consortium by leveraging the work of international research institutes to improve agricultural productivity and reduce hunger and poverty in Myanmar. USAID also contributes to capacity building of Burmese universities and research institutions to conduct research in agriculture, nutrition and food policy through linkages with U.S. universities and the private sector.

Another collaborative initiative joins Myanmar with Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam, and the United States to work on food security and other important issues. The Lower Mekong Initiative supports these countries to discuss and work on critical issues for the region. In addition, the United States has expressed support for Myanmar's efforts of integrating gender, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and environmental, health, and nutrition issues in food security activities.

Gaps in Food Security and Interventions Required

In terms of **food availability, increasing productivity in the agriculture sector must be a priority**, even as the country slowly shifts its focus to industry and services. Productivity can be increased through the **adoption of appropriate technologies and resource management systems**. **Infrastructure is necessary** for farmers to access markets and farm inputs. Roads are vital for food to be marketed. **Storage facilities** are as important in decreasing post-harvest losses as they are to increasing food availability.

NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION (2011-2015)

"ensuring adequate access to, and utilization of food that is safe, adequate, and well-balanced on a long term basis in order to enhance the physical and mental development of the people of Myanmar"

Instead of focusing on low-value crops and single crops such as rice, efforts must be made to **allow farmers to produce higher value crops and transition to higher-value activities such as agribusiness**. Support for agribusiness in terms of hard infrastructure that facilitate trade and soft infrastructure that increase skills and ease trade border controls will help farmers successfully transition to the higher-value products and activities. **Rural and microfinance initiatives** could also help increase household incomes while supporting the agri-business initiatives of farmers.

The lack of **access to food** continues to be a problem for Myanmar, given the price volatility of food products, especially rice. Extending planting seasons beyond the normal two months, and the use of **modern farming techniques and irrigation facilities** will help produce a steadier supply of food and rice, which will in turn contribute to the stabilization of food prices and increase food access especially by the poor. **Expanding the road network** will also be beneficial as access to both sellers and consumers will increase.



Women vulnerable to food insecurity

Stability is also needed as Myanmar faces environmental challenges and climate change. The country's forests are heavily logged and some have been denuded; natural resources such as water are becoming scarce. These threaten the sustainability of farms and agricultural products. In addition to on-the-ground interventions to protect the vulnerable from these shocks, **policies that protect the environment and advocate for the more sustainable use of natural resources** are needed to ensure sustainability and stability in food production and access. Concurrently, **targeted programs** aimed at **helping the vulnerable segments** of the population such as women, children and ethnic minorities so they can catch up and meet nutritional and food requirements especially during food crises can be developed.

SAMPLE FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS

- Water management improvement in the Central Dry Zone where irrigation facilities were established
- Terrace farming for better water management and increased yields in hilly areas of Chin and Shan States
- Technology dissemination to improve production, storage, and distribution of food
- Rural financing institutions developed to help kick-start household incomes
- Food security status monitoring for vulnerable segments during emergencies and calamities
- Nutrition projects for children
- Health education programs

AGRICULTURE SECTOR STATISTICS



APPENDICES

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOTS Viet Nam



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Viet Nam Food Security Situation

Viet Nam is one of the highest **food exporting countries in the world** yet **food security remains a problem in selected groups and geographical areas**. Food prices in Viet Nam are **higher** compared to other countries in the region, which has a greater impact on lower-income groups since they tend to spend a greater part of their income on food.

The impact of climate change in Viet Nam is expected to be significant, with a 100 cm rise in sea level by 2100 that would affect around 10% of Viet Nam's population and 10% of GDP. Agricultural productivity is expected to be impacted in the long-term as rising sea levels reduce land available for agriculture. In the short term, increased occurrences of extreme weather events and increasing temperatures can reduce crop yields.

Availability of food is reduced with the **growing demand to use land for competing purposes**. This has led to a reduction in land available for agricultural activities. From 2000-2005, there is a yearly loss of 73,000 ha of fertile agricultural land to industrialization, urbanization and infrastructure development.

Access to food is unreliable and inconsistent especially to vulnerable groups and in various regions. Poverty rates have fallen over time at the national level but are observed to be higher in rural households and among ethnic minorities. Women and children are at risk since the pressure to increase earnings will have impacts on breastfeeding, child care, child labor, school attendance and out of pocket health expenditures. While Viet Nam's overall poverty rate suggests proper access to food and other necessities, poverty is highly variable among regions.



Rice is more than food, it is life

PILLARS OF FOOD SECURITY

Food security is "[when] people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Household food security is the application of this concept to the family level, with individuals within households as the focus of concern."

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization



AVAILABILITY

sufficient quantities of food available on a consistent basis

UTILIZATION



appropriate use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation



ACCESS

having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate food for nutritious diet

STABILITY



access to adequate food at all times with no risk losing access as a consequence of sudden or cyclical events

Rising food prices in the international market have threatened food security in Viet Nam. Despite being a net exporter of food, less than half of Vietnamese farm households are sellers of food and many net buyers have not seen their incomes increase in the same proportion as food prices. Low-skilled workers, rural landless households, children, elderly people and other vulnerable groups in the population whose incomes have not risen in proportion to domestic food prices are made temporarily worse off.

In terms of **stability, as a result of climate change, the frequency and strength of natural disasters will be more severe**. Rainfall may become abnormally high during the rainy season coupled with insufficient rainfall during the dry season. These may negatively impact crop production, in turn affecting Viet Nam's food security situation.

Responses to Food Security Situation

The key guiding document for food security is the **Master Plan of Production Development of Agriculture to 2020 and a Vision Toward 2030** which aims to ensure food security, meet the country's domestic and export needs, improve the efficiency of resource use and raise incomes of producers. To address climate change, the government instituted the **National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change** which aims to develop scenarios from 2010 to 2100 to identify specific measures to combat climate change. The government also formulated an action plan to focus on the effects of climate change on the agricultural sector.

INDICATORS

Availability

- Number of undernourished people: 11.9 million (2014)
- Prevalence of undernourishment: 12.9% of population (2014)

Access

- Road density (per 100 sqm of land area): 48.3 (2007)
- Domestic food price index: 1.98 (2011)

Utilization

- Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are stunted: 23% (2010)
- Percentage of children under 5 years of age who are underweight: 12% (2010)

Stability

- Value of food imports over total merchandise exports: 7% (2011)
- Percentage of arable land equipped for irrigation: 72% (2012)

APPENDICES

ACTION PLAN FRAMEWORK FOR ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE OF THE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR, 2008-2020

- stability and safety of residents
- stable agriculture production and food security with the stable area of 3.8 million ha
- safety of dyke and infrastructure systems to meet requirements in disaster prevention and mitigation

Due to the regional nature of the rural and ethnic communities with difficulties accessing food in Viet Nam, **targeted assistance** is needed to be able to reach these communities and vulnerable groups. Households affected by climate change have also been provided with intervention by development partners to help households maintain food security.

Development Partners Support in Food Security

Major development partners work with government units and other institutions on forming policies, improving food productivity, developing infrastructure and improving access to basic social services. Key themes that cut across the four pillars of food security include:

- improving the **quality, productivity and competitiveness** of agricultural sector while improving the livelihoods of the poorest communities and ethnic minorities in Viet Nam
- assistance in improving **strategies, policies and plans** related to food security
- provision of infrastructure for poor rural communities to improve **access to market, access to drinking water, flood protection, water impoundment and irrigation networks**
- the **reduction of risk and vulnerability** to natural and other disasters through **prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery**

USAID focuses on improving trade and economic competitiveness while also aiming to improve the income of ethnic minorities. In line with this, USAID has provided capacity development support to small farmers in two provinces of the central highlands. Opportunities for ethnic minorities and assistance to drought-affected families especially children are also provided.

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Gaps Food Security and Interventions Required

Allocating land for industrialization puts pressure on the **availability of food** for consumption and food security. In order to meet the increasing demand for food while allocating a fixed 3.8 million ha of land for agriculture, **productivity must be improved**. Interventions in increasing productivity, such as **improved seeds and technology**, and **managing input costs** are needed to ensure food security.

Although poverty reduction in Viet Nam has been exceptional, the challenge in **food access and utilization** is how to provide support to food insecure households such as ethnic minorities. Part of the difficulty in addressing their concerns lie in the remoteness of their residences. For ethnic minorities **addressing food security must go hand in hand with reducing the incidence of poverty and providing access to basic social services**.

Although ethnic minority groups have access to social services, access to community services such as potable water, electricity, sanitary conditions, internet, housing and garbage collection remain low. These groups are vulnerable to rising food prices since an increase in the cost of food would leave little room for other expenses, reducing their budget for proper nutrition, education, and development of capital. A targeted plan combining increased social security coverage hand in hand with assistance such as cash transfers, public works and social services can help ease their burden and improve food security.

Climate change affects the **stability** of food security in Viet Nam. The government is currently developing knowledge, capacity and technology to deal with the oncoming threat. **Concrete plans and solutions** will be needed in the near future for Viet Nam to manage the challenges brought about by climate change. Mainstreaming **climate smart farming practices and diversification** of various crops can also help improve the food security situation. In rice for example, it can promote **farmer-led and climate-smart agricultural practices** such as the System of Rice Intensification. Support for **research and development, and extension services to produce high quality and climate-resilient rice** can be considered. In terms of diversification, a potential strategy is **greening production** in the agriculture industry based on environmentally friendly structures, technologies and equipment with the long term goal of changing lifestyles and promoting sustainable consumption.

AGRICULTURE SECTOR STATISTICS



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APPENDICES

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOTS Horticulture Sector Cambodia



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Vegetables in Cambodia

Consumed, on average, six days a week, vegetables are a main part of the daily dietary intake among the Cambodian people. Yet, Cambodia's horticultural sector is **largely underdeveloped**. In 2013, production of vegetables was about 619,068 metric tons, meeting only 40–50% of the estimated domestic demand. To fill the gap, Cambodia has to **import roughly 114,000 tons** from neighboring countries especially Vietnam and Thailand.

Issues and Challenges in Vegetable Production

A myriad of constraints and challenges characterize the poor performance of the sector including poor access to improved technology and inputs, lack of postharvest infrastructure, limited information on postharvest management techniques, inadequate quality and safety standards and limited private investment in agriculture.

Cambodia's research and development capacity in the field of horticulture is very limited, resulting in little changes in technological innovation, particularly when it comes to improving seed quality. The sector highly depends on imported seeds from neighboring countries, some of which are of questionable quality. Despite legal provisions for **seed management** through the Law on Seeds Management and Plant Breeders' Rights enacted in 2008 to develop the seed industry, enforcement has been poor due to the absence of many underpinning regulations. It is apparent that the lack of clear regulations for trials, releases, production, distribution, and **import of seeds** is a major hurdle in the development of the seed industry.

The high prices of inputs, particularly **fertilizers**, also pose another constraint for vegetable producers. The prices of Urea and DAP fertilizers, for instance, have nearly doubled from 2006 to 2013.

Vegetable produce is highly perishable so proper postharvest management is also required. Unfortunately, Cambodia's **storage facilities** are lacking, and **information on handling and agro-processing**



Lack of inputs and limited information on postharvest management are some of the problems of Cambodia's horticulture sector.

is limited. The small-scale and unorganized nature of vegetable production systems also makes it difficult to build a **strong market link**. In the absence of organized groups of vegetable growers, it is difficult for smallholder farmers to access larger, more lucrative markets.

Last but not the least is the vegetable grower's limited capacity to effectively control **pests and diseases**. Since vegetables are more prone to pest and disease attacks than cereals, farmers oftentimes resort to applying high doses of pesticides. With the country's inadequate diagnostic capability for food safety testing, the risk of unsafe and contaminated vegetable products in the market is high. Furthermore, Cambodia's adoption of the **ASEAN Good Agricultural Practices (ASEAN GAP)** still remains at its early stage of development.

Responses and Strategies

Most recently, Cambodia, with technical assistance from the **Cambodia HARVEST Program** of the USAID, has formulated the **Agricultural Extension Policy**. This is a landmark policy to provide greater access to agricultural technology and information in order to boost productivity and commercialization.

AGRICULTURE SECTOR STATISTICS (2012)



NATIONAL STRATEGY

Rectangular Strategy (RS III) - Emphasizes improvements in agricultural productivity, diversification, and commercialization, and the promotion of the agriculture sector to serve as the dynamic driving force for economic growth and poverty reduction

National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2014-2015
Agriculture Strategic Development Plan (ASDP) 2014-2018 - Promote improvements and adoption of better agricultural technology and inputs, particularly improved seeds

APPENDICES

Unfortunately, a clear-cut policy direction with specific focus on horticultural crops development is absent. One attempt to put such a **policy framework** in place is an ongoing collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the conduct of a research on Cambodia's vegetable sector. It is envisaged that the diagnostic study will yield key insights that will be instrumental in the formulation of viable policy options for the development of the horticultural sector.

In the meantime, efforts to directly help vegetable growers in their farming practices continue. The Cambodia HARVEST Program is one of the major initiatives directed at promoting Cambodia's agriculture in general and the horticulture sector in particular. Its five-year integrated food security and climate change program has helped diversify and increase **food production and income** for up to **85,000 rural Cambodian households**. It has introduced solutions to address poor productivity, postharvest losses, malnutrition, and environmental degradation, among others to vulnerable rural populations.

Support to the commercial horticulture farmers has also paid big dividends. Horticultural yields have increased by **228%** with a corresponding income increase of **336%** over the baseline. Better **home gardens** are helping rural families tackle malnutrition and food insecurity, which are significant problems in Cambodia. With the increased yield, poor households now have **more access to food**. The program's promotion of crop diversification has also resulted into farmers planting a variety of crops, including rice, vegetables, and corn, on the same plot throughout the year.



The Cambodia HARVEST project is helping vegetable growers improve their farming practices and diversify their production.

Horticulture Sector

Cambodia's biggest challenges are to improve the income and nutrition of smallholder farm families and produce more vegetables to meet the growing demand. This could only be addressed if the various **constraints and challenges** are responded to in a vigorous manner.

Foremost is the need to enhance **horticultural R&D capacity** to bring about improvements in technology and inputs in the farming systems, particularly **seeds**. Part of R&D improvements is expanding knowledge and information on **production and postharvest management practices**. Cambodia should look into increasing **public spending** on quality horticultural R&D programs, keeping in mind that **research** on fruits and vegetables has the highest median rate of return of 67%, higher than any other crop.

Efforts must also be made to streamline the **business environment** so as to encourage participation from the **private sector** in developing commercial farms and the agro-processing industry. This should be regarded as an effective way of introducing **better technology, infrastructure, credit**, and other services into the systems.

Finally, initiatives to put in place **adequate policies and regulations and practices** that are necessary for the sector's development must be intensified. It will be important to incorporate key recommendations from the FAO diagnostic study on the country's vegetable sector. Critical policies and regulations pertaining to **seed industry development and quality and safety standards** should be crafted.

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APPENDICES

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOTS Livestock Sector Lao PDR



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Livestock Crucial to Agriculture in Lao People's Democratic Republic

Livestock production in Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) has picked up in recent years, with growth rates of 3-5% annually and is buoyed by domestic and international demand. Lao PDR can potentially meet this demand if current production and trade issues are addressed.

One key concern is sustainably increasing efficiency and improving quality in smallholder farms. **Smallholder farms raise more than 95% of the country's livestock.** These farms operate in a largely unregulated environment with fragmented value chains. Small-scale farmers suffer from poor access to input supplies and services, lack of market linkages and information, long marketing chains, low sale volume, and depressed output prices.

Smallholder farmers lack technical knowledge to **maintain livestock safety and quality**, leading to mismanaged farms that cause livestock diseases to spread. Also, substantial **informal trade in cattle and buffalo** across Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam is one of the primary reasons for the spread of foot and mouth disease. With informal trade, there are limited opportunities for regulating animal health safety across borders.

From a conservation perspective, another issue is the **environmental effect of intensified livestock farming.** Smallholder farming is highly dependent on forest and water resources. Many farms in peri-urban areas do not comply with technical standards, such as solid and water waste management. On the other end of environmental impact is climate change effect on livestock, as rising temperatures cause declining fodder availability and heat stress.

Government and Development Partners Responses

The policy governing livestock development in Lao PDR is the **Strategy for Agricultural Development, 2011-2020.** The Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery (MAF) has a **Livestock Strategy**, which aims to commercialize the sector and improve product quality, develop and improve livestock breed, support animal forage and feed production, and enhance livestock productivity and environmental protection.

The government is also working on **food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary issues** concerning livestock. The Ministry of Health (MOH), with support from USAID, recently passed the Law on Food which regulates the livestock value chain. The MAF is responsible for sanitary and phytosanitary issues, while the Department of Livestock and Fisheries is responsible for animal health.



Small-holder farmers need to improve technical knowledge in livestock safety and quality

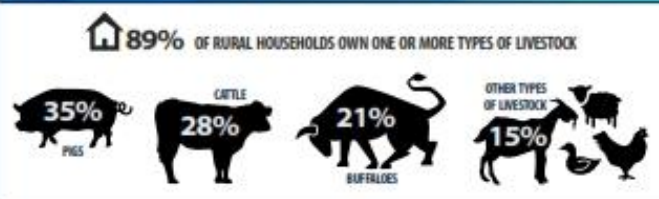
Development partners play an important role in promoting the livestock sector. Some key program areas of support include **livestock development and productivity enhancement** through an enhanced livestock management system, creation of production groups, and an inclusive supply chain. Partners have also focused on **animal disease control.** Since diseases like Foot and Mouth, avian influenza and swine cholera can be transboundary, projects tend to be regional, covering Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Most notable is the establishment of a regional cooperation mechanism to manage animal diseases.

In support of regional animal disease control, USAID has been working in Lao PDR (as well as Cambodia, Viet Nam and Indonesia) particularly **in response to the avian influenza pandemic.** Since 2005, it has committed to minimize the risk of further spread in animal populations, reduce the risk of human infections and further support pandemic planning and preparedness. While the pandemic has been contained, USAID is helping the Lao government with new animal diseases. It is currently in capacity-building mode to enable the government to predict and identify new pathogens emerging from wild animal populations.

AGRICULTURE SECTOR STATISTICS



LIVESTOCK STATISTICS



APPENDICES

Another key area for USAID in Lao PDR is environment and climate change. One goal is to **reduce pressure on local forest resources**. These resources are adversely affected as small-scale farmers turn to forest foraging due to declining incomes from livestock farming. Under a program called "Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF)", USAID works to strengthen livelihood opportunities through improved livestock management and production systems.

STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, 2011–2020

Key objectives:

- modernize lowland market-oriented agriculture production adapted to climate change, with a focus on smallholder farmers
- conserve upland ecosystems, ensuring food security and improving the livelihoods of rural communities

Potential Areas for Development Assistance

Further support is still needed to **optimize the efficiency of smallholder livestock value chains and provide higher incomes for livestock producers**. To achieve critical mass, interventions must support the government's effort to promote production clusters – a geographic concentration of livestock farmers - that will improve market linkages and attract private sector investment. Improving production capacity and quality through new production methods, better and resilient livestock breeds, and more efficient distribution mechanics will also be necessary.

Quality assurance and safety will be a key factor in enhancing productivity and ensuring public health as well. In terms of policy, the government needs support in drafting animal health-related legislation, such as amendments to the Law on Livestock Production and Veterinary Matters. One practical intervention is the creation of a **dedicated training school for veterinarians**, which the country currently lacks. Lastly, developments in the livestock sector have to be made in a sustainable manner **protecting natural resources**, particularly water and forests.

USAID RESPONSES TO THE AVIAN FLU CRISIS

Along with its work in Cambodia, USAID had notable success in Laos in limiting the number and size of the avian influenza outbreaks.

- 2006: year of intense USAID programs in Laos and Cambodia for H1N1
- 1,685: village veterinary workers trained in H1N1 detection and cure
- 40,000: farmers reached by trainees
- 65: journalists trained on fair and accurate coverage of H1N1
- 13,000: sets of personal protective equipment distributed in Cambodia and Laos



VILLAGE LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT, USAID'S LEAF PROGRAM

Huaphan province in Lao PDR, where villages are situated in or near protected forest areas:

- Population approx.: 370,000
- Program rolled out in 4 villages
- 20 trainers trained (who can then train the rest of the community)
- 40-50% decline in livestock mortality rate



Food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary issues being addressed by the Government.

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APPENDICES



Rice in Myanmar

Stretching from the Southern tip of China to the South of the Andaman Sea in the Indian Ocean, Myanmar boasts of large tracts of arable land, fertile soils, natural supply of oil and gas, and precious stones. Its rich natural endowments make it the perfect ground for agriculture to prosper. Agriculture continues to be a pillar of the country's economic growth, but the sector experienced negative growth rates in 2010 and 2011 as the country attempted to strengthen its industry and services sectors. Of all its agricultural products, **rice is considered the main crop**, accounting for 70% of the total cultivated area and contributing 30% of total agriculture production. The Government has targeted rice exports of 2 million tons by 2014/2015, and 4 million tons by 2019/2020, but has yet to meet these targets.



Small-holder farmers need support in modernizing rice mills to improve productivity

Rice Production Problems

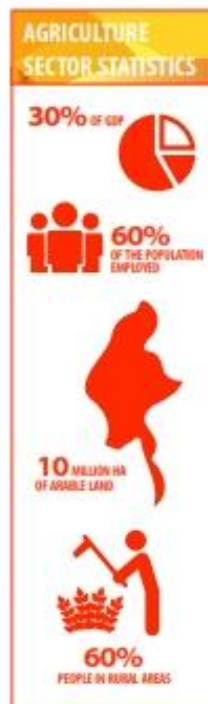
Low yield and productivity dampen the prospects of increased rice production, with rice paddies yielding only 3.84 t/Ha in 2013, far behind Viet Nam's 5.57 t/Ha and Lao's 3.88 t/Ha. While domestic demand for rice has been increasing year to year, its rice exports have been significantly slashed from around 867,000 tons in 2011 to only 455,000 tons in 2012. Total export value of rice plummeted by more than half from around US\$337 million in 2011 to US\$152 million in 2012.

Domestic price volatility has also been a problem, with the price of rice increasing by 40% within the 2009-2013 period alone. Price volatility is often the result of the narrow window of paddy production, fragmented seeds markets, and poor roads, among others. In a rice-dependent country where 25% of the population are poor, and where 60% of household incomes are allocated to food, these **price spikes exacerbate hunger and food insecurity**, making rice more unaffordable to the country's poor. The Government often resorted to enforcing rice export bans to control domestic prices and funnel rice supply to the domestic market, much to the detriment to the country's exporters.

The export market opens opportunities for trade with the People's Republic of China and the European Union (EU). Myanmar, however, **needs to improve rice quality**. More than 90% of recent exports from Myanmar have been low-quality rice, a practice that may no longer be feasible in the near future. Import demand for rice is veering toward higher quality varieties which now represent over half of world trade. Competition is also stiff with neighboring countries like Viet Nam and Cambodia who are already producing higher quality rice and penetrating more of the world market.

Inadequate infrastructure like farm to market roads, outdated and ageing rice mills, costly and unstable supply of power, and lack of appropriate irrigation facilities all combine to stifle the productivity of the agriculture sector. Myanmar has one of the **lowest road densities** in the region thereby limiting not only the access of farmers to markets, but, also the customers' access to food products. **Seed distribution systems are weak and post-harvest storage facilities are lacking** in villages, making it impossible for farmers to store their harvest to sell later when prices increase. **Access to longer term credit** is also lacking and inhibits the farmers' ability to procure needed farm inputs.

The sector is in **need of investments to improve infrastructure and productivity**. However, incentives for investors are far and few in between. An investment law requiring special approval for joint ventures with foreign investors limits foreign direct investments in the country. Those who are able to invest face **high transaction costs**. Export procedures alone are estimated to \$8.50 per ton, much higher than Viet Nam's and Thailand's. Certain practices, such as the requirement for exporters to pay a 2% "advance income tax" discourage potential investors. **Transport costs are high**, with Yangon port being one of the most expensive in the world and clocking in high delay rates. Poor quality roads further add to delays and business costs. While there are no official rice export bans in Myanmar, export bans are usually deployed when domestic prices of rice reach high levels. This unpredictability has lowered the confidence of importing countries as they are not necessarily assured of receiving the rice they contracted for. For their part, exporters, domestic millers, and farmers, are sometimes compelled to sell rice at below-market prices.



APPENDICES

Addressing the Issues

The Government of the Union of Myanmar has long recognized food security as an essential element of its agricultural policy. The **agricultural sector itself has focused on two main areas: the commercialization of agriculture and maintaining food security.** A national plan of action for food and nutrition was set in place.

While there seems to be a **lack of a comprehensive national rice policy** for this once leading rice exporter in the world, several policies have been endorsed to jumpstart the country's agriculture sector. The controversial **"Protecting Rights and Enhancing Economic Welfare of Farmers Law"** was enacted in 2013. Its price support mechanism has been critiqued for fears of resulting to market distortions and inefficient decision making by farmers, traders, and customers. The country has also put in place a network of agricultural research institutions, with the Department of Agricultural Research overseeing seven major research centers and 17 satellite farms covering various crops, including rice.

Development organizations have also collaborated through the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), a multi-donor fund managed by the UNOPS to improve the lives and prospects of poor and vulnerable people in rural Myanmar. The United States, through USAID, participates in the fund by leveraging the work of international research institutes to improve agricultural productivity and reduce hunger and poverty in Myanmar. USAID also contributes to capacity building of universities and research institutions to conduct research in agriculture, nutrition and food policy through linkages with U.S. universities and the private sector.

Moving Forward

The **export market for rice is growing**, especially in EU and China. The EU's "Everything but Arms Agreement" could potentially open EU's market for duty-free imports from Myanmar, while China is beginning to be a large net importer of rice. Already, unofficial rice trade along the borders of China and Myanmar are beginning to pick up, and could potentially grow into a more official trading partnership between the two countries. Myanmar can latch on these opportunities and bring additional revenue to its farmers, and rural dwellers. However, to successfully penetrate these markets and compete with neighboring Viet Nam and Cambodia, Myanmar has to **focus on improving the quality of its rice and the productivity of its rice farms.**

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NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION (2011-2015)

"Ensuring adequate access to, and utilization of food that is safe, adequate, and well-balanced on a long term basis in order to enhance the physical and mental development of the people of Myanmar"



Food security for the future generation remains a challenge

Investments in infrastructure are critical in improving the various processes in the value chain. Endowed with bountiful water resources, **improved water management techniques and technology** will greatly improve irrigation systems and ensure the sustainable use of water resources. Investments in roads and ports will increase the market access of producers, cut delays in delivery times, and help decrease transportation costs. The **modernization of rice mills** will be crucial to producing higher quality rice for export. The old dilapidated rice mills can no longer produce rice in the quantities and quality required by the export market. **Post-harvest facilities and storage** will be also be essential in cutting down post-harvest losses and in providing farmers the opportunity to store their produce and sell them when prices are higher in the future.

There is huge potential to **developing other power sources** besides hydropower to ensure the steady and cheaper source of electricity to efficiently and sustainably operate the mills.

Policies and procedures need to be reviewed, especially in line with **improving the business climate.** Cutting down the red tape, lowering transaction costs, and opening up the sector to external investors could encourage investments to flow into the agriculture sector. This is especially true in the areas of rice milling, warehousing, and trading, which could benefit from higher productivity arising from increased investments.

It is recommended that **export bans be avoided**, if possible, as they affect the competitiveness of Myanmar rice and the income of farmers, millers, and exporters. Instead, export licenses should be honored once issued, and should not be affected by export bans to help establish the credibility of Myanmar's rice exporters. In lieu of the export ban to control the domestic prices of rice, the Government could consider giving **social safety nets to the poor** who will find it burdensome to purchase rice at higher domestic prices.

Access to credit is also limited, with commercial loans given a maximum of 12 months before repayment. An extension of loan payment periods, and the type of assets accepted as collateral could be further broadened, and the **range of banking services for agriculture and agribusiness expanded** to widen the financial access of those in the agriculture sector, especially those in rice production.

PROTECTING RIGHTS AND ENHANCING ECONOMIC WELFARE OF FARMERS LAW

- provide adequate loans and grants for farmers
- support R&D, farmer extension, and infrastructure investments
- set a fair price in the marketplace for farmers

APPENDICES

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOTS Rice Sector Viet Nam



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Produced by Mekong Institute
Supported by United States Agency for International Development

Rice production in Viet Nam in recent years has continued to rise due to increased productivity per hectare as a result of the application of fertilizer, increased access to irrigation, and more productive rice varieties.

Sixty-seven percent of the population, composed mostly of small-scale rice farmers, live in the rural areas. **Rice is the main food staple**, accounting for one-fifth of total food expenses in rural areas and one-tenth in urban areas. **Rice spending is higher in low-income groups. Although Viet Nam is one of the largest exporters of rice, food security nonetheless remains an issue among selected groups and geographical areas.**

Over the years, agriculture's share of the GDP has fallen compared to services and industry.

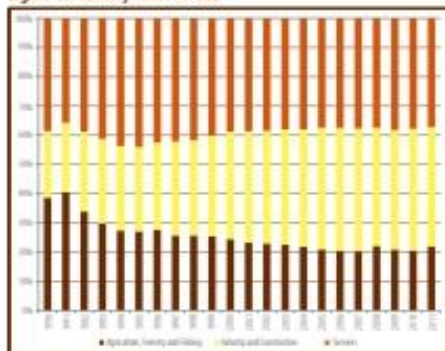
Table 1: Rice Statistics

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Rice Land (Thous. ha)	7,489.40	7,655.40	7,761.20	7,899.40
Number of farms	145,880.00	20,078.00	22,655.00	23,774.00
Yield (quintal/ha)	53.40	55.40	56.40	55.80
Production (Thous. tons)	40,005.60	42,398.50	43,737.80	44,076.10

Source: General Statistics Office

In 2008, world rice prices tripled within the span of a few months. This led to surges in domestic rice prices in many countries. Exporters restricted sales to the world market in order to protect their consumers from shortages. In Viet Nam, increasing world prices and exports drove the rice export price

Figure 1: Industry Share to GDP



Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam



Farmer-led and climate smart rice farming practices can boost productivity and improve quality

to \$1005/ton in June from \$389/ton in January 2008, which in turn increased domestic prices in April 2008 to an average of \$0.37/kg* across regions from an average of \$0.23/kg* in April 2007 and had a greater negative impact on the poor who tend to spend more of their income on food consumption. Increased food prices, especially rice which features heavily in the diets of the poor, will reduce available money for other necessities or may even push households into food poverty. Rice growers experienced the worst effects of price fluctuations as the Vietnamese government implemented a progressive export tax which slowed purchases by export companies and rapidly pulled down domestic prices.

Although **government recognized the importance of rice as evidenced in its policies, failure to consult the farmers led to some inappropriate ones.** For instance, some policies did not take variations in the costs of production into account, ultimately leading to unstable incomes for the farmers.

Competing land use also reduced the land available to agriculture. Between 2001 and 2007, more than 500,000 ha of farmland were converted to industrial parks. In 2008, more than 125,000 ha of rice fields were lost. It was noted that as the industrial sector's contribution to GDP increased, **more land was allocated to industrial activities at the expense of agricultural land.** The reduction in agricultural land made it difficult for areas such as the Red River Delta region to produce enough food for household consumption. **The rising market prices of food made it difficult for these households to attain food security.** The price of fertilizer also rose at a rate higher than production growth rate and rice price increases, effectively lowering the profit of farmers.

AGRICULTURE SECTOR STATISTICS

18% OF GDP

47% OF THE POPULATION
24.4 OR
BILLION PERSONS EMPLOYED

108,420
SQUARE KILOMETERS

OR
34.97% IS AGRICULTURAL LAND

67%
SMALL SCALE RICE
FARMERS IN RURAL AREAS

* US\$ 1 = VND 21,800

APPENDICES

Water availability has remained an issue despite the high annual rainfall in Viet Nam. Although high flows in the wet season can address the paucity of water as a result of the dry season, due to the high demand for water, 11 of 16 major river basins are considered stressed. Six of these major river basins depend on water inflows from other countries.

Coping with the effects of climate change is the number one concern of Vietnamese citizens, and the households most vulnerable are those that depend on natural resources for their livelihood. Thus, the **resilience of poor households against the effects of climate change** must be improved through the strengthening of social institutions and local government capacity.

Rice production in Viet Nam is vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Flooding and extreme weather events can damage crops and threaten food security. Rainfall patterns have changed and the country expects heavier rainfall during the rainy season coupled with a decrease in dry season rainfall. The coastal zone, the low-lying rice paddies of the Red River and Mekong Deltas, and the mountainous areas of the north and north central regions are most sensitive to the effects of climate change.



Resilience of poor households against the effects of climate change must be improved

USAID provides assistance to climate change initiatives through the framework of the Lower Mekong Initiative. In doing so, it can promote **farmer-led and climate-smart agricultural practices** such as the System of Rice Intensification. Support for **research and development, and extension services to produce high quality and climate-resilient rice** should be considered for future donor efforts. Aside from the Mekong River, the Red River, which faces similar issues, can also be a potential target of development assistance.

Support for more effective governance including a **clear framework and institutional mechanism for dialogue between and among rice stakeholders** such as policy making bodies, consumer groups, producers, associations and research institutions in the decision making process, can be explored.

As farmers are delinked from **rice value chains, policy changes can also focus on enhancing the chain by making it more inclusive and taking into account market systems.** Changes should be supportive of all actors in the chain, from production, to processing, trade, and even export.

To address **national food security concerns, the government can also explore the setting up of a rice subsector masterplan** that would encompass commercial production and small-scale production for self-consumption or for sale in local communities. The master plan should cover **investments in transportation and irrigation systems for rice production, promote proper land use, and provide for sustainable water use and ways to support better linkages between enterprises and farmers.**

and Policies

To maintain agricultural output and food security, the **government aims to keep 3.8 million ha of paddy land to guarantee the production of 41-43 million tons of rice for domestic demand, while ensuring an export volume of 4 million tons per year.** The government is also pushing for land accumulation in its quest to modernize agricultural production, while moving away from small-scale household production. To make sure that farmers remain profitable, the government encourages buying rice from these farmers to allow them a 30% profit. In case market prices are lower, the government plans to establish a rice price stabilization fund that would allow firms to purchase rice to temporarily store. Rice exports will also be kept under control in case of emergencies, and reserves will be kept to keep prices manageable in case of sudden spikes in the price of rice.

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APPENDIX 3.3 DATABASE BOOKLET



THE LOWER MEKONG FOOD SECURITY DONOR MAPPING DATABASE

Promoting enhanced donor coordination and cooperation

The Lower Mekong region (LMR), composed of the five countries of Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam has made significant leaps in agriculture over the years. However, food insecurity, especially in terms of availability and access, persists.

As the campaigns to achieve and ensure food security continue, so do the efforts to boost agricultural production in the region. At the request of the LMR governments, foreign-funded initiatives directed towards the food security and agriculture sectors are frequently being developed and implemented. There are now over a hundred donors and development organizations—local and international alike—working with coastal, lowland, and upland communities of the five countries. With the amount of resources, expertise and work that go into these projects, there is a need to organize the information on these activities and make it available in an accessible, easy to use platform, hence, the **Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Food Security Donor Mapping Database** (<http://foodsecurity.mekonginstitute.org>).

As a repository of information of all foreign donor-funded agriculture and food security projects, the database is a response to the need for information on food security in the LMR to be shared in the public domain. But more than this, the database is designed to serve as a tool in encouraging more targeted activities, facilitating the exchange of best practices of country and donor initiatives and ultimately, ensuring that food security programming in the Lower Mekong is complementary.



Lower Mekong Food Security Donor Mapping Database
<http://foodsecurity.mekonginstitute.org>

APPENDICES

FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE IN THE LMR

Issues and Interventions

CAMBODIA



- In 2010-12, around 12% of Cambodia's population was found to be undernourished. (FAO, 2012).
- Main agricultural concerns include drought in the plains region and flooding in the Mekong and Tonle Sap basins. (WFP, 2014).

- Current and existing initiatives include reconstruction and support to farm infrastructure and crop diversification.
- Future interventions should also focus on improving the income of smallholder farmers.

LAO PDR



- More than a quarter of the population live below the poverty line (WFP, 2012) especially ethnic groups and children in rural remote areas (FAO, 2014).
- Agricultural production is hindered by limited agricultural infrastructure and poor agricultural information systems.

- Needed interventions include optimization of public resources like irrigation to support farm production, increased investment to improve farm-to-market roads, and enhanced capacity to monitor and mitigate animal and livestock diseases.

MYANMAR



- Food insecurity is most felt in the Chin, Rakhine and Tanintharvi states (UNDP, 2011).
- Major constraints in agriculture include high cost of farm inputs, poor farm-to-market roads, and limited irrigation. (ADB, 2013; World Bank, 2014).

- Most donor initiatives include enhancing access to credit and microfinance, and improving market access and value chain.
- Future interventions can focus on further improving farm infrastructure and increasing support to agribusiness.

VIETNAM



- Rice production is at a high with the country one of the biggest rice exporters in Southeast Asia. (IFAD, 2012).
- The decrease in agricultural land due to industrial and infrastructural development can impact agricultural production and availability of food.

- There are ongoing initiatives to improve access to food of vulnerable groups especially ethnic minorities.
- Interventions that will increase productivity, such as improving seed technology and managing input costs, are still needed.

THAILAND

- Improved agribusiness has encouraged both domestic and foreign investments (ODI, 2010).
- Thailand is the most food secure country in the LMR. However, disparities in nutrient consumption among provinces may suggest issues in terms of food access and use. (FAO, 2012).

- Thailand is engaged in trilateral agreements (e.g., South-South Cooperation) as an emerging donor.
- Remaining donor projects in agriculture focus on improving agricultural infrastructure, capacity-building and improving climate change resiliency.

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The Lower Mekong Food Security Donor Database aims to:

- Increase transparency of donor priorities, activities and actors;
- Provide a tool to facilitate enhanced donor division of labor, collaboration and harmonization ;
- Inform future donor programming in the region; and
- Catalyze discussion to promote increased coordination on identified regional priorities in agriculture and food security.

DATABASE FEATURES

1

Sectoral classification of projects

Sectors include crop production, postharvest management, fisheries and aquaculture, animal production, nutrition and health, policy, market and trade, rural credit and micro-finance, climate change, and research

2

Geo-map searching

Google Maps-based design enhanced with filters for searching projects at country, sector and province level

3

Editor access to project information

Access to editor dashboard for updating project and organization information and creating new project entries

4

Stories and tweets on food security and agriculture

News and blogposts on food security and agriculture issues, and success stories of selected food security and agriculture projects in the region

5

Downloadable project information

Project information can be exported or downloaded in CSV (Excel) format

APPENDICES

MEKONG INSTITUTE

An Information Hub on Food Security and Agriculture in the GMS

MI's role as facilitator and agency in-charge of the Lower Mekong Food Security Database supports the Institute's mission of "fostering regional integration through knowledge and capacity development in the GMS."

By taking the lead in this initiative, MI hopes to position itself as an information hub in the GMS on food security and agriculture. This database is MI's contribution to the continuing discussions on agriculture and food security in the GMS, and in facilitating better regional programming and national planning.

USAID RDMA

Pursuing Food Security and Supporting Agricultural Development in the LMR

The United States Government's commitment to food security is not only particular to the Lower Mekong Region; it extensively supports food security efforts in South and Southeast Asia, and across the globe.

This database, supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Regional Development Mission for Asia, contributes to the LMI goal of broad cooperation in the sub-region. USAID sees this database as a useful tool in harmonizing efforts, increasing efficiency, and reducing overlaps in food security and agriculture initiatives in the LMR.

Visit the Lower Mekong Food Security Database
<http://foodsecurity.mekonginstitute.org>



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Supported by the United States Agency for International Development—Regional Development Mission for Asia

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APPENDIX 3.4 DATABASE PROMOTIONAL WRITE-UPS



MI, USAID Set up Lower Mekong Food Security Donor Mapping Database



The Mekong Institute, with support from the United States Agency for International Development, has set up this year the Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping Database.


The database seeks to enhance donor cooperation and collaboration in the Lower Mekong Region (LMR) by providing information on food security and agriculture activities and projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Thailand. By providing information on food security and agriculture initiatives in these countries, the project also hopes to help national governments in prioritizing and mapping out future directions in the food security and agriculture sector of their countries.

The database, still in a work in progress, may be viewed at www.mekongfoodsecurity.org. The Rural Development Department of MI under which the project is housed has entered over 700 food security and agriculture projects of various donor and funding organizations, nonprofits and civil groups, and key national agencies. The site also features a News Page with news stories, blogposts, and feature articles on relevant food security and agriculture issues in the LMR.

The project team has also set up a Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/FoodInMekong>) for weekly tweets and updates on agriculture and food security in the Mekong Region.



Promotion for October – December 2014 (Mekong Connection)

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Harmonizing Efforts to Achieve Food Security: The Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping Database



The Mekong Institute is soon to launch the Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping Database this year.

The said database features a geo-map and a listing of food security and agriculture activities in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Thailand. The project, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), aims to provide a public platform for accessing relevant information on food security and agriculture projects and initiatives in the Lower Mekong Region (LMR) as a contribution to enhancing donor cooperation and collaboration. It also seeks to help national key agencies in mapping priorities and future directions of food security and agriculture efforts in the five countries, minimize overlaps and achieve more efficient results.

The beta version of the site can be viewed at www.mekongfoodsecurity.org. A work in progress, the database now has over 700 entries of completed and ongoing projects in food security and agriculture in the LMR. These projects are classified according to sectors, ranging from crop and animal production, nutrition and health to market and trade, and rural credit and finance, among others. Projects may be searched according to sector, geographical location (country and province of implementation) and donors and implementing organizations.

The project team at MI's Rural Development Department has spent more than a year compiling and adding project information from publicly existing databases in the five countries and from websites of donors, implementing organizations, and government agencies.


The database also features a News Page for news stories, blogposts and feature articles on relevant food security and agriculture issues in the region.

Project editors and donor organizations may also register as users/editors for editing project and donor information and creating new project entries.

The database launch is planned for May 2015.

For questions and more information on the Food Security Donor Mapping Database, please contact Ms. Bui Thi Mai Ngan, Program Facilitator (ngan@mekonginstitute.org) or Ms. Joclarisse Albia, Communication Officer (clarisse@mekonginstitute.org).

Promotion for February 2015 (MI Website)

Mekong Connection

Jul-Oct 2014

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Mekong Institute
February 23 at 2:53pm ·

Find food security and agriculture projects in the Lower Mekong Sub-region with the Lower Mekong Food Security Donor Mapping Database. The project, facilitated by the Rural Development Department of the Mekong Institute and supported by the USAID, aims to enhance donor collaboration in the food security and agriculture sector in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand. While a work in progress, the site now has over 700 entries on food security and agriculture activities. It also features news and stories on food security and agriculture in the region.

Follow the project's Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong>) and get weekly tweets and updates on agriculture and food security. <http://mekonginstitute.org/.../673-harmonizing-efforts-to-ach...>

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- New Zealand Embassy - Ban...
- SDC Mekong

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Promotion for February 2015 (MI Facebook)

Mekong Institute
March 23 at 3:40pm ·

The Lower Mekong Food Security Donor Mapping Database is also on Twitter! Get weekly updates, news and stories on food security and agriculture activities in the Lower Mekong Region. Follow Mekong Food Security on Twitter (@FoodinMekong)!

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- SDC Mekong

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Promotion for March 2015 (MI Facebook)

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Promotion for March 2015 (MI Twitter)



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Mekong Connection
MEKONG CONNECTION
Apr-Jun 2015

Mekong Institute to launch Lower Mekong Food Security Donor Database on June 29, 2015

LOWER MEKONG FOOD SECURITY DATABASE


Home About Sectors Countries Partners FAQs My Account Search

About this Database
The Lower Mekong Food Security Database seeks to enhance collaboration among donors, national governments and other development organizations in food security and agriculture projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand. The database is maintained by the Mekong Institute with support from the USAID. [Read more](#)

We care about what you think. Please complete our three-minute survey.

Food Security and Agriculture Projects
Click on a country to learn more. [Add Project](#) [All Projects](#) [Support to CSO](#)

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FAO, Vietnam work to promote sustainable aquaculture
March 16, 2015
Beyond Food Security: The Engagement of the Displaced People in Sangkhlaburi District, Kamphaengsuri
March 13, 2015
FEWS Myanmar's Regional Resource Centers: Managing Knowledge for Food Security
March 10, 2015
[View All Stories](#)

Tweets


The Mekong Institute (MI) is set to launch the Lower Mekong Food Security Donor Mapping Database on June 29, 2015. The launch, which will take place at the office of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangkok, will serve as a formal presentation of the online platform to donors, government agencies and other key players in the food security and agriculture sector in the Lower Mekong region (LMR).

The database is a publicly-available internet platform that lists foreign-supported food security and agriculture projects in Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. It is hoped to contribute to enhanced cooperation and collaboration in food security and agriculture initiatives in the region.

In addition to the formal presentation of the site, a ceremonial signing of an Expression of Commitment with focal points will also take place. The focal points are selected agencies in the LMR countries that have pledged to assist MI in maintaining and ensuring the sustainability of the database.

The platform was set up and is maintained by MI's Rural Development Department with support from the USAID. It can be accessed at <http://foodsecurity.mekonginstitute.org>.

Add comment

Name (required)

E-mail (required, but will not display)

Website

Title (required)

Promotion for June 2015 (MI Website)

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Launch of Lower Mekong Food Security Donor Database

Mekong Institute (MI) and the United States Agency for International Development Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA) launched the online Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Food Security Donor Mapping Database on June 29, 2015 to promote enhanced cooperation and coordination among donors and funding organizations. The launch was held at the USAID/RDMA office in Bangkok.



The LMI Food Security Database is a publicly-available internet platform that lists foreign-supported food security and agriculture initiatives and projects in the five countries of the Lower Mekong region: Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. The database can be accessed online at <http://foodsecurity.mekonginstitute.org>.



"The Lower Mekong countries receive significant aid and support to boost agricultural productivity and address the issue of food insecurity," said Mekong Institute Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath. "We laud the initiatives undertaken by countries to set up their own databases, in part because this will mean speedier aggregation of regional data, and we hope that this database we are launching today will serve as a helpful resource in providing integrated information on national and regional initiatives."

The database, set up with USAID support and maintained by the Mekong Institute, is a response to the need for more efficient ways to share information about food security and agriculture activities in the region.

"We are pleased to promote such a timely tool that we donors, as well as development partners and national governments, can use to streamline and harmonize our planning, and identify ways we can collaborate and share resources to achieve greater gains in development through our food security and agriculture activities across the region," said acting Director of the Regional Development Mission for Asia, Carrie Thompson.

In addition to the listing of food security and agriculture activities in the five countries, the database also features news, blogposts, and feature stories on relevant food security and agriculture issues, and success stories of selected food security and agriculture initiatives.

To further encourage information-sharing, donors and project implementers are given editing access to allow them to update information about their own projects as well as create or add new and upcoming projects on food security and agriculture.

At the launch, the Mekong Institute and USAID presented the database to partners, government agencies, private and civil society organizations and academic and research institutions. The launch was attended by the database country focal points, agencies that have pledged to assist the Mekong Institute in tracking, monitoring and updating information in the database.

Add comment

Name (required)

E-mail (required, but will not display)

Mekong Connection



Oct-Dec 2014

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Promotion for June 2015 (MI Twitter)

APPENDICES

Working towards better collaboration in the food security sector in the Lower Mekong: The Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping Database
(for publication in Mekong Connection, April – June 2015)



Food

security, along with terms like sustainable development is a popular buzzword in the international community. It is no wonder then that for a region like the Lower Mekong, comprised of the agriculture-oriented economies of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand, food security remains the core of many donor projects and initiatives.

The challenge of tracking food security projects

There are close to a thousand food security and agriculture projects in the Lower Mekong Region (LMR) supported and initiated by donors and development organizations, and most likely the same number of domestic initiatives carried out by key national agencies. But in such a case, a common issue is how to ensure that initiatives are harmonized and redundancies and overlaps are minimized. Even more, there is the challenge of tracking and making these initiatives transparent to the public and facilitating information sharing among the actors in the sector.

This is where the **Lower Mekong Food Security Database (LMFSD)** comes in, a collaboration between the Mekong Institute and the United States Agency for International Development – Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA). Developed with the ultimate goal of encouraging better collaboration among donors and development organizations working in food security in the LMR, the database serves as a handy, one-stop online information source of food security projects in the five countries.

APPENDICES

The LMFSD: A regional resource for the Lower Mekong region countries

The database is certainly meant to complement individual efforts of the countries to track foreign aid and programs. While national databases provide a localized view of foreign programs not limited only to agriculture and food security, the LMFSD allows for a more focused look by providing information on regional projects. Dr. Watcharas Leelawath describes the database as “a helpful resource in providing integrated information on national and regional initiatives.”

The Lower Mekong Food Security Database may be accessed at <http://foodsecurity.mekonginstitute.org>. A key feature of the platform is a geo-map that provides a summary of the food security projects in the LMR, and is equipped with filters that allow for searching at the country, provincial and sector levels. Donor and development organizations may also register as editors so they can edit and update existing information and add new projects in the database.

As an information resource, the database also features news and success stories on notable food security and agriculture initiatives in the region, and downloadable reports (snapshots) on the food security status of the LMR countries.

Ways Forward

The launching of the database on June 29, 2015 at the USAID/RDMA office in Bangkok was only a first of the many steps to promote the database to its intended users, namely donors and development organizations and key national agencies.

In the said launch, Ms. Carrie Thompson, Acting Director of the USAID/RDMA expressed that the database can be used to “streamline and harmonize [donor] planning, and identify ways [they] can collaborate and share resources.”

The event, attended by select key organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Asian Development Bank, served as a formal presentation of the site and its features and functionalities. Country focal points, agencies that have pledged to assist MI in updating the information in the platform, were also present.

Prior to the launch, MI’s Rural Development Department also sponsored a one-day training on “Managing and Sustaining a Database System” on June 26, 2015. Fifteen MI staff were oriented on general database systems and database management practices, and explored the Lower Mekong Food Security Database. The training was intended to capacitate MI staff especially those overseeing the Institute’s database platforms on how to efficiently manage database content and ensure a database’s sustainability and continued relevance.

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APPENDIX 4. FOCAL POINT WORKING MECHANISM AND EXPRESSIONS OF COMMITMENT

Working Mechanism for Focal Points of the Lower Mekong Initiative Food Security Donor Mapping Database

1. The focal point will nominate a staff who will serve as main contact and who will undertake the monitoring and update work on the database. The staff will be provided log in details to the database. The log in details may not be shared with anyone other than the nominated staff member for security purposes.
2. With the log in details, the staff can access the database to update existing information on food security and agriculture projects, and create or add new project and donor entries.
3. New projects to be added to the database should provide complete information as possible. It is the responsibility of the focal point to look for and provide all pertinent information on new projects. Appropriate data fields must be properly and accurately filled out.
4. The focal point may only edit/update existing information on the database, and create new entries. Only Mekong Institute (admin/moderator) can delete an entry in the database. To delete a wrong or duplicate entry made, the staff should contact the project staff at Mekong Institute.
5. The focal point is expected to update the database at least once a month or when necessary. Updates include checking that projects that have just been completed are marked accordingly, links and contact information are up to date, new projects are recorded, and other related tasks.
6. In the event that the focal point cannot make the update directly on the database, the staff should fill out a project template with all the necessary information and forward it to the project staff at Mekong Institute for entry into the database.

It is highly encouraged that the focal point review the entries and updates made to check for accuracy of information inputted.

7. The focal point may request its partner-donors and other organizations in its network to register as users/editors and update information on their own projects.
8. All concerns that the focal point may have concerning the database shall be coursed to the project staff at Mekong Institute.

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EXPRESSION OF COMMITMENT TO BE FOCAL POINT FOR THE LOWER MEKONG INITIATIVE FOOD SECURITY DONOR MAPPING DATABASE

This is to signify the strong support of the **Department of Trade Promotion of the Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar** to the **Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Food Security Donor Mapping Database** project under the management of the Mekong Institute. Furthermore, recognizing the value of the database in facilitating harmonized and improved collaboration and coordination among donor agencies, national governments, and key organizations in food security and agriculture initiatives in the Lower Mekong Sub-region, we agree to be a **Focal Point** for the database.

As Focal Point, we commit to:

1. Ensuring that the information in the database are correct and up to date by updating information on existing and new food security and agriculture projects and activities;
2. Providing suggestions and recommendations to improve the database and the project's communication products;
3. Assisting Mekong Institute in informing relevant stakeholders and other partner agencies of the database and in disseminating communication products of the project including food security snapshots, monthly newsfeeds, and others that may be produced in the future.

Our commitment to this initiative takes effect from the time of signing of this Expression of Commitment to December 2016.

Ms. Naw Mutakapaw
Director
Department of Trade Promotion
Ministry of Commerce

Date: 

4.5.2015

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FROM :

FRK NO. :

24 Apr. 2015 5:45PM P2

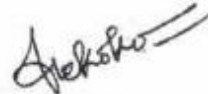
**EXPRESSION OF COMMITMENT
TO BE FOCAL POINT FOR THE
LOWER MEKONG INITIATIVE FOOD SECURITY
DONOR MAPPING DATABASE**

This is to signify the strong support of the Agriculture Extension Division, Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Myanmar to the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Food Security Donor Mapping Database project under the management of the Mekong Institute. Furthermore, recognizing the value of the database in facilitating harmonized and improved collaboration and coordination among donor agencies, national governments, and key organizations in food security and agriculture initiatives in the Lower Mekong Sub-region, we agree to be a Focal Point for the database.

As Focal Point, we commit to:

1. Ensuring that the information in the database are correct and up to data by updating information on existing and new food security and agriculture projects and activities;
2. Providing suggestions and recommendations to improve the database and the project's communication products;
3. Assisting Mekong Institute in informing relevant stakeholders and other partner agencies of the database and in disseminating communication products of the project including food security snapshots, monthly newsfeeds, and others that may be produced in the future.

Our commitment to the initiative takes effect from the time of signing of this Expression of Commitment to December 2016.



Mr Aye Ko Ko
Deputy Director General
Department of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

Date: 22nd April 2015.

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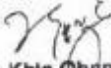
EXPRESSION OF COMMITMENT
TO BE FOCAL POINT FOR THE
LOWER MEKONG INITIATIVE FOOD SECURITY
DONOR MAPPING DATABASE

This is to signify the strong support of the Planning Section, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development of Myanmar to the *Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Food Security Donor Mapping Database* project under the management of the Mekong Institute. Furthermore, recognizing the value of the database in facilitating harmonized and improved collaboration and coordination among donor agencies, national governments, and key organizations in food security and agriculture initiatives in the Lower Mekong Sub-region, we agree to be a **Focal Point** for the database.

As Focal Point, we commit to:

1. Ensuring that the information in the database are correct and up to date by updating information on existing and new food security and agriculture projects and activities;
2. Providing suggestions and recommendations to improve the database and the project's communication products;
3. Assisting Mekong Institute in informing relevant stakeholders and other partner agencies of the database and in disseminating communication products of the project including food security snapshots, monthly newsfeeds, and others that may be produced in the future.

Our commitment to this initiative takes effect from the time of signing of this Expression of Commitment to December 2016.


Dr. Khin Qhamar Lwin
Deputy Director
Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries, and Rural Development

Date: 20-4-2015 (28.4.2015)

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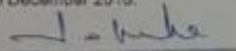
EXPRESSION OF COMMITMENT
TO BE FOCAL POINT FOR THE
LOWER MEKONG INITIATIVE FOOD SECURITY
DONOR MAPPING DATABASE

This is to signify the strong support of the **Department of Health, Food Security and Nutrition, Council for Agricultural and Rural Development of Cambodia** to the **Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Food Security Donor Mapping Database** project under the management of the Mekong Institute. Furthermore, recognizing the value of the database in facilitating harmonized and improved collaboration and coordination among donor agencies, national governments, and key organizations in food security and agriculture initiatives in the Lower Mekong Sub-region, we agree to be a **Focal Point** for the database.

As Focal Point, we commit to:

1. Ensuring that the information in the database are correct and up to date by updating information on existing and new food security and agriculture projects and activities.
2. Providing suggestions and recommendations to improve the database and the project's communication products.
3. Assisting Mekong Institute in informing relevant stakeholders and other partner agencies of the database and in disseminating communication products of the project including food security snapshots, monthly newsfeeds, and others that may be produced in the future.

Our commitment to this initiative takes effect from the time of signing of this Expression of Commitment to December 2018.



Mr. Sok Silo, DBA
Deputy Secretary General
Council for Agricultural and Rural Development

Date: 02/06/2015

APPENDICES

**EXPRESSION OF COMMITMENT
TO BE FOCAL POINT FOR THE
LOWER MEKONG INITIATIVE FOOD SECURITY
DONOR MAPPING DATABASE**

This is to signify the strong support of the **Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry** of Lao PDR to the **Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Food Security Donor Mapping Database** project under the management of the Mekong Institute. Furthermore, recognizing the value of the database in facilitating harmonized and improved collaboration and coordination among donor agencies, national governments, and key organizations in food security and agriculture initiatives in the Lower Mekong Sub-region, we agree to be a **Focal Point** for the database.

As Focal Point, we commit to:

1. Ensuring that the information in the database are correct and up to date by updating information on existing and new food security and agriculture projects and activities;
2. Providing suggestions and recommendations to improve the database and the project's communication products;
3. Assisting Mekong Institute in informing relevant stakeholders and other partner agencies of the database and in disseminating communication products of the project including food security snapshots, monthly newsfeeds, and others that may be produced in the future.

Our commitment to this initiative takes effect from the time of signing of this Expression of Commitment to December 2016.


Mr. Savanh Hanephom
Deputy Director General
Department of Planning and Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Date: 30/06/2015

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 5. DATABASE TRAINING PLAN AND SCHEDULE



Training on Managing and Sustaining a Database System

26 June 2015 (Friday)

08:30 – 17:00

Savannakhet Room

Overview and Goals of the Database Training

The Mekong Institute (MI), with the support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has set up the Lower Mekong Food Security Database, an online platform that lists all foreign-funded food security and agriculture projects in the Lower Mekong Region. Its ultimate goal is to enhance collaboration and cooperation among donors, national governments and development partners in their food security and agriculture activities.

With the completion of the official version of the database, a challenge now is to ensure its sustainability – content and technical-wise. The training is therefore aimed to orient MI personnel on the basics of a database system and the management tasks to ensure its sustainability. The training will particularly use the Lower Mekong Food Security Database as an example, illustrating the steps and processes for maintaining the system and its contents. It is hoped that this will provide MI staff additional capacity for designing, managing and sustaining database systems in general and the Lower Mekong Food Security Database in particular.

Objectives of the Training

At the end of the training, the participants are expected to:

- Describe a database structure;
- Identify processes and key tasks in database management; and
- Identify access procedures and protocols for maintenance of the Lower Mekong Food Security Database.

Proposed Schedule of the Training

APPENDICES

26 June 2015, Friday

08:30 – 09:00	Opening and Overview of the training <i>Ms. Maria Theresa S. Medialdia, Program Manager, Rural Development Department</i>
09:00 – 10:100	General Overview of a Database System <i>Ms. Katrina Joy Magno, Resource Person</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Database structure and design• Database pages and features (Lower Mekong Food Security Database)
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee Break
10:16 – 12:00	Protocols and Procedures of Database Management <i>Ms. Katrina Joy Magno</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steps and tasks in database management• Accessing the backend of a database (Lower Mekong Food Security Database)
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Protocols and Procedures of Database Management (cont).
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee Break
15:16 – 17:00	Ways Forward: Sustaining Beyond Project Life

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APPENDIX 6. DATABASE LAUNCH EVENT BRIEF AND PROGRAM



LAUNCH Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Food Security Donor Mapping Database USAID Offices Bangkok, Thailand | 29 June 2015 | 09:30 – 11:30 am

THE LOWER MEKONG FOOD SECURITY DATABASE

The Mekong Institute, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has set up a donor mapping database that seeks to promote and enhance donor coordination and collaboration in the food security and agriculture sector of the Lower Mekong Region countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar/Burma, Vietnam and Thailand). The database is a response to the lack of and demand for more efficient information sharing that will facilitate tracking of all food security and agriculture initiatives in the region. By making available and proactively disseminating important information on donor priorities and programming, the database aims to:

- Increase transparency on donor priorities, activities and actors;
- Provide a tool to facilitate enhanced donor division of labor, collaboration and harmonization;
- Inform future USAID and donor programming in the sub-region; and
- Catalyze discussion to promote increased coordination on identified regional priorities.

ABOUT THE LAUNCH

The launching of the Lower Mekong Food Security Database is a half-day affair to officially introduce the platform to key stakeholders in food security and agriculture in the Lower Mekong Region. The event brings together donor organizations, development partners of both USAID and Mekong Institute, key national agencies, and various other organizations working in food security and agriculture.


The event is also attended by the database's country Focal Points. The focal points are Mekong Institute's partner national agencies in each of the Lower Mekong Region countries that will work closely with the Institute in tracking, updating and ensuring that the information in the database remains up-to-date, accurate and relevant.

PROGRAM

- 09:00 **Arrival and Registration**
- 09:30 **Opening Ceremony**
- Welcome Remarks**
Dr. Watcharas Leelawath
Director, Mekong Institute
- USAID and the Lower Mekong Initiative**
Ms. Carrie Thompson
Acting-Director
USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia
- 10:00 **Presentation of the Lower Mekong Food Security Database**
Ms. Maria Theresa Medialdia
Program Manager, Rural Development
Department, Mekong Institute
- Question and Answer**
- 10:45 **Group Photo**
- 11:00 **Closing Remarks**
Mr. Kipp Sutton
Grant Award Manager
Agriculture Team Lead
USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia
- 11:10 **Light refreshments**
- 11:30 **Close of event**

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 7.1 FEEDBACK FORM



[Edit this form](#)

We'd like to know what you think of the Lower Mekong Food Security Database

Thank you for visiting our database! To help us better improve our site, we invite you to take a few minutes to answer this feedback form.

*** Required**

How would you rate the relevance of the information contained in the site? *

1 2 3 4 5

Not relevant Highly relevant

How would you rate the presentation of information? *

Presentation: comprehensiveness, accuracy, clarity of information

1 2 3 4 5

Very poor Very good

What can you say about the site's visual appeal? *

Visual appeal: graphics and illustrations used, color, typography, etc.

1 2 3 4 5

Very poor Very good

How would you rate the site's user-friendliness? *

User-friendliness: easy to navigate and move from one page to another, clickable buttons and links, etc.

1 2 3 4 5

Very poor Very good

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What information were you looking for in the site? *

You may choose more than one answer

- General information on food security projects
- Contact information
- Financial information
- Donors with projects in the Lower Mekong Sub-region
- Information on donors and implementing organizations
- Food security news and stories
- Other:

Did you find the information you were looking for? *

- Yes
- No

Is this your first time to visit the site? *

- Yes
- No

How did you learn of the site? *

In which role do you use the site? *

How likely is it that you will recommend this site to a friend or colleague? *

1 2 3 4 5

Not at all likely Highly likely

Other feedback, comments and suggestions

Please include other information and features you would like added to the site

Age

- <16 years

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16-25 years
 26-35 years
 36-45 years
 46-55 years
 56-65 years
 > 65 years
 I prefer not to answer

Education

Elementary
 High school
 College/university

Gender


Male
 Female

Email Address *

Country *

Agency/Organization *
Please include country of operation (e.g., UNDP - Cambodia)

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

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APPENDIX 7.2 WEBSITE SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Table 7.2.1. Respondents' gender (1st and 2nd round of M&E).

Gender	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
	1 st round		2 nd round	
Male	38	61.29	26	50
Female	24	38.71	26	50
TOTAL	62	100	52	100

Table 7.2.2. Respondents' country (1st and 2nd round of M&E).

Country	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
	1 st round		2 nd round	
Thailand	6	9.68	9	17.3
Cambodia	21	33.87	12	23.1
Vietnam	17	27.42	14	26.9
Myanmar	5	8.06	7	13.5
Lao	10	16.13	9	17.3
Others	3	4.84	0	0
TOTAL	62	100	52	100

Table 7.2.3. Visit to the site (1st and 2nd round of M&E).

Visit to the site (first-time or not)	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
	1 st round		2 nd round	
Yes	53	85.48	36	69.2
No	9	14.52	16	30.8
TOTAL	62	100	52	100

Table 7.2.4. Knowledge of the site 1st and 2nd round of M&E).

Source of info	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
	1 st round		2 nd round	
Mentioned by colleagues	18	29.03	22	42.3
Listed in another website	5	8.06	5	9.6
Found in a newsletter	8	12.90	4	7.7
Random search online	6	9.68	5	9.6
Knew the address	12	19.35	8	15.4
Other	13	20.97	8	15.4
TOTAL	62	100	52	100

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Table 7.2.5 Role as user (1st and 2nd round of M&E).

Role of user	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
	1 st round		2 nd round	
Employee of MI	3	4.84	9	17.3
Employee/affiliated with USAID	1	1.61	0	0
Affiliated with donor	9	14.52	6	11.5
Government	23	37.10	11	21.2
Media	1	1.61	0	0
Student	8	12.90	4	7.7
Researcher	13	20.97	13	25.0
Other	4	6.45	9	17.3
TOTAL	62	100	52	100

Table 7.2.6 Information being searched for on the site (1st and 2nd round of M&E).

Information sought	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
	1 st round		2 nd round	
General information on food security	49	20.94	40	24.5
Contact information	49	20.94	23	14.1
Financial information	18	7.69	17	10.4
Donors with projects in the LMR	48	20.51	22	13.5
Information on donors and implementing organizations	32	13.68	34	20.9
Food security news and stories	37	15.81	4	2.5
Other	1	0.43		
TOTAL	234*	100	140*	100

*multiple responses

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Respondents' Agencies (1st round)

Agency/Organization	classification
WHO	Donor
UNDP - Cambodia	Donor
SNV-KH	Donor
Cambodia	GO
Ministry of Tourism, Cambodia	GO
MoEYS	GO
Customs - Vietnam	GO
Casrad-Vietnam	GO
DA NANG - VIET NAM	GO
Mekong Institute - Thailand	IGO
MI	IGO
DAR - Myanmar	GO
Department of Animal Production and Health	GO
Louangprabang organic food (LOF)co., ltd	CSO
IRRI-Myanmar	Donor
Ministry of Commerce	GO
MEF	GO
National University of Laos	Academe
VAAS	GO
Department of Science Technology and Environment - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - VIETNAM	GO
NUoL Laos	Academe
Ministry of Agriculture	GO
East-West Economic corridor Organic's Kalasin	CSO
N/A	CSO
UNDP- Myanmar	Donor
Vietnam, Thailand.....	CSO
Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, Nepal...	CSO
Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, Nepal...	CSO
ACIAR-Vietnam	Donor
MAFF	GO
MFVPEA of Myanmar (Myanmar Food , Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association	CSO
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY,TRADE AND INVESTMENT-NIGERIA	GO
SNRMPEP(ADB+IFAD-Lao	Donor
AVSF - Cambodia	Donor
Vietnam	GO
Fruit And Vegetale Research Institute/Vietnam	GO
Plant Protection Department- PPD, Vietnam	Go
Department of Agriculture	GO
Cuso International Laos	CSO
General department of customs and excise, Cambodia	GO

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Department of Agriculture	GO
vietnam	GO
MOCI - Afghanistan	GO
VMI, Vietnam	GO
usaid	Donor
Department of Cooperatives and Rural Development, MARD	GO
MPWT Cambodia	GO
UNDP-LAOS	Donor
DOA-Thailand	GO
Dept.of agriculture	GO
Quang Tri - Viet Nam	GO
Private sector	CSO
department of planning and invesment bokeo province	GO
Vietnam Women Entrepreneuers Council	CSO
MAFF Cambodia	GO
MAFF Cambodia	GO
University of Battambang	Academe
Cambodia	GO
Govt Laos	GO

Respondents' agencies (2nd round)

Netherlands Development Organization (SNV)	DONOR
Vietnam Academy of Agricultrue Sciences	Research
DAR-Myanmar	Govt
Cambodia Customs	Govt
FAO	DONOR
Private sector	Private
LIFT, UNOPS - Myanmar	DONOR
Ministry of Planning	Govt
IWARP-Vietnam	Research
WHO-Cambodia	DONOR
Ministry mimes and energy	Govt
Provincial Department of Agriculture Kandal Province, MAFF	Govt
vietnam	Govt
National Agricultural Extension Center	Govt
MFVPEA, Myanmar	Govt
MFVPEA, Myanmar	Govt
ADB - Viet Nam	DONOR
NUOL-Lao PDR	Academe
Lnccl	Govt
MI	MI
WHO	DONOR
Vietnam	Govt
government	Govt

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UNDP Lao PDR	DONOR
RUDEC (Rural Development Center)	Research
Kirirom Food Production-Cambodia	Private
FAME ,Myanmar	Research
vietnam	Govt
vegetable And Fruit Resarch Intitute	Research
Viet Nam	Govt
Viet Nam	Govt
Company	Private
Government staff- Myanmar	Govt
MAFF- Cambodia	Govt
laos	Govt
MPWT Cambodia	Govt
ADB - GMS Core Environment Program	DONOR
IWEP, Vietnam	Research
staff government	Govt
Thailand and Cambodia	Govt
MI	MI
Mekong Institute	MI
Mekong Institute	MI
Thailand	MI
Thailand	MI
Mekong Institute	MI
Seoul National University	Academe
Mekong Institue-Thailand	MI
Thailand	MI
AIT - Thailand	Academe
ActionAid International Thailand	DONOR
European Union	DONOR

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APPENDIX 7.3 SOCIAL MEDIA TWEETS

Date	Tweet	Views	Interactions	Details of Interaction	Link
Nov 8, 2014	The fight against hunger continues! Check out food security projects in the Lower Mekong Region at http://mekongfoodsecurity.org	85	1		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/530979461701722113
November 12, 2014	More than 700 projects in 5 countries to fight food insecurity in Asia. Visit http://mekongfoodsecurity.org .	91	1		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/532466052785901568
November 14, 2015	Women play a key role in indigenous vegetable production in Hanoi, Vietnam. Read more at http://www.mekongfoodsecurity.org/Project/View/21 and http://aciar.gov.au/project/agb/2006/112 ...	101	4	2 link clicks, 1 profile click, 1 detail expand	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/533159925128499201
November 15, 2014	Over 200 food security projects in Vietnam from more than a dozen donors. Check them out at http://www.mekongfoodsecurity.org/projects?zsv_model_name=Project&zsv_offset=20&zsv_limit=20&zsv_totalRecs=214&zsv_total_pages=11&zsv_page_num=2&sector_id=-1&country=14&province=-1&txt_search=... #mekong, #foodsecurity	101	2	1 hashtag click, 1 detail expand	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/533523893894385664
November 21, 2014	CURE making rice tech accessible to upland farmers in Laos. Read at http://www.mekongfoodsecurity.org/Project/View/720 ... and http://cure.iri.org/home #mekong #foodsecurity	99	5	2 link clicks, 1 profile click, 1 detail expand	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/535749035789791232

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November 28, 2014	More than 80% of the livelihood in Laos are agriculture-related. Read about the country's food security projects at http://www.mekongfoodsecurity.org/Project/View/713 ...	101	1	1 detail expand	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/538263722624446464
November 29, 2014	Improved agricultural investments and open trade policy keys to Myanmar's rice price volatility accdg to World Bank. http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/11/24/myanmars-high-rice-price-volatility-increases-poverty-risk-but-requires-careful-management ...	119	1	1 detail expand	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/538587584654352385
December 5, 2014	Asia Pacific welcomes way forward in aquaculture with 15-year action plan. #mekong #foodsecurity http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/rap/home/news/detail/en/?news_uid=270264 ...	127	2	1 detail expand, 1 profile click	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/540812037018750976
December 6, 2014	Cambodia has more than 300 donor-assisted food security projects. Read more at http://www.mekongfoodsecurity.org/projects?zsv_model_name=Project&zsv_offset=0&zsv_limit=20&zsv_totalRecs=60&zsv_total_pages=3&zsv_page_num=1&sector_id=1&country=10&province=-1&txt_search=...#mekong#foodsecurity	157	1	1 detail expand	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/541083884616548352
December 14, 2014	Did you know that Myanmar was once Asia's largest rice exporter? Learn more about Myanmar's food security projects at http://www.mekongfoodsecurity.org/projects?zsv_model_name=Project&zsv_offset=0&zsv_limit=20&zsv_totalRecs=713&zsv_total_pages=36&zsv_page_num=1&sector_id=1&country=12&province=-1&txt_search=...	171	1	1 link click	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/543971767639752704

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December 20, 2014	5th Greater Mekong Subregion Summit happening in Thailand from Dec 19 to 20, 2014. #mekong #foodsecurity http://www.adb.org/news/events/5th-gms-summit ...	121	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/546165552931012608
December 21, 2014	Water is the lifeblood of the GMS. Vietnam PM calls for responsible water resource use in 5th GMS Summit. #mekong http://www.saigon-gpdaily.com.vn/National/2014/12/111948/ ...	135	1	1 detail expand	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/546598786072444928
December 28, 2014	Debate continues on hydropower plant construction in Mekong River. #mekong #foodsecurity http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/environment/118932/hydro-power-plants-likely-to-affect-mekong-river-s-fishery-resources--experts.html ...	157	5	2 hashtag clicks, 2 favorites, 2 link clicks, 2 detail expands	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/549172163266093056
January 14, 2015	More food centers in Myanmar in 2015! MFSWG set to open food centers in Kachin & Chin states. #foodsecurity #Myanmar http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8618:mfswg-to-launch-sufficiency-of-food-programs-in-rural-areas&catid=44:national&Itemid=384 ...	143	1	1 link click	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/555273646571520000
January 16, 2015	What's with the #Mekong and the #DonSahong dam? Journalist shows in documentary film. Read the interview at http://www.voacambodia.com/content/documentary-tackles-concerns-over-mekong-dams/2591983.html ...	132	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/556013333329883136

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January 21, 2015	#Vietnam's tra fish decree meant to improve tra fish export quality to be delayed for 2016. #mekong #foodsecurity http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/business/120369/mard-urges-tra-fish-decree-delay.html ...	464	3	1 retweet, 1 favorite, 1 detail expand	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/557758997827440641
January 23, 2015	#Thailand gears up for Lower Mekong Initiative Regional Working Group Meeting on Jan 29 - 30 in #Bangkok. Read more @ http://thainews.prd.go.th/centerweb/newsen/NewsDetail?NT01_NewsID=WNPOL5801160010009 ...	141	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/558461190360145921
January 28, 2015	#Myanmar formalizing legal rice export to China this year. #mekong #foodsecurity Read the story at http://www.oryza.com/myanmar-begins-formalities-export-rice-legally-china ...	133	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/560257154314022912
January 30, 2015	The Zero Hunger Challenge and What It Means to Feed the Hungry. #mekong #foodsecurity. Read this and other stories at http://www.mekongfoodsecurity.org/news	135	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/561020406199746560
February 4, 2015	#Japan tech firms helping #Vietnam agriculture. #foodsecurity #mekong Read the story at http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/business/120922/will-japanese-high-tech-save-vietnamese-agriculture-html ...	216	2	1 retweet, 1 detail expand	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/562826494544977923
February 6, 2015	#Thailand launches Better Rice Initiative Asia in Northeast region this year #foodsecurity #mekong Read at http://t.co/CAbvmKwnQb	119	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/563614254184808448
February 11, 2015	Check out projects and activities on #foodsecurity and #agriculture in the #LowerMekongRegion at http://t.co/hAlf012GVT	106	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/565364687353954304

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February 12, 2015	#Vietnam working with #Japan to beef up its agro-fishery industry. #foodsecurity #mekong Read at http://t.co/GCJBw9dSIW	161	1	1 retweet	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/565789605450895361
February 13, 2015	How do you #farm in this warming world? Read the story at http://t.co/ey2Jl3N5F5 #foodsecurity #agriculture	113	1	1 link click	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/566139005612220416
February 18, 2015	Get your weekly dose of news and stories on #foodsecurity and #agriculture in the #Mekong. Visit http://t.co/mH4YBsnloo!	96	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/567956344730308608
February 19, 2015	#Taiwan is new #Myanmar partner in #foodsecurity projects. #mekong Read at http://t.co/wtm8AISYkk	118	1	1 favorite	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/568313790434902016
March 2, 2015	Cooperation - key to ending #hunger and #foodinsecurity in #SouthEastAsia. #mekong #foodsecurity Read more at http://t.co/qhmGauIQco	92	1	1 profile click	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/572305497992261633
March 4, 2015	#Myanmar's top #agriculture exports are rice, beans & pulses. Learn more about #Myanmar's #foodsecurity projects in http://t.co/HTV53V3CbA .	72	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/572954060728369153
March 5, 2015	Long-term solutions urged to boost #Thailand farmers' productivity. #foodsecurity #Mekong Read more at http://t.co/Tftncano7A	75	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/573726375787499520
March 9, 2015	A LEAP in #agriculture! Read more about The #Laos Extension for #Agriculture Project at http://t.co/mH4YBsnloo #foodsecurity #mekong	81	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/574862361447677952

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March 11, 2015	Livelihoods of millions of Southeast Asians at risk from climate change http://t.co/Pq0aGLyw9q via @dw_english	81	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/575477471568470018
March 13, 2015	Vietnam, Thailand tapped to supply rice #mekong #foodsecurity. Read at BusinessWorld http://t.co/xDLuUz9zvg via @sharethis	95	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/576301758382620673
March 16, 2015	The Mekong in Peril #foodsecurity #mekong #livelihood Read at http://t.co/Wz5HPUPPLG	78	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/577371220842127360
March 19, 2015	#Thailand, #Vietnam to work together to boost agri produce market #mekong #foodsecurity Read at http://t.co/wi5hoCUiRX	76	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/578377824769302530
March 23, 2015	Myanmar's agriculture sector gets foreign investment worth US\$928 http://t.co/CdiOLLEajL	76	1	1 link click	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/579898008185249792
March 25, 2015	#Vietnam plans greener #rice cultivation to cut down GHG emissions from #agriculture by 14% in 2030. More at http://t.co/YhqRdY8jw3	93	2	2 favorites	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/580596057643581440
March 27, 2015	A lesson for #ASEAN on managing rice reserves #foodsecurity Read at http://t.co/fQ1PFgxPoJ	81	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/581355180400238592
March 30, 2015	Smartening up modern farming Bangkok Post #foodsecurity http://t.co/6DqtqiZacW	60	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/582362371970056192

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April 1, 2015	#Thailand #agriculture reform to focus on five areas to promote #sustainable agri The Nation http://t.co/BMh8cG1QgO via @sharethis	64	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/583095837795987456
April 3, 2015	Agriculture Ministry Proposes to Develop Brand Name for Vietnamese Rice by 2020 http://oryza.com//22167/agriculture-ministry-proposes-develop-brand-name-vietnamese-rice-2020 ...	59	1	1 link click	
April 8, 2015	PPP model successfully piloted in Vietnam's #agricultural sector - The Nation #foodsecurity http://t.co/vdx4cdRU0M via @sharethis	59	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/585697284165369857
April 10, 2015	#Cambodia, #Philippines working to improve #aquaculture and #fisheries sectors. #foodsecurity http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/25439/philippines-explores-cambodia-collaboration-on-aquaculture/ ...	58	1	1 link click	
April 21, 2015	Myanmar farmers dream of resurrecting Asia's rice bowl - The Manila Times Online http://t.co/tlkzbod7fU	57	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/590399200354926592
April 28, 2015	#Vietnam, #Myanmar and other ASEAN countries working on national initiatives under Grow Asia partnership. Read at http://t.co/8Bu3VpkI0s	58	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/592898893249159169
April 29, 2015	Campaign to promote #foodsecurity continues in Asia with regional network on Plant Genetic Resources. More at http://t.co/aYMICyRvcR	54	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/593333237507694592
May 6, 2015	A peek at an even better #LowerMekongDonorDatabase for enhanced donor programming on #foodsecurity in the region. http://t.co/kMyT3M6doS	67	3	2 link clicks, 1 hashtag clicks	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/595855696719118337

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May 7, 2015	Industrialization of #agriculture a solution to boost competitive advantage of #Vietnam's agri products. Read at http://t.co/LqrLtrVFX	61	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/596231571989876736
May 8, 2015	Fish on Farms project in #Cambodia improving #nutrition and #foodsecurity. #mekong Read at http://t.co/TN91o05oIV	55	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/596560564114960385
May 11, 2015	Japanese firms eye Vietnam agriculture - News VietNamNet http://t.co/ysDlalZs44	51	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/597673626750464000
May 14, 2015	#Cambodia farmers encouraged to grow #organic #rice. Cambodia Farmer Rice says natural rice sell higher. More at http://t.co/L9owl0dWeD	62	1	1 favorite	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/598670639994568706
May 15, 2015	Outbreak of Hoof-and-Mouth Disease Kills Livestock in Laos #mekong #agriculture More at https://t.co/F6Q9t4zawY via @BigNewsNetwork	44	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/599120581473112064
May 18, 2015	Erosion in #Vietnam damage land, crops #mekong More at http://t.co/pNmGwc3Nv3	44	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/600241780479565825
May 21, 2015	Vietnam, China sign MoU to boost cooperation in agriculture - News VietNamNet http://t.co/ZSjpYnoSjd via @VietNamNet	36	1	1 replies	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/601271549262364673
May 28, 2015	Thailand's hungry cut by half since '96. #foodsecurity More at http://t.co/FmZgpvaFVI	35	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/603829776495865856

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June 2, 2015	Balance of rice supply and demand key to food security #mekong #foodsecurity. Read more at The Nation https://t.co/YmajFkFhM1	43	1	1 link click	https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/605627784296198145
June 8, 2015	SE Asia must help farmers adapt in face of mounting disasters: Oxfam #mekong #foodsecurity Read more at http://t.co/0lRvYGDnzf via @Reuters	48	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/607787083550171137
June 15, 2015	IRRI, USAID working to boost rice resilience to climate change #Cambodia #agriculture #foodsecurity Read more at http://t.co/9ipVpLJQFo	63	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/610303381903577088
June 19, 2015	#Vietnam agri products losing their edge? #agriculture #mekong Read at http://vietnamnews.vn/economy/271524/vn-produce-losing-their-edge.html ↗	25	4	2 profile clicks, 1 hashtag click, 1 detail expand	
June 24, 2015	We're ready to launch the Lower #Mekong #FoodSecurity Database. Stay tuned! http://t.co/7FkrHCaaLa	14	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/613603870447566848
June 30, 2015	Get info on #foodsecurity, agri projects on @USAID-supported @MekongInstitute Lower #Mekong Food Security Database: http://t.co/kHFaf07HhA	18	0		https://twitter.com/FoodinMekong/status/615715838524440576