



GREATER MEKONG
SUBREGION
CORE AGRICULTURE
SUPPORT PROGRAM

**Second GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting
Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia
8 September 2017**

JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

GMS: Towards inclusive, safe, and sustainable agricultural value chains

Achievements and Regional Context

1. We, the Ministers of Agriculture from the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries, namely, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, met in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia, on the 8th of September 2017 for the Second GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting.

2. We commend the historical importance of this meeting, following the first such meeting held a decade ago in Beijing, PRC. We continue to acknowledge the agriculture sector for its vital role in the subregion's socio-economic development.

3. We are committed to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG2, SDG13, and SDG17.

4. This is a most opportune time for establishing our collective goals for agriculture in the GMS. Our objectives are aligned with the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint to 2025. Moreover, the Belt and Road Initiative presents many opportunities for GMS agricultural cooperation.

5. We congratulate the GMS Program on its 25th Anniversary and reconfirm the alignment of the Core Agriculture Support Program, now on its second phase (CASP2), with the GMS Strategic Framework's (2012-2022) core objectives and values. The progress of CASP2 has been commendable, in particular, through the successful implementation of the projects under the letters of agreement between the GMS agriculture ministries and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), such as the establishment of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) which we will continue to support. We also commend the GMS Working Group on Agriculture (WGA) that has worked tirelessly towards the attainment of the CASP2 vision for the GMS to become a leading producer of safe and environment-friendly agriculture products.

6. We reaffirm that the GMS Regional Investment Framework presents opportunities for sustaining intra-GMS cooperation as acknowledged by the GMS Leaders at the 5th GMS Summit of Leaders in Bangkok in December 2014 and acknowledge that the consolidated agriculture project pipeline has been developed in recognition of these considerations and opportunities.

7. We recognize that the Strategy for Promoting Safe and Environment-Friendly Agro-based Value Chains in the Greater Mekong Subregion and Siem Reap Action Plan, 2018-2022 (GMS SEAP Strategy and Siem Reap Action Plan), acknowledged at the 21st GMS Ministerial Meeting, Chiang Rai, 2016, has been developed through strong engagement with stakeholders representing the diversity of GMS agricultural interests and those of related sectors and addresses key national and regional priorities for GMS agriculture in the global context.

Our Commitments and the Way Forward

8. We formally endorse the GMS SEAP Strategy and Siem Reap Action Plan and state our commitment to its successful implementation. We will report this to the forthcoming 6th GMS Summit of Leaders in March 2018 and the consolidated agriculture project pipeline will be submitted for inclusion in the Ha Noi Action Plan 2018-2022.

9. We recognize that the intended outcomes of the GMS SEAP Strategy and Siem Reap Action Plan can only be achieved with the support and engagement of all stakeholders including the public sector and private sector. To this end, we will initiate public-private dialogue.

10. We are reinvigorating the Agriculture Information Network Service (AINS) portal—relaunched as version 2.0 into a more service- and client-oriented platform, which will increase coordination and cooperation among the GMS countries and will facilitate information sharing between stakeholders.

11. We instruct the WGA to oversee the implementation of the GMS SEAP Strategy and Siem Reap Action Plan through strong supervision and effective management.

12. We direct the WGA and its Secretariat to commence the formulation of the technical assistance document required to ensure the seamless implementation of the GMS SEAP Strategy and Siem Reap Action Plan.

13. We pledge to adopt a collaborative approach to controlling transboundary animal diseases. We appreciate the active role and contribution of PRC as well as the GMS countries in this end and continue to emphasize the essential roles that each GMS country must play.

14. We sincerely appreciate the support of the ADB, the Government of Sweden, the Nordic Development Fund, and the Water Financing Partnership Facility to the CASP. However, further financial and technical support will be required to implement the GMS SEAP Strategy and Siem Reap Action Plan and so we turn again to our development partners.

15. Through this Strategy we envisage the development of vibrant, interconnected, and competitive agro-based value chains throughout the GMS, and supplying the subregion and beyond with safe food produced in a sustainable manner.

16. We thank the Royal Government of Cambodia for hosting this meeting and for the warm hospitality we have received. We also wish to show our appreciation to the ADB for its support in the holding of this meeting and the side events.

17. We reaffirm the necessity of convening GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting periodically as needed to keep policy coordination, guide the formulation and implementation of the GMS SEAP Strategy and Siem Reap Action Plan, and cope with the challenges of agriculture and rural development in the subregion.

Endorsed in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia on 8 September 2017.
