

## Statement a representative from the research institutions

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Ministers

Excellences

Development partners

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to be here at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in the beautiful city of Siem Reap. Special thanks to the Royal Government of Cambodia and ADB for the invitation.

Mekong Institute is an intergovernmental organization based in Khon Kaen, Thailand. We are owned by the GMS and serve the GMS countries. Our mission is to foster regional connectivity through knowledge creation and capacity building. We **conduct research and study; provide capacity building for human resources in the GMS; and promote policy dialogue** so as to make real impacts in the Greater Mekong Sub region. Our and other research institutions' works can support the SEAP Strategy, especially, the Pillar 3, which is knowledge creation, sharing and dissemination.

Mekong Institute works on three thematic areas, namely, Innovation and Technological Connectivity; Trade and Investment Facilitation; and Agricultural Development and Commercialization. With regard to Agricultural Development, we work on a number of areas, including, Food safety issues, Effective Contract Farming; Post harvest Systems; GAP and Sustainable Rural Development.

We will be happy to implement 'Food Safety Capacity building project.' The Technical Need Assessment should be conducted on Food Safety in the GMS countries. The training curriculum must be designed for training courses including Pest and Agrichemical Management; Food Inspection and Audit; Risk Analysis; and Food Safety Management Tools, just to name a few.

The National Knowledge Dissemination workshops should be conducted in each of the GMS countries in local languages. The main objectives are to share knowledge on food safety and to scale up the impacts of our training activities.

I would like to conclude that research institutions and Mekong Institute are willing to collaborate with ADB and other partners in implementing the interventions under Pillar 3 of SEAP Strategy, which is Knowledge Creation; Sharing and Dissemination.

There are crucial needs to strengthen research and extension network; develop information sharing platform to facilitate the exchange of information related to SEAP; develop agribusiness incubators in the GMS for innovative SMEs for Safe and Environmental Friendly agriculture products.

I am very confident that with our collective and collaborative efforts, we can be a catalyst for **a better** Safe and Environment-friendly agro-based value chains in the GMS.

Thank you very much.