

# 19th Annual Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Working Group on Agriculture (WGA)

21-23 June 2022 (in-person and online)  
Renaissance Riverside Hotel<sup>1</sup>  
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

## CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAMME

**Theme: Adaptation of GMS Agriculture in the context of Climate Change and the Water-Food-Energy (WFE) Nexus**

### Co-Chairs

- **Dr. Nguyen Do Anh Tuan** Director General, International Cooperation Department / WGA Coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam
- **Dr. Jiangfeng Zhang**, Director, Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB

### Background

To support the implementation of the **Strategy for Promoting Safe and Environment-Friendly Agro-Based Value Chains in the GMS**, ADB approved the Technical Assistance (TA) entitled **GMS Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Program (SAFSP)** to be implemented over a period of 5 years from April 2020 to March 2025. The expected **outcome** is: 'GMS investments in and capacity for climate-friendly, safe, and sustainable agri-food value chains increased'. The TA has three **outputs**: (i) Climate-friendly, inclusive, and gender-responsive agri-food value chains and agribusinesses strengthened; (ii) Harmonized crop and livestock safety and quality systems adopted; and (iii) Climate-adaptive agriculture in the context of the water-energy-food security nexus enhanced.

In support of realizing Output 3, the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the GMS Working Group on Agriculture will feature the theme of: **Adaptation of Greater Mekong Subregion Agriculture in the context of Climate Change and the Water-Food-Energy (WFE) Nexus**. There is increasing evidence of substantial trade-offs among water, food, and energy sectors in the GMS and climate change is exacerbating such trade-offs. Examples of trade-offs include: (i) the impact of hydropower on fish stocks (and thereby food insecurity); (ii) the impact of expanding irrigation and aquaculture infrastructure on water security; (iii) the impact of energy price changes on decision to replace food crops with energy crops; (iv) the energy intensity of desalination creating trade-offs between energy and water security, and (v) the competition for water from agriculture sectors. Based solely on population growth, food demand in the GMS will rise by at least 25% by 2050; if considering increasing income, this surge will be much higher. Concurrently, energy demand in the GMS is projected to grow by 2040 by 50% over 2015 levels. This will create substantial challenges as water availability is likely to drop substantially due to increasing climate variability. These projections emphasize the urgent need to manage the WFE Nexus effectively.

### Joining virtually?

Click [here](#) to register in advance for the Zoom meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ldOupqTlJG9LQv5yHNRQ5Y3Aq9ALKdfG0](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91839459073?pwd=Z0d0OUpqTlJG9LQv5yHNRQ5Y3Aq9ALKdfG0=)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

<sup>1</sup> <http://renaissance-riverside.hotelshochiminhcity.net/en/>

Food security is crucially dependent upon ensuring soil and water security. Across the GMS, natural resources which underwrite agricultural production, continue to deteriorate due to land degradation, forest loss, and unsustainable agricultural intensification, pollution, and urbanization. For example, as per the FAO GLADIS assessment framework (2017), the area classified with medium to strong land degradation ranges from 62% in Lao PDR to 42% in Cambodia. As per the Harmonized World Soils Database of FAO (2009), soils in the GMS can be very broadly described as suffering from widespread problems such as acidity, reduced levels of carbon, coarse texture, low water availability, and low to moderate fertility levels. Large areas of the GMS have soils that are already stressed while their vulnerability to climate change is intensifying. Healthy soils rely on sustainable agriculture systems and climate smart practices and are essential to mitigate and adapt to climate change and thus preserve food security.

Water resources in the Mekong Region suffer from increasing hydropower development, intensive agricultural production, vulnerability to climate change, and poor co-ordination among governments. Irrigation is the major consumer using about 70% of the available water supply. Water insecurity is now a major threat for food security in the GMS. The Water Security Indices for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam, are described as engaged, but not capable and effective (ADB 2020 Asian Water Security Outlook). For example, in Vietnam, the growing threats from sea level rise, saline intrusion, soil erosion, flooding, droughts, pollution, subsidence, wetland degradation and exposure of acid sulphate soils could reduce GDP by 6 percent by 2035 (World Bank 2019). Climate change is expected to worsen these hazards.

The 19th GMS WGA meeting will discuss ways to apply the WFE nexus approach, its benefits and showcase climate smart agriculture solutions as a foundational improvement for necessary change. It is anticipated that the approach will lead to effectively managing nexus trade-offs and realizing nexus synergies, while directing development investments on a pathway towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **Objectives**

1. To share national priorities of GMS countries to address climate change and manage trade-offs for water-food-energy nexus
2. To examine trade-offs in the water-food-energy nexus in the GMS and present solutions to improve the nexus management
3. To present solutions to adapt to climate change in the GMS through climate smart soil and water management in support of food and water security
4. To discuss implications of supply chain disruptions from Ukraine-Russia conflict, COVID-19, and climate change on food security in the GMS
5. To agree upon priority actions for regional cooperation to improve adaptation of GMS agriculture to climate change and manage trade-offs for water-food-energy nexus

## **Target participants**

1. GMS WGA representatives
2. Technical department representatives from GMS Ministries of Agriculture
3. Representatives from GMS agencies for water, energy, planning and finance
4. Private sector (agribusiness representatives)
5. Development partners
6. ADB staff
7. TA 9916 Consultant team

**Expected Output:** Annual Meeting Summary Statement with follow-up actions

The GMS WGA Annual Meeting will be a hybrid event with both in-person and virtual contributions, conducted in **English**.

## Agenda

Date / Time (GMT+7)	Speakers
<b>DAY 1: Tuesday, 21 June 2022</b>	
07:30 – 08:30	<b>Registration</b>
08:30 – 09:00	<b>Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Nguyen Do Anh Tuan</b>, Director General, International Cooperation Department (ICD) and WGA Coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) Viet Nam</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Jiangfeng Zhang</b>, Director, Environment, Natural Resources &amp; Agriculture Division (SEER), Southeast Asia Department (SERD), ADB</li> </ul>
09:00 – 10:00	<b>SESSION 1: National strategies to address climate change and manage trade-offs for water-food -energy nexus in the GMS</b> <b>Facilitator: Dr. Jiangfeng Zhang</b> , Director, SEER, ADB
	<b>Presentations by GMS WGA Representatives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cambodia – Dr. Prum Somany</b>, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) / Director, Department of International Cooperation / WGA Coordinator, (MAFF)</li> <li>• <b>China, People Republic of – Ms. Liu Jiang</b>, Head of Asian and African Affairs Division, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA)</li> <li>• <b>Lao People’s Democratic Republic – Dr. Phommy Inthichack</b>, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)</li> <li>• <b>Myanmar – Dr. Thanda Kyi</b>, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI)</li> <li>• <b>Thailand – Mr. Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs</b>, Deputy Permanent Secretary / WGA Coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC)</li> <li>• <b>Viet Nam – Dr. Pham Quoc Hung</b>, Deputy Director, Water Resources Department, Water Resources Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)</li> </ul>
10:00 – 12:00	<b>SESSION 2: Water Food Energy Nexus Challenges and Opportunities in the GMS Agri-food sector</b> <b>Facilitator: Dr. Lam Vu Thanh Noi</b> , Southern Institute of Water Resources Research (SIWRR), HCMC, Viet Nam
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Keynote: Water, Food, and Energy Nexus Trade-Offs in the GMS</b> <b>Dr. Alex Smajgl</b> , TA 9916 Consultant
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Tea and Coffee Break and photo</b>
10:45 – 11:30	<b>Panel discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Ha Thanh Lan</b>, Institute for Water Resource Planning, MARD, Viet Nam</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Mayvong Sayatham</b>, Water Soil Management Specialist, Laos PDR</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Radtasiri Wachirapunyanont</b>, WE4F, Bangkok Thailand</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Jelle Beekma</b>, ADB, Manila, Philippines</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Sagar Prasai</b>, The Asia Foundation, Bangkok, Thailand</li> </ul>
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Question &amp; Answer Session</b>
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13:00 – 14:50	<b>SESSION 3: Sustainable Soil and Water Management for Climate Resilience and Food Security in the GMS</b> <b>Facilitator: Dr. Suriyan Vichilekarn</b> , Executive Director, Mekong Institute, Thailand
13:00 – 13:30	<b>Keynote: Climate Smart Soil and Water Management for Sustainable Food Systems in the GMS</b> <b>Mr. Nick Richards</b> , TA 9916 Consultant
13:30 – 14:20	<b>Panel discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Ruan Zhiyong</b>, Institute of Agricultural Resources and Regional Planning, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), PRC</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Natthapol Chittamart</b>, Kasetsart University Thailand</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Sinxay Vongphachanh</b>, Planning Division, Mekong River Commission Secretariat, Lao PDR</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Van Pham Dang Tri</b>, Can Tho University, Viet Nam</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Marc Eberle</b>, Smart Agro Cambodia</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Florent Tivet</b>, CIRAD</li> </ul>
14:20 – 14:50	Question & Answer Session
14:50 – 15:05	Tea and Coffee Break
15:05 – 17:15	<b>SESSION 4: Impacts of Supply Chain Disruptions due to Conflict, COVID-19, and Climate Change on Food Security in the GMS: Challenges and Responses</b> <b>Facilitator: Dr. David Roland-Holst</b> , Professor of Economics, University of California Berkeley
15:05 – 15:35	<b>Keynote: Supply Chain Disruptions in the GMS: Assessment and Outlook</b> <b>Mr. Stefan Vogel</b> , General Manager, RaboResearch, Australia and New Zealand
15:35 – 16:40	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Thavisith Bounyasouk</b>, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Lao PDR</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Nguyen Anh Phong</b>, IPSARD, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Maximo Torero-Cullen</b>, Chief Economist, FAO, Rome</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Anthea Webb</b>, Deputy Regional Director, World Food Program, Bangkok, Thailand</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Qingfeng Zhang</b>, Chief, Rural Development and Food Security Thematic Group, ADB</li> </ul>
16:40 – 17:15	Question & Answer Session
17:15 – 17:30	Day 1 Conclusion
19.00~	Dinner hosted by MARD
<b>DAY 2: Wednesday, 22 June 2022</b>	
08:00 – 08:30	Registration
08:30 – 10:30	<b>SESSION 5: Youth and Agriculture in the GMS</b> <b>Facilitator: Ms. Linh Tran</b> , ADB TA 9916 Youth Coordinator, ADB, Bangkok, Thailand
08:30 – 09:00	<b>Keynote: Youth engagement in GMS agriculture, challenges, opportunities and potential solutions</b> <b>Mr. Andrew Bartlett</b> , Team Leader and Policy Advisor, Helvetas, Vientiane, Lao PDR
09:00 – 10:00	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Mayuree Boonyasenekul</b>, Chief of Farm Youth Development Group, Farmer Development Division, Department of Agricultural Extension, Thailand</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Lyhour Heang</b>, Impact Hub Phnom Penh, Cambodia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Don Tan</b>, Pinduoduo, PRC</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Christamol Sutawong</b>, Young Smart Farmers Thailand, Thailand</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Dang Duong Minh Hoang</b>, Youth Contestant Representative, CEO of Thien Nong farm, Vietnam</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:30	Question & Answer Session
10:30 – 10:45	Tea and Coffee Break
10:45 – 12:00	<b>SESSION 6: TA 9916 Activities and Next Steps</b> <b>Facilitator: Mr. Stewart Pittaway</b> , TA 9916 Team Leader
10:45 – 11:10	<b>Update on Demonstrations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 1.2: Agri-finance</b> – <b>Mr. Pramod Pandya</b>, TA 9916 Agri-finance specialist</li> <li>• <b>Output 2.1: Agri-food Traceability</b> – <b>Ms. Vichelle Roaring-Arunsuwannakorn</b>, TA 9916 Food Safety and Quality Specialist</li> <li>• <b>Output 3.1: Climate Smart Soil and Water Management</b> – <b>Mr. Nic Richards</b>, TA 9916 Climate Change Adaptation specialist</li> </ul>
11:10 – 11:20	<b>Capacity Building and Study Tours: Mr. Le Truong Son</b> , TA9916 Capacity Building specialist

11:20 – 11:30	<b>COVID-19 Response and Recovery Support: Dr. David Roland-Holst, TA 9916 Post Pandemic Response and Recovery specialist</b>
11:30 – 11:45	<b>Next Steps: Mr. Stewart Pittaway, TA 9916 Team Leader</b>
11:45 – 12:00	<b>Question &amp; Answer Session</b>
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13:00 – 14:45	<b>SESSION 7: Promoting Regional Investments and Regional Cooperation</b> <b>Facilitator: Dr. Srinivasan Ancha, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB</b>
13:00 – 13:45	<b>The Proposed New GMS Regional Investment Framework 2025 – Implications for the Agriculture Sector, GMS Strategy 2030 Results Framework and Deepening Development Partner Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Asadullah Sumbal, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB</b></li> </ul>
13:45 – 14:15	<b>Transboundary Adaptation of GMS Agriculture and Water Resources: Prospects for Regional Cooperation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Albert Salamanca, Stockholm Environment Institute, Bangkok</b></li> </ul> Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. SVRK Prabhakar, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan</b></li> <li>• <b>Dr. Suriyan Vichilekarn, Executive Director, Mekong Institute, Thailand</b></li> </ul>
14:15 – 14:45	<b>Development Partner Perspectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Beau Damen, Natural Resources and Climate Change Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, Bangkok</b></li> <li>• <b>Dr. Frederic Asseline, Head, Program Team, Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF), Beijing</b></li> </ul>
14:45 – 15:00	<b>Coffee and Tea Break</b>
15:00 – 17:00	<b>SESSION 8: Adoption of Draft WGA AM-19 Summary</b> <b>Facilitator: Dr. Jiangfeng Zhang, Director, SEER, ADB</b>
15:00 – 16:45	<b>Discussion and Adoption of Draft Summary by WGA delegates</b>
16:45 – 17:00	<b>Concluding Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Jiangfeng Zhang, Director, SEER, ADB</b></li> <li>• <b>Dr. Nguyen Do Anh Tuan, Director General, ICD / WGA Coordinator, MARD, Viet Nam</b></li> </ul>
19.00~	<b>Dinner hosted by ADB</b>
<b>DAY 3: Thursday, 23 June 2022 – FIELD VISIT</b>	
06:30 – 06:50	<b>Registration</b>
07:00	<b>Departure</b> from HCMC hotel to An Luc Long commune, Chau Thanh district, Long An province
09:00 – 09:45	<b>Introduction: Climate change adaptation agriculture sector strategies in Long An</b> Presenter: <b>Mr. Võ Kim Thuần, Head of Division for Rural Development and Irrigation, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Long An province.</b> Meeting venue: An Luc Long commune meeting hall Topics of the presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main climate risks affecting dragon fruit production in Long An province</li> <li>• Long An province strategy and plans for climate change adaptation</li> <li>• What are the water-energy-food nexus related issues in Long An's dragon fruit production?</li> <li>• What solutions are being implemented and what needs to be improved/introduced?</li> <li>• What are the expectations for the TA-9916 in terms of improving the water-energy-food nexus in dragon fruit farming to enhancing climate adaptation?</li> </ul>
10:00 – 11:00	<b>Farm Visit 1: Traditional dragon fruit production system</b> <b>Mr. Nguyễn Văn Thủy, farmer and Mr. Lê Minh Mẫn, Chau Thanh DARD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 minutes presentation on the production model</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 minutes Q&amp;A session and discussions about how the project can contribute to dragon fruit farming in Long An in terms of climate adaptation through enhanced water-energy-food nexus should also be addressed</li> </ul>
11:00 – 12:00	<p><b>Farm Visit 2: High technology dragon fruit production system</b>  <b>Mr. Nguyễn Văn Thủy</b>, farmer and <b>Mr. Lê Minh Mẫn</b>, Chau Thanh DARD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 minutes presentation on the production model</li> <li>• 30 minutes Q&amp;A session and discussions about how the project can contribute to dragon fruit farming in Long An in terms of climate adaptation through enhanced water-energy-food nexus should also be addressed</li> </ul>
12:30 – 13:00	<b>Lunch: Local restaurant in Long An City</b>
15:00~	<b>Arrival in HCMC</b>