



Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)¹ as One: Unified Regional Approaches to Food Safety and Market Access

A Policy Forum

Objective

To agree on unified regional approaches and measures that promote harmonized food safety standards and greater market access for safe, environment-friendly, high quality GMS agro-food products.

Rationale

Food security and market access. Food safety is a core component of food security and a major barrier to market access for many GMS agricultural products. The economic costs of illnesses caused by foodborne diseases in the subregion are considerable. The risk of outbreak of foodborne diseases also hampers market access of food products. In turn, this perceived health risk results in costly rejections of GMS agricultural produce in international markets. To address this problem, there is a need to ensure the quality of GMS produce. Establishing unified food safety policies that ensure consumers and producers are appropriately protected in an inclusive and sustainable manner is a key challenge facing the global food sector and is a key priority concern for the GMS.

Regional approach to address gaps. As market integration proceeds and cross-border value chains develop, it is imperative that GMS food suppliers meet domestic, regional and global export market standards starting from farm to the consumer table. The GMS has unique and often unharnessed comparative advantages in specific food supply, built upon its abundant natural resources, climate, low costs of production, proximity to large markets, and the unique food items produced in the region. However, the subregion's current pest, disease and residue issues hamper production and food safety. In addition, many of its small and medium agro-enterprises and smallholder producer groups are limited by scale, reducing their competitiveness and ability to demonstrate food quality and safety. Although the GMS countries have made great progress in reforming national policies, gaps remain at the GMS level and strategic investments are needed. A regional approach to food policy driven by business and public interests, will enhance protection of domestic consumers and suppliers, will support scaling up of production, and will facilitate product marketing.

Multi-sectoral cooperation. It is essential that producers and the wider business community work closely with policymakers to develop unified regional approaches to food safety. A candid assessment of current policy gaps and priorities for investment is needed to achieve the goal of establishing the subregion as a leading regional and global supplier of safe and environment-friendly agricultural food products.

Issues Paper: An issue paper on "Harmonizing Food Safety Policies and Expanding Global Markets" is the expected output of the policy forum. The paper will address where we were, where we are now and where we need to be in relation to food safety in national markets within the GMS and current and potential export markets for GMS products. The paper will serve as an input to the upcoming 2nd GMS Agriculture Ministers' meeting in October 2017 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

¹ Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) comprises Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Yunnan province), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

**Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) as One:
Regional Approaches to Food Safety and Market Access A Policy Forum
31 May 2017**

Amber Room 1, IMPACT Exhibition and Convention Center, Bangkok, Thailand

Provisional Agenda

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| 12:30 - 13:30 | Registration | |
| 13:30 - 13:40 | Welcome Remarks | Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives |
| | Opening Remarks | Mr. Jiangfeng Zhang Director Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division, Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank |
| 13:40 - 14:00 | Key Note Address <i>Food Safety and Market Access for GMS Agri-Food Products – Insights from the Experiences of Lao PDR</i> | H.E. Dr. Phouang Parisak Pravongviengkham Vice Minister Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Government of Lao PDR |
| 14:00 - 14:15 | Session 1 Setting the Scene: Harmonizing Food Safety and Food Quality in the GMS for Enhanced Market Access | Moderator for Session 1: Mr. Chris May Managing Director Bioglobal Consultancy Ltd |
| | <i>Toward Harmonizing Food Safety Management Systems in the GMS: Policy and Investment Gaps for Going Global</i> | Speaker: Mr. Pavit Ramachandran Senior Environment Specialist ADB (joint paper with Mekong Institute) |
| | <i>Quality Assurance, a Balancing Act - Key Lessons from the European Experience and Discovering Untapped Market Potential in Asia and the EU</i> | Speaker: Mrs. Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab Head of the Agricultural Quality Standards Unit United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| 14:40 - 15:00 | Conversations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. San Vanty, Undersecretary of State, Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (tbc) Mr. Li Hongtao, DDG of FECC, PRC Mr. Peerachote Charanwong, General Manager, Merit Food Products Co., Ltd. President, Thailand Organic Trade Association Mr. Vo Minh Khai, General Director, Vien Phu Organic & Health Foods JSC | |
| 15:00 - 15:20 | Open Forum | |
| 15:20 - 15:40 | Networking Coffee Break | |

| | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| | Session 2 Small and Medium Agro-Enterprises (SMAEs) in the GMS: Linking Recognition and Market Access | Moderator for Session 2 Mr. Chris May Managing Director Bioglobal Consultancy Ltd |
| 15.40 - 15.55 | <i>The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) Market Program: Pathways for SMAEs to Achieve Recognized Certification and Market Access</i> | Speaker: Mr. Kishi Katsuki Vice President, Food Safety AEON (Japan) Member of GFSI Market Programme |
| 15.55 - 16.30 | Conversations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Tin Htut, Permanent Secretary, Myanmar Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation (tbc) Dr. Sochivi Kao, PhD, Deputy Director General, Cambodia Department of Fisheries Affairs Mr. Sisouphonh Sihalath, Dao-Heuang Coffee Dr. Than Than Sein, Vice Chairman, Myanmar Organic Producers Association Mr. Arrut Navaraj, Executive Director, Sampran Riverside Hotel, Thailand Mr. Serge Selbe, Managing Director, Lao Fresh Meat | |
| 16.30 - 16.50 | Open Forum | |
| 16.50 - 17.00 | Summing Up and Closing Remarks | Mr. Chris May Managing Director Bioglobal Consultancy Ltd |



World of Food Safety Conference

1 June 2017

Amber Room 2, IMPACT Exhibition and Convention Center, Bangkok, Thailand

ADB Special Session: GMS Food Safety Agenda: A Shared Responsibility through Public-Private Collaboration

Provisional Agenda

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------|--|
| 8:30 - 9:00 | Registration | |
| 9:00 - 9:05 | Welcome Remarks | Ministry of Commerce, Thailand |
| 9:05 - 9:10 | Opening Remarks | Mr. Pavit Ramachandran Senior Environment Specialist ADB |

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| <p>9.10 – 9.30</p> | <p>Session 3 The GMS Food Safety Agenda: A Shared Responsibility through Public-Private Collaboration</p> <p><i>PPPs for Food Safety: Establishing Transparency and Trust Between Customers and Suppliers</i></p> <p>Cooperation in Food Safety: Harmonizing Public and Private Interests (2 Views)</p> <p>Conversations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Pimpapaan Chansilpa, Advisor to the Thai Deputy Minister of Commerce (tbc) • Dr. Kevin Chen, IFPRI, PRC • Mr. Ye Min Aung, Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation Limited (MAPCO) • Mr. Stephane Passeri, FAO • Mr. Ruidong Zhang, Senior Rural Specialist, Alibaba Group (tbc) | <p>Moderator for the Session: Mr. Anthony M. Zola Senior Researcher, Mekong Environment and Resources Institute (MERI)</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Pradeep Pant Advisory Board Member Lee Kong Chiang School of Business, National University of Singapore</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Patrik Jonasson, Director Public Policy Asia-Pacific, GS1 Mr. Vichit Krupanyamat, General Manager, SAI Global, Bangkok</p> |
| <p>10.10 - 10.25</p> | <p>Open Forum</p> | |
| <p>10.25 – 10.30</p> | <p>Summing Up and Closing Remarks</p> | <p>Mr. Anthony M. Zola Senior Researcher Mekong Environment and Resources Institute (MERI)</p> |
| <p>10.30 – 11.00</p> | <p>Networking Coffee Break</p> | |
| <p>11.00 – 16.30</p> | <p>WORLD OF FOOD CONFERENCE SESSIONS (topics)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Overview: Food Safety in China – the future of food after Food Safety Law 2015 ❖ Driving global food safety through a culture of safety and verification in Asia-Pacific ❖ Food Safety in China – the future of food after Food Safety Law 2015 ❖ Scaling up food safety for small and medium enterprises in Asia ❖ Advanced food processing technologies to ensure safe and healthy food products ❖ Trends in food assurance and approaches for full supply chain traceability ❖ Industry strategies for assuring food integrity ❖ Responsible Sourcing to Ensure Food Integrity ❖ Advances in technology and design for food packaging and food safety | |