



## CONCEPT NOTE

### Dissemination Workshop

### “Cambodia’s Agri-Food Trade: Structure, New Emerging Potentials, Challenges & Impacts of Covid-19”

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>, August 2021  
Zoom, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

#### Background

From the early 1990s, Cambodia’s agricultural food trade was seen as exports of raw materials and unprocessed primary commodities to neighboring countries such as Thailand and Vietnam. The production and processing capacity were remarkably low at the time. Realizing the tremendous amount of the exports and great loss of value-added incomes, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) started to promote country’s processing capacity and quality refinement of the commodities for formal commercial activities. One of the biggest export destinations is European Union countries, when Cambodia enjoys Everything but Arms (EBA) Agreement privilege. Rice export to EU markets is well-known for Cambodia’s agricultural trade. 62 percent of rice exports went to EU markets, according to Cambodia Rice report by International Finance Corporation in 2015. In the first 6 months of 2020, the amount of rice export to EU was 135,576 tons, while China was the largest importer of Cambodian rice with the amount of 147,949 tons (Cambodia Rice Federation).

Therefore, an agri-food trade flows study was conducted by CDRI supported by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to analyze Cambodia’s opportunities and challenges in agri-food trade amid the rapid shifts of trading partners. In addition, the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic on the agricultural trade is another dimension of the study.

#### Objectives

The workshop will bring together stakeholders from the public and private sectors, development partners, and non-government organizations (international and local) working in the areas of agri-food industry and export. The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- Disseminate the results of the study
- Discuss the findings against the wider issues, challenges, and opportunities of agri-food industry in Cambodia
- Formulate policy recommendations/options for promoting and strengthening the sector, especially for export readiness and competitiveness in the region and the world.

#### Group Discussion and Presentation

To better understand the situation of agri-food trade in Cambodia, participants from various institutions including government ministries, academia, development partners, and participants from other countries will be assigned into 2 groups to discuss the following questions:

1. What do you think about the trends of agri-food production and trade amid the COVID-19 pandemic? What have increased or inclined? Why? What kind of intervention has the government implemented?

2. What are the most important agri-food commodities in terms of production and trade potentiality for Cambodia / your country? Why? And what government can do to promote them?

After the discussion, a representative from each group will summarize what the group has discussed to all participants in the workshop.

### **Workshop Outputs**

Comments, suggestions, and questions from the workshop as well as the discussion will help improve the quality of the study. Key takeaways from the workshop also help convey messages to policy makers to further overcome challenges in the sector.

### **Outcomes of the Workshop**

The dissemination workshop intends to inform policy makers at national level by showing current situation, main challenges, new potentials, and prospects of agri-food trade of Cambodia. Policy recommendations will also be channelized through joint coordination among relevant government ministries: Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery, The Council for the Development of Cambodia, and Ministry of Industry. Moreover, the workshop also provides an opportunity for discussion among researchers, representatives from the ministries, development partners, experts from IFPRI, and participants from other countries on issues of promotion of domestic processing capacity, market diversification, logistics system, trade facilitation measures, COVID-19 recovery strategies, and other relevant topics.

### **Participants**

There are about 35 participants invited to this dissemination workshop. They are from Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery; Ministry of Economy and Finance; Ministry of Commerce; Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology, and Innovation; The Council for the Development of Cambodia; Cambodia Rice Federation; regional participants; ADB, World Bank, USAID, Development partners, and NGOs.