

# Preparing an SPS Action Plan for Cambodia

informal discussion with development  
partners

FAO, Cambodia, 25 May 2009

# summary

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- context
- action plan scope
- SPS issues Cambodia
- project start up
- proposed work
  1. strategy and policy framework
  2. specific needs
- next steps
- discussion

## context: SPS in Cambodia

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- joined WTO (2004)
  - I.S.C. created 2007 (TBT enquiry point)
  - not yet notified official SPS enquiry point?

*perception by trading partners is that Cambodia's SPS-related controls are not particularly effective*

- assessment of regional SPS-related capacity building activities
- Asian Dev't Bank-GMS regional project (2008->)
- World Bank Cambodia project (pending or active?)
- STDF Cambodia action plan (May 2009)

## action plan scope

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to strengthen national policies and strategies on SPS issues (including allocation of responsibilities and legislation)...

...as well as strengthening monitoring, surveillance, inspection laboratory testing and certification regimes

# SPS issues Cambodia: national

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- 4 agencies involved – are they competing?  
what are their different mandates? clarify. adopt a biosecurity (food chain) approach?
- ideas for an overhaul of inspection, monitoring, testing and certification arrangements
- review staff organisation, terms and conditions (as well as investment in equipment and training)

# SPS issues Cambodia: provincial

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- need to encourage private sector to capture value currently being exported via Vietnam
- build provincial capacity to manage threats/ how to manage with porous borders
- strengthen (agricultural) extension/ training
- communication for long term success

# project start up

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- initial preparation mission Sept 2008
  - *document review*
  - *request for nominations for members of a national task force; delay in scheduling start up mission*
  - *letter from FAO to STDF asking for confirmation of commitment from RGC*
  - *positive signals from new FAO Representative, progress on TCP (Feb-March)*
  - *contract signed FAO-STDF (end April 2009)*
  
- project start up work (25-29 May 2009)

# proposed work

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Outputs are:

1. an overall framework for SPS for RGC covering strategy and policy
2. documented specific needs from sectors, or on specific themes, based on studies (starting from existing diagnoses)



# proposed work: (1) strategy and policy

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- signed up to by all ministers involved
- agreement on responsibilities of gov't agencies
- endorsed plan for coordinated capacity building across sectors and between agencies
- include a mechanism for communication of potential future “*biosecurity*” threats

## proposed work (2) specific needs

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- Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (2007)  
medium/high export potential prods
  - rice
  - cashew
  - fisheries
  - fruit and vegetables.../...
  
- DTIS recommendations
  - promote testing for export certification
  - build capacity for plant protection diagnosis
  - act on recommendations of EU fisheries inspections

## : changes since 2007

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- *economic downturn* - has/will hit Cambodia badly (garments, construction, tourism)
- *regional trade* - more important than meeting EU or US requirements?
- *livestock and disease?*: continued informal trade
- *biofuel interest* - depends on prevailing energy prices?
- *wood (products)* - are a sensitive subject

## : sector issues

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- rice
  - processing capacity (to capture added value)
  - as a pathway for weed seeds, nematodes
- fishery products
  - HACCP/safety (microbiological, histamine, other contaminants)
- cashew
  - processing capacity (to capture added value)
  - aflatoxins?
- fruit and vegetables
  - pesticide residues, pests (**fruit fly**)
  - HACCP

## : possible studies?

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- **rice** – processing/surveillance
- **cashew** – processing/testing for export
- **fruit & veg.** – residues, microb.'l contamination, fruit fly
- **fisheries** – meeting recommendations of eg EU
- **private sector schemes** targeted at exports (IPM, GAP, quality marks) – role of industry/sector bodies
- **lab. capacity building** – coordinated x sectors

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but from the “other end of the telescope”....certification and documentation is **only part of the story**

There is also a need:

- to build provincial administrator, local producer understanding of SPS issues, Good Agricultural Practices, IPM, etc, beyond rice which has been main focus to date
- for industry capacity for post harvest processing, and distribution

## : other observations

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- improving testing and certification must be accompanied by improving field/handling practices
- be realistic about border control
- consider investment in supporting infrastructure for cold chain, primary processing
- roles of third party certification; a new independent public body; private/sector specific schemes could all be complementary

## next steps

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- initial meeting with national task force (25 May pm at CamControl, with GDA, ISC.. etc)
  - agree studies and develop terms of reference
  - identify national/international consultants
  - FAO resources to appoint focal point/provide secretariat
  - plan activities for period to April 2010
- studies on-going, but further work trips planned July, October, January 2010
- process to reach inter-ministerial agreement



# discussion

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