Improve the Agriculture and Rural Statistics

In the context of rapid development, Cambodia needs more and better quality statistical data in agriculture and the rural sector and these data are required much faster. Timely and reliable statistics are vital for development of responsive policies and progressive agricultural programmes. Access to reliable data and information is also critical for the functionality of investment and market operations. At the same time, with such rapid economic development, Cambodia faces more and more challenges to keep up with growing demands and to ensure the effective use of natural resources especially, in an environmental friendly manner.

Cambodia Inter-Censal Agricultural Survey is scheduled for 2019, under the leadership of the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) of the Ministry of Planning, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The Agriculture Integrated Survey (AGRISurvey) developed by FAO with funding from USAID and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Counterpart funds from the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC). Cambodia is the first country in the region to implement the AGRISurvey Project, starting with the Intra-Censal Survey of Agriculture Survey in 2019 and continuing on an annual basis thereafter as an Annual Survey of Agriculture, from 2019-2022 with technical assistance support from FAO, NIS and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (MAFF). This will mean that Cambodia will have access to a regular flow of agricultural statistics and a strong basis for improving policy and decision making in the sector. In addition, NIS has conducted Cambodian Socio-economic Survey (CSES) in every two years for integrated agricultural statistics in national and provincial level, and commune database (CDB) is also collected at provincial level for in line with integrated social statistics in order to improve the agricultural and rural statistics.

In 2013, Cambodia conducted the first ever agricultural census, depicting a comprehensive state of agriculture in Cambodia (https://bit.ly/2NlO3lm), but some gaps remain. The Inter-Censal Agriculture Survey 2019 will collect up-to-date information on economic, environmental and social dimensions of agricultural holdings. Specifically, data on crop cultivation, livestock, and fisheries will be available for national and local policy planning. Fisheries were not adequately addressed in the 2013 survey, but there is a strong interest and commitment to include more comprehensive coverage of fisheries in this upcoming survey. Efforts are also ongoing to harmonize data collection activities concerning fisheries.

Without AGRISurvey, existing data gaps can only be filled by ad-hoc and suboptimal mechanisms for data collection with high transaction costs. This further increases the burden on people, agricultural holdings and data systems, and does not provide for the timely and reliable data required by users. Ultimately, this lack of data limits the evaluation of policy and strategic frameworks and constitutes an obstacle to the accountability and transparency required for functioning markets. The information collected will contribute to the planning process for the Agricultural sector Master Plan 2030, the Agriculture Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023 and to monitoring of progress towards the achievement of the Cambodia SDGs. The AGRISurvey methodology will provide essential and direct information for the following five SDG

indicators: 2.3.1 / 2.3.2 / 2.4.1 / 5.4.1 / 5.1.a. Moreover, synergies have been identified with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funded project on "Strengthening capacity in the agriculture and land-use sectors for enhanced transparency in implementation and monitoring of Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)."