

International Livestock Research Institute

# Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia Project

## Report

### Taskforce and stakeholder meeting



24-25 October 2019

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

ASF	Animal source foods
CDC	Department of Communicable Disease Control, Cambodia
CeIAgrid	Centre for Livestock and Agriculture Development, Cambodia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDAHP	General Directorate of Animal Health and Production, Cambodia
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
ITC	Cambodia Institute of Technology
LDC	Livestock Development for Community Livelihood
NAHPRI	National Animal Health and Production Research Institute, Cambodia
UHS	University of Health Sciences, Cambodia
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
RUA	Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia
SFFF	Safe Food, Fair Food
SOP	Standard operating procedure
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

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# Introduction

Animal source foods (AFS) are an important part of the cuisine with pork, fish, and poultry products widely consumed in Cambodia. The majority of livestock products are produced by smallholders, many of them women, and sold in traditional, wet markets where women also predominate as retailers. In recent years, Cambodia has seen growing food safety concerns.

The overall aim of the Safe Food, Fair Food (SFFF) for Cambodia project is to reduce the burden of foodborne disease in informal, emerging formal, and niche markets and targeting small and medium scale producers. The project has five objectives with associated activities, outputs, and outcomes. To reach this objective, it is necessary to build capacity to better understand what food safety risks are, how to manage food safety and how to communicate it effectively among stakeholders including the government, private sector, academia, donors, and the media.

## Workshop proceedings

The workshop took place 24-25 October 2019 at Angkor Paradise Hotel, Siem Reap, Cambodia. The event was co-hosted by the National Animal Health and Production Research Institute (NAHPRI), Department of Animal Health and Production, Cambodia in collaboration with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and Livestock Development for Community Livelihood (LDC) (formerly the Centre for Livestock and Agriculture Development (CeLAgrid)).

The objectives of the meeting were:

- To disseminate and discuss key findings from the SFFF for Cambodia with key food safety stakeholders;
- To discuss potential collaborations between the multi-sectoral technical working group for food safety of Cambodia and the SFFF Cambodia project in relation to the taskforce on food safety risk assessment;
- To organise a regular meeting of the multi-sectoral technical working group on food safety.

The meeting brought together 25 experts from all six governmental ministries involved in managing food safety and food quality in the country including the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industry and Handicraft, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tourism, and Ministry of Economy and Finance, universities and academia, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), NAHPI, LDC, and ILRI.

The first day started with an opening remark by Sothyra Tum, director, NAHPRI. He noted that the ministries had established a working group to enhance systematic information sharing and communication on food safety across different sectors and strengthen collaboration among the ministries. The technical working group will endeavour to work in harmony through joining the national taskforce.

Following the opening, he gave a presentation on the overview of SFFF for Cambodia project to provide related stakeholders with generic information of the project. The project team then shared key research findings from surveys on key hazards, cost of illness and household and nutrition. They also presented cross-cutting issues including gender integration and capacity development on food safety, and ideas of interventions.

In the afternoon session, Hung Nguyen shared the experience of Vietnam in establishing a taskforce on food safety risk assessment and some activities that SFFF for Cambodia conducted in collaboration with partners in Cambodia. In Vietnam, the taskforce composed by food safety risk assessment experts from universities, research institutes, policy makers from ministries of health and

agriculture. The taskforce made scientific impacts and policy impacts in Vietnam including a World Bank funded report on food safety risk assessment that was conducted by many members of the taskforce at the request of the Government of Vietnam.

Later, Sothyra Tum facilitated a group work session in which participant discussed to elaborate the establishment of a similar taskforce in Cambodia. The discussion focused on:

- Membership of the taskforce
- Key activities of the taskforce
- Collaboration between the taskforce and the multi-sectoral technical working group for food safety of Cambodia

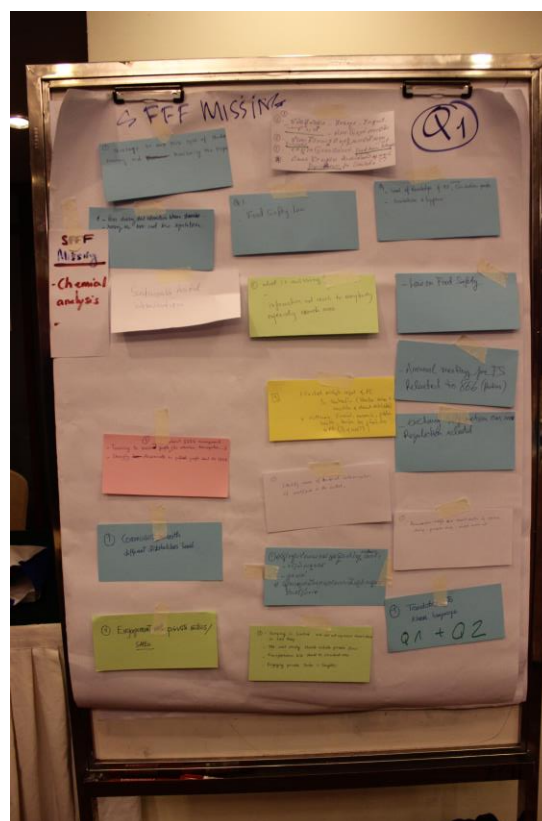
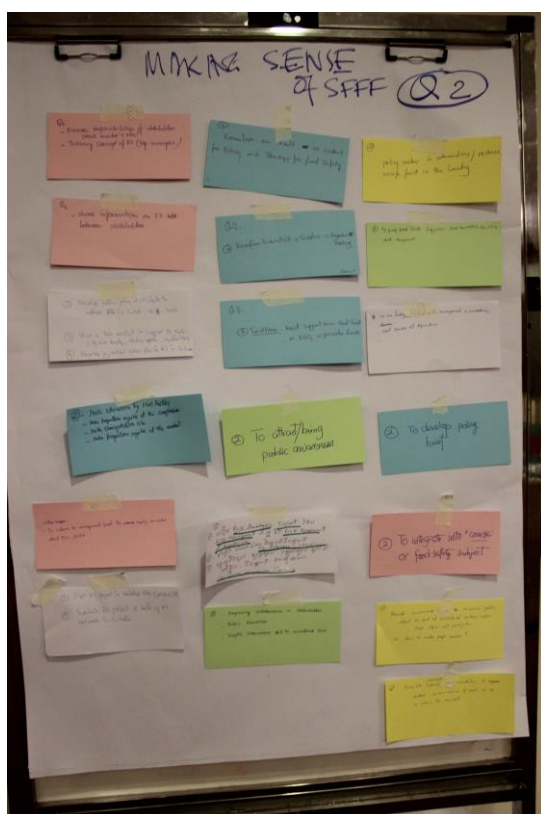
At the meeting, participants said they would promote the new taskforce and its agenda in their ministries and organizations. Partners also agreed to develop the taskforce's terms of reference, define its vision, mission and goals, and elaborate the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders. They suggested the national taskforce focus on food safety action planning, communication, publishing, and capacity development for policymakers and researchers.

The second day of the workshop is dedicated to discussion of the multi-sectoral technical working group for food safety of Cambodia. SFFF Cambodia researchers joined as observers.

#### **Key discussion from morning, Day 1 (24 October 2019)**







Group photo (Photo credit: ILRI)

Question 1: What is missing from Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia (type from flip charts)

- Increase knowledge of people on food safety
- Test food-borne pathogens
- Results not representing Cambodia
- Strategy to keep this type of study
- Running and monitoring of the progress
- Poor sharing information between stakeholders
- Missing the law and some regulations
- Chemical analysis
- Food safety law
- Level of knowledge of food safety among Cambodia people
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Sustainable tested intervention
- Information not reach to everybody, especially remote area
- Law on food safety
- Develop capacity on food safety management
- Strongly disseminate to public people about the SFFF
- Situational analysis report of FS in Cambodia (literature review and consultation of relevant stakeholders)
- National financial, economic, public health, tourism loss due to FS
- Annual meeting for food safety related to 866 (Prakas)
- Exchange information on new regulation
- Communicate with different stakeholder levels
- Engagement with private sector
- Identify source of bacterial contamination of meat/ pork in the market
- Recommendation/ linkage from research results of nutrition study – perception study – market survey
- Sampling is limited, and not well represent in Phnom Penh or Siem Reap
- The cost study should include private clinic



- Transportation risk should be considered
- Engaging private sector in slaughter
- Translation to Khmer language

*Question 2: How can we use these findings for food safety management in Cambodia? (type from flip charts)*

- Risk management
- Equip slaughterhouse up to standards
- To ensure safer food, and good hygiene and sanitation facilities
- Raise awareness on food safety on mass media
- Ensure responsibilities of stakeholders
- Improve collaboration and information sharing on food safety among stakeholders
- Formulate the project's findings as evidence in developing a national action plan and strategy to address food safety in Cambodia for period 2121-2025
- Hire a technical assistant to support Food Safety Technical Working Group
- Conduct regular inspection at slaughterhouses and markets
- Revise transportation rules
- Inform the project's findings to management levels
- Pilot food safety project in selected sites (provinces/ cities)
- Evaluate food safety projects and scale up the food safety network in Cambodia
- Reinforce Prakas 868 → Taskforce → regular meeting
- The taskforce requires financial support from the Government or private funds
- Consider simple interventions first
- Improve food safety management in Cambodia through good practices of agriculture
- Integrate food safety into training curricula
- Use the project's research evidences for developing a policy brief
- Based on the project's findings to provide recommendation to the consumers/ public about the fact of microbial contamination over chemical perception
- Translation the findings into Khmer language

*Question 3: Some ideas for the TOR of the taskforce*

- Appoint leading/ coordinating body/ institution of the taskforce
- Taskforce to do:
  - o Make action plan
  - o Make a good communication
  - o Publishing the outcome
  - o Issue the managements
- Select person to lead the group
- Define clearly who is chair of the task force and secretary
- Information sharing and networking among members
- Database establishing and sharing
- Routine meeting among members
- Capacity building
- Evaluation and monitoring
- Proposal & suggestion:
  - o Risk assessment: Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC), University of Health Sciences (UHS)
  - o Risk management: General Directorate of Animal Health and Production (GDAHP), Cambodia Communicable Disease Control (CDC)
  - o Risk communication: FAO, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
- Share knowledge on the subject: food safety and risk analysis
- Request: support for microbial food-borne test and chemical test, ELISA kits
- Internal conference on food safety in Cambodia
- Focus on simple and demonstrate intervention measures
- Improve knowledge of targeting people at local level
- Provide technical support to Technical Working Group on Food Safety
- Develop policy, strategies, guidelines, SOP, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, training curriculum and materials and communications materials

- Conduct scheduled M&E to evaluate project and provide reports including the findings and recommendations
- Mobilize resources (technical and financial) to support the project implementation
- Respond to people, in case having food safety problems
- Share information and project activities from their institution
- Conduct regular meetings
- Compile progress reports on the project's implementation and report to the Technical Working Group on Food Safety
- Conduct annual review meeting on progress, challenges and recommendations
- To share information, experiences among line departments/ line ministries

## Workshop program

Time	Activities	Person in charge
<b>Day 1: 24 October 2019</b>		
<i>Opening</i>		
9:00 – 09:30	Opening remark <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NAHPRI</li> <li>- ILRI</li> <li>- Introduction of participants</li> </ul>	Sothyra Tum Hung Nguyen
<i>Session 1: Sharing SFFF for Cambodia project findings with stakeholders</i>		
9:30 – 10:30	Sharing findings of SFFF Cambodia project. (15 minutes each including Q&A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overview of SFFF Cambodia</li> <li>- Hazard survey (Sothyra and Fred)</li> <li>- COI (Teng Srey, Hung)</li> <li>- Household &amp; Nutrition (Chhay Ty, Hung)</li> </ul>	Sothyra Tum Hung Nguyen Chhay Ty Teng Srey
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Tea break</i>	
11:00 – 11:45	Sharing findings of SFFF Cambodia project (15 minutes each including Q&A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cross-cutting (Hung)</li> <li>- Intervention ideas (Fred)</li> <li>- M&amp;E (Fred)</li> </ul>	Fred Unger and Steve Lam
11:45 – 12:30	Group work (30 mn) and feedback (15mn): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What is missing in SFFF Cambodia?</li> <li>2) How can we use these findings for food safety management in Cambodia?</li> </ol>	Hung Nguyen Fred Unger
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
<i>Session 2: Cambodia Taskforce on Food Safety Risk Assessment</i>		
13:30 – 14:00	Multi-sectoral Technical Working Group for Food Safety	Sothyra Tum
14:00 – 14:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vietnam Taskforce on Food Safety Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Activities conducted with Cambodian partners</li> </ul>	Hung Nguyen
14:30 – 15:15	Group work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Membership of Taskforce</li> <li>- Activities of Taskforce</li> <li>- Collaboration between Taskforce and the multi-sectoral Technical Working Group for Food Safety</li> </ul>	Sothyra Tum
15:15 – 15:45	<i>Tea break</i>	
15:45 – 16:45	Plenary reporting Discussion	Sothyra Tum
16:45-17:15	Food safety performance tools	Hung Nguyen
17:15-17:30	Next steps and closing	Sothyra Tum
18:30	Dinner	All
<b>Day 2: 5 October 2019</b>		

9:00 – 12:00	Multi-sectoral Technical Working Group for Food Safety meeting.  <i>Tea break in between</i>	Sothyra Tum and FOS TWG members. Other participant from SFFF project as observers
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