

International Livestock Research Institute

Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia Project

Report

Project final workshop

21-22 June 2021



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Abbreviations and acronyms

ASF	Animal source foods
CDC	Department of Communicable Disease Control, Cambodia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDAHP	General Directorate of Animal Health and Production, Cambodia
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
LDC	Livestock Development for Community Livelihood
NAHPRI	National Animal Health and Production Research Institute, 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 21-22 June 2021 in the office of National Animal Health and Production Research Institute (NAHPRI) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (for partners based in Phnom Penh), and partners elsewhere joined virtually on Zoom platform. The event was co-hosted by NAHPRI in collaboration with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

The objectives of the meeting were:

- To share key findings and recommendations from the SFFF Cambodia project,
- To discuss the policy implication of the project and project intervention scaling up opportunities,
- And, to discuss with relevant stakeholders the food safety challenges and how to address them.

The meeting brought together about 70 experts who are Cambodia's national institutes and central and provincial governments, civil society, academia, NAHPRI, Livestock Development for Community Livelihood (LDC) and ILRI. participated in the meeting.



Day 1 started with an opening remark by Gbola Adesogan, director of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems (LSIL) who called on the country's private sector and civil society organizations to partner the government in scaling up the productive work achieved in this pilot project across Cambodia. He added that his lab will be looking for ways to spread adoption of this project's interventions in other countries across the world.

Following was the opening by Hull Davun, deputy director general of Cambodia's General Directorate of Animal Health and Production (GDAHP). He reminded the participants that food safety and food security are key priorities of the Cambodian government, particularly in light of the need for the country to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Foodborne diseases are not only

a public health problem but also a barrier to smallholders who wish to sell products in high-value domestic and export markets. He noted that though six governmental ministries are involved in managing food safety and food quality—Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery; Commerce; Industry and Handicrafts; Health; Tourism; and Economy and Finance—their overlapping mandates constrain their ability to work in harmony and to implement a food safety and quality control system in the country.

The opening session was followed up by a talk by Arie Havelaar, University of Florida sharing risk ranking experience from the TARTARE project in Ethiopia, and the reporting session by the SFFF Cambodia project team with nine presentations updating the project key achievements from different components.

Sothyra Tum, director, NAHPRI wrapped up the meeting then.

Day 2 focused much on policy advocacy and how to scale up the project interventions after the project is over.

Rob Readnour, Mountain Group, a private partner of SFFF Cambodia gave a talk on innovation technology for food safety.

Sothyra Tum gave a presentation on the intervention package at the traditional market.

Delia Randolph presented on scaling opportunities. This evidence-based study was successfully implemented with all project objectives being fully achieved. There were also additional outputs on Japanese encephalitis and system effect modelling. Regulation and consumer demand will be the main drivers in scaling up the intervention, with the latter more so.

Hung Nguyen-Viet talked about taskforce – research to policy and practice. The multi-sector task force developed through stakeholder consultation will help to strengthen capacity in risk-based food safety assessment. The task force is expected to continue its work with support from ILRI to scale up beyond the six provinces involved in the project.

A plenary session was dedicated to discussing the question ‘What we know and what is missing?’ about food safety in Cambodia. Here are some reflections from the provinces

- In Siem Reap, the practice of cleaning equipment and disinfecting cutting boards was adopted. There were some challenges in other provinces with adoption of recommended plastic covers for chopping boards as the meat sellers prefer to use marble and stainless-steel boards.
- Training provided by the project team did not always lead to improved food safety practices. Some consumers, for example, prefer buy their meat from the roadside rather than from market stalls where vendors handle meat more hygienically.
- The project’s partners argued for the need to engage more local stakeholders to scale up the project’s interventions.
- The additional stakeholders include market managers, who can monitor vendor compliance with good food safety practices, as well as officials of relevant ministries, who can help to improve the infrastructure of these traditional markets.

Following the meeting, the project team plan to scale up their interventions among local markets by disseminating a video and handbook showcasing ‘Five key ways to retail safer pork in Cambodia’s traditional markets’.

In his closing remarks, Dieter Schillinger, deputy director general for biosciences at ILRI, said he expected that the meeting would help serve to reinforce food safety recommendations among Cambodia’s several ministries and agencies concerned with ensuring food safety.

Workshop program

Time	Activities	Person in charge
Day 1: Project achievement reporting		
13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration for in person participants Getting online in zoom and greetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAHPRI and LDC Chi Nguyen, Hanh Le, ILRI
14:00-14:20	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSIL ILRI GDAHP 	Tum Sothyra, NAHPRI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gbola Adesogan, Director, LSIL Dieter Schillinger, Deputy Director General (& Fred Unger, Regional representative, ILRI) Hull Davun, Deputy Director General, GDAHP
14:20-14:30	Objectives of the workshop Introduction of participants	Sothyra Tum, NAHPRI
<i>Session 1: Reporting key results and recommendations from the SFFF Cambodia project</i>		
14:30-14:45	Invited talk 1: Risk ranking to support priority setting of food safety policy at the national level - experiences from the TARTARE project in Ethiopia	Arie Havelaar, University of Florida
14:45-15:45	Project achievement reporting	Hung Nguyen, ILRI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of project (5mn) 	Hung Nguyen, ILRI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-pathogen survey in markets (15 mn) 	Rortana Chea, NAHPRI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household survey (10 mn) 	Chhay Ty, LDC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative microbial risk assessment of salmonellosis (15 mins) 	Sinh Dang, ILRI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of illness (10 mins) 	Teng Srey, CDC
	Short Q&A (5 mns)	All
15:45-16:00	Tea break	
16:00-16:45	Nutrition study (10 mins)	Candice Duong, Emory University
	Parasite study (10 mins)	Fred Unger, ILRI
	M&E and Theory of Change of SFFF (10 mins)	Fred Unger, ILRI
	Cross-cutting activities: Gender, capacity building, communication (10 mins)	Hung Nguyen, ILRI
	Q&A (5mns)	
16:45-17:15	Discussion and wrap up	Tum Sothyra, NAHPRI
Day 2: Innovation, Policy and Scaling		
13:45-14:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration for in-person participants Getting online in zoom and greetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAHPRI and LDC Chi Nguyen, Hanh Le, ILRI
14:00-14:05	Recap day 1	Johanna Lindahl, ILRI
14:05-14:20	Invited talk 2: Innovation technology for food safety	Rob Readnour, Mountain Group Partners
14:20-14:50	Innovation in food safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intervention RCT at market and Communication (30mns) Q&A 	Tum Sothyra, NAHPRI
14:50-15:00	Sharing by partner institutions	FAO/WHO representatives

15:00-16:00	General discussion on food safety innovation and scaling up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project reflection • Taskforce and scaling-up opportunities • Structured discussion: What we know and what is missing? 	Tum Sothyra, NAHPRI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delia Grace, ILRI/University of Greenwich • Hung Nguyen, ILRI • Tum Sothyra, NAHPRI
16:00-16:10	<i>Tea break</i>	
16:10-16:35	Food safety innovation and scaling up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What we know and what is missing? 	Tum Sothyra, NAHPRI and Hung Nguyen, ILRI
16:35-16:40	Launch of project products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy brief • Video, guideline, handbook, etc. • Papers 	Hung Nguyen, ILRI
16:40-16:50	Wrap-up and closing	Dieter Schillinger, Deputy Director General, ILRI Hull Davun, Deputy Director General, GDAHP

Links to presentations

- Rob Readnour. 2021. *Emerging technologies for food safety: a venture funding perspective*. Presented at the Safe food, fair food for Cambodia project closing workshop on 21-22 June 2021. Tennessee, USA: Mountain Group Partners. <https://youtu.be/rhqQ0ShnZlc>
- Hung Nguyen-Viet, Sothyra, T. Chhay Ty, Young, M. and Grace, D. 2021. *Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia project*. Presented at the Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia project final workshop, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 21-22 June 2021. Nairobi, Kenya: ILRI. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/114478>
- Duong, M.C., Brown, S.M., Hung Nguyen-Viet, Grace, D., Ty, C., Samkol, P., Sokchea, H., Pov, S. and Young, M.F. 2021. *Nutrition and food safety perception*. Presented at the Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia project final workshop, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 21-22 June 2021. Atlanta, USA: Emory University. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/114476>
- Srey, T. 2021. *Cost of hospitalization for foodborne diseases*. Presented at the Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia project final workshop, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 21- 22 June 2021. Phnom Penh, Cambodia: Ministry of Health. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/114475>
- Ty, C. 2021. *Pork and animal source food consumption and food safety risk perception in Phnom Penh, Cambodia*. Presented at the Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia project final workshop, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 21- 22 June 2021. Phnompenh, Cambodia: Livestock Development for Community Livelihood. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/114474>
- Chea, R. 2021. *Prevalence of Salmonella spp. and Staphylococcus aureus in chicken and pork meat from Cambodian markets*. Presented at the Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia project final workshop, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 21- 22 June 2021. Cambodia: National of Animal Health and Production Research Institute. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/114473>
- Unger, F. 2021. *Low prevalence of Cysticercosis and Trichinella infection in pigs in rural Cambodia*. Presented at the Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia project final workshop, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 21- 22 June 2021. Nairobi, Kenya: ILRI. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/114508>
- Hung Nguyen-Viet, Tum, S., Ty, C., Young, M. and Grace, D. 2021. *Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia: Scaling opportunities*. Presentation at the Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia project final workshop, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 21-22 June 2021. Nairobi, Kenya: ILRI. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/114572>
- Lam, S., Hung Nguyen-Viet and Unger, F. 2021. *Using a theory of change to support evaluation planning for a food safety intervention in Cambodia*. Presentation at the Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia project final workshop, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 21-22 June 2021. Nairobi, Kenya: ILRI. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/114573>
- Hung Nguyen-Viet, Tum, S., Ty, C., Young, M. and Grace, D. 2021. *Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia Cross-cutting activities: Gender, capacity building and task force*. Presentation at

the Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia project final workshop, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 21-22 June 2021. Nairobi, Kenya: ILRI. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/114574>

- Hung Nguyen-Viet, Tum, S., Ty, C., Young, M. and Grace, D. 2021. *Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia task force: Research to policy and practice*. Presentation at the Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia project final workshop, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 21-22 June 2021. Nairobi, Kenya: ILRI. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/114575>

List of participants

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