



**Minute of the Annual Meeting 3rd Mekong Extension Learning Alliance (MELA) Report,
30th October – 1st November 2017**



Angkor Paradise Hotel, Siem Reap, Cambodia

This event was organised by HEKS/EPER, the General Directorate of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Cambodia MELA Coordinating Committee, with support from GFRAS and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

1. Overview of the MELA meeting programme:

Topic & programme of 3rd MELA meeting

Day1 30 Oct	Day2 31 st Oct	Day3 1 st Nov
<ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Morning at 8:30 am• Opening• Update from GFRAS• Country presentations on new policy, innovations, challenging on AE&RAS☐ Afternoon at 1:30 PM• Presentation from agriculture education, research institutions, NGOs, private sector on agricultural extension and rural advisory service• A panel discussion on Pesticides Impacts to Health and Environment• Welcome dinner at 6:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Morning at 8:00 am• Recap by Say Tom• Key speaker: Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture” Dr. Khin Mar Cho• Presentations on Access to Market• Panel discussion: Youth in Agriculture/Future Farmers.☐ Afternoon at 1:30 PM• Short update from 2017 Annual GFRAS Meeting and plenary discussion on role of MELA☐ Evaluation• Information for preparation for field visits(Mr. Prak Sereyvath & Sorn Vichet)• MELA business discussion☐ Wrap up by: Andrew Bartlett, CC MELA• Closing remarks by Mr. Karim Hussein, GFRAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Morning at 7:30• Field visit: start at 7:30 am☐ Group 1: Rice seed agriculture cooperative, Integrated agriculture practices and chick production, water melon community, rice seed production in Tbeng Village, Tbeng Commune, Banteay Srey District• Group 2: Vegetable Producers, local collector, vegetables farms of Vegetable Producers Group members who apply agro-ecology techniques supported by GRET and CIRDI in Sotr Nikum district.☐ Afternoon start at 1:30• Angkor Wath temples excursion Tour

2. Summary of MELA meeting:

The 3rd Annual Meeting of the Mekong Extension Learning Alliance (MELA) was held from 30 October to 1st November, 2017, at Angkor Paradise Hotel in Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia. It gathered participants from every country in the Mekong region. MELA brings together agricultural extension and rural advisory service providers from five countries linked by the Mekong River. The Mekong River passes through Yunnan province of China and five countries in South East Asia: Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. Agricultural extension and rural advisory services in the Mekong Region have many features in common. This network was established in 2015 following discussions at the meeting held in Hanoi in 2013 on 'Reaching the Millions' in Hanoi. The main objectives of the MELA meeting were: to share information, knowledge, experience, and best practices in advisory services among Mekong Region countries and institutions involved in agricultural and rural development; and to provide a space for reflection, hands-on peer support and learning.

Participants included official government, regional and international organisation representatives, research institutions, researchers, universities, public and private sector actors. These participants shared their experiences in agricultural extension policies, research and best practices. Key issues that emerged for the region included the importance of addressing the impacts of the misuse of pesticides and addressing their impacts on health and the environment. Participants also discussed the roles of extension and advisory services in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, in ensuring food safety, fostering access to markets and exploring how services can be accessed by all categories of the farmer population, including the poor.

Thailand's promising experiences of promoting 'young smart farmers' were shared; these young farmers have often left other professions to become farmers and can access relevant information and services to enhance their agriculture-based livelihoods, address challenges and identify solutions using ICTs and other sources of information. An innovative mobile App for young farmers in Myanmar was discussed: the Green Way App (see the Greenovator website: www.mmgreenovator.com). This App was designed to facilitate farmer access to reliable information and data in a context of limited farmer access to extension services.

At the same time, several participants noted that extension and advisory services in some countries remain underfunded and that extension service staff should have better logistical support and more opportunities to develop their knowledge and technical skills. Some presentations highlighted opportunities that exist to strengthen the role of farmers and their organisations in a farmer-centred approach to extension and advisory services.

On the last day of the meeting, the MELA Coordination Committee discussed its plans and activities, and the location and content of the 2018 meeting (Thailand). Mr. Karim Hussein, Executive Secretary of GFRAS, provided an update on GFRAS orientations and activities, its regional networks, and how these networks are linked with MELA in the Global Forum. Mr. Hussein underlined GFRAS commitment to the development and strengthening of MELA.

As part of the three-day meeting, a field visit was organized to exchange with melon farmers, a fresh vegetable producer group, chicken producers, a rice seed agriculture cooperative, and producer organisations engaged in agribusiness.

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3. The result of the meeting

Three days meeting was successfully organized as the meeting agenda that is endorsed by Coordination Committee of MELA during CC MELA pre-meeting in afternoon of 29 October, 2017. Please see detail programme of meeting in annex 3. The key results of the annual MELA meeting are summarized as follow:

DAY ONE: (Monday, 30 October 2017).

3.1. Welcome and Official Opening

The official opening speech of the annual MELA meeting was made by Dr. Mak Soeun, Deputy Director of GDA, MAFF. Before opening speech of Dr. Mak Soeun, there were welcome remarks delivered by Dr. Khin Mar Cho, CC MELA representative, Mr. Hem Sovannarith, SDC representative, Mr. Karim Hussein, Executive Secretary of GFRAS.

3.1.1. Welcome remarks by Dr. Khin Mar Cho, CC MELA representative

She welcomed to all 3rd MELA participants by stressing the importance of this 3rd MELA meeting, after 1st meeting in Laos in 2015 and the 2nd MELA meeting in Myanmar 2016 for building professional networks in the Great Mekong Sub-region. This meeting is expected to have built the extension networks and draw further actions for supporting millions of small farmers, mostly poor, to improve their agriculture productivity, food and nutrition security.

Those small farmers in GMS need updated information and education on more profitable crop production, diversification, value added agriculture, nutrition sensitive agriculture, market access, climate resilient/climate smart agriculture, biodiversity, food safety, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and good Agriculture practices. This meeting should have come up with effective collaboration to support young generation's agriculture and farming business. She encouraged all participants of the meeting to work together on identifying challenges and opportunities of extension and advisory services among the GMS countries with fruitful discussion to identify a step forward of action to scaling up the network for sake of livelihood improvement of small farmers, women and children in region.

3.1.2. Remark by Dr. Karim Hussein, Executive Secretary of GFRAS

Welcome all participants from the MELA countries and key partners. Dr. Karim Hussein valued GMS network and key members of GFRAS as cornerstones of supporting small farmers and provide a brief background of this GFRAS as a global forum established since 2009.

MELA is taking forward the agenda of GFRAS in GMS for strengthening extension and RAS through this platform for learning and exchanging expertise for stakeholders in agricultural innovations system. It aims to increase evidence-based advocacy and contribution of RAS for achieving sustainable development and ending poverty and hunger. For this purpose, a new network was recently established to bring together RAS stakeholders from China, Japan, Mongolia and Korea to share extension policy and agricultural innovations and other related. The MELA meeting is expected to foster and nature deeper interactions among network members with common interest. Thanks to the organizers of 3rd MELA meeting for hosting this meeting and acknowledge the hard work and efforts of the MELA CC members.

3.1.3. Remark by Mr. Hem Sovannarith on behalf of Director of Cooperation, Development Councillor, SDC, Embassy of Switzerland

On behalf of Ms. Carin Salerno, Director of Cooperation, Development Councillor, SDC, Embassy of Switzerland who apologized for her absence due to unexpected meeting in Phnom Penh, he read her welcome remark to all participants. Switzerland was a co-financing with GFRAS the organization of this important 3rd MELA meeting.

SDC in Cambodia as well as its operation in the Mekong Region Countries commit to work in three interventions: (i) Local Governance and Citizen Participation, (ii) Agriculture and Food Security (AFS), and (iii) Employment and Vocational Education and Training. SDC commit to support the innovation created by public, private institution, civil society, farmers, speakers and experts of the GMS countries for small farmers, women and children through working closely with government and alignment with development policy of the government.

3.1.4. Opening speech by Dr. Mak Soeun, Deputy Director of GDA, MAFF

He welcomed all participants by giving full support and look forward to the result of this 3rd MELA meeting. He valued GFRAS is a platform of alliance network and for exchanging ideas, experiences and best practices as well as capacity building of agricultural extension and advisory services in the region.

He shared with participant about the goal of agriculture sector and extension policy by 2030 to have a modernize agriculture sector with a competitive, inclusive, innovation, resilience and sustainable to contribution food security, safety and nutrition for prosperity and wellbeing of Cambodian people. Particular integrated extension approach for achieving this goal and objectives for provide quality services with sound scientific, technological/ innovation and legislative base for developing an efficient and sustainable agricultural sector. Agricultural Extension policy (2015-2020) He wished this 3rd MELA meeting as a forum to share experiences in strengthening institutional and legal frameworks, capacity building and human resources development, innovation/technologies development as extension hub and advisory service network for designing development agenda and action plan of MELA for 2017-2025.

3.2. Introduction of the participants, Objectives, Expectation and Schedule of the 3rd MELA meeting facilitated by Mr. Norng Sivouthan

3.2.1. Introduction participants' session: each participant are requested to introduce each other (their name, where they are from?)

3.2.2. Mr. Norng Sivouthan give a short introduction about the meeting programme for two and half day including field visit programme as well (see more detail meeting programme in Annex: 3).

3.2.3. For active engagement and participants, each participant was encouraged to use Meta card and to write their own expectation of the 3rd MELA meeting. The summary of the participants' expectation as listed as below:

- Learn the success of farmers in other countries
- Learn about RAS approaches
- To understand the successes, challenges and effective solutions to overcome on Mekong region
- Get learn the effectiveness approaches for providing extension services
- Learning new topic further action plan
- Share experience on how to encourage youth on agriculture
- Integrate MELA activities to other regional/global activities
- Create new network
- Good relationship and exchange knowledge between MELA members partnership with agriculture and extension
- Exchange sustainable agricultural development
- To update vocational education to produce extensionist in the Mekong
- Work together to develop Mekong
- Making connection for future networking
- Updated extension strategy and networking
- Share the high quality extension and advisory services
- Identify common strategy to address challenges in the Mekong region
- Success experiences on mobilization of youth working in Agriculture
- Food security improvement

- Platform for exchange extension services
- Learning/sharing agriculture policy development and practices
- Learn new innovation ecological agriculture practices
- Learn and share on best practice and innovation
- How to improve agriculture to be sustainable
- Better understanding of areas of common interest for joint network and sharing across MELA participants in the region
- How MELA will work together in the future
- New contacts for CHAIN project included partners
- Exploring innovations in agricultural extension
- Connect with other farmers from other countries

3.3. GFRAS Update by Executive Secretary of GFRAS, Dr. Karim Hussein

This presentation provided an up-dated of the GFRAS – Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services, partnering with all stakeholders to strengthen the capacities of RAS to contribute to SD and how difficulty faced in transforming extension/RAS to contribute to the SDGs. Learning from these challenges, the presenter also shown the new Solutions to these challenges require new forms of interaction, organisation and agreement between multiple RAS stakeholders include public, private and non-governmental, encompass all the different activities that provide information, technology, services and innovations needed by rural people and others stakeholders, assist rural actors in developing their own technical, organisational and management skills and practices to improve their livelihoods and transforming extension: ICT4RAS, digital approaches. In addition to that he shown the Vision, Mission and GFRAS strategic fields of action of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services. Selected Key Activities 2016 and Recent GFRAS activities such as GFRAS Annual Meetings: Representatives from all sectors and regions involved in RAS across 6 continents exchange experiences, knowledge, strengthen networks and foster partnerships for agriculture innovation (2017 Australia; 2018 Korea); Publications: New Extensionist Learning Kit; GGP; Position Papers; GIPS (migration, youth, SDGs,); Global Good Practices Initiative: Concise, accessible notes on practical RAS topics, e.g.: use of ICTs; POs; private sector; etc. GFRAS Working Groups, webinars and e-consultation were also up-dated.

The composition of GFRAS Working Groups, the list of New Extensionist Learning Kit (NELK) and Global Good Practices Initiative were also shared. Moreover, he presented the New GFRAS Issues Paper Series (GIPS) and how is GFRAS organised? the 8th GFRAS Annual Meeting in Australia, 2017 on ‘RAS and Empowered Youth for Balanced Transformation in Rural and Urban Communities’ Emergence of a GFRAS ‘Youth and RAS’ Working Group, which was organized in Australia. He added that for more Meeting documents and report available on GFRAS Website: www.g-fras.org (See **Annex: 4** for detail presentation).

3.4. Coffee break (we encouraged all participants to visit the posters display)

3.5. Country presentations on new policy, innovations, challenging which are concerning to agricultural extension and rural advisory service

3.5.1. Cambodia: “Agricultural extension policy and experience from ASPIRE project” by Mr. Say Tom, Agriculture Extension Department, GDA, MAFF

He presented the AGRICULTURE EXTNSION POLICY b stressing effective delivery of extension services in Cambodia. The achievement of extension services were impressive for improving better well-being of the farmers.

With existing capacity of 2,000 extension workers, one extension worker per 1,000 households, Cambodia has adopted a multi-approach including: Research-Extension-Farmer Linkages, and farm reaching such diverse a widespread communities will require a variety approaches and methods such as field demonstrations; farmer field schools; study visits; call centers; farmers’ trainings; ICTs; mass media-based extension campaigns (e.g., via radio and television); and

publications such as leaflets, booklets, posters and exhibitions. The MAFF is in the process of adopting and scaling up the model of farmer to farmer extension and synthesizing best practices of NGOs agricultural led development Innovative approach into Guidelines & Training Manuals for conducting Training workshops. Question from participants were on what is Cambodia's experiences in promoting the link between public and private sector and demand driven approach of extension in Cambodia. (See **Annex: 5** for detail presentation).

Question and Answer (Q&A)

- Q1: Participant Vietnam, she mentioned the situation in Cambodia that similar as in Vietnam. Now we have many kind of extension approaches and systems also link to private sectors. Are there any link between public and private sector, can you show some examples?
- A1: In Cambodia the extension approaches/systems that linkage between private and public sector. We apply PPP (Public, Private and partnership), currently extension approach we more focused on demand driven.
- Q2: Mr. Andrew. B; in case Cambodia how we balance demand driven approach? How service meet the need of small farmers?
- A2: We conducted the farmer need assessment, government having the pilot program support the grant to the target beneficiaries based on farmers apply and following the grant guideline.

3.5.2. LAOS PDR: “Green Extension strategy for promoting agro ecology and small-scale agro enterprise” by Mr. Souvanthong Namvong.

He provided status of a Green Extension strategy developed by the Lao Upland Rural Advisory Service (LURAS) with support SDC. This Green Extension consist of 3 Building Blocks for supporting small farmers resilient to climate changes and addressing market constrain for increasing productivity, food and nutrition security. He stress on how it was applied to promote agro-ecological practices, green agribusiness and green extension methodology at the community level. Community-Led Extension and Action Research (CLEAR), integrated activities have been carried out to have built relationships between multiple factors and actors as a long-term strategy and quality, Public Goods and marketing development strategy for. Laos in the contact change in livelihoods and resource use. (See **Annex: 6** for detail presentation).



Question and Answer (Q&A)

Q1: How many households per Extension Agent working with them?

A1: This data seem not clear and define yet at the moment.

3.5.3. Thailand: “Innovative Agricultural Extension of Thailand”

Dr. Surangsri Wapet, Dept. of Agricultural Extension, MOA of Thailand. She presented about “Innovative Agricultural Extension of Thailand”. That described of MOAC Policy, DOAE perspective, Young Smart Farmer and Community bio-control center.

Presented of government agency in agricultural extension of Thailand included organization chart, Agricultural Extension System, highlight policy, Innovation & technology transfer cooperation, ICT based, Young Smart Farmer and Community bio-control center. (See **Annex: 7** for detail presentation).

Question and Answer (Q&A)

Due to time constrain there were no session Q&A and the moderator encouraged to write questions in the parking lot if they have any questions.

3.5.4. Myanmar: “Challenges and Opportunities of Agricultural Extension in Myanmar”

Mr. Hla Myint Aung, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar.

He presented the overview of Agriculture Sector, Visions and Missions of MOALI, Extension Approaches for Agricultural Development and ways from constraints to Opportunities.

(See **Annex: 8** for detail presentation)

No Question and Answer (Q&A)

Due to time constrain

3.5.5. Myanmar: “Importance of State Agricultural Institutes in producing New Extensionists”

The presentation presented by Mr. Phe Saung, Director, Department of Agriculture, In-Service Training Center and State Agricultural Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Nay Pyi Taw. He shared the MALI vision, Mission, Agricultural Policies, showed the location map of SAls by link to the strategic and activities of SAls that curriculum planned agro-based country. (See **Annex: 9** for detail presentation)

Question and Answer (Q&A)

Due to time constrain there were no session Q&A and the moderator encouraged to write questions in the parking lot if they have any question.

3.6. Lunch at hotel (we encouraged all participants to visit the posters display)

3.7. Presentation from agriculture education, research institutions, NGOs, private sector on agricultural extension and rural advisory service

3.7.1. “Agro biodiversity’ education in school” by Ms. Pan Sodavy ATSA, Cambodia

Presented by Ms. Pan Sodavy, ATSA Cambodia. Presentation defined what agrobiodiversity is? And where are the farmland agro biodiversity? She described of value of farmland agrobiodiversity with Direct and indirect benefits.

Showed the project site, approach for working with beneficiaries and stakeholders as well as Introduced the project outputs and challenges.

(See **Annex: 10** for detail presentation).

No Question and Answer (Q&A)

3.7.2. “Bio control measure” by Angkor Green Company, Cambodia

Presented by Mr. Hur Tinearng, General Manager Angkor Green Company. Angkor Green got license as a limited company from MoC in August 01, 2011. For the national partnership with some NGOs, Aid Agencies/Development Programs to support their target group’s farming activities these such as GIZ, CAVAC & CAVAC II, USAID/CAMBODIA HARVEST, USAID / Winrock, SNV/CHAIN, CIRDA, World Vision, and AC cooperatives.

For Abroad partnership having such as China: Agro-chemical (Insecticide, Fungicide, and Herbicide), Korea: Herbicide, India: Bio Control Agent, Vietnam: Foliar Fertilizer, Italy: Tractors, Israel and Australia: Irrigation System, Thailand: Corn Seed and Spain: Soluble Fertilizer. He presented also the vision and mission of company as well as Angkor Green products. He also showed the

Bio Control Agent (BCA) for helping farmers, presented the success cases on tomato and economic analyses of the comparison of cost benefits on long bean for BCA and Chemical Application. Furthermore he described the BCA SCALE UP activities with farmers and farmers' constraints. (See **Annex: 11** for detail presentation).

Question and Answer (Q&A)

Q1: How to conduct the research to reached the result of comparison cost and benefit analyses of traditional farming practice and advisory services by the company?

Q2: How farmers can take advantage/benefit from Angkor Green?

A1: BCA- Application follow by the protocol of Agkor Green. The most important the company trying to promote prevention approaches better than treatment.

3.7.3. “Strengthening Campus-Communities Relationship through Extension Education and Advisory Services”

The presentation presented by Dr Kyaw Kyaw Win, Professor and Head of Department of Agronomy, Yezin Agricultural University, Myanmar. He presented about the historical of YAU was founded in 1924 as “Myanmar Agricultural College & Research Institute”.

Introduced the institutional' VISION and MISSION. The FUNCTIONS OF YAU institution is focusing on Training, Research and extension and comprised of mainly 12 ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS. The CURRICULUM of YAU included B.Agr.Sc, Postgrad Dip.Agr.Sc, M.Agr. SC and Ph.D. More over the YAU partnership with development partners such as ACIR, Jica, IARI, ACARE, and Action Aid for field trial and Agricultural Extension through ICT, as well as defined challenges and opportunities. (See **Annex: 12** for detail presentation).

Question and Answer (Q&A)

Q1: From Vietnam participant: Why have only one agriculture university in Myanmar and not scale up?

A1: it is related to funding support.

3.7.4. Roles of universities and research institutes in agricultural extension in Vietnam.

Presented by Dr. Le Thi Hoa Sen, Associate Professor, Vice Dean- Faculty of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry.

She presented the Introduction to Agricultural extension (AE) systems that shown the structure from the national to the community level. The main extension activities in Vietnam are: demonstration and adoption, training and education include Farmer Field School (FFS), Information propagation. The main extension activities include: consultant and services such as Online/live Forum, Input suppliers, Field consultancy and farmer organization (FOs) Extension Coffee Shops. She also highlighted the roles of research institutes and universities in Agricultural Extension, Strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and challenges of the current extension system in Vietnam and ways forwards that considered on technology and human resource training, sharing lesson learnt/ best practices and Fund raising for common problem solving. The ways forwards also considered to consolidate and build capacity for FOs, Market-oriented extension such as contract farming, value chain approach, producer-consumer interlink... etc. (See **Annex: 13** for detail presentation).

Question and Answer (Q&A)

Q1: Asked related to Extension education training curriculum/design for train to extension and they be able to work/help to famers?

A1: Actually Ministry of Agriculture designing the training curriculum based on farmers and Agricultural Extension and farmers need. These included Farmer to farmer extension approach.

3.7.5. “Extension Education through Farm Advisory Services” in Myanmar,

Presented by Mr. Man Cha Koe, Extension manager, Proximity Designs New University Avenue, Bahan Township, Yangon Myanmar.

The Mission of the project is increasing income and improve the livelihood of rural families in Myanmar. And focusing to three Business Units such as Irrigation Products, Proximity Finance and Farm Advisory Services (FAS).

For FAS Main Techniques he stated focusing to seed selection with salt water technique, fertilizer management, Integrated Pest and Disease Management. The technical staff working on-site Problem Diagnostics Services with producers that to date working in 21 townships across the country with potential reach of 290,000 farming households. Some data base and result of achievement were recorded. So far project stated since 2015, total 11,433 village meetings conducted, 122,266 unique farmers advised, 52,125 unique adopters, 42.16% of farming population advised and 18% of farming population adopted the practices. (See **Annex: 14** for detail presentation).

Question and Answer (Q&A)

Q1 from Cambodia participant (Mr. Piseth): how do you survive? Is the company pay you and how to do? What is sustainability?

Q2: How do you practice/apply PPP?

A1: Agricultural Extension from his company and or Farmer Cooperative. Actually the project educated the project based on their need.

3.8. Coffee Break (we encouraged all participants to visit the posters)

3.9. A panel discussion on Pesticides Impacts to Health and Environment facilitated by Ms. Maria Theresa S. Medialdia

3.9.1. “Impact of pesticides” Mr. Andrew Bartlett, Team Leader and Policy Adviser, Lao Upland Rural Advisory Service (LURAS)

At the beginning of the panel discussion process about “Pesticides Impacts to Health and Environment” Mr. Andrew Barlett, shared data of pesticide base line survey in upland area of Laos. He has shown that only the two small district in Laos could kill millions of people affected by using pesticide. Found three different types of pesticide using. Environmentally in the remote in Laos every single test as result pesticide found. Concerning of affected to school children. The most important the human blood testing found contaminated of pesticide

A high level of commercial farmers are contaminated of more pesticide such as tomato, cabbage and oranges. So referring to the problems stated above concerning to the theme of “Pesticides Impacts to Health and Environment”.

He raised some questions as the following:

- **What are solutions needed?**
- **Do we need extension services?**
- **Do we need government policy supports?**
- **Do we need train famers /producers?**
- **Perhaps cannot deal with farmer training approach?**

Question and Answer (Q&A)

Q1: How to get safe food? How the local farmers? And how to find the community level?

A1: Yes Government concerned, and Organic organization also worry.

Q2: How to implement Organic in Laos?

A2: Some area need agreement and protocol. We need the protocol to make sure appropriately. Testing at Lab but it might expensive. Applying PGS (Participatory Guarantee System) might good approach to do and it is cheaper and appropriate.

Q3: How to know the pest affected to other environment such as biodiversity and others...?

Q4: do Andrew study in other area as well?

A3: Good to look as well on it.

3.9.2. “Residues Testing and Food4change”, BIOTHAI Foundation

Ms. Kingkorn Narintarakul, BIOTHAI Foundation. She presented about Participatory Monitoring System on Vegetables and Fruits Safety.

In Thailand having the system for testing the chemical pesticide residues. As result found recently after testing on fruits and vegetables sample selection were found over half are contaminated of pesticides.

She reported, Thailand is the 6th biggest user of chemical pesticides in the WO 20% of this is Paraquat, a highly toxic chemical which 47 countries have banned and already stopped using. Furthermore the results of pesticide screening 2014 with pesticide users/farmers found 34% of them have toxins in their blood levels that indicate they are “at risk” and “not safe”. This has been an increasing trend since 1997.

The questions were asked:

- ***What do we think about our food system? Who own food system?***
- ***How do corporations control the food and agriculture system?***

She introduced also the value chain of the global food and agriculture system from Factors of Agric production, processing to the retailers. The solution to improve of these issues might we all work together included development partners, academic institute, Government policies support and politic, private sectors and producers. She showed the environmental, human health affected of using chemical pesticides and fertilizers as pictures shown below:

So in other to improve these situation, the quality control might considered such as frequently participatory monitoring and collect the sample for chemical testing, motivate organic branding and policies supports. These include extension services both government and private sectors as well as trust building with agricultural producers and users. Through these interventions found safe has been increasing trend since 1997.

(See **Annex: 15** for detail presentation).

Other important points:

- farmers use different kind of pesticides” cock-tail” so that rich and poor will affect to this pesticide contamination
- Avery year bio Thai take the sample blood test(more than 200 samples) from the public
- Share the result of flood test to public through press release and put the pressure to the government
- Should try to set up together system for food quality control

3.9.3. “Safe school lunch” Thai Education Foundation, and Field Alliance.

“Community based Chemicals Management and Safe School Lunch Project” in Thailand, this topic presented by Mr. Marut Jatiket.

The project more focusing with school children regarding to community chemicals management and safe. This project partners with Ministry of Education, Public Health, Agriculture and

Extension, Health promotion fund, The Field Alliance, Thai Education Foundation, Green Peace Thailand and Chiangmai University. And Local administration, municipalities, farmers network. He mentioned that today a lot of people using a lot of pesticide and have serious affected to all people, especially children who have more exposure to this pesticide use. Lacking public awareness and policy support to this serious pesticide use issue. He used to conduct residue testing, his project is target 40 school and 4000 people (children).

The five objectives were proposed:

- To assess the impacts of pesticides to school children in the high risks areas
- To establish community working group to support and supply safe ingredients for school lunch and set up organic markets
- To promote nutritional menu and required vegetables intake for children in schools and at home.
- To disseminate information and advocacy for raising awareness at the local and national level.
- To formulate policy and measures for safe school lunch at the local and the national level.

And key Activities:

- ☛ Survey pesticides uses nearby school, commercial vegetables/ fruits, meat and fish farms.
- ☛ Residues testing:
 - ☛ School based residues testing of vegetables/ fruits, meats, and ingredients using test kits
 - Testing residues of students' blood and urine (laboratory)
 - Residues testing of sample vegetables/ fruits and meat in laboratory
- ☛ Agro-ecology training/ organic production/ marketing for communities
- ☛ Network and linkage with organic production
- ☛ Policy formulation meeting at local and national levels.

He also introduced project out puts, Preliminary results from test kit by targeted provinces for showing the chemical contaminated in agricultural product and as well as showed test kit results followed the level of safe and unsafe food. (See **Annex: 16** for detail presentation).

3.9.4. “Role of Agricultural Extension system on food safety in Vietnam”

Presented by Dr. Nguyen Viet Khoa, Head of Training and Education Division, National Agriculture Extension Center. He shared the policy on food safety in Vietnam, role of agricultural extension on food safety and provided conclusion with recommendations.

Regarding food safety, about 400 legal documents issued by the Central Government and Ministries and about 1000 documents issued by local governments on food safety for promoting Vietnamese Good Agriculture Practice (VietGAP). Agriculture Extension has played important role in raising awareness of food safety at the community level. (See **Annex: 17** for detail presentation).

Question and Answer (Q&A)

Q1: how VietGAPs is work? How is law enforcement on chemical use and food safety in Vietnam?

A1: it is challenging on law enforcement in Vietnam, and people are still using a lot of chemical fertilizer and pesticide.

3.9.5. Network for development of Food security and safety in Cambodia (NDF-C) (achievements, challenging, food safety campaign experience in Cambodia)

Presented by Mr. HoK Meng Hoin, Environment Programme Manager, and NGO/NDP-C. He clarified that NGO/NDP is not a researcher and also not an implementer. This organization coordinates with implementation and researcher' NGOs with collaboration with relevance key governmental institutions. It has facilitated and participated with policy makers for policy development. Recently NGO/NDP participated in drafted law on agriculture regarding to safety of agricultural product. For this meeting, he shared the background of NGO/NDP, achievements, challenges and lesson learnt as well as way forwards. (See **Annex: 18** for detail presentation).

After finished the five panelist presenters these above, the overall panel discussion were discussed.

- 1- Started by Mr. Andrew Bartlett, he concerned about why chemical? This not only the producers but demand of consumers/users also needed like physical good looking of production, good color and ... etc. that is why producers tried to produce for fitting to the market need. So for harmonize these concern
- 2- Ms. Kingkorn Narintarakul, she shared some of the approaches that dealing with these issues above not deal with only one sector but all include produces, user and all stakeholders we need working together. Especially private sector.
- 3- Comments from Mr. Norng Sivouthan, he stated the impact of pesticides issues might mainstreaming with school children for the future change. We need to educate the public and people to be more aware. Also, proactive and retroactive approach should be applied as mentioned in green extension strategy can be help to mitigate this. Market driven is very important for behavior change.

Some open questions were asked such as below:

- ☛ Whether GAP-Thai, Vietnam, Cambodia is the way to go?
- ☛ Andrew: all are demanding, because of people wanted?
- ☛ Why farmers are difficult to change to apply chemical free or organic?
- ☛ A: many farmers are growing safe vegetable/crop/fruit? The question is where the market? Who are willing to pay? And we do need to create a new market system. This can be promoted by social, government, school, and other. E.g. some producers group can provide regular safe vegetable to government, school, hospital etc.
- ☛ Maybe centralize market system and government can play for this pesticide control
- ☛ We will need more proper control system to monitor/control food safety and participatory process. We will need to create culture of responsibility.

3.10. Welcome Dinner

DAY TWO: (Tuesday, 31st October 2017)

3.11. Presentations on Access to Market:

3.11.1. “CHAIN- Cambodia Horticulture Advancing Income and Nutrition project”

Presented by Ms. MARIEKE VAN SCHIE, Team Leader SDC-CHAIN Project.

The project focus is on vegetable value chain development in 5 provinces Kratie, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, and Stung Treng. Small scale female and male farmers and processors, have benefited through understanding changes in market system. The project targets poor rural community producer groups such as Homestead vegetable producers, Semi-commercial/ commercial vegetable producers and Small-scale processors. It is operate in collaboration with included MAFF/GDA, MOWA, Provincial Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (PDAFF), Provincial Department of Women Affairs (PDOWA), NGO's, Private sector partners (AGID, HLM, EAC, EWSF, Sokhapol). (See **Annex: 19** for detail presentation).

Question and Answer (Q&A)

Q1: How do you identify as commercial and noncommercial farmers?

A1: Commercial farmers they graduation through commercial model. Noncommercial refer to farmer low inputs.

Q2: Whether B2B will be remain after project completion?

A: To be sustainability should be built relationship and facilitation more link from production to the market.

Q3: Criteria for selecting target provinces how to do on it? And how key lesson leant?

A3: Why stung Treng Province? Because need to support poorest province. However, the market can be linked with Siem Reap province as well due hug market opportunity. For provinces around Tonlesap found more project support we focused the provinces where less donors support.

3.11.2. “CIRD’s intervention for a better access to market by smallholder producer”

Presentation by Mr. Prak Sereyvath, Director of CIRD, Cambodia. He presented the main strategy for a better access to market by smallholder producers for the quantity and quality standard, quality control and certification systems, product branding and promotion as well as registration for branding.

He presented also the approach for products identification and producers and market operators, value chain project development and support rural producers and other value chain actors in different agricultural productions within the project targeted provinces in Cambodia. The approaches for funding first CIRD design the feasibility study and develop proposal for submission for funding from development partners (See **Annex: 20** for detail presentation).

Question and Answer (Q&A)

Q1: What is collective and certificate?

A1: Inspection with law enforcement

Q2: Costing for certification how to process?

A2: Incentive price for certification, such as 7000\$ USD for export per year for organic rice in Preah Vihea province but farmer need only contract.

Q3: How the process Feasibility Study (FS)?

A3: Looking to the existing potential opportunity in specific area.

3.11.3. “CAVAC’s Market development how it works and How C1 works?”

Presented by Mr. Pieter Ypma, Market Development Manager, CAVAC project, Cambodia. He explained the concept and meaning of market access. He presented the key player of the market and its determinants. Furthermore he noted that the market actors should be involved such as Government regulation, economic policies, information public or private, informal rules and regulations, infrastructure and others. (See **Annex: 21** for detail presentation).

Question and Answer (Q&A)

Q1: Adjustment during the M&E, how to convince development partner in reality?

A1: Actually, we have different situation but basically we need to adjust. We will need to communicate with our donor on our working approach

Q2: You are working to facilitate between supply change and demand side, how do you guarantee to be more faire among all actors?

A2: we don't think about fair and we look at farmers as costumers.

3.11.4. “Study the technology market and to quantify the market size for agricultural technology needed to support Cambodia’s agricultural sector development”

Presented by Mr. Rajiv Pradhan, Country Director, Cambodia & Lao PDR, Swisscontact. He presented the introduction to Mekong Inclusive Growth & Innovation Programme (MIGIP). The aim of MIGIP is “a more inclusive growth, contributing to job creation and income generation for smaller firms and farms in tourism and agriculture”. He also presented the concerns around the future of agriculture in Cambodia. And find new pathways to future growth” with technology by moving land expansion for Sustainable

Intensification, introduced Problems surrounding technologies, showed the Potential agriculture technology market, MIGIP’s approach in TechMark, TechMark’s Partners & MIGIP Team and target areas. (See **Annex: 22** for detail presentation).

Question and Answer (Q&A)

Q1: MAFF Vision promotion of mechanization how the small holders could benefit from the mechanization?

A1: We are looking for everyone and not only the smallholders.

Q2: How to promote food safety follow the agricultural policy and incentive process access to technology or program?

Q3: How to control balance between public goods and technology that produce by private sector?

A2: Promoting discussion roundtable would be the excellence solutions. Discussion is heart at the table.

3.12. “Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture” by Dr. Khin Mar Cho, Country Director for Myanmar, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University International Programs, New York, USA

She presented classification of the Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services Represents a Paradigm Shift in the 21st Century. These included Decentralized Extension Systems, Creating “Farmer-led “Extension Systems, Creating a more “Market-driven” Extension System, Tailoring Extension Programs to Target Groups Collaborating with the Private Sector and Innovative Extension Systems.

She presented the Elements of an Innovative Extension System with Key messages such as rethinking, inclusiveness, motivation, encouragement, research, respect and recognize.

She also defined “What’s Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture?” What’s Food Fortification? Shared the Nutrition Indicators, data from different sources of the Scale of Malnutrition in 2016, Exclusive Breastfeeding (EBF), Consequences of Under nutrition, Food Security. And further more related Challenges to Food Security. She explained the Food Systems, Linking Agriculture and Nutrition for Food & Nutrition Security. She showed the safe food to eat and unsafe food should not eat.

She also presented how do we provide education and information about Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture and Food Systems to farmers and community members? And

How to integrate Nutrition information in Agricultural Program? And finally she shared the Key Messages included:

- Nutritional Sensitive Agricultural programming: Multi-sectoral strategies (Improve Nutrition, Improve Economic Productivity)
- Focus on intervention of your work as an Agriculture officer
- How do we combine strategies? – Agriculture and Nutrition (for example, teaching communities about crop diversification, home gardening, -----dietary diversity, breastfeeding, complementary feeding)
- Cooperate nutrition objectives into your work when it is feasible and it makes sense to your work
- Collaboration is the key, integrate your work in Agriculture with other sectors
- Win-Win for Nutrition & Health for Women and Children
- Opportunity & Long Term: Strong Economy, Improve Livelihoods and Wellbeing

(See **Annex: 23** for detail presentation).

3.13. Coffee Break (will encourage all participants to visit posters)

3.14. Panel discussion: Youth in Agriculture/Future Farmers. Panel list:

3.14.1. “From Nurse to Melon Farmer” Young Smart Farmers (YSF), Thailand.

Presented by Ms. Dusita Thammathitpron, Secretariat team of Young Smart Farmers (YSF), Thailand.

She shared about technology transfer, Support AE policy, Organize public display/exhibition, Link to University by sharing data of Agriculture and Create Agribusiness.

(See **Annex: 24** for detail presentation).

3.14.2. “EQ Worm Farm” Young Smart Farmer, Thailand.

Presented by Ms. Chamchuree Khankam, National Coordinator of Young Smart Farmer, Thailand. She shared the story YSF for starting farm and developed Vermiculture for the organic farming and other farmers adopt this new technology.

Some significant problems in Thailand found such as drought, flood, and poor soil fertility as well as far distance of location one district to another district. And opportunity for new generation farmer in digital decade, young farmers with internet and smart phone, friends become the best network.

Following the participatory approach the planning start from Farmers brainstorm of their need support than Department of Agriculture extension planning their support such as Innovation and other related services available. (See **Annex: 25** for detail presentation).

4.14.3. “RICE SEED PRODUCTION COOPERATIVE” in Banteay Srei district, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Presented by Mr. Yap Bannak, Chief Board of Cooperative. He reported the history of his Agriculture Cooperative (AC), Objectives of the Cooperative: To expand rice seed production, to improve rice seed quality, increase yield and ensure market competition, to make more income for member and to jointly solve constraints.

He shared his experiences on Agriculture Cooperative forming, Cooperative's Actions and development. These included capacity building on agricultural techniques and CA management as well as business development.

(See **Annex: 26** for detail presentation).

4.14.4. “Experience in growing vegetables” in, Siem Reap Province, Cambodia.

Mrs. Keov Yros, Farmer. She presented about her Agricultural Practice. She introduced of benefits for being involve in Agriculture Activity within the community such as improving their livelihood, increase income especially family with more children and poor women then lead to reducing risky/illegal migration and help women having power in decision making and ownership. She also presented of the success from the project such as technical know-how and experience in seasonal cropping, gained income for family, community has chemical-free vegetable, knowledge and experience shared to other farmers in the community and more farmers occupy with farming activities. However she facing with some Challenges such as Natural disaster (Flood and drought), Insects, Diseases cause by Climate Change. For future plan she would like to setup commercial farm, be a professional skill on vegetables for transferring to other villagers/communities, upgrading livelihood, and expand chemical free vegetable products and setup model farm.

(See **Annex: 27** for detail presentation).

4.14.5. “Improving Farmers Awareness on Agricultural Knowledge via Mobile App” Myanmar.



Presented by Ms. Yin Yin Phyu, Co-founder Innovation, from Myanmar. She started with question: Why did we develop the Green Way Agri-mobile App?

The answer: Farmers had limited access to reliable information and data and there is limited extension services.

And we want to empower the farmers to solve their problems by themselves. So, Green Way App links farmers with technicians and reliable information are useful for improving Farmers Awareness on Agricultural Knowledge.

Another question asked: Why we are leading in this industry “Mobile App”?

She shown as this technology are: Low data cost, Easy to use, Suitable for different literacy level, Compatible with most of the smart phones and Easy to install and share.

(See **Annex: 28** for detail presentation).

Question and Answer (Q&A)

Q1: YSF, what is your message to other young farmers?

Q2: How to be clarify standard message?

A1: message should be simple and using local language

Q2: How the cost revenue?

A2: Subsidy by NGOs

Q: How technical support is made?

Q: whether farmers are willing to pay?

Q3: How to approach with illiterate racy farmers with using smart phone?

A3: No answer due to time constrain.

4.15. Lunch at hotel (will encourage all participants to visit posters)

4.16. Participatory Meeting reflection by all from the 5 countries: and Presentation the result of the participatory reflection all 4 groups

Within this session there were divided into four groups (NGO & Academy group, Government group, young farmer group and research institutes group. The four group are discussed about two main question:

1. What you learned from here? And

2. What topic in next MELA meeting in Thailand

The following results of discussion found as the following below:

4.16.3. Group I: NGO and Academy group (NGOs and INGOs)

Group I: Research and University, the two questions were asked:

1. What you learned from here?

- YSF experience (Thailand), part vermiculture
- Pesticide residue in food, humans, and results (evidence)
- Nutrition sensitive agriculture and agricultural extension.
- Mobile apps in RAS
- Certification system to promote FC products (e.g., PGS, G, GAP, CM)
- Linking producers and markets
- Green extension
- GAP application
- Organic farming and marketing

2. What topic in next MELA meeting in Thailand

- More representative from university and the rest institutes.
- More experiential learning
- Q-system practice/ process
- Develop collaborative/ joint activities (not only meeting) such as research/extension(R/E), and outreach professional training.
- What university / research institutes are doing on agro-ecology
- See actual YSF/ smart extension's facilities
- Know more Thai culture (cultural visits)
- Meeting of farmers/ FO (role FO in commercialization) especially, export.
- Deep understanding PPP in extension
- Small Group discussion

4.16.4. Group II: Government from the Ministry:

4.16.5. Group III: Young Farmers Group

Group III: Young Farmers Group

1. What we get, what will we learn? What will we apply?

- 1.1. New friends and network.
- 1.2. Sharing and networking.
 - Country
 - Region
 - International
- 1.3. Learning and apply Good Agricultural practice and organic standard for food safety.
- 1.4. Exchange experience country to country.
- 1.5. Raise awareness of chemical residues for farmer and community.
- 1.6. We learn how government are working from each country.
- 1.7. We learn about innovative and young farmer.

2. What we want for the next meeting?

- 2.1. Bring more case study for inspire another participant; success story farmer.
- 2.2. Bring in more researchers and tech-innovator.
- 2.3. Exchange of farmer visit cross country (next plan if possible)
- 2.4. More group discussion.
- 2.5. More focus on market opportunities.
- 2.6. Recommend next place is Krabi/ Phuket.
- 2.7. Funding for participant.

4.16.6. Group IV: Research institutes

Group IV: Research institutes

Key takeaway messages

- App on smartphone (Myanmar)
- Young smart farmers (Thailand)
- Case studies from different countries
 - Pesticide impact (Thailand and Laos)
 - Farmer saving group
- From top-down approach to bottom-up approach
- M4P approach (CAVAC project)
- Should have a research on pesticide use inform the farmers.
- Bring private companies to the extension service.
- Innovation learning process; farmers analyzing their situation and collective learning.
- Pesticide awareness among various stakeholders.
- Young entrepreneur ship.
- Market strategies for farmers.
- Young, poor, women in agriculture

Next MELA

1. Approach

- Interesting topics but more focused
- More discussion and sharing of experiences
- Learn from experiences of farmers: representative from farmer groups.
- Invite participants (more) from the private sector
- Field visits (suggesting to have at the beginning), Green market and Grant agribusiness companies in Thailand
- Balance between public and private investment in providing RAS

2. Topics

- Contract farming
- Green extension strategy
- Positive initiative in countries to promote local, safe products.

3. Before closing session of the meeting, Mr. Norng Sivouthan, Mr. Prak Sereyvath, Mr. Sorn Vichet, gave the information and instruction about the field visit arrangement on 1st November, 2017.

4.17. The 3rd MELA Meeting Evaluation

Participants have asked to fill in the evaluation form. The result of evaluation have shown that the meeting are very satisfied by most of the participants. The result are summarized:

Descriptions					
☛ Content			2	16	12
☛ Facilitation/method			4	12	13
☛ Participation		1	3	18	8
☛ Time			5	18	7
☛ Venue			3	18	9
☛ Food		1	5	16	8
☛ Logistic			3	18	9
☛ Overall environment				19	11

4.18. Official closing:

- Wrap up by Andrew Bartlett, CC MELA, and CC MELA: before closing Mr. Andrew Bartlett has made very short and well summarized on the result of the meeting on day 1 & day 2 and appreciated the participation and commitment of participants and all key speakers, presenters to the MELA meeting. Also, he has expressed deep thanks to organizers (HEKS/EPER, GDA, MAFF, and MELA) and supporters (SDC, GFRAS). He does believe the spirit of sharing among MELA members and all participants will be continued.
- Closing remarks by Mr. Karim Hussein, GFRAS: Mr. Karim gave a short closing remark by expressing his appreciation of diversifying learning and sharing between presenters, panel discussions, key speaker, group discussion activity and interaction of all participants. He feels MELA is a fascinating forum for sharing. Also, he has pointed out some important points that come out from the MELA meeting:
 - Extension not only providing information to farmers but more important is needed to listen to farmers, otherwise it will be not relevant to farmers
 - Challenging: Private gain, public good
 - Food system approach, production, market, nutrition, agriculture
 - Green strategy is also important including proactive and reactive
 - GFRAS provides space for MELA that can share experience on agricultural extension and rural advisory service
 - He is witness that MELA is growing very good
 - During GFRAS annual meeting, MELA should organize site event next to GFRAS meeting
 - He also appreciates to have more cross learning/peer learning, exchange visit among the countries that have similar working approach. This can be done in addition to annual MELA meeting.
 - GFRAS will try to mobilize the resource to support the MELA event and looking forward to continue collaboration.
 - Last but not least, he thanks to all participants, organizers, and supporters for organizing this important MELA meeting.

4.19. Coffee Break

4.20. MELA business (continued)

4.20.3. MELA Coordination committee meeting:

All key people in each country were represented including one person from IFAD and SDC to discuss how MELA will operate in the future. The discussions included the topic for each annual MELA meeting, focal point from each country and selected the secretariat for MELA. The results of summary below:

- Before discussion on the priority topic, Andrew has provided input/suggestion for the Medium-term Strategy of the MELA, this suggested strategy are needed to reflect on content that need to focus, Methodology: we need to innovate, Organization: we need to become more efficient. Also, discussed on the options for defining topic for MELA meeting. For each topic we give priority to the host country due to the fact that topics should align with country policy and the best experience on AE& RAS of the host country. However, to finalize the program of each annual meeting input will be asked from each member country. We also agreed that the topic will change depending on the current need of the host country/most members.

- The meeting has decided to select the focal point in each country: Mr. Norng Sivouthan from HEKS Cambodia; Mr. Souvanthong Namvong from DTEAP Lao PDR; Dr. Khin Mar Cho from Cornell University in Myanmar; Dr. Surangsri Wapet from DoAE Thailand and Ms. Sen Le Thi Hoa from Hue University Vietnam (later through email communication from Ms. Sen, Dr.Khoa will be the focal point because he is working at the national level so he can easily organise the MELA meeting in Vietnam in 2019. In 2019 the MELA meeting will propose to organise in the Northern province) . Mr. Souvanthong also was selected as the secretariat of the Mekong Extension Learning Alliance (MELA). These persons are contact points for MELA, GFRAS.

4.20.4. Strengthening country networks:

The meeting was already discussed on how MELA can get support from the other donors for the long term, because we want to have some kind of program to follow up with our annual meeting such as study visits between and among each country to make more benefit for the smallholder farmers in the Sub-Mekong region. This can be done through developing a long term funding strategy for MELA.

4.20.5. Next step/Action plan/Fund Raising:

- Next MELA meeting will be held in Thailand, tentative schedule: June, 2018. Focal point for hosting meeting is Dr. Surangsri Wapet from DoAE Thailand. As informed by Dr. Surangsri Wapet, DoAE will cover budget for meeting cost, and international participants have to find fund to support their own cost. Dr. Surangsri Wapet from DoAE Thailand will develop the short proposal for request for funding support from GFRAS on some cost of international participants as well.
- The core topic of meeting is stay around development role of the Smart farmer, young smart farmer, local expert and community entrepreneur. However, Dr. Surangsri Wapet from DoAE Thailand will send the draft of meeting programme for MELA CC members to provide comments and suggestion.



DAY THREE: (Wednesday, 1st November 2017)

Field visit:

Group 1: Rice seed agriculture cooperative, integrated agriculture practices and chick production, water melon community, rice seed production in Tbeng Village, Tbeng Commune, **Banteay Srey District**. As result, some learning points are found as following as below:

- Melon farm with very good technique and farmer seems so successful
- Good links to other members through contract farming model(link to super market)
- Chicken production seems to be successful with increasing chickens and good market for chicken.
- Rice seed production cooperative seems very successful that members can get some income and they can access to good quality of seed.
- How poor farmer start up from very small to medium and big farm, and commitment of farmer is really important for the success factor

Group 2: Vegetable Producers, local collector, vegetables farms of Vegetable Producers Group members who apply agro-ecology techniques supported by GRET and CIRD in **Sotr Nikum district**. As result, some learning points are following found as below:

- Good model of safe vegetable production and market link
- Some techniques-multiple layers of vegetable production and integrated farm(develop farm and crop land)
- Trader to manage farmer group
- Ecology concept including agro-ecology & safe food production technology

- The way trader works with farmer group to take up new practice and sell/market their product using different techniques and input(safer ecological input)
- In particular facilitating and brokering role of external actors INGOs supported by donor funding and advocacy services they provide to assist in the process of sharing and disseminating the new and more sustainable practice which requires some extend intervention.
- Demonstration farm and have more knowledge how to build trust with customer in Siem reap and elsewhere
- Do farm management
- They bring up the water from their pond
- Farmer can get more incomes from their farm
- Activities for poor farmer
- Model for plan vegetable in rainy season
- Market information sharing
- How to manage and at up crop calendar between whole seller, collector and producers
- The producer group have trusted with collector and whole seller
- Use small size of land for growing different variety of vegetable
- A good communication/relationship between producer, collector, and whole seller
- Build trust on collector and farmers
- Safe vegetable market
- Relation between trader and producers
- The water saving technique(growing veggies on the top & some veggie that don't need much light on the ground)
- Extension approach techniques are interesting and good adaptive to work with trader got some good effective results
- Women producer group and a women retailers working together well
- Promoting safety producers and marketing and price
- Cooperative selection to the market demand, for example(celery)
- Working approach from CIRDA on supporting to farmers from linking from safety vegetable production to market

5. Conclusion

With the successful conduct of the 3rd Annual Meeting and a commitment to hold a 4th meeting next year, we can now say that MELA is well established. This is an achievement that we can be proud of, especially considering that we don't have a single project or organization providing a secretariat or funding.

6. Annexes:

- Annex 1: The specific objective of the 3rd MELA meeting
- Annex 2: The list of participants
- Annex 3: The detail meeting programme
- Annex 4: GFRAS Update by Executive Secretary of GFRAS
- Annex 5: AE policy and ASPIRE-DAE-GDA-Cambodia
- Annex 6: Green Extension by Souvanthong-Lao
- Annex 7: Innovative AE of Thailand by Dr Surangsri Wapet
- Annex 8: Challenges & Opportunities of AE in Myanma by Mr Hla
- Annex 9: Importance of SAls in new Extensionists by Mr Phe Saung
- Annex 10: ATSA Cambodia by Ms Sodavy Pan
- Annex 11: BCA Presentation Angkor Green Company Cambodia
- Annex 12: Strengthening YAU by Dr Kyaw Kyaw Win
- Annex 13: Roles of universities and research institutes in VN
- Annex 14: Extension Education by Man Cha Koe Myanmar
- Annex 15: PMS by Ms Kingkorn Narintarakul Thailand
- Annex 16: CBCM&Safe School Lunch Thailand by Mr Marut J
- Annex 17: Role of AE in food safety in VN
- Annex 18: NGO presentation by Mr Hok Meng
- Annex 19: CHAIN project Cambodia by Marieke Van Schie
- Annex 20: CIRD presentation by Mr Preak Sereywath
- Annex 21: CAVAC Market Access by Mr Pieter Ypma
- Annex 22: MIGIP Swisscontact by Mr Rajiv Pradhan
- Annex 23: Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture by Dr Khin Mar Cho
- Annex 24: YSF by Ms Dusita Thammasathitpron Thailand
- Annex 25: YSF Vermiculture by Ms Chamchuree Kankham
- Annex 26: AC Rice seed production in Cambodia
- Annex 27: Experience vegetables production by Cambodian Farmer
- Annex 28: Improving Farmers Awareness via Mobile App