



IRRI–Cambodia Collaborative Work Plan

2020–2023

**Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
The Royal Government of Cambodia**

and

**International Rice Research Institute
Philippines**

In witness whereof, Minister of MAFF and the Director General of IRRI, have affixed their signatures.

**For the Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia** *HS*



H.E. Veng Sakhon
Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Date:

**For the International Rice
Research Institute** *HS*



Dr. Matthew Morell
Director General
IRRI

Date:

IRRI-CAMBODIA PARTNERSHIP

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) has been an important strategic partner of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) since the two parties signed a first Memorandum of Understanding in 1986. This long-standing partnership has contributed to rice production growth, food security, and rural livelihood improvement through rice Research & Development (R&D). Underpinned by this partnership as well as RGC's success in developing its agricultural sector, rice production in Cambodia has increased spectacularly from 2.4 million tons in 1993 to 10.8 million tons in 2019, transforming the country from a food deficit to a net rice exporting nation today. Transformations in rice-based farming systems have also laid a key foundation for the country's recent economic development and growth.

There have been many landmark achievements through the IRRI-RGC partnership, with the conservation of rice genetic resources, advancements in Cambodian rice breeding programs, strengthening of rice seed systems, on-farm mechanization and capacity development of Cambodian scientists, extension workers and policymakers being major highlights. The IRRI Genebank currently conserves over 4,900 rice accessions from Cambodia. IRRI reintroduced 766 traditional Cambodian rice varieties to the country in the 1980s. IRRI has also either directly or indirectly contributed to the development of 14 inbred rice varieties developed and released in Cambodia. Since 1980, more than 250 Cambodian scholars and trainees have completed IRRI-supported academic degrees or attend short-term training courses at IRRI headquarters in the Philippines. In addition to these areas, the IRRI-RGC partnership has also been central to improving climate resilience, agronomic practices, and post-harvest technologies, and diversification and intensification of rice-based agri-food systems in Cambodia.

Looking forward, the IRRI-RGC partnership remains as critical as ever to Cambodia's food security, economic transformation and achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Today, rice is the country's most important agricultural commodity and the staple food of 16 million Cambodians. It accounts for over 3.4 million hectares of arable land. Rice export has almost doubled from 387 thousand tons in 2014 to 626 thousand tons in 2018.

BP 4