ACF Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT:
CAMBODIA

Section 1: National Food System Snapshot

Category	Cambodia
Top three commodities produced (2022)	Cassava: 17.7MT Rice: 11.6MT Maize (corn): 1.2MT
GDP and agriculture as % (2023)	$31.8bn (of which agriculture is 21%)
Global Food Security Index (2022)	78th (of 113)
Prevalence of undernourishment (2021-2023)	5%
Land use for agriculture as % (2021)	35%
Total emissions (2023)	48.77MT
Emissions from agriculture (2023)	26.2MT
Total population and % employed in agriculture (2022)	16.7 million (37% employed in agriculture)



Agricultural land, Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia

Photo by Tithsamnang Khorn

Section 2: Membership Criteria Progress

National Pathways	Cambodia is committed to acting across the 10 Priority Action Areas and is currently integrating these into its National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition 2024-28.
NDCs & NBSAPs	1. NDC: Cambodia is currently updating its NDC inclusive of the 10 Priority Action Areas ahead of the UNFCCC deadline. This will be supported by mitigation policies on deforestation-free agricultural practices, reduced burning for agriculture, reduced tillage, improved water management and reducing food loss and waste. 2. NBSAP: Central to Cambodia's NBSAP is the principle that nature and environment are the foundations of Cambodian livelihood, supporting food production, food security, economic prosperity, and security as well as green growth. The NBSAP delivers Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by designating 41% of the country's territory of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services as an official protected area.
Reporting	The ACF Secretariat is currently working with countries to develop a framework for demonstrating progress, to be in place by COP30.

Section 3: Priority Action Areas Highlights

10 Priority Action Areas	Flagship initiatives/ activities
2. Improve livelihoods	**Priority Policy Program 6** has deployed 1,600 agriculture officers in agricultural communes across the country, developing modern agricultural cooperatives to improve access to markets, capital and water, whilst also increasing economic efficiency and sustainability of small holders.
3. Build and enhance the resilience of food systems	Cambodia's **Circular Strategy on Environment (2023-2028)** includes promoting resilient public investment, improved irrigation systems and water management, strengthening early warning systems and introducing adaptive social protection policies to support food security and nutrition when climate-linked disasters or hazards hit.
5. Protect and restore nature	Cambodia's **'Green Sprouts'** campaign aims to plant over 1 million trees a year to expand forest cover and support 2050 climate neutrality goals. The campaign is also establishing tree nurseries with Indigenous species in 5 regions across the country, boosting biodiversity.

Section 4: Additional Highlights

Cambodia's Technical Working Group for Food Security and Nutrition (TWG-FSN) is an exciting example of 'whole of government' working, bringing together a variety of Ministries (alongside development partners) to identify priorities, tackle trade-offs and mobilize resources for implementation of the agreed action plans through joint monitoring indicators.

A consistent focus on investing in nutrition has seen significant progress over recent years, with the country's Global Hunger Index score decreasing 41.4 to 14.9 since the turn of the century. As these efforts continue to bear fruit, focus is now also being placed on avoiding non-communicable diseases associated with poor diet and physical inactivity.



Rice paddy fields, near Kampot, Cambodia *Photo by Boudewijn Huysmans*

Section 5: Collaborations

Strong Prime Ministerial leadership in ensuring strong coordination and collaboration, not just between government Ministries, but also with civil society, the private sector, development partners and sub-national administrations is enabling effective implementation of Cambodia's Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development by 2030 and the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition.

Section 6: Priorities for Further Work

1. To strengthen and expand research and extension for the use of new technologies, seeds and animal varieties that are resilient to climate change and improve agricultural diversification and strengthen the food systems to be smarter, resilient, inclusive for food security and nutrition.

2. Support local agricultural producers to increase the availability and affordability of nutrient-dense foods, particularly focused on increasing access for those most vulnerable to malnutrition, including those living in poverty, women (particularly pregnant women) and children.

Section 7: Priority Areas for Investment

Cambodia is actively seeking opportunities to collaborate with all stakeholders and actors including development partners, private sector, civil society on advancing any of the priorities outlined above.