ACF Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT:
CAMBODIA

Section 1: National Food System Snapshot

Category	Cambodia
Top three commodities produced (2024)	Cassava, fresh – 15.7MT Rice – 13.9MT Maize (corn) – 1MT
GDP and agriculture as % (2024)	$46.4bn (of which agriculture is 16.58%)
Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the total (3-year average) (2022-24)	48%
Prevalence of undernourishment (3-year average) (2022-24)	5.2%
Land use for agriculture as % (2023)	34.9%
Agri-food systems greenhouse gas emissions (2022)	60.8MT
Total population and % employed in agriculture (2022)	17.6 million (36% employed in agriculture)



Agricultural land, Cambodia

Photo by Kim Hort

Section 2: Membership Criteria Progress

National Pathways	Cambodia was quick to integrate the ACF's ten priority action areas into its Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition that supports, which delivery of the government's overarching 'Pentagonal Strategy Phase I (2023-28) for Growth, Employment, Equity, Efficiency, and Sustainability', which aims to enhance food security and nutrition for all.
NDCs & NBSAPs	Cambodia's NDC3.0 puts food systems at the centre of climate action. With USD$45m earmarked for food-system transformation, the NDC sets out plans to scale climate-smart agriculture and strengthen livestock resilience. It also commits to halving deforestation by 2030 while restoring 96,000 hectares of aquatic and forest ecosystems. Further measures to promote healthy diets, support forest-based livelihoods, and tackle food loss and waste through research and innovation mark Cambodia as a clear regional frontrunner in integrating food, nature, and climate goals.
Reporting	Cambodia's full progress report covering action against all ten ACF priority action areas can be found in the Progress Framework accompanying this Snapshot.

Section 3: Priority Action Areas Highlights

10 Priority Action Areas	Flagship initiatives/ activities
1. Increase affordability and availability	Cambodia has made healthy, sustainable diets a national priority – one of four pillars in its revised Food Systems Roadmap, and central to the Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (2024–2028). The Government is committed to upgrading local market infrastructure and expanding social assistance measures, the Homegrown School Feeding Programme, and in-kind distribution of fortified foods. Cambodia is also plans to build healthy food environments through stronger food marketing regulation and dietary guidelines, and to stabilizing affordability by establishing a national food-reserve system and monitoring food prices.
3. Build and enhance the resilience of food systems	Cambodia's NDC3.0 outlines a comprehensive set of climate-smart agricultural measures to strengthen resilience and productivity. These include improved rice-field management, mechanized direct-seeded rice, integrated nutrient management, reduced tillage, agro-ecological practices, and optimized livestock and fodder systems, all designed to bolster the sector's adaptive capacity to climate and environmental shocks. Complementary measures include USD$165m invested in irrigation rehabilitation, a Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology-led early warning and anticipatory system, adaptive social protection programs, food reserve systems and rice fortification, as well as increased climate-resilient rural infrastructure. Together, these actions enhance the resilience of farmers, communities, and supply chains against climate variability and disaster risks.
5. Protect and restore nature	Cambodia exceeds the 30% territorial coverage target under the Global Biodiversity Framework for area-based conservation and is actively safeguarding ecosystems through integrated, landscape-level approaches. Initiatives include agro-ecological transitions, deforestation restrictions, and forest and wetland restoration, alongside community-based conservation that engages Indigenous and local communities through programs such as Community Action for Sustainable Forests. Reforestation campaigns, including the annual planting of 1 million trees, and regional cooperation within ASEAN and the Greater Mekong Subregion further reinforce nature protection. Finally, Cambodia's NDC3.0 commits to restoring mangroves, flooded forests, and aquatic habitats, supported by environmental education programs to promote sustainable practices and strengthen adaptive capacity.

Section 4: Collaborations

Cross Ministerial Coordination: Cambodia has emerged as a regional leader in coordinating food systems policy across government. Through the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD), it brings together multiple ministries to implement its Food Systems Roadmap and Third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (NSFSN). This whole-of-government mechanism ensures that policies on agriculture, health, social protection, environment, and rural development are aligned — creating coherent, mutually reinforcing action for food systems transformation.

Public-Private-Civil Society Partnerships: Cambodia drives the Grow Asia Cambodia Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture, equipping farmers with market intelligence, value-chain support, and high-value crop opportunities to enhance resilient food systems.

Section 5: Priorities for Further Work

Enhance data, learning and governance systems to track food systems outcomes (affordability, availability, diet quality, resilience etc) and integrate them into national climate, agriculture and nutrition frameworks, enabling dynamic policy adaptation and investment prioritisation.

Operationalise the revised Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development 2030 under the leadership of CARD, ensuring that the update incorporates clear monitoring and effective multi-sector coordination mechanisms across agriculture, health, social protection and environment.

Section 6: Priorities for Investment

Cambodia is looking for USD$360m investment over the next 5 years to deliver across the six priority areas of their food systems roadmap:

- Climate-Smart and Nutrition-Sensitive Value Chains
- Sustainable Aquatic Food Systems
- Food Safety Systems
- Food Fortification
- School Feeding and School Food Environments
- Social and Behaviour Change for Healthy and Sustainable Diets



Crops growing in Cambodia