ACF Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT 2026

CAMBODIA

"Today, Cambodia not only feeds its own citizens but contributes meaningfully to global food security. Our overarching mandate is clear: we must move from producing more to producing better – delivering trusted, high-value food at affordable cost, backed by stronger market links, greater climate resilience and unyielding respect for our environment."

H.E. Dith Tina, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Hunger and poverty are falling fast:** moderate or severe food insecurity fell from 43.2% in 2022 to 36.4% in 2024, and multidimensional poverty fell from 45% in 2010 to 16.6% in 2021/22.
2. **Cambodia is exceeding the 30% terrestrial target and among the countries with the highest national protection shares globally:** Cambodia's 7th National Report to the CBD records a protected area network that has expanded significantly since 2016, now comprising 49 protected areas covering around 7.4 million hectares.
3. **From food deficit to food exporter:** Cambodia produced about 15 million tonnes of paddy rice in 2025, with around 9 million tonnes surplus for export, and agricultural exports reached nearly USD 4 billion in the first ten months of the year as cashew, cassava, mango and rubber grow alongside rice. In November 2025, its Malys Angkor fragrant rice was named the World's Best Rice for the seventh time.

Headline Areas of Progress in 2026

INDICATOR	BASELINE	LATEST	DIRECTION
Moderate or severe food insecurity (3-year average)	43.2% (2022)	**36.4% (2024)**	▾ Improving
Irrigated share of farmland	42% (2018)	**61.4% (2022)**	▴ Improving
Protected areas (% of territory)	31.8% (2022)	**31.8% (2025)**	Stable, above 30% target
Agri-food system GHG emissions (kt CO2e)	63,288 (2021)	**60,807 (2022)**	▾ Improving
Agriculture orientation index for government spending	0.06 (2022)	**0.08 (2023)**	▴ Improving

Country context

Agriculture accounts for around 16% of GDP, 35% of land use and 33% of employment in Cambodia. Rice is the main crop and export, alongside cassava, maize, cashew, mango and rubber.

The 2023 Agricultural Census recorded 1.85 million agricultural holdings, 71% are small-scale producers farming less than 2 hectares and 44% less than 1 hectare. Farms are getting larger (averaging 1.7 ha, up from 1.5 ha in 2013) and more mechanised.

Cambodia is home to the Tonle Sap, Southeast Asia's largest freshwater lake, and a long stretch of the Mekong, supporting inland capture fisheries and an aquaculture sector that has expanded sharply since 2000 and now provides about a third of fish production.

INDICATOR	CAMBODIA	SOURCE
Top three commodities produced (2024)	**Cassava: 16.0 MT; Rice (paddy): 15.1 MT; Mango: 2.1 MT.**	*MAFF Annual Report 2025*
GDP and agriculture as % (2025)	**USD 51.3 billion (agriculture 16%)**	*Our world in data/ World Bank*
Global Food Security Index (2022)	**78th of 113**	*Economist Impact*
Prevalence of undernourishment (2023/25)	**4.7%**	*FAOSTAT*
Land use for agriculture as % (2023)	**35%**	*World Bank*
Emissions from agri-food systems (2022)	**60.8 MT**	*FAOSTAT*
Total population and % employed in agriculture (2025)	**17.8 million (33% in agriculture)**	*World Bank*



KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2025/26

Cambodia **finalised its NBSAP for 2026–2030 in January 2026**, incorporating the 2025 Law on Fisheries and committing to bring 30% of degraded ecosystems under restoration by 2030. Its 7th National Report to the CBD records **49 protected areas covering around 7.4 million hectares**, exceeding the 30% target for land.

Cambodia is taking ownership of school feeding: **the government now runs 816 of the 1,114 schools in the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme**, which gives 316,186 primary pupils a nutritious meal every day, and is taking over the remaining 298 schools from WFP.

Cambodia is **bringing advice to every farm:** Cambodia is deploying 1,600 commune agricultural officers, one for every agricultural commune, recruited in annual cohorts since 2023, to provide farmers with direct extension support. and by July 2026 had established **41 Modern Agricultural Communities** covering 25,849 hectares and 5,795 households.

Cambodia is **investing in resilience and food safety:**

- **Irrigation:** in July 2025 the Green Climate Fund approved a USD 240 million programme for climate-adaptive irrigation and sustainable agriculture, co-financed by IFAD and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- **Food safety:** a National Agricultural Laboratory opened in March, backed by the EUR 24.3 million CAPSAFE programme, to improve food testing and export readiness.
- **Climate-smart farming:** the 2025 climate-smart agriculture plan moves into implementation in 2026, expanding low-emission rice and drought- and flood-tolerant varieties.

Cambodia is **restoring landscapes and rewarding nature-friendly farming:** its Green Sprouts campaign had distributed 5.5 million tree seedlings by July 2026, up from 1.3 million in 2024, and **farmers in the IBIS Rice model** sold certified wildlife-friendly organic rice at about a 40% premium in 2025.

Irrigation as resilience infrastructure: irrigated farmland rose from 42% in 2018 to 61% in 2022, reducing dependence on rainfall and protecting harvests against dry-season shocks.

Cambodia is **reallocating agriculture, water and rural development budgets to food systems priorities** – value chains, natural resource management and food safety – and, under Cambodia Council for Agricultural and Rural Development's leadership, mobilising finance for nutrition-sensitive small businesses that link local production, jobs and better diets. Its **Second Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development (2025–2030)** puts healthy diets at the centre, backed by a National Strategy for Food Fortification 2025–2030 and around USD 360 million to be mobilised over five years through a national Financing Platform.

LEADERSHIP IN FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION: FOOD SYSTEMS AT THE HEART OF CLIMATE POLICY

Cambodia's NDC 3.0 is one of the **first countries in Asia-Pacific to include a dedicated food systems section** and integrates all ten ACF action areas. The **UN Food Systems Coordination Hub** describes it as the most advanced integration of food systems into national climate commitments in Asia-Pacific. It turns ambition into quantified delivery: halving deforestation by 2030, restoring more than 96,000 hectares of aquatic ecosystems, and scaling climate-smart practices across 20% of farmland, with USD 45 million costed for food systems interventions and USD 960 million for agriculture.

Under the leadership of the **Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD)**, Cambodia developed a Convergence Action Blueprint linking its NDC food systems commitments to the Food Systems Roadmap and other ministries' plans. It is one of a small group of countries to **name agroecology explicitly in its NDC 3.0**, and in 2021 became the first ASEAN country to submit a long-term strategy for carbon neutrality.

