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# Land Cover/Land Use and Agriculture in Cambodia – Current Status and Priorities



Seng Vang, Ph. D Director Department of Agricultural Land Resources Management General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA)

# Outlines

- 1. Agriculture
- 2. Land cover/Land use
- 3. Land degradation



- 4. Current initiatives for land restoration
- 5. Priorities for sustainable agricultural land management

# 1. Agriculture



MAFF (2022). DPS

### Agricultural subsectors (2017-2021)



MAFF (2022). DPS

# Agricultural growth 2013-2021 (%)



MAFF (2022). DPS

### Current agricultural land use





*Figure 1. Status of cropland areas during a period of 5 years (2015-2019) in Cambodia. Source: MAFF (2020)* 

### 2. Land cover/Land use



#### Agricultural LU categories

ល -វ	ប្រ អា ទ ប្រើ ប្រាស់	(Land us category)	ធ្វៃ៖ (Area)	
			(ha)	(%)*
1	ដី ច ម្ការ	Orchard	3,238,627	17.83
2	វាល ស្រែ	Paddy field	4,286,026	23.60
3	ចម្ការ ដូង ប្រេ ង	Oil palm plantation	51,792	0.29
4	ច ម្ការ កៅស៊ូ	Rubber plantation	536,734	2.96
5	វាល ស្មៅ	Grassland	319,828	1.76
™ țฃ (Total)			8,433,007	46.44

Source: MOE (2020)



### 3. Land degradation



## Land degradation – impact



Land Degradation Source: GLADIS-FAO16

- Annual cost of land degradation is estimated at USD 677 million or 8% of the country's GDP (GM/UNCCD, 2018)
- Conventional tillage practice (Maize) increased soil loss by 13 times more than CA practice on 5% slope (DALRM, 2020).
- Soil erosion resulted in losses of SOC (870 kg/ha),
  N (90 kg/ha), P (0.42 kg/ha), K (10 kg/ha)
  (DALRM/GDA 2020, unpublished data)

# 4. Current initiatives for land restoration

- Conservation Agriculture (CA) Initiatives towards the agroecological transition
  - Bos Khnor (Kampong Cham) Center of excellence for CA&SI in upland
  - Stung Chinit (Kampong Thom) CA for lowland rice
  - Battambang CA extension activities
- ASSET Agroecology and safe food system transition (Regional project)
  - Preah Vihear CA and organic agriculture systems
- CASIC Cambodia Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium
  - A PPP platform to scale CA&SI in Cambodia (MAFF lead)





### CA adoption in Cambodia





#### LAND PREPARATION: PRE-REQUISITE





# 5. Priorities for SLM towards 2030

- Promoting sustainable agricultural land resources management
  - Promoting soil conservation R4D,
  - Achieving land degradation neutrality through National Action Program to combat land degradation (NAP),
  - Soil education (Promoting farmers soil extension program),
  - Soil science (Encourage postgraduate research program thru international cooperation)
- Develop agricultural zoning
  - Land resources and land suitability assessment, crop mapping
- Strengthening climate resilient capacity
  - Apply soil conservation technology (CA, green cover, biochar, etc.) to increase agricultural productivity and to promote environmental-friendly agricultural production, and also contributing towards carbon neutrality.

