



ONLINE INCEPTION MEETING

Safer Spices: Boosting Food Safety and Market Access for the Peppercorn Value Chain in Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia

17th December 2020

15:00 – 18:00 (Malaysian Time)

Online Meeting through Zoom Platform

A. Background

The Center for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) in collaboration with Western Highlands Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute (WASI), Vietnam, Department of Agriculture (DoA), Laos, and General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA), Cambodia, are currently initiating a project on “Safer Spices to boost the food safety and market access of peppercorn in the Region”, funded by Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF 619).

Peppercorn is an important agricultural crop for Vietnam contributing 20% of its GDP and is an emerging industry for Cambodia and Laos. The proposed project is targeted at peppercorn supply destined for markets where there is increasing consumer concern particularly the EU. Analysis of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) issues in exported peppercorn suggests that all the main food safety and hygiene related non-compliances (i.e. high MRL, bacterial and physical contamination), result from either poor farm level decisions or handling practices. Improving food safety for exports is also expected to have a positive spill over effect on domestic public health.

This regional peppercorn project aims to increase financial returns, improve productivity, safety and market access for smallholder pepper growers & processors and grower/processor groups by (i) improving compliance with international food safety requirements in high value markets such as EU, USA and Japan to restore the food manufacturing industry confidence in peppercorn sourced from the region, (ii) increase the competitiveness & sustainability of the regional peppercorn industry in terms of consistent supply of high-quality safe peppercorn from small-scale farmer driven value-chains and (iii) developing and adopting a harmonized Code of Practices (CoP) coupled with a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) models to increase production, food safety and market.

B. Objectives

The objectives of this Inception Meeting are to: (i) Understand the global overview of spices and peppercorn industry, (ii) discuss the on-going policy and strategy of the government of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos PDR for the development of peppercorn value chains, (iii) know the industry perspective related to SPS issues and market access, (iii) understand the development of Code of Practice and its implementation through PGS models and (iv) solicit feedback from policymakers, experts and other stakeholders.



Program

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Session No	Subject / Topic	Person-in-charge
Session 1	Welcome	
15:00-15:15 (5 min each)	Welcome Remarks	
	i. STDF Economic Affairs Officer	Ms Roshan Khan
	ii. CABI Regional Director	Dr Sivapragasam
	Official Opening	
	iii. WASI Vice Director	Dr Phan Viet Ha
Session 2	Project Overview	
15:15-15:25 (10 min)	P1: Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Introduction and Expectations from the Project	Ms Angelica Grisuk, STDF
15:25-15:50 (25 min)	P2: Project brief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project objectives and deliverables, Logical framework Management and finance Communication M&E and reporting plan Current updates based on workplan Anticipated challenges and risks 	Muhammad Faheem, Project Manager, CABI
Session 3	Peppercorn Industry Overview	
15:50-16:00 (10 min)	P3: Global overview of peppercorn and spice industry	Ms Hoang Thi Lien - Executive Director, International Pepper Community
16:00-16:15 (15 min)	P4: National Industry perspective to peppercorn (market access, SPS and trade related issues, demand etc.)	Ms Nguyen Thi Thanh Truc, Assistant to VPA Chairman, Vietnam Pepper Association
Session 4	Country Reports: on peppercorn industry (pepper stat, govt. priority, challenges, country expectation from project, etc.)	
16:15-16:45 (10 min each)	P5: Vietnam	Dr Khoa Dang LE, WASI, Vietnam
	P6: Cambodia	Mr Chhun Hy Heng, GDA, Cambodia
	P7: Laos PDR	Mr Souliya Souvandouane, DOA, Laos
16:45-16:55 (10 min)	Short Break (Tea / Coffee)	
Session 5	Code of Practice (GAP, CODEX) and PGS	
16:55-17:05 (10 min)	P8: Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) standards for peppercorn	Mr Nguyen Van Long, Head of Tech Transfer, PRDC Vietnam

17:05-17:15 (10 min)	P9: CODEX standards for food safety and market access of peppercorn	Prof Joni Munarso, Vice Chairman of the Codex Working Group on Standard for Peppers Quality
17:15-17:30 (15 min)	P10: Role of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) models in implementing CoP	Dr Grant Vining, International Market Development Specialist
Session 6	Overall Discussion and Q&A	
17:30-17:50 (20 min)	Open Discussion (i) Food safety and SPS compliance (ii) CoP and PGS approach (iii) Role of public private sector partnership (iv) Sharing experience with other spices	Lead: Dr Siva All Participants
17:50-18:00 (10 min)	Summary and wrap up of meeting findings, recommendations and agreements	Ms Suzanne Neave, CABI Value Chain Expert