



National Workshop on “Sustainable Cassava Production and Utilization for Rural Poverty Alleviation in Cambodia”

6-7 November 2012 Phnom Penh Hotel, Cambodia

Cassava is an important upland crop in Cambodia. In recent years it has gained in popularity because of strong demands from a range of processors supplying both domestic and export markets. In 2011, in response to high prices during the previous year, the cassava area planted in Cambodia nearly doubled and cassava overtook maize as the most important upland crop in terms of area planted and value to growers.

Although cassava provides many income and livelihoods opportunities and benefits to smallholder farmers in Cambodia, there are serious concerns about price fluctuations, market stability, land degradation, illegal forest clearing, and maintaining sustainability of cassava production to benefit smallholder farmers and industries in Cambodia.

Therefore, the Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), in collaboration with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) organized a 2 day national workshop participated by 230 participants representing from a wide range of cassava stakeholders, including policy makers under financial support from Nippon Foundation, MAFF and IFAD. The workshop was opened by HE Dr Chan Sarun, Minister of MAFF.

Participants agreed that cassava remains important upland crop, but its production needs to be well managed in sustainable productivity and environment manner. There are four main outputs generated from the national workshop and they are:

1. Development of cassava production law is needed in order to having a comprehensive plan to protect illegal forest logging, ensure market and market price for small farmers, identify production area regarding to market demand and link farmers to cassava value chain,
2. Promoting research to develop new and sustainable technology with emphasis on (i) early maturing and high starch content variety, (ii) soil nutrient-crop long-term sustainable management, (iii) sustainable pre and post-harvest technology, and (iv) pest and disease management,
3. Collating and publication of existing available technology and widely distribute to farmers trough demonstration fields and other means, and
4. Strengthening and widening collaboration with other national, regional and international research institutions to enhancing research for sustainable cassava production and utilization.

