



Background

Agriculture, including fisheries and forestry, contributes to over a quarter of Cambodia's GDP (28 percent in 2018), and 46 percent of rural people rely on agriculture for employment. Recently there has been a sharp reduction in the agriculture sector's contribution to employment and poverty reduction. Employment generation from agriculture grew at an annual rate of 2.8 percent during 2007–2011, and in 2009, the sector absorbed laid off factory workers from the garment and footwear sector during the global financial crisis. From 2011 to 2015, employment creation by the agriculture sector shrank by 5.8 percent a year due to lower agricultural commodity prices (notably rice) and drought.

Providing sustainable and secure access to land and natural resources for small agricultural producers and rural communities is an integral part of the government's poverty reduction strategy. To implement this, the government has established a legal framework for Social Land Concessions (SLC) that expands land title for the rural poor. The government has also promoted Indigenous Communal Land Titling (ICLT) to enhance land security for indigenous people.



Since 2008, the World Bank's **Land Allocation for Social and Economic Development (LASED I and LASED II)** projects have supported the government's SLC program to successfully pilot a more sustainable and transparent process of land allocation for poor people. These projects have also supported the development of rural roads, small irrigation systems, primary schools and health posts, while providing agricultural training and support for expanded farming services. Through these projects, 3360 families have already received land titles and Cambodia has allocated 10,000 hectares of residential and agriculture farmland to more than 5,000 landless and land-poor families.

About the Project

The objective of LASED III is to provide security of land tenure, agricultural and social services, and selected infrastructure to farmers and communities in the project areas. This will be achieved through:

- **Component 1: Selection and Development Planning of SLC and ICLT:**
 - Supporting applications for SLC, ICLT, and development support to Indigenous Communities, on a first come, first served basis.
 - Providing technical support for planning project activities.
- **Component 2: Community Infrastructure Development:**
 - Financing infrastructure investments at selected SLC sites and ICLT communities, including constructing rural roads, small-scale irrigation systems, drainage, culverts, water supply and sanitation facilities, school buildings, teachers' houses, health posts and community centers.
- **Component 3: Agriculture and Livelihood Development:**
 - Settling-in assistance to new land recipients and land preparation assistance for a first cover crop and/or planting of seedlings for tree crops.
 - Supporting the implementation of a comprehensive agricultural services strategy with an emphasis on climate-smart techniques.
 - Supporting the establishment and or strengthening of farmers organizations for production and market activities which will improve knowledge exchange and peer learning on climate smart agriculture practices such as better fertilizer use, manure management and integrated water management.
 - A Community Fund for Development (CFD) will scale up successful local economic initiatives.
- **Component 4: Project Management:**
 - Supporting technical and operational assistance for overall project administration and coordination, including social and environmental safeguards management, procurement planning and contract management, financial management, disbursement and audits, and monitoring, evaluation and communication.

Beneficiaries and Results

15,000 rural households will get direct benefit from LASED III.



Locations:

LASED III would host about 71 sites and communities, nationwide, except Phnom Penh.

Financiers:

- World Bank (International Development Association): **US\$93.00 million**
- Royal Government of Cambodia: **US\$14 million**

Implementing Agencies:

- The Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC), and
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

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