



Business Opportunities in the Greater Mekong Subregion: Agriculture and Environmental Sustainability

4-5 June 2024, Courtyard by Marriot Bangkok,
155/1 Soi Mahadlekluang 1, Ratchadamri Road,
Bangkok 10330 Thailand

BACKGROUND

GMS Program and GMS-2030. The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Program approved the GMS Economic Cooperation Program Strategic Framework 2030 (GMS-2030) on 9 September 2021, setting the stage for the subregion's development throughout the current decade. The GMS-2030 introduced a Mission Statement, defining the GMS Program as a subregional cooperation initiative focused on its fundamental strengths of community, connectivity, and competitiveness.

Transition Towards Private Sector Engagement. Embracing Private Sector Solutions is one of the six innovative approaches outlined in GMS-2030 to leverage the knowledge, technical resources, and capital of the domestic, regional, and global private sectors across GMS Program operations. The GMS-2030 underscores the importance of collaborative efforts between public and private sectors to assess project financing opportunities and advance sustainable development goals. The establishment of private sector roundtables focusing on agriculture and environment will serve as a critical step towards achieving the vision of a more integrated, prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive subregion, fostering dialogue, and driving impactful partnerships between the public and private sectors.

The GMS Working Group on Agriculture (WGA)'s work under the umbrella of the GMS Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Program (SAFSP) is supporting the GMS countries to enhance food security, raising food safety and quality standards for expanding exports, and encourage climate- and environment-friendly production practices along the agribusiness value chain. It also helps sustain natural assets with a focus on small-scale farmers and micro, small, and medium-sized agri-enterprises.

The GMS Working Group on Environment (WGE) operates largely under the framework of the GMS Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Program (CCESP); there are other investments as well from ADB's Private Sector Operations Department (PSOD) and Water and Urban Development sector work (SG-WUD). The CCESP is working to improve climate compatibility and environmental sustainability of economic growth in the GMS by enhancing climate resilience, green growth, and environmental quality of the GMS Program.

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OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOME

Objectives:

- Evaluate opportunities for the private sector in agriculture and environment sector projects in the GMS, primarily but not limited to projects in the [GMS Regional Investment Framework \(GMS RIF\)](#);
- Present and discuss select projects in the agriculture and environment sectors to enhance communication between government and the private sector to identify shared priority areas and explore potential collaboration;
- Brief the private sector and GMS governments on ADB's support for developing private sector projects at the upstream and project phases.

Outcome: Increased private sector interest and engagement in the GMS Program; strengthened dialogue between GMS governments and the private sector; increased number of projects proposed with private sector opportunities in subsequent pipelines of the GMS RIF.

PARTICIPANTS

- Asian Development Bank (ADB): GMS Secretariat, ADB Private Sector Operations Department (PSOD), ADB Office of Markets Development and Public-Private Partnership (OMDP), sector specialists and project officers
- GMS National Governments: Senior government or project officials to present project profiles and opportunities for the private sector
- Private Sector: Technology providers, consulting firms, and project developers/investors to be invited through national chambers of commerce, industry federations, major enterprises, the GMS Business Council, and representatives from countries in the region
- Development Partners

CONTACT

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PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

Time	June 4 - Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security	June 5 - GMS Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Program
9:00 – 9:10 am	Welcome Remarks	Welcome Remarks
9:10 – 9:25 am	Session 1: GMS Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Program (SASFP)	Session 1: GMS Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Program (CCESP)
9:25 – 10:10 am	Session 2: Panel Discussion on Support for Agribusiness in the GMS	Session 2: Panel Discussion on Support for Private Sector Solutions in Environmental Sustainability in the GMS
10:10 – 10:30	Coffee and Networking Break	Coffee and Networking Break
10:30 – 11:45 am	Session 3: Optimizing Cold Chain Logistics: Enhancing Efficiency and Resilience in the GMS Program	Session 3: Advancing Waste Management in the GMS
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Networking Lunch	Networking Lunch
1:00 – 2:15 pm	Session 4: Sustainable Fisheries Development in the GMS	Session 4: Tackling Water and Air Pollution in the GMS
2:15 – 2:30 pm	Coffee and Networking Break	Coffee and Networking Break
2:30 – 3:45pm	Session 5: Transforming Agriculture in the GMS with Digital Technologies	Session 5: Nature Positive Climate Actions in the GMS
3:45 – 4:00 pm	Wrap up and Closing Remarks	Wrap up and Closing