

OPENING SPEECH

by **H.E. CHHAY THAN, Senior Minister, Minister of Planning
Chairman of National Census Committee of 2013 Census of Agriculture**
at the opening ceremony of

**RELEASE OF PRELIMINARY RESULTS
OF 2013 CAMBODIA'S FIRST AGRICULTURE CENSUS**

20th August 2014, Cambodiana Hotel



- H.E. Kith Seng, Under-Secretary of State, Representative of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
- Mrs. Nina Brandstrup, FAO Representative in Cambodia
- Mrs. Kristina Kuhnel, Sida Representative in Cambodia
- Mrs. Rebecca Black, Mission Director, USAID in Cambodia
- Mr. Paul Keogh, Counselor for Development Cooperation, Australian Embassy
- His Excellencies, Louk Chumteav, Secretaries of State and Under-Secretaries of State
- Mrs. Josie Perez, FAO Chief Advisor at NIS
- Excellencies, Louk Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen, Representatives of National and International Organizations and Dear Participants

1. Today, I have a great honor and pleasure to preside over the opening ceremony of the Release of Preliminary Results of 2013 Cambodia's First Agriculture Census and welcome Your Excellencies, Louk Chumteav, ladies and gentlemen, national and international distinguished guests for participating in this occasion. I would like to take this opportunity to deeply thank H.E. Under-Secretary of State, Representative of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for using his busy time to participate in this occasion.

2. As your Excellencies, Louk Chumteav, ladies and gentlemen are aware, according to the Statistics Law which was approved in May 2005 required the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning in cooperation with relevant institutions to conduct agriculture census within every ten-year period. The Sub-Decree on 2013 Census of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Cambodia which was approved on 04 December 2012 has defined 01 April 2013 as the date of agriculture census and then the census filed work was operated in April, May, and June 2013. The 2013 Census of Agriculture is the first census in the Kingdom of Cambodia which was conducted by the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

3. I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to the Royal Government of Cambodia led by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia for his constant support of statistical activities, especially to the Census of Agriculture 2013 which enabled successful completion of the Census.

4. I would like to thank the Ministry of Planning, National Institute of Statistics, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as well as relevant ministries and institutions who involved in facilitating the conduct of Census of Agriculture successfully.

5. I would like to take this opportunity , on behalf of Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and National Census Committee of 2013 Census of Agriculture, to thank and highly appreciate FAO for mobilizing resources from other development partners: Sida, USAID, and AusAid which contributed 4.12 million US Dollars together with counterpart funds from the Royal Government of Cambodia of 1.42 million US Dollars, making a total budget of 2013 Census of Agriculture about 5.54 million US Dollars.

Excellencies, Louk Chumteav, ladies and gentlemen,

6. Let me inform you on history of 2013 Census of Agriculture as follows:

Census of Agriculture is one of three censuses stated in the Statistics Law that has to be conducted by the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning in cooperation with Department of Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The first national census of agriculture in Cambodia is to collect data on agriculture situation of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Conducting census is a huge work that the Royal Government in current stage needs the necessary support from development partners due to the lack of fund and technical capacity, and experiences are still limited. According to the Statistical Master Plan 2008-2015 which was approved by the Statistics Advisory Council in 2007, Census of Agriculture was planned to be conducted in 2009 but due to the failure of resources mobilization, census did not happen and the Mid-Term Review of Statistical Master Plan 2012 stated that the Census of Agriculture should be conducted in 2013. Ministry of Planning, National Institute of Statistics started to re-mobilize the resources by requesting to FAO for updating the 2013 agriculture census project since October 2011. The FAO in Cambodia had replied positively to provide technical assistances from FAO-Asia and Pacific (Bangkok) for updating the project of 2013 census of agriculture via the mission in January 2012, and subsequently two projects have been implemented for preparing the 2013 census of agriculture, in which the first project (FAO) entitled “Assistance to Preparatory Activities of the First National Census of Agriculture ” started from May 2012 and the second project entitled “First National Census of Agriculture” resources contributed by the development partners: FAO, USAID, AusAid, and Sida. It should be noted that the FAO had played an important role to assist the Ministry of Planning in mobilizing resources and FAO is in charge of managing budget of all development partners and the Ministry of Planning managed only counterpart budget of the Royal Government of Cambodia which was approved.

7. While we have the results of Cambodia’s first agriculture census and in addition in the future we will have agriculture surveys with shorter frequency, the national statistical system of Cambodia will be in the best position to serve the needs of data users in agricultural statistics sector. For Census, we had trained more than 200 trainers in which more than 100 trainers from capital and provinces, 24 regional officers and 103 assistant regional officers to assisted works in capital, provinces, and khans/districts, and 3,500 enumerators mostly were veterinaries and students in villages, and 500 supervisors.

8. Although data collection of the census of agriculture faced with some challenges related to slow compensation, timeliness, raining season and the general election in the end of July 2013 which made a little delay for releasing the preliminary results, also we are proud that today we receive the excellent results and having high quality data that can be widely used in public sector, private sector, and development partners.

9. Cambodia Census of Agriculture used two modules of questionnaires: core module used for interviewing all households in 24 provinces and 5 khans in Phnom Penh Capital, and supplementary module used for detailed interviewing all households having large agricultural production and the sample households about 98,000 households. Thus, the preliminary results are released today is only the results from core module of agriculture census and they are not included yet the results from supplementary module.

Excellencies, Louk Chumteav, ladies and gentlemen,

10. The results from the Agriculture Census will provide data on the current agricultural situation in Cambodia and contribute importantly in the formulation of plans, policies and strategies of the Royal Government of Cambodia for development of agriculture sector following the first strategic growth rectangle of the Rectangular Strategy of the Royal Government of Cambodia which is the enhancement of the agricultural sector as the backbone of the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and sustained national economic development of the Royal Government of Cambodia leading by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia .

11. The Census data will provide also sampling frame for agricultural sample surveys and data on the growing of crops, raising livestock and poultry and aquaculture activities done by households. In addition, census of agriculture will strengthen and improve the National Statistical System to enable to produce agricultural data with reliable and good quality data following the needs of data users.

12. The preliminary report of Agriculture Census 2013 presents the basic information on the characteristics of agriculture holdings, major crops, agriculture households and holders, livestock and poultry, and economic activities engaged in the agricultural holdings. In this occasion, I would like to inform that the final results of the Agriculture Census will be released in December 2014 after all completed questionnaires are processed and tabulated completely in particular the results from supplementary module questionnaires.

13. Let me inform some key data of preliminary results from Cambodia Agriculture Census 2013 as follows:

The Agriculture Census found that the total area of the agricultural holdings in 2013 is 3.1 million hectares. Average area per holding is 1.64 hectares. Total number of parcels is 3.7 million. Percentage of parcels used in growing temporary crops is 95.1 percent and percentage of parcels used in growing permanent crops is 7.2 percent. Percentage of agricultural holdings growing non-aromatic paddy is 91.7 percent. In term of livestock composed of cattle, buffaloes, pigs, and goats had raised 4.7 million and poultry composed of chickens and ducks had raised 32.9 million. The percentage of agricultural holdings with aquaculture activities that operated pond culture is 83.7 percent. For detailed data, the technical staff will present soon.

14. I hope that this preliminary report on Cambodia Census of Agriculture 2013 will serve the needs of statistical information to policy makers and researchers in the wider national and international communities.

Excellencies, Louk Chumteav, ladies and gentlemen,

15. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and my own self, I would like to deeply thank FAO, Sida, USAID, and AusAid which provide technical and financial assistance to the 2013 Cambodia Census of Agriculture.

16. Taking this opportunity, I extend my deep appreciation to all staff of National Institute of Statistics and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and everyone for their efforts in making the census success until today's celebration of release of preliminary results of 2013 Census of Agriculture in Cambodia.

17. Finally, I would like to thank your Excellencies, Louk Chumteav, ladies and gentlemen, national and international distinguished guests who are participating in the occasion of releasing the preliminary results of Agriculture Census Cambodia 2013 and wish the best of health and all success.

I now declare the ceremony to release preliminary results of 2013 Census of Agriculture open.

Thank you!