Australian Government
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

Enabling improved plant biosecurity practices in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand

Key details

Location
Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand

Duration
Start Sep 2013 **End** Mar 2018

Budget AUD 1,359,715

Commissioned organisation
Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre, Australia

Partners
Cambodia Agricultural Research and Development Institute; Charles Sturt University; Department of Agriculture; General Directorate of Agriculture; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE

Project Leader
Gary Kong - Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre

Program Horticulture

Project code HORT/2010/069

Overview

This project aimed to improve the capacity of Lao and Cambodian crop protection and plant quarantine staff in plant disease diagnosis and plant biosecurity.

Biosecurity and plant protection systems in Cambodia and Lao PDR cannot effectively identify and diagnose pest interceptions or monitor pests in local crops. This is largely due to a lack of local expertise, information and physical resources at the operational level, and the absence of organisational processes and communication networks essential to the diagnostic process.

The program trained staff in general diagnosis, improved diagnostic capacity to plant protection agencies and documented horticulturally significant plant viruses for the first time. Australian and Thai experts worked together to deliver a training program consistent with these goals. The project involved staff in taxonomic training and surveillance exercises; they conducted diagnostic processes and procedures, repeated them in different contexts and thereby reinforced them. They surveyed plant viruses affecting major horticultural crops. Although plant viruses are widespread and damage the region's economy, few have been identified and recorded in pest lists.

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