

# Strengthening soil knowledge and capability in Cambodia to support sustainable upland agricultural development



## Key details

### Location

Cambodia

### Duration

**Start** Jul 2024

**End** Jun 2029

### Budget

AUD 2,838,392

### Commissioned organisation

Murdoch University

### Partners

Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI); Department of Agricultural Land Resources Management; Murdoch University; Royal University of Agriculture; WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

### Project Leader

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### ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Steven Crimp

### Program

Soil and Land Management

### Project code

SLAM/2022/103



## Overview

**This project aims to identify and develop sustainable soil management solutions to priority soil constraints and soil degradation risks in upland agro-ecological systems in Cambodia.**

Building on the work and partnerships of the ACIAR project 'Land suitability assessment and site-specific soil management for Cambodian uplands' ([SMCN/2016/237](#)), the project will continue to strengthen knowledge and capacity for managing soil resources in Cambodian uplands.

It will introduce analytical techniques and scientific methods that focus on sustainable upland agricultural development and support the development of a soil information system and an upland soil strategy.

Smallholder farmers in extensive areas of the upland regions of Cambodia are particularly vulnerable to soil degradation. At the same time, traditional farming

systems and limited knowledge of soil constraints and crop management technologies exacerbate the problem. Improving soil management to increase crop yields and returns for diverse crop options is critical to developing resilient, profitable, and sustainable upland farming systems in Cambodia.

## Activities

- Understand the main forms and risks of soil degradation in upland soils of Cambodia and identify practices to prevent and mitigate soil degradation in upland cropping systems.
- Identify soil and crop management interventions required to achieve sustainable and profitable management for upland cropping systems in Cambodia.
- Facilitate access to soil information and data, promote harmonisation of methodologies, and support development of a government-led soil information system and upland soil strategy. This work will start by investigating the soils organisational network in Cambodia, including the breadth of soil information managed within key stakeholder agencies and the existing local capacity and expertise of soil specialists.
- To enable adoption of improved soil management in upland cropping systems, the project will work to strengthen soil knowledge and strengthen linkages between research, extension, and farmers to facilitate uptake of sustainable land management practices.



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