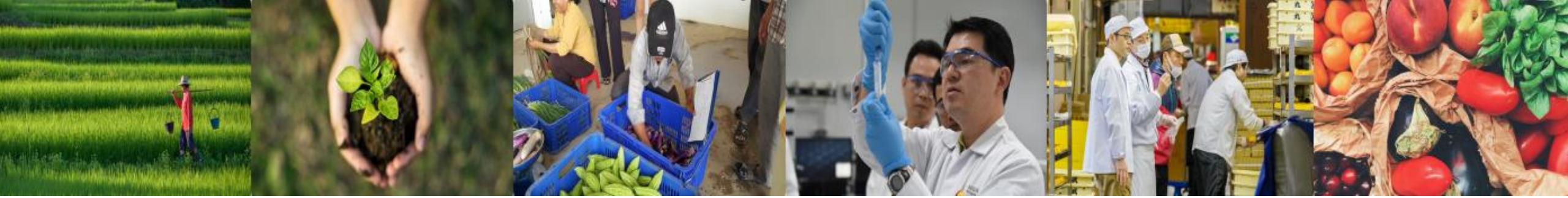
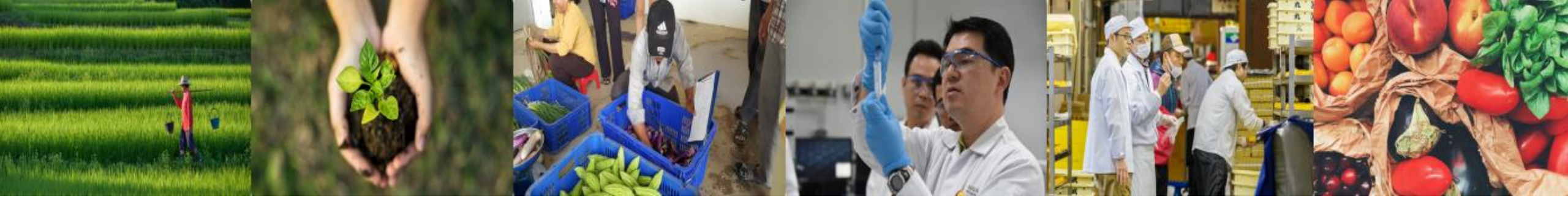


Consultation Workshop on GMS Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Program (SAFSP)

3-4th April 2019

Food Safety Standards, Certification and Traceability

YiFan Jiang, FIA Head of Science & Regulatory Affairs

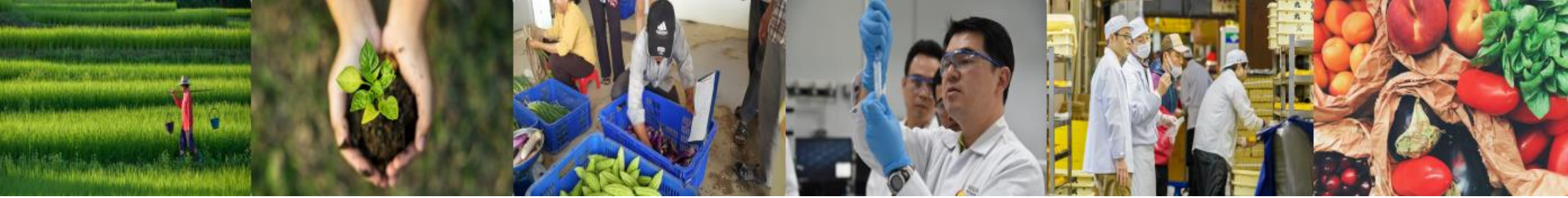


FIA FOOD INDUSTRY ASIA

INTRODUCTION TO FOOD INDUSTRY ASIA

THE VOICE OF THE FOOD INDUSTRY IN ASIA

GLOBAL – REGIONAL – LOCAL PARTNERS



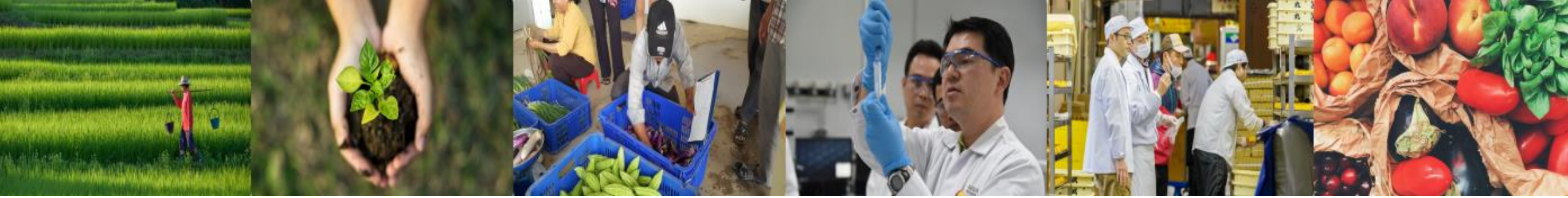
GENERAL INTRODUCTION

- The Asia-Pacific region is expected to become **the biggest F&B region** for consumption worldwide by 2030.

- **Food safety in Greater Mekong Sub-Region** will be essential to ensure that the six countries have the potential to reap the benefits of these developments.

- A **proactive approach**, including **development of local farmers, food business operators, retail sector, government regulatory, and consumer awareness** will support the rapid development of the sector.

- A few imperatives with regard to the sector shall be focused which are **food safety and quality (legislative framework/ Good Agriculture Practice), laboratory and facilities, and traceability**.



FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK/STANDARDS

- Current Status
- Needs and Gaps
- Priorities for Future

Current Status

Myanmar

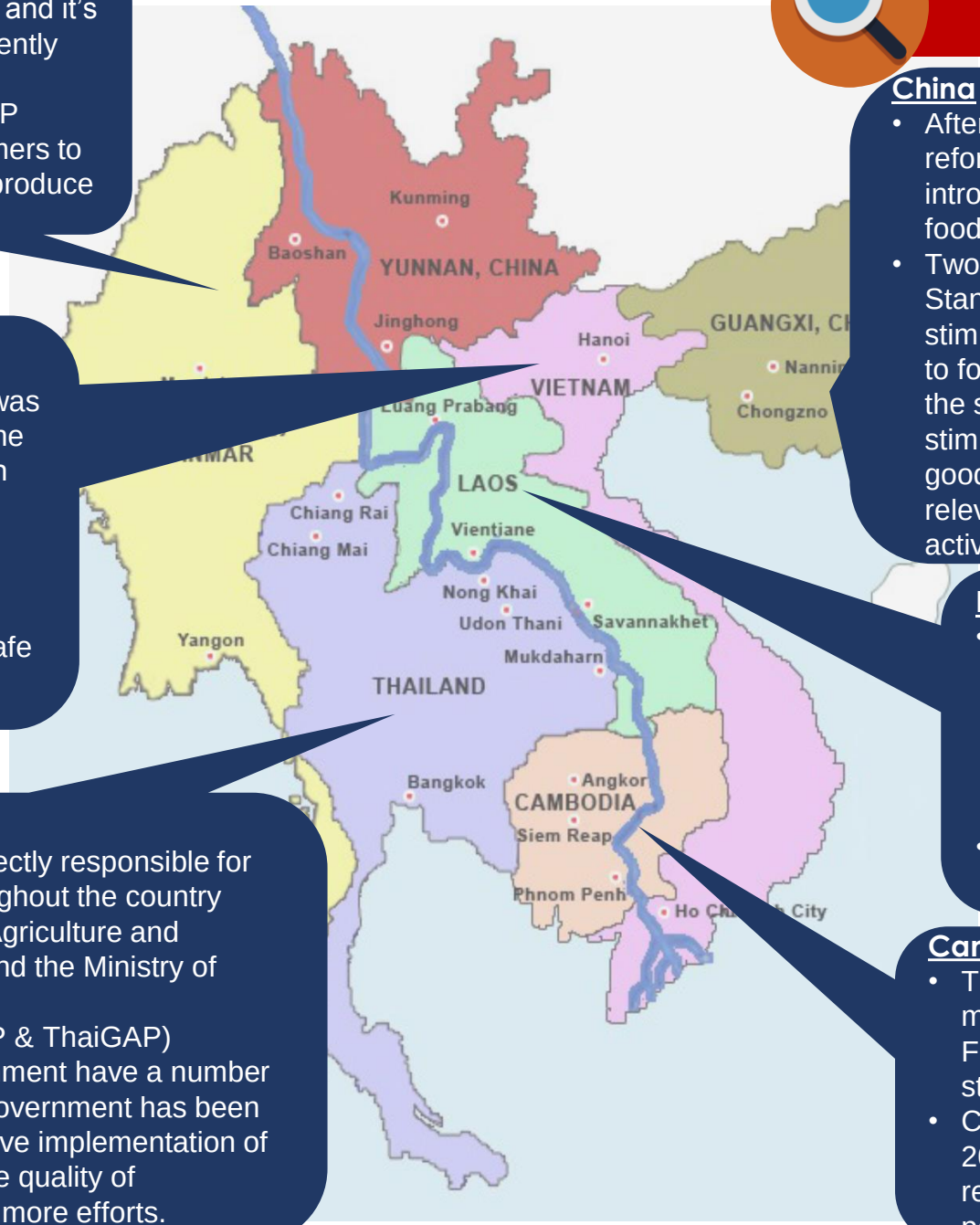
- National Food Law (1997) and it's amendment (2013) is currently under revision.
- Myanmar has national GAP framework for helping farmers to produce safe and quality produce

Vietnam

- Food Safety Law (2010) was promulgated to address the country's growing concern on food safety risks and problems that impact on trade and human health.
- VietGap was launched by government to produce safe and quality produce.

Thailand

- Two main authorities directly responsible for food safety control throughout the country namely, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH).
- The GAP system (QGAP & ThaiGAP) developed by the government have a number of participants and the government has been successful in the extensive implementation of the scheme, although the quality of implementation requires more efforts.



China

- After the milk scandal, China decided to reform its food safety legislation through introducing a basic law integrating all existing food safety-related rules.
- Two GAP programmes (Green Food Standard & ChinaGap) are intended to stimulate agriculture, reduce the risks linked to food safety, coordinate various sectors of the supply chain of agricultural products and stimulate the development of international good agricultural practice standards and relevant certification and accreditation activities.

Lao PDR

- National Food Safety Policy was enacted to ensure food safety and product quality in Lao PDR. Other food related laws, legislations were promulgated to govern different food aspects.
- Lao PDR has introduced Lao GAP (voluntary)since 2004

Cambodia

- The principal food safety legislative measure is IMP 868, while a new draft Food Safety Law is still under the reviewing stage.
- CamGap was approved by the MAFF dated 2010. Various efforts such as deliver related info to local farmers and public were performed.




Needs & Gaps

Priorities for Future

For food safety legislative framework

Country	Needs & Gaps	Priorities for Future
Cambodia	• Lack of coordinated food safety policy • Lack of inter-ministerial coordination and overlapping responsibilities	• Government shall establish comprehensive food safety legislative frameworks with standards (if there is no) through co-operating with stakeholders in the supply chain from Public and Private sector, for discussing the measures shall be included under the legislative framework • Develop a comprehensive strategy for coordinating among different agencies for avoiding duplication of work; this should be coupled with constant trainings to enhance the human capability among various government agencies • Assessment shall be performed to assess the needs in terms of manpower in developing the capacity in human resource • Constant review to align the practices with the regional/international food safety practices
China	• Lack of coordination across the agencies	
Laos	• Insufficient human resources	
Myanmar	• Underdeveloped in terms legislative framework, and standards • Lack of coordination across the agencies	
Thailand	• Lack of comprehensive food safety law and system • Lack of communication	
Vietnam	• Lack of clarification in terms of legislations • Lack of comprehensive food control management system	

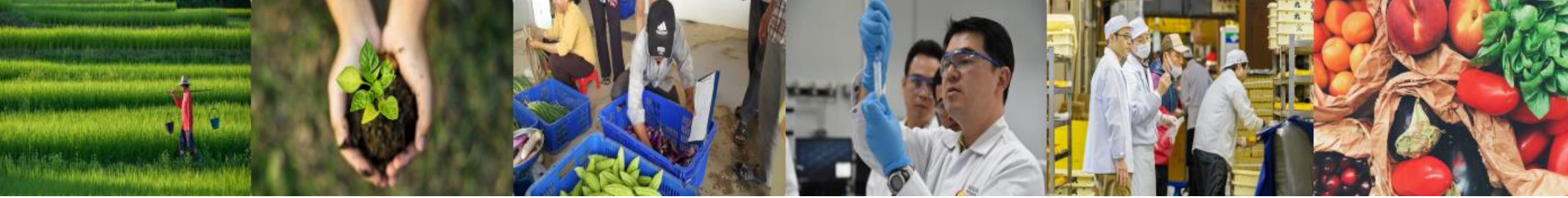



Needs & Gaps

Priorities for Future

For Good Agriculture Practices (GAP)

Country	Needs & Gaps	Priorities for Future
Cambodia	• Lack of regulatory framework to facilitate domestic adoption and compliance with ASEAN GAP standard. • Lack of understanding of GAP • Limited resources (manpower, laboratories)	• Promote GAP through increasing pilot areas, conducting training workshop to educate farmers, inspectors and public • Gradually harmonise with ASEAN GAP • Funding for capacity building
China	• Limited number of Chinese farmers will be able to become certified for First class certification	• Strengthening the training of practitioners • Strengthening international cooperation and exchange
Laos	• Lack of understanding of GAP • Limited resources (manpower, laboratories)	• Promote GAP through increasing pilot areas, conducting training workshop to educate farmers, inspectors and public • Set up strategy roadmap in implementing GAP • Funding for capacity building
Myanmar	• Limited for domestic consumption	• Focus implementation of GAP in domestic field through conducting workshops and training to the local farmers. • Funding for capacity building
Thailand	• Potential conflict of interest in QGAP	• Constant review to ensure alignment and avoid potential conflict of interest
Vietnam	• Lack of consumer trust	• Provide credibility scheme



LABORATORY

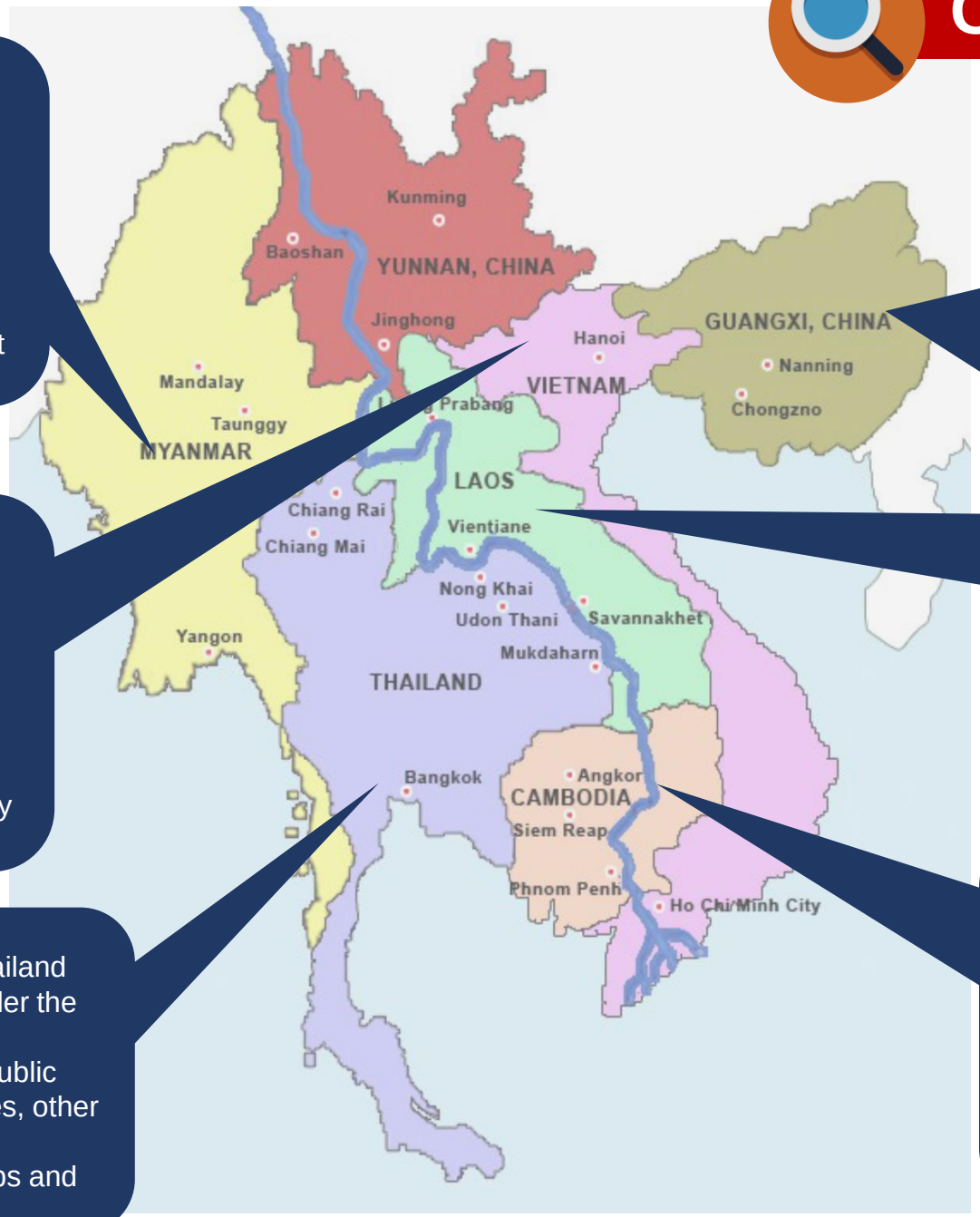
- Current Status
- Needs and Gaps
- Priorities for Future

Current Status

Myanmar
The FDA has three food laboratories based in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay. These laboratories support the food inspection program and carry out chemical and microbiological testing of food as part of the FDA post-market surveillance program.

Vietnam
Thai MOH, MARD and MOIT are mainly involved in food safety testing. Each ministry has its own network of food safety related laboratory systems. The Vice Prime Minister through MOH is in charge of the overall laboratory structure.

Thailand
The laboratory setup in Thailand consists of laboratories under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Industries, other government Ministries and Departments, University labs and private laboratories.



China
On 2008 report reported that there are more than 3913 food testing laboratories were accredited by the China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment. More recent research reports (2013) more than 6,000 laboratories, and staffing numbers of around 60,000.

Laos
Multiple food testing and inspection laboratories are in place: Food and Drug Department and the Food and Drug Quality Control Centre (FDQCC),National Animal Health Laboratory (NHAL),etc.

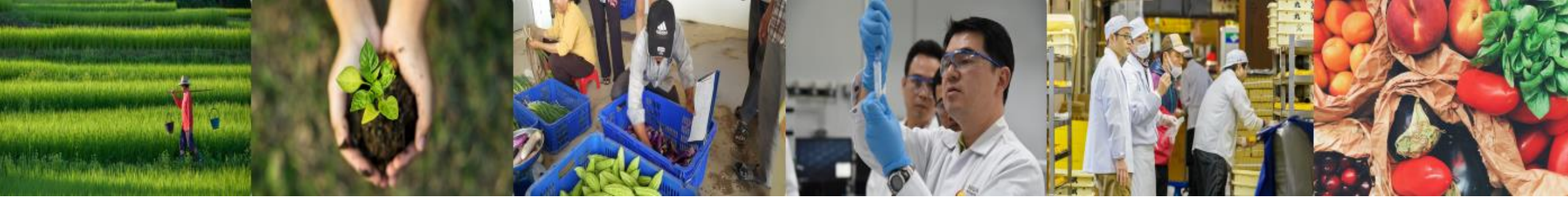
Cambodia
Both government laboratories (Camcontrol Testing Laboratory (CTL), Industrial Laboratory Centre of Cambodia (ILCC), National Agricultural Laboratory (NAL), etc.) & non-government laboratories (The Pasteur Institute of Cambodia (IPC),Intertek Testing Services) are involved in food control in Cambodia.




Needs & Gaps

Priorities for Future

Country	Needs & Gaps	Priorities for Future
Cambodia	• Lack of clear laboratory's mandates (Overlaps found) • Poor facilities and equipment • Lack of trained manpower (High cost of training) • Lack of concrete data for food safety monitoring	1. Comprehensive study shall be performed to clearly understand the current status and needs of the country 2. To clearly delineate the scopes of mandates for different laboratories to avoid overlaps and allocate resources more effectively 3. To strengthen laboratory capacities in terms of: • Improving equipment and facilities • Conducting training for the laboratory scientists and inspectors • Establishing robust data system for information sharing and monitoring 4. To advocate laboratory accreditation 5. Monitoring
China	• Inadequate equipment (rapid test-kits) or only available to better-resourced areas • Limited research on facilities for food safety testing exist	
Laos	• Poor equipment • Lack of experienced and qualified staff	
Myanmar	• Poor equipment • Lack of experienced and qualified staff • Limited resources for market testing and surveillance of foods on the domestic market • Lack of accredited laboratory	
Thailand	• Lack of information sharing system	
Vietnam	• Lack of coordinated laboratory network at the national level • Lack of resources (equipment and fund)	



TRACEABILITY

- Current Status
- Needs and Gaps
- Priorities for Future

Current Status

Myanmar

- Myanmar is at the process of developing its national food safety law, and the draft has included a clause on product recall.

Vietnam

- The Prime Minister has recently approved of a traceability scheme and national traceability portal to be developed by 2020.
- Several regulatory frameworks(circular, standards, decree) cover traceability perspective to guide various activities involved in traceability system.

Thailand

- High level of adoption of barcoding in Thailand. Food industry is self-regulating in order to comply with export country requirements.Specialised requests for traceability also exists from retail chains.
- On regulatory, Thai FDA is drafting law on food traceability while ACFS has been driving national traceability system based on 2D barcodes. Article 3.2.2 from TAS 9028-2008 (issued by ACFS) also explain the scope should be covered under traceability.

China

- On regulatory, several standards/ statements were released to guide the traceability activities in food chain,
- In overall, food traceability progress is slow due to institutional reform (from FDA to SMRA). MoA is responsible for promoting agriculture food traceability while MoC is active in coordinating and promoting the national traceability system too.

Laos

- As foreign retailers enter the market, there will be new requirements on suppliers such as barcoding, electronic data sharing, and traceability.
- No direct reference to traceability or recall in the policy under The National Food Safety Policy (Ministry of Public Health 20:2009).

Cambodia

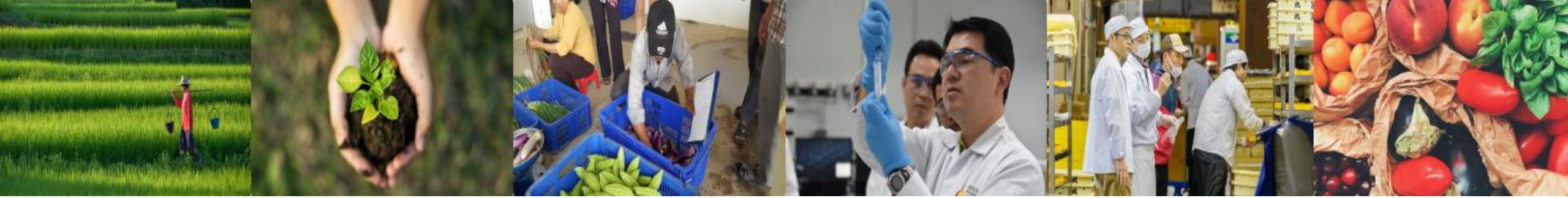
- Pre-mature to expect food companies to have full-fledged traceability systems.
- On regulatory, if Cambodia follows neighbouring countries, government might start to explore stricter requirements which also include traceability.




Needs & Gaps

Priorities for Future

Needs & Gaps	Country	Priorities for Future
Get farmers organized	• Myanmar • Laos	• Government must lead the development of the legal framework, develop national procedures and policies, co-cooperating with stakeholders in the supply chain from Public and Private sector, for each selected product • Government must implement the regulatory measures • Develop national level, traceability system, with low cost of ownership for large number of farmers and entrepreneurs • Government should assist in the organization of farmers • Stakeholder briefings and capacity building should be held, in order to create awareness about traceability amongst all stakeholders. • Government could use traceability to help farmers to reach new markets and promote country brand • Support by experts to implement the traceability system • Regional GMS alignment of traceability systems to ensure compliance with national requirements and easy cross border trade facilitation
Ensure infrastructure and connectivity supports exchange of traceability and enables supply chains	• Myanmar • Laos • Vietnam • Cambodia	
Raise industry awareness of food safety, food chain management, certification, traceability information	• Myanmar • Laos • Vietnam • Cambodia	
Develop the required regulatory framework to support traceability implementation	• Myanmar • Laos • Cambodia • Thailand	
Enhance consumer education	• Myanmar • Cambodia • Thailand	
Develop a plan for national traceability system – nationwide roll out, or harmonization of existing regional systems, and alignment with other similar initiatives	• China • Thailand • Vietnam • Laos • Cambodia • Myanmar	



PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

FIA - GMS countries – ADB

Laboratory

2017

FIA presented recommendations on increasing the safety and quality of food products from GMS in terms of **legislation, laboratory capacity building, harmonised food safety standards, traceability, and risk communication.**

2017 DEC

Project of for food safety: **laboratory capacity building (*Train the trainer*)** in GMS was proposed. 4 phases are involved in the project.

2018 JAN

Phase 1(Training in methods of determination for mycotoxins) was held in Singapore through public-private partnerships (ADB, FIA, Nestle, AVA (current SFA), Waters Corporation, IFSTL) for all GMS participants.

2018 OCT

Phase 2 (Training of trainers) was held in Singapore through public-private partnerships (ADB, FIA, Nestle, AVA (current SFA), Waters Corporation, IFSTL) for all GMS participants.

Vietnam was selected as pilot country to conduct the in-country training for **Phase 3 (Reproduction of training in GMS countries).**

2019 APR

Phase 4 (Proficiency testing) will be carried out in Vietnam to assess the capacity of the participants to perform analysis within the ISO17025 accreditation scheme.

2019 TBC

Phase 3 will be performed for the rest of the GMS countries

Traceability (GS1)

FIA presented recommendations on increasing the safety and quality of food products from GMS in terms of **legislation, laboratory capacity building, harmonised food safety standards, traceability, and risk communication.**

Stakeholder Consultations were held in Phnom Penh, Vientiane, Hanoi, Nanning, Nay Pyi Taw.

Natural Garden in Cambodia was selected as the first pilot company. **Pre-pilot preparation was performed.**

There is **potential to carry out wider range of initiatives** boosting the traceability for food chains in GMS countries.

2017

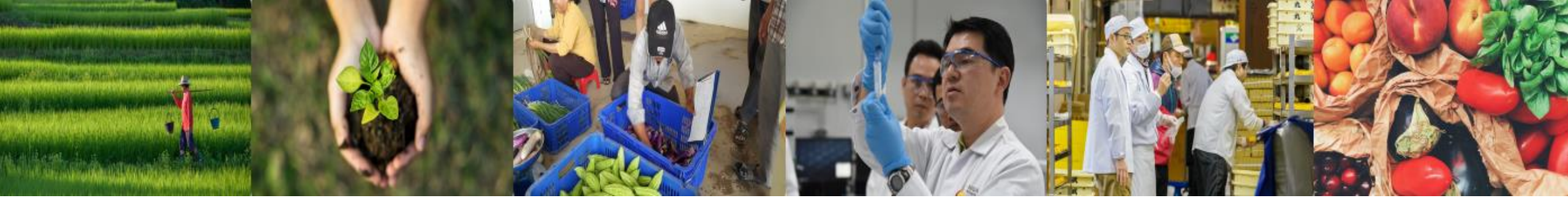
2018

2019 TBC

A **traceability project** was proposed with the support from GS1 (FIA industry partner who experts in food chain traceability). A series of different activities were planned under this project.

Capacity building were carried out for the selected participants from Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, China, and Myanmar.

GS1 and FIA continue working closely with governments and the engagement with the pilot company will be ongoing to explore how to include other relevant stakeholders for potential cross border pilots.



CONCLUSION

&

WAY FORWARD




- In **conclusion**, the **needs and future initiatives are different** in each of the GMS countries, however, in overall, **some similarities still found** in between the countries. Apart from specific in-country initiatives, **collaboration among GMS countries** will be critical to improve the regional food safety management while facilitating cross-border trade. **Public-private partnership** is the key strategy in commencing the collaboration.

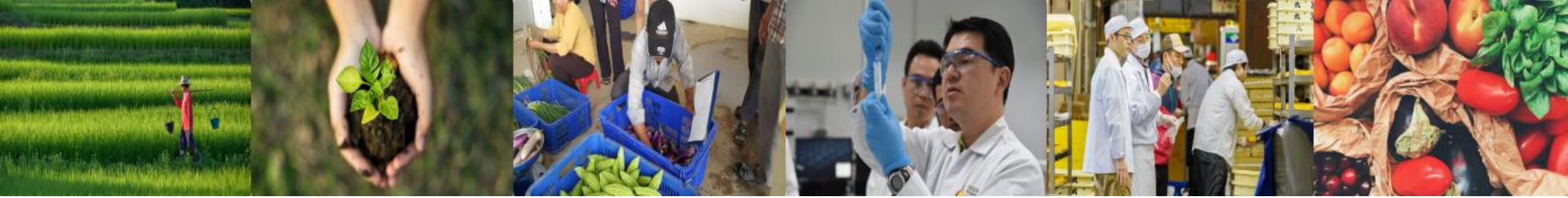
Several **key actions from the Public-private partnership** are suggested as follow:

- To provide technical support towards **harmonisation of standards** related to food safety and quality assurance, certification (GAP practices & Traceability), laboratories systems.

- To enhance the **capacity in certification and establishing quality assurance system (laboratory & human resource)** for promoting compliance with food safety standards in both domestic and regional trade along with an overarching food safety communication plan.

- To facilitate information **sharing and education** to food chain players (farmers, manufacturers, suppliers, customers, etc.) on the knowledge related to policy, practices, and **food risk communication** (involved not only food safety communication, but crisis preventative measures and interventions, precautionary advocacy for healthy lifestyle, and trust building system)

- **Moving forward**, FIA would like to continue the **ongoing work on lab training (phase 3 & 4)** for the rest of the GMS countries as it's a proven **scalable and sustainable model** through the partnership. Moreover, FIA would like seek for the **collaboration opportunity for operating the traceability initiative** in the remaining GMS countries. Last but not least, FIA would like to seek for the opportunity in launching **food risk communication toolkit** to serve as a reference material in promoting food risk communication in GMS countries.



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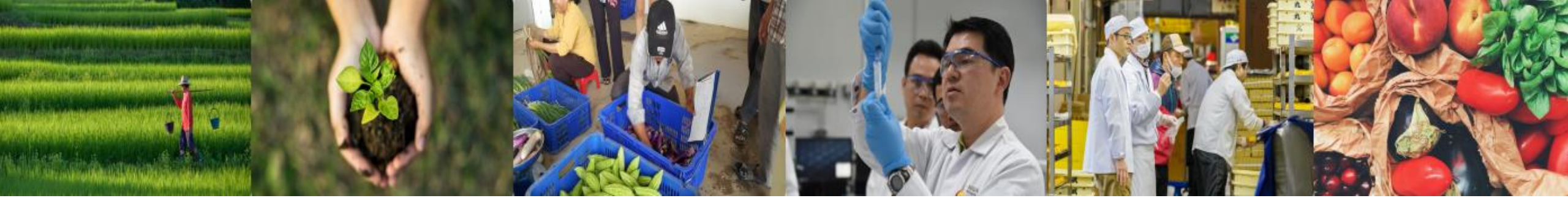

Panel Discussion

1. What are the key challenges for your country/organization in addressing **food safety and quality standards, certification and traceability**, from the perspective of enabling policies, capacities and investments in infrastructure?
2. What are the current efforts of your country/organization in terms of policies, building capacities and mobilizing investment for infrastructure? Are there any best practices that could be replicated more widely in the GMS to address such challenges?
3. Can you suggest 3-4 key priorities for action that could mobilize more support from the private sector (through public-private partnerships), development partners, research institutions, and civil society? What can be done differently from the way we are addressing these challenges? Please give concrete examples of specific policies, or types of skills that need to be enhanced, or types of infrastructure investments that should be promoted.
4. Are there any major advantages or disadvantages in adopting a regional approach to address these transboundary challenges? What can be done by ADB and other development partners to promote more regional cooperation in this area?