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## Nine agricultural products listed as high-value crops

An Australian government-sponsored group has come up with a list of nine high-value Cambodian crops. The study by the Cambodia-Australia Agricultural Value Chain (CAVAC) identified mangoes, lentils, cashews, peppers, sweet potatoes, avocados, sesame, palm sugar and dried bananas as prime products.

The list is targeted at the public, farmers, processors and those with stakes in the Cambodian agricultural sector. Commerce Minister Pan Sorasak announced the cream of the crop in a video ceremony.

The government is hoping to increase demand in key markets such as Australia, New Zealand, Europe, China and ASEAN and find new buyers elsewhere. It aims to increase environmentally-friendly trade to support its policy of reducing poverty and developing the economy.

CAVAC's work on making Cambodian agriculture more competitive includes the use of cashless payments for irrigation fees and the promotion of processing by-products such as biochar, which is produced by burning organic material without oxygen at high temperatures to be mixed with soil. CAVAC also promotes low-cost direct seeding technology and helps the public and private sectors work together on irrigation schemes. During the ceremony Sorasak outlined the commerce ministry's achievements, including the signing of free trade agreements with China and South Korea, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP), which is expected to come into force next year creating the world's biggest trading bloc and the implementation of the Cambodia Industrial Development Policy 2015-2025, which aims to promote the country's industrial development to help maintain sustainable and inclusive high economic growth through economic diversification, strengthening competitiveness and promoting productivity.

The free trade agreement with China has so far allowed the direct export of Cambodian mangoes and bananas rather

(continued to page 3)

## Cambodia to Use AstraZeneca Vaccines from UK in Third Dose Vaccination Campaign



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia said that Cambodia will use the UK-donated AstraZeneca vaccines in the third dose or booster dose vaccination campaign in the country.

"I would like to emphasise that the AstraZeneca vaccine, which is a valuable humanitarian donation from the Government and people of the United Kingdom, will be used in the Third Dose or Booster Dose Vaccination Campaign," Samdech Techo Prime Minister said at the handover ceremony of UK-donated 415,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine at Phnom Penh International Airport this afternoon (5 AUG).

Samdech Techo PM also requested the United Kingdom to continue to provide humanitarian assistances in the form of vaccines, as well as to facilitate Cambodia in ordering additional AstraZeneca vaccines to meet future needs.

Samdech Techo PM extended his warm welcome and gratitude to the Government and people of the United Kingdom, for donating 415,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to the Government and people of Cambodia. "This humanitarian assistance is a precious and generous deed to help each other amid this difficult time, in which vaccines have become a key strategic goods in

(continued to page 3)



## Economic growth projected at 4.8 percent in 2022: Deputy PM

Cambodia’s economic growth is projected to see robust growth next year because of economic recovery resulting from the government’s Covid-19 vaccination programme.

The growth projection was made by Aun Pornmoniroth, deputy prime minister and minister of economy and finance during a parliamentary workshop on building a macroeconomic policy framework and the allocation of public finances in the draft law on the national budget 2022.

The event was chaired by Lok Chumteav Khuon Sudary, second vice-president of the National Assembly.

DPM Pornmoniroth recalled that Cambodia’s economic growth was projected previously at 4 percent in 2021 after contracting 3.1 percent in 2020. But because of the Feb 20 incident and the Delta new variant, t growth was lowered to 2.4 percent.

“Cambodia will have economic growth of 4.8 percent in 2022 as [the Kingdom] is able to recover economically soon due to the campaign to vaccinate people, build immunisation in the community and push for a normalised society,” he said.

Other predictions on economic growth have been more optimistic.

In the fight against Covid-19, the government has released about \$719 million of intervention spending to protect people’s lives, stabilise their livelihoods and support business activities, he said. But because of the events of Feb 20, when Coronavirus-infected people bribed their way out of a quarantine hotel, the budget for Covid-19 intervention doubled to \$1.454 billion.

“Having an emergency budget is not a coincidence. This comes from the prudent thinking of the royal government’s long-term vision,” DPM Pornmoniroth said.

The economy in the Kingdom is mainly driven by garment and footwear exports, tourism, real estate, construction and agriculture.



## Cambodia Receives Two More Million Doses of Sinovac Vaccine

Two more million doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine Cambodia has ordered from China arrived in Phnom Penh this morning (31 AGU).

H.E. Dr. Yuok Sambath, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Health and her colleagues welcomed the vaccines’ arrival at Phnom Penh International Airport.

According to the health secretary of state, these 2 million doses of Sinovac will be used as booster doses.

With the newly-arrived vaccines, Cambodia has currently more than 27 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines from purchases and donations: 7.8 million doses of Sinopharm, 16.5 million doses of Sinovac, 1,739,000 doses of AstraZeneca, and 1,064,600 doses of Johnson & Johnson.

As of Aug. 30, for the target of 10 million adults, 9,175,478 people have obtained their first jab, or 91.75 percent, among them 8,153,574 have been fully vaccinated.

For the children-youth aged 12 to under 18 years old, 1,518,488 or 77.20 percent of the nearly two-million target have received their first dose, while 304,519 already got the 2nd dose.

Besides, 610.428 booster doses have been administered to frontline officials across the countries.





### Nine agricultural .....

than sending them via Vietnam or Thailand and Cambodia is hoping to add Pailin longan to the list.

Banana exports to China surged 77 percent in the first six months of the year, slowing slightly to a 61 percent rise in the year through July compared with a year earlier. China bought 40 percent of Cambodia's banana exports. Last year the Kingdom exported over 300,000 tonnes of fresh bananas worldwide.

Fresh mango shipments to all Cambodia's export markets rose 247 percent in the first seven months of the year to 160,000 tonnes.

Australian Ambassador Pablo Kang said the agricultural sector provided Cambodia with much-needed stability during the Coronavirus pandemic and was at the centre of economic recovery.

"CAVAC's study of Cambodia's high-value agricultural products is a new guide for future growth by encouraging the industry to diversify its export supply chain into crops," he said.

Agriculture accounts for about 22 percent of Cambodia's gross domestic product. The sector also provides employment with at least 65 percent of the country's population working in the industry.



### Cambodia to Use AstraZeneca .....

high demand in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic all over the world," he stressed.

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) will continue to fight against COVID-19, as the current outlook is full of uncertainties as the COVID-19 virus has continuously evolved and mutated into new variants, especially the Delta variant, that has been spreading rapidly in other countries, as well as in Cambodia, he said.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), vaccines can indeed provide protection against COVID-19, including the new Delta variant.

Realising this important benefit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister continued, the RGC has been trying to obtain vaccines through existing bilateral or multilateral mechanisms in the form of humanitarian assistances or direct orders. Ensuring a sufficient and timely supply of vaccines as planned has allowed the RGC to launch the COVID-19 National Vaccination Campaign from Feb. 10, 2021 with a good progress through the "Blossom" Approach.

With clear and realistic arrivals of vaccines through all available mechanisms, on Aug. 1, the RGC has decided to take a further step by launching the Vaccination Campaign for Children-Youths Aged 12 to Under 18, with an additional total population of another 2 million, he said, adding that at the same time, the RGC has decided to launch the Third Dose or Booster Dose Vaccination Campaign for frontline public officials serving in provinces along the Cambodia-Thailand border, where the Delta variant is spreading.

Taking this opportunity, Samdech Techo Hun Sen called on all Cambodian citizens to actively and fully cooperate with the RGC in the fight against COVID-19 by implementing and strictly adhering to health measures, especially the "3-Dos and 3-Don'ts" rule, as well as participating in the COVID-19 National Vaccination Campaign to protect the safety, health, as well as the well-being of our families, communities and society as a whole.

With the newly arrived vaccines, Cambodia has now almost 21 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in stock through purchases and donations: 7.2 million doses of Sinopharm, 11.5 million doses of Sinovac, 1,071,000 doses of AstraZeneca, and 1,064,600 doses of Johnson & Johnson.

As of Aug. 4, for the target of 10-million adults, 7,541,869 people have got their first jab, or 75.42 percent, among them 5,160,029 have been fully vaccinated.

For the children-youth aged 12 to under 18, whose vaccination campaign began last Sunday, 163,113 or 8.29 percent of the two-million target have received their first dose.

