



**EAPVP** Forum

**MAFF**  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

**APSA**

**USDA**

## International Seminar on Role of PVP for Development in Agriculture Sector

# Plant Variety Protection for Development of the Agricultural Sector in Cambodia

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# Background

- Agriculture is the back-bone of economy and pivotal sector to ensure food. This sector has liberated the people from famine and maintained a surplus of rice for nearly 30 years,
- The sector still faces challenges such as lack of access to the market and risk of falling prices, lack of access to modern farming techniques, lack of capital for investment, risk of climate change, and high production costs,
- RGC continues to give a high priority on agriculture and put in place the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Priority Policy Programs, focusing on promotion of agricultural production, marketability and price stability for agricultural products.

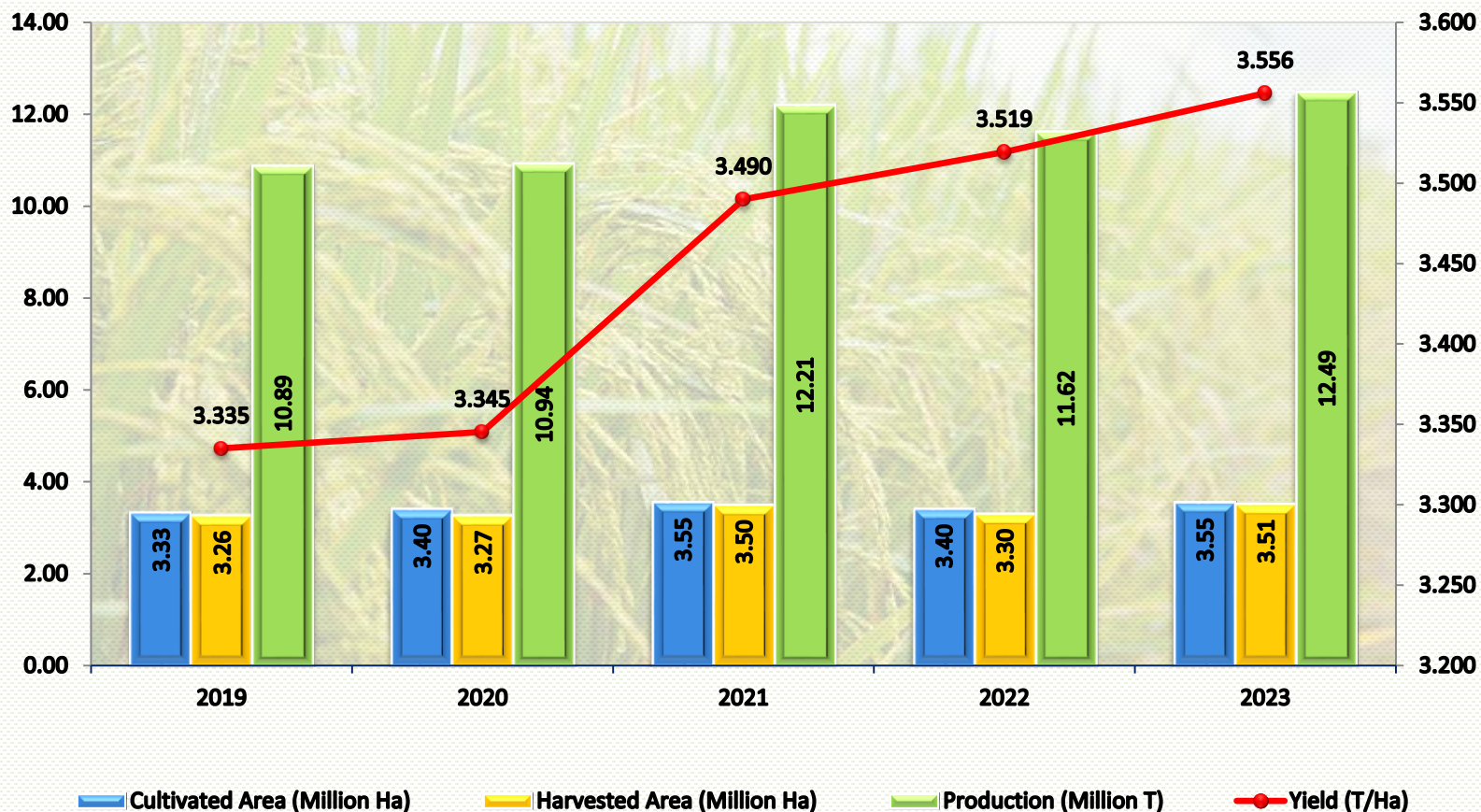


# Key Policy and Strategy for Agriculture

- Pentagon 4: Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Development and Side 3: Promotion of Agriculture and Rural Development,
- *The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Priority Policy Programs: Deployment of commune/sangkat agricultural officers; Development of modern agricultural cooperative; and Enhancing production, maintaining price stability and exploring market access,*
- ASDP's strategic goal: promote agriculture growth with strong competitive, high quality product, safety and nutrition, and increasing the effectiveness of sustainable management of natural resources.



# Rice Production from 2019 to 2023

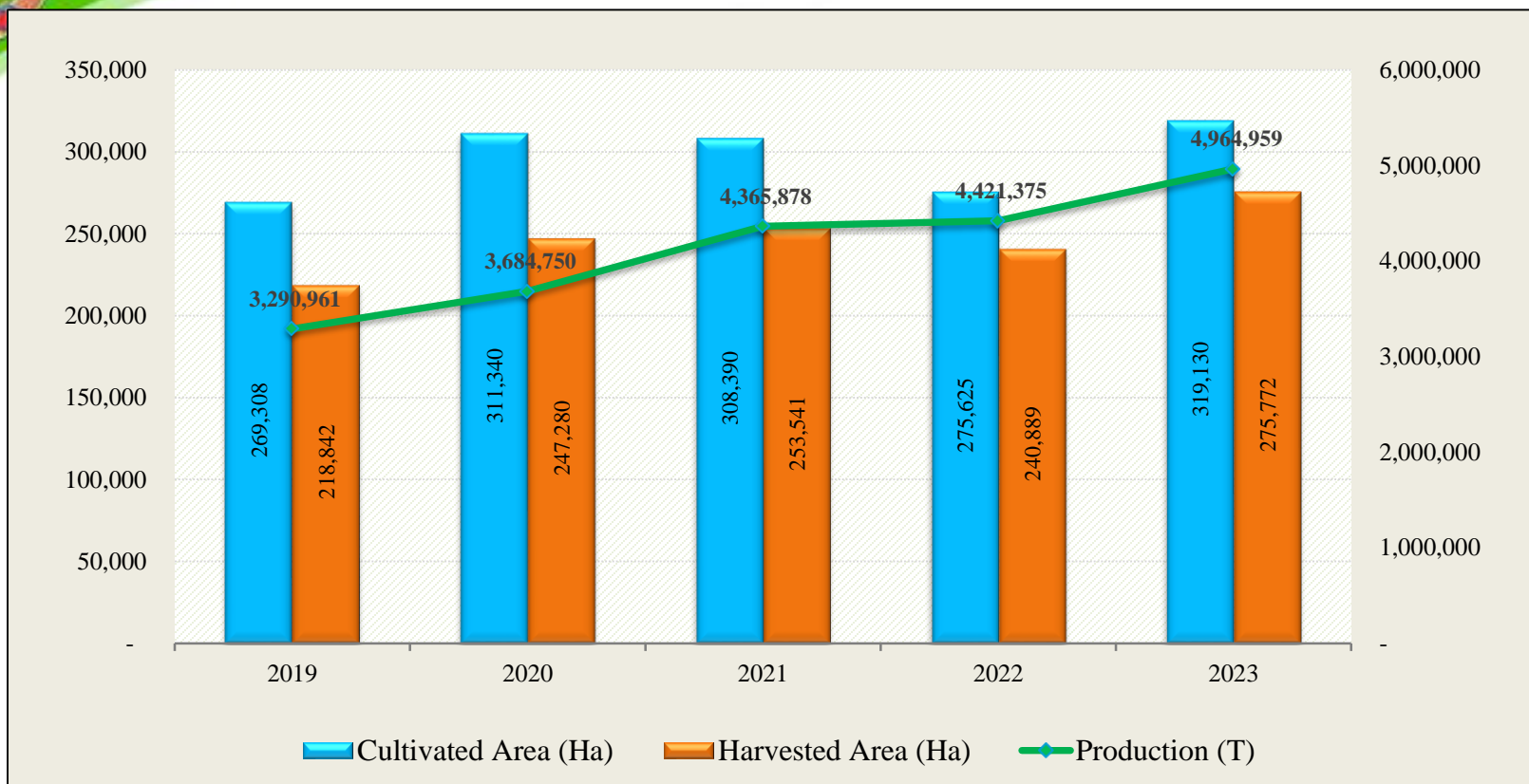


- The annual average cultivated areas increased 1.62% and the total production increased 3.50%.





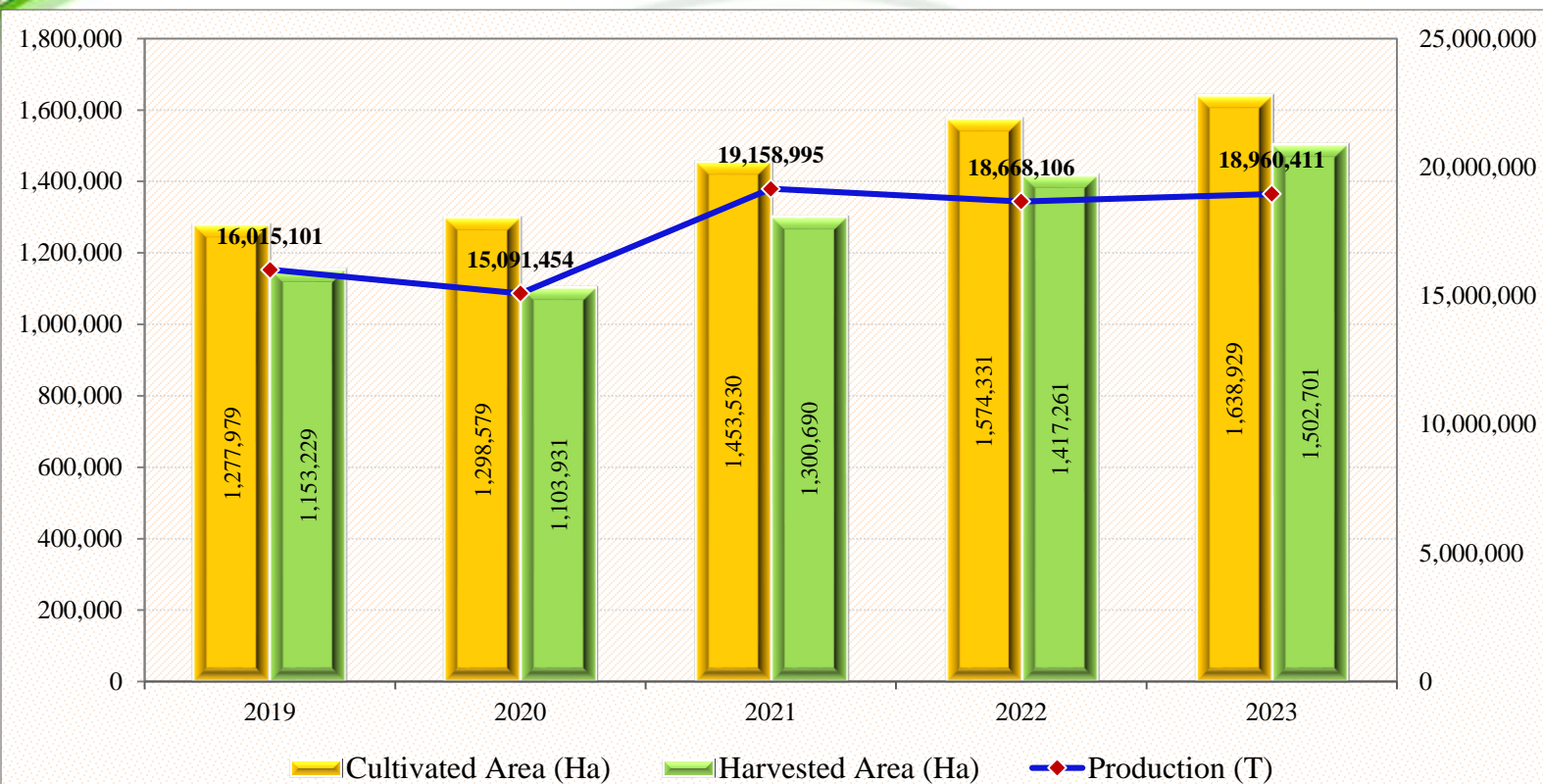
# Horticulture Production from 2019 to 2023



- The cultivated areas increased on average 4.33%, and total production increased on average 14.22%.



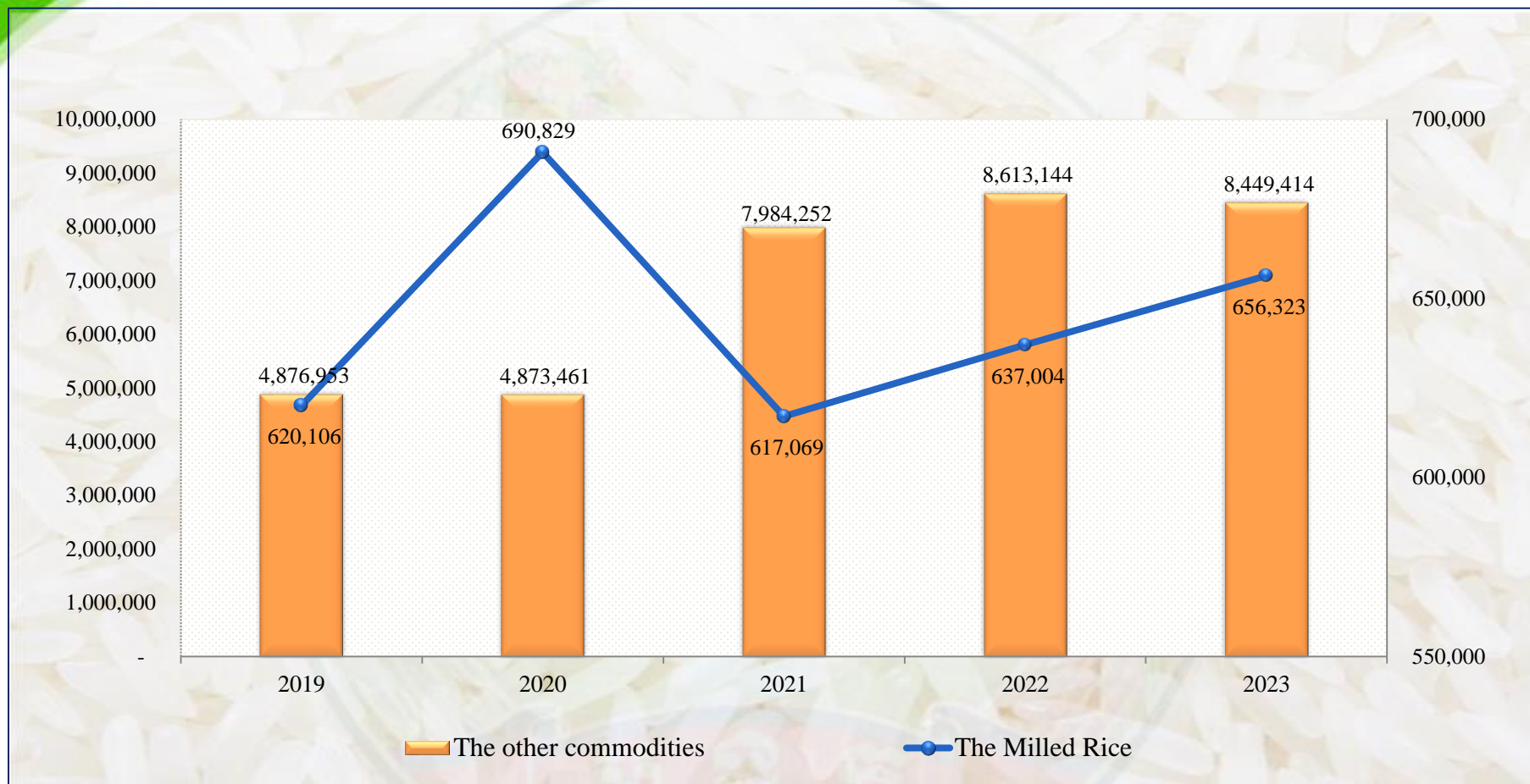
# Industrial Crop Production from 2019 to 2023



- The cultivated areas increased on average 6.42%, and production increased 4.31% per annum.



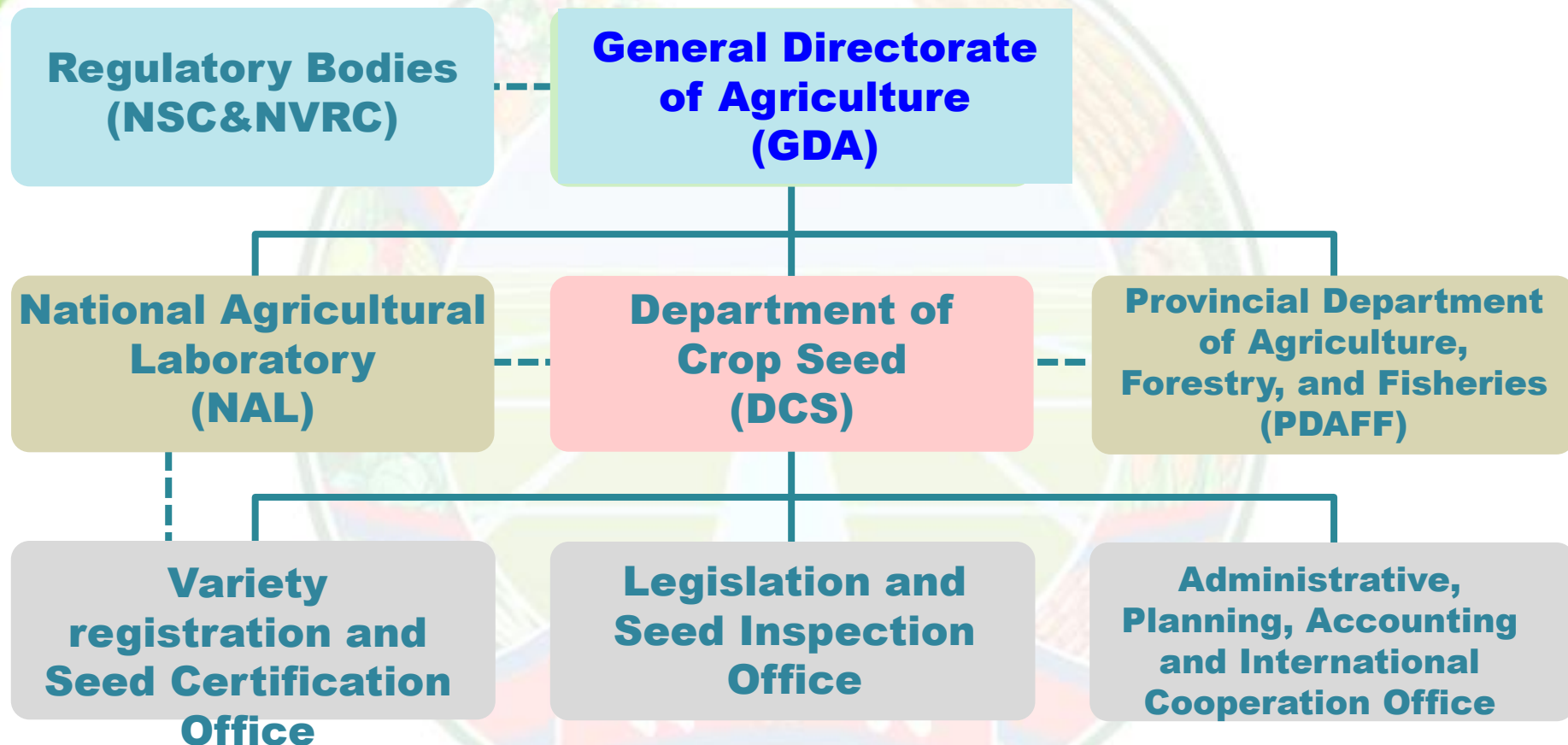
# Export of Agricultural Products, 2019-2022



- In 2023 the export of agricultural products slightly drop (-1.9%), but milled rice export increased about 3% compared to last year.



# IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE







# IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

**Seed Production  
System**

**Traditional Seed  
Production System**

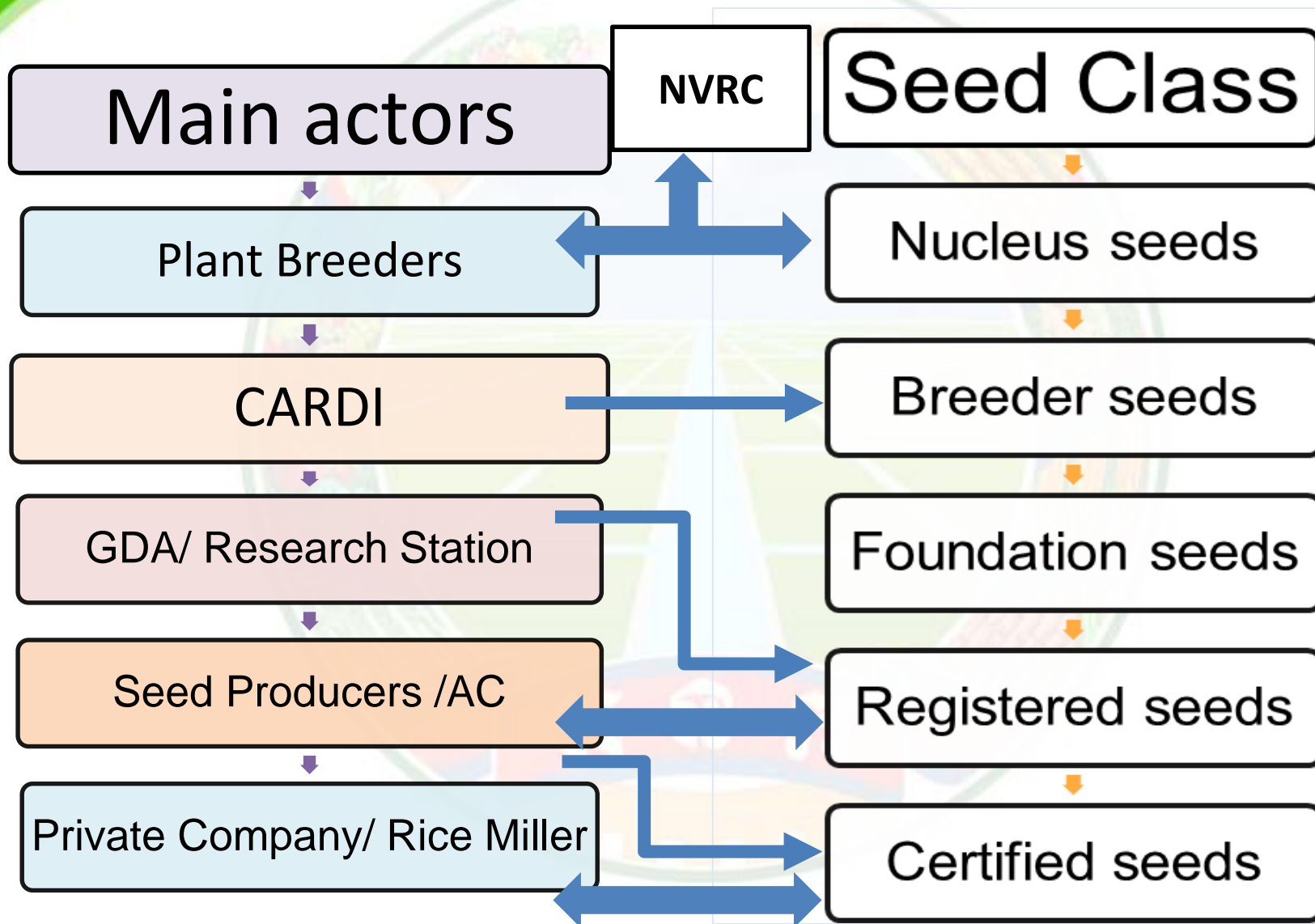
**Farmer produce seed and keep  
the seed from generation to  
generation**

**Modern seed production  
system**

**4 Classes system as BS,  
FS, RS and CS**



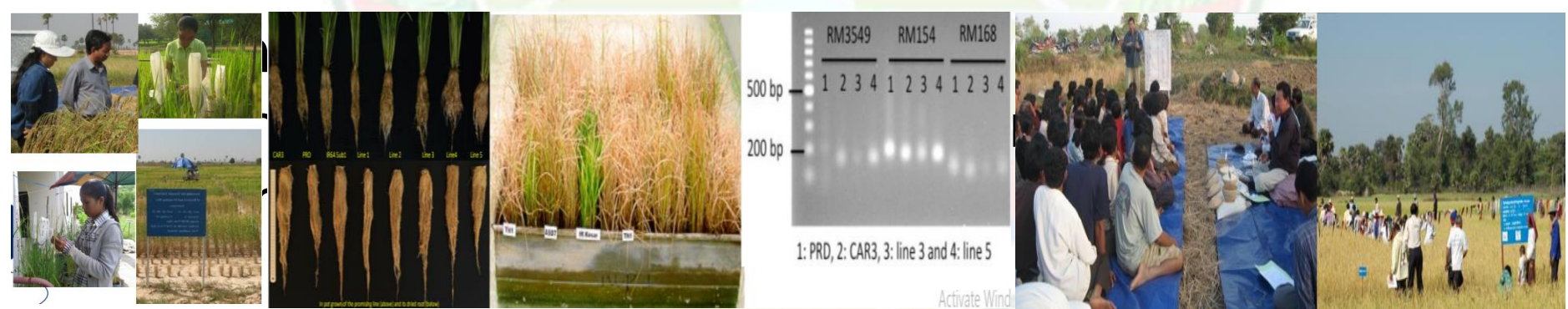
## MAIN ACTOR IN SEED SYSTEM





## Variety Development

- Breeding improved varieties is essential for maintaining and increasing agricultural productivity, particularly address the needs of market and to increase climate resilience;
- Encouraged plant breeder plant breeding and selection to increase the choice of varieties available to farmers;





## **What is Plant Variety Protection or PVP?**

- Plant Variety Protection (PVP) is a legal framework that grants exclusive rights to breeders who develop new varieties of plants.
- These rights allow the breeder to control the production, reproduction, and commercialization of the plant variety for a specified period, typically ranging from 20 to 25 years.





# **Key feature of Plant Variety Protection**

## **1. Exclusive Rights for Breeders:**

- PVP gives breeders the exclusive right to produce, sell, and market their new plant varieties.
- This means that others cannot legally use the protected variety for commercial purposes without the breeder's permission.



# Key feature of Plant Variety Protection

## 2. Criteria for Protection:

- **For a plant variety to be eligible for PVP, it must meet certain criteria:**
  - **Novelty:** The variety must not have been commercially exploited before the date of application for PVP.
  - **Distinctness:** The variety must be clearly distinguishable from any other existing variety.
  - **Uniformity:** The variety must be sufficiently uniform in its characteristics.
  - **Stability:** The variety must remain consistent in its characteristics over successive generations.



# **Key feature of Plant Variety Protection**

## **3. Duration of Protection:**

- PVP rights are granted for a fixed period, typically between 20 and 25 years, depending on the plant species and national regulations.
- During this time, the breeder has the exclusive right to benefit from the variety.



# **What role of PVP for Development of Agricultural Sector in Cambodia?**





# 1. Encouraging Innovation in Plant Breeding

- **Incentivizing Breeders:** By granting exclusive rights to breeders, PVP provides financial incentives for the development of new and improved plant varieties. This encourages both local and international breeders to invest in the research and development of crops that are better suited to Cambodia's climatic conditions, pests, and diseases.
- **Improved Crop Varieties:** The development of high-yield, disease-resistant, and climate-resilient varieties can significantly enhance the productivity of Cambodia's agricultural sector. Such varieties can help farmers achieve better yields and reduce losses due to environmental stressors.



## 2. Enhancing Agricultural Competitiveness

- **Boosting Export Potential:** With the protection of new varieties, Cambodian agriculture can produce high-quality, unique varieties that meet international standards, opening up new markets for export. This can increase the country's competitiveness in the global agricultural market.
- **Attracting Investment:** PVP can attract foreign and domestic investment in the agricultural sector by ensuring that intellectual property is protected. Investors and companies are more likely to engage in the Cambodian market if they can secure their intellectual property rights.



### 3. Promoting Sustainable Agriculture

- **Development of Resilient Varieties:** PVP encourages the creation of plant varieties that are better adapted to Cambodia's diverse agro-ecological zones. These varieties can be more resilient to climate change, helping farmers adapt to changing weather patterns and reducing the impact of climate-related risks on agriculture.
- **Conservation of Biodiversity:** While PVP focuses on new varieties, it also indirectly supports the conservation of biodiversity. Breeders often utilize local genetic resources in developing new varieties, which can help preserve Cambodia's rich biodiversity and traditional crops.



## 4. Supporting Farmers and Rural Development

- **Access to Better Seeds:** Through PVP, farmers in Cambodia can access high-quality seeds of new varieties that offer better yields, are more nutritious, or are more resistant to pests and diseases. This can lead to increased farm productivity and income.
- **Empowering Smallholders:** By providing legal protection for new varieties, PVP can empower smallholder farmers who engage in plant breeding. This recognition can provide them with opportunities to license their varieties, gain royalties, and contribute to rural economic development.





## 5. Strengthening Food Security

- **Diverse Crop Varieties:** PVP supports the development of a wide range of crop varieties that can contribute to food security in Cambodia. By introducing varieties that mature faster, are more resilient, or have higher nutritional content, PVP can help ensure a stable and diverse food supply.
- **Reducing Dependence on Imports:** The development of locally adapted varieties reduces Cambodia's dependence on imported seeds and plant materials, enhancing national food security.



## 6. Facilitating Technology Transfer

- **Adoption of Modern Practices:** PVP encourages the transfer of advanced plant breeding technologies and practices to Cambodia. Through collaborations with international breeders and companies, local researchers and farmers can gain access to cutting-edge technologies that improve agricultural productivity.
- **Capacity Building:** The establishment and enforcement of PVP laws also lead to capacity building within the country. Training programs and awareness campaigns help educate breeders, farmers, and government officials about the benefits and processes of PVP, strengthening the overall agricultural system.



## 7. Aligning with International Standards

- **Harmonization with Global Markets:** By aligning its PVP laws with international standards (such as those set by UPOV), Cambodia can ensure that its agricultural products meet global market requirements, facilitating trade and international partnerships.
- **Compliance with TRIPS:** As a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Cambodia is required to comply with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Implementing effective PVP systems helps Cambodia meet its international obligations and strengthens its position in the global trade community.



## 8. Long-Term Economic Growth

- **Value Addition:** PVP encourages value addition in agriculture by promoting the development of branded, high-quality varieties that can fetch premium prices in the market. This contributes to the overall growth of the agricultural sector and the economy.
- **Rural Employment:** The growth of the agricultural sector through PVP can lead to increased employment opportunities in rural areas, from seed production to marketing, contributing to poverty alleviation and rural development.



## Conclusion

In summary, Plant Variety Protection is a critical tool for advancing the agricultural sector in Cambodia. It fosters innovation, enhances productivity, and supports sustainable development, ultimately contributing to the economic and social well-being of the country.





Thank you for your attention

