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# **Building Sustainable Seed Systems in the Lower Mekong Region (Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Burma)**

**Funded by: U.S. Department of State/MUSP  
U.S. Department of Agriculture/FAS**

**November 2019 – August 2024**



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# Project Overview

- Institutional capacity for research, innovation, and new seed technologies
- Enabling policy environments for seed trade
- Cooperation and partnerships with the private sector
- Food Security, Water Security, Effects of Climate Change





## Opportunities

- Promote rules and science-based standards through consensus and in collaboration with regional and international partners
- Enhance seed trade among the Lower Mekong Countries and with the U.S. by:
  - 1) Help harmonize seed certification, testing, inspection, variety protection, IPR, and addressing Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
  - 2) Develop action plan to address seed related TBT and enhance Food and Water Security, and the Effects of Climate Change (long term)



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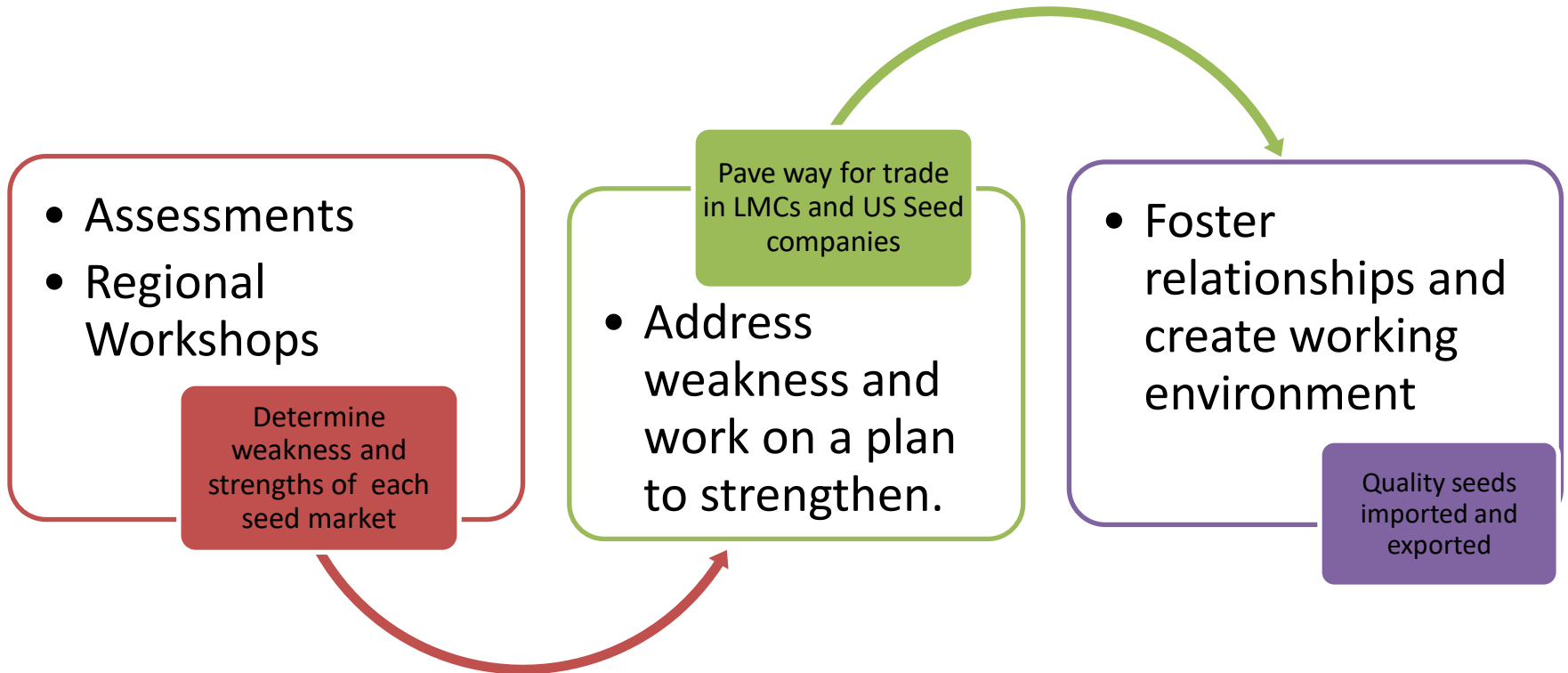
# Partners

- ASTA
- APSA
- USDA/AMS
- LMC Ministries of Agriculture
- US Embassies
- The Private Sector
- Agricultural Universities





## Expected Results





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# Accomplishments

## Pre-pandemic:

- LMCs Seed Assessment (USDA/AMS and FAS) 2019
- Regional LMCs workshop to discuss harmonization opportunities (Kuala Lumpur) 2019





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## During Pandemic:

# New Plant Variety Protection and Intellectual Property Rights Workshop (ASTA) (141 participants, Hanoi, October 6; Can Tho, October 28, 2020)

- Plant Variety Protection regulated in the Crop Production Law (Issue)
- handling of Plant Breeder Right (PBR) violations (Major issue)

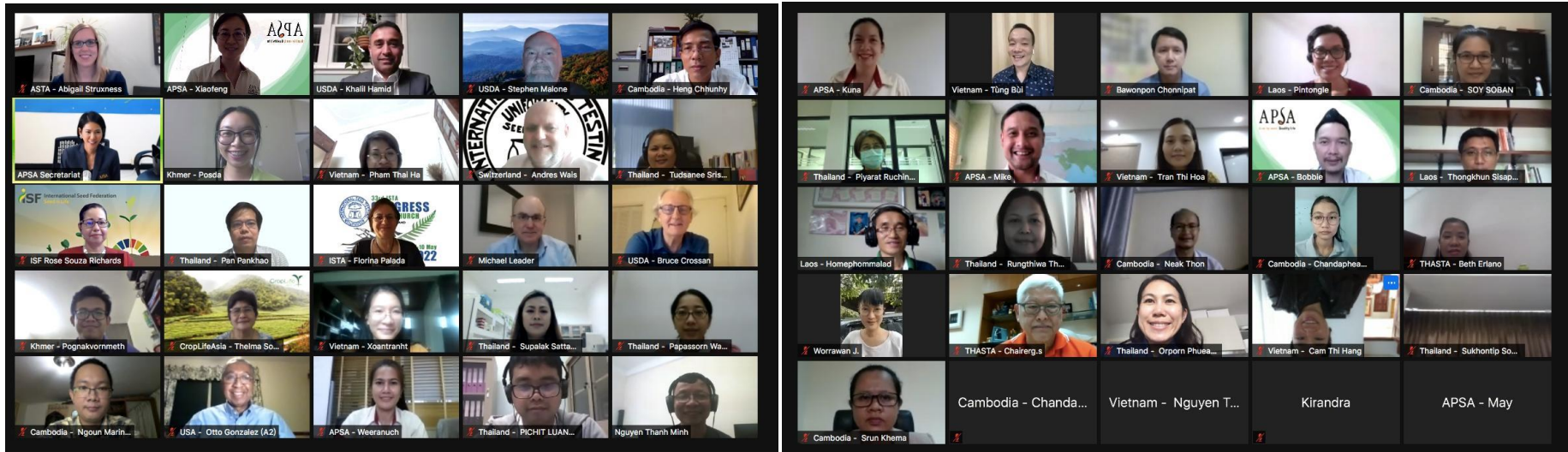




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# Annual MUSP Regional Virtual Seed Workshop “Strengthening sustainable seed systems for the LMCs” (74 Participants, June 8-10, 2021 & 82 Participants, July 25 - 27)

- Themed workshop around Plant Variety Protection, Seed Certification and Accreditation, and Phytosanitary Regulation
- Country presentations on status of seed situation
- Action plans to target areas requiring capacity development



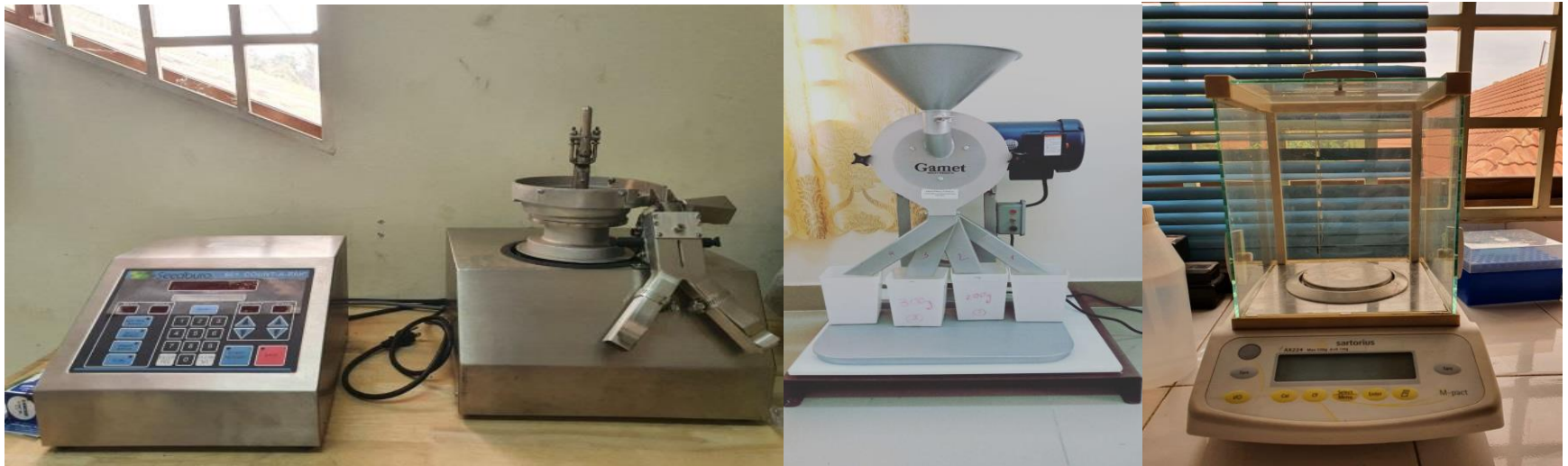




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# Seed Quality Management Systems Workshop Cambodia ( 47 Participants, October 28 and November 2, 2021)

- First step in establishing an ISTA accredited seed laboratory (GoC Priority)
- Conducted by USDA/AMS Senior Seed Laboratory Supervisor, NC
- Presentation by Seed Laboratory Supervisor Thailand





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## Activities 2023 - 2024

- EAPVP Forum and Regional Workshop on PVP, August 2 – 3, Vientiane, Laos
- Asian Short Course on Agribiotechnology, Biosafety Regulation, and Communication, September 11-15, 2023, Bogor, Indonesia
- Annual MUSP Regional Seed Workshop, October 3 – 5, Bangkok, Thailand (Hybrid)
- Regional Phytosanitary expert consultation (2 days), March 2024
- Regional expert consultation on genetic resources and biodiversity (4 days) April 2024
- UPOV awareness creation workshop (2 full days), June 2024



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**Questions?**