

**Welcome Remarks by H.E Lao Sokharom, General Secretary,
Council for Agricultural and Rural Development
at the 4th National Nutrition Day**

**Under the Theme “GROW AND CONSUME DIVERSE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO BE
STRONG AND HEALTHY”**

My respect to:

- Excellency **Yim Chhay Ly**, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development!
- Excellency **Veng Sakhon**, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries!
- Madam **Nancy Walters**, WFP Country Representative to Cambodia!
- Mr. **Keith Porter**, Executive Director, Helen Keller International to Cambodia!
- Madam **Veena Reddy**, Deputy Mission Director, USAID to Cambodia!
- Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Members of the Royal Government of Cambodia!
- Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Directors of Development Partners Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, and Private Sectors!
- Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen! National and International Distinguished Guests, Students, and Members of the Event!

Today marks a glorious opportunity and an exciting day that the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, development partners, civil society organizations, and telephone companies, is organizing **the 4th Anniversary of the National Nutrition Day** (November 6, 2014-November 6, 2017) under the theme theme “**GROW AND CONSUME DIVERSE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO BE STRONG AND HEALTHY**” under the high presidency of H.E **Yim Chhay Ly**, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development.

We would like to inform you that the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) under the ideal leadership of Samdech Akka Mohasena Padei Techo **Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has decisively chosen November 6 every year to celebrate the National Nutrition Day which aims to promote wider public awareness across the country of the importance of nutrition that contributes to building human capital, increasing work productivity, and promoting economic growth. **Nutrition is a cross-sectoral issue**, thus on the national nutrition day different themes are selected in accordance with each sector and reality.

- The 1st National Nutrition Day was held on November 6, 2014 under the theme “**Better Nutrition for Better Life**”;
- The 2nd National Nutrition Day was held on November 6, 2014 under the theme “**Breastfeeding is the Best Investment for Your Child’s Life**”;
- The 3rd National Nutrition Day was held on November 6, 2016 under the theme “**Improved Hygiene And Nutrition Make Children Grow**”;
- Today we are gathering here to celebrate the **4th National Nutrition Day** under the theme “**Grow And Consume Diverse And Nutritous Food To Be Strong And Healthy**”.

On this glorious occasion, I have a great honour to warmly welcome and express my profound thanks for the highest presence of H.E **Yim Chhay Ly**, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development, Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen, National and International Distinguished Guests, Civil Servants, Teachers, Students, for spending your valuable and busy time to take part in this very important event today!

On behalf of the organisor, please allow me, with the permission granted by H.E **Yim Chhay Ly**, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development, to express my sincere thanks for line ministries, institutions, USAID, UNICEF, FAO, WFP, GIZ, and the SUN-CSA network led by Helen Keller International for their collaborative efforts to organizing and supporting this day’s **4th National Nutrition Day**. I would also like to acknowledge specifically Mobitel, MetFone, and Smart for sending out key messages from this national nutrition day to their smartphone users across the country with a view to educate and promote public awareness of the importance of nutrition sensitive agriculture. Those slogans include:

1. Feed your child aged 6 months and above with vegetables, fruits, fish, eggs and meat for healthy growth.
2. Eat diversified foods such as vegetables, fruits, fish, meat, and eggs for a healthy family.
3. Grow vegetables and fruit trees at home, in communities, and in schools for better nutrition.

In order to clearly understand the attention paid by the RGC in the promotion of nutrition which is a **catalyst for sustainable development**, I would like to read a message of Samdech Techo **Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, delivered at this 4th National Nutrition Day under the theme “**Grow And Consume Diverse And Nutritous Food To Be Strong And Healthy**” as following:

(reading message of Samdech).