

# The First Expert Committee Meeting

## on the Development of an AWD-JCM Methodology for Cambodia

### 1. Date, Time, and Format

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026

13:00 – 15:30 (Cambodia Time)

15:00 – 17:30 (Japan Standard Time)

Format: Online

### 2. Description

On April 24, 2026, the first Expert Committee (EC) meeting on developing an AWD-JCM methodology for Cambodia was held online by bringing together representatives from the governments of Cambodia and Japan, as well as international organizations and research institutions (see attachment). This EC meeting aimed at developing a methodology that combines Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) to reduce methane emissions from paddy fields and the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) in Cambodia.

This meeting was convened to conduct technical considerations for developing a methodology best suited to Cambodia's current circumstances, with a view to disseminating the AWD-JCM methodology which was approved by the governments of Japan and the Philippines in February 2025 (hereinafter referred to as the "Philippines' Methodology") to Cambodia.

In Asia, including Cambodia, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions—particularly methane from paddy fields—remains a major challenge, and various efforts to achieve sustainable paddy rice cultivation without negatively affecting rice productions are underway. To further promote such initiatives, the EC has begun developing a methodology that combines AWD technology, which can reduce GHG emissions such as methane without lowering rice yields, with the private-sector financing function of the JCM.

At the meeting, an overview of the Philippines' methodology and its findings was presented, along with information on the current status of AWD adoption in Cambodia, the role of the AWD specified in the National Inventory and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and recent progress of decarbonization policy development in Cambodia. Based on these, taking into account the current state of Cambodia's climate, agricultural practices, and irrigation infrastructure, it was recognized that there was a need to develop a practical methodology that generates highly transparent and reliable credits while also offering high usability of the methodology. From this point forward, the key issues will be identified and the necessary data for the methodology development will be collected, while flexible deliberations will also be conducted in response to the domestic and international

circumstances surrounding Cambodia.

### **3. Key Points of Discussion**

The following issues were mainly discussed at the EC meeting:

- In developing a methodology for Cambodia, it is necessary not only to develop the methodology based on scientific evidence derived from various data, referring to existing methodologies including the Philippines' methodology, but also to give full consideration to the specific circumstances of Cambodia. This approach will enhance the credibility of credits generated under the methodology.
- The eligibility criteria for the AWD needs to be carefully examined by taking into account Cambodia's specific weather and soil conditions, as well as actual measurement data from existing projects.
- Although AWD is not currently widely disseminated in Cambodia, it has significant potential for broader application and could contribute greatly to GHG emission reductions. Moreover, it could significantly contribute to increasing incomes of local farmers, not only through redistribution of part of the credit revenues, but also by enhancing additional value of rice.
- While the use of satellite remote sensing technology, which is under rapid technological advancement, contributes to more efficient project monitoring, its technical limitations still exist at present. Therefore, it is necessary to develop the methodology with a clear understanding of both these advantages and limitations.
- In developing the methodology, it is important to promote collaboration with various governmental ministries and agencies in Cambodia through information sharing, as well as to strengthen collaboration with private-sector entities and other stakeholders.