

Press Release

The First Cambodian Standardized Baseline of Rice Mill Sector is Adopted by UNFCCC



Warsaw, 8 November 2013 – The Clean Development Mechanism Executive Board of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the Cambodian DNA's proposal on standardized baseline "Technology switch in the rice mill sector of Cambodia" in its 76th meeting held from 4 to 8 November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland. Globally, this is the 4th approved standardised baseline and the 1st one in rice mill sector. The standardised baseline was developed jointly by the Cambodian Ministry of Environment and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) of Japan and was submitted to the CDM Executive Board for approval in December 2012. It applies to the rice mill sector via installation of new equipment and/or retrofitting of existing equipment to generate mechanical or electrical power to drive rice mill machines. Eligible, less carbon-intensive technologies with change of energy source include: rice husk gasification and engine, steam turbine with rice husk combustion, and sterling engine with rice husk combustion. The approved standardized baseline was developed based on a national level survey of nearly 92 rice mills in Cambodia.

A baseline (or "baseline scenario") for a CDM project is the scenario that reasonably represents the anthropogenic emissions by sources of greenhouse gases (GHG) that would occur in the absence of the proposed CDM project. A "standardized baseline" for a CDM project is a baseline established for a Party or a group of Parties to facilitate the calculation of GHG emission reduction and removals and/or the determination of additionality for CDM projects, while providing assistance for ensuring environmental integrity. The aim of standardizing baselines is to reduce the time and costs associated with designing CDM projects.

The Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol allows developing country parties to the Protocol to voluntarily participate in GHG mitigation projects that support their sustainable development objectives. To date, Cambodia has approved 10 CDM projects 9 of which have been registered by the UN CDM Executive Board. These projects should reduce emissions of approximately 2 million tCO₂-equivalent annually. The projects produce electricity and heat using renewable energy sources, such as hydropower, industrial waste heat, agricultural residues and livestock wastes.