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Asia-Pacific Rural and  
Agricultural Credit Association  
สมาคมสินเชื่อการเกษตรและชนบทแห่งภาคพื้นเอเชียและแปซิฟิก

# Training on **GREEN BOND READINESS**

## for Nexus-based Agri-Food Systems

August 3-5, 2026 | Khon Kaen, Thailand

### Background

The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) is a major agricultural, ecological, and economic system where food production, fisheries, biodiversity, water resources, rural livelihoods, and cross-border value chains are deeply connected. Agriculture remains central to food security, employment, income generation, and rural resilience, particularly for smallholder farmers, cooperatives, agri-SMEs, and climate-vulnerable communities. At the same time, the agri-food sector is increasingly exposed to floods, droughts, water scarcity, land degradation, ecosystem disruption, energy insecurity, pollution, and climate-related shocks. These risks affect productivity, food security, rural incomes, investment confidence, and the long-term sustainability of regional value chains.

Countries in the Mekong region are advancing green growth, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, water security, circular economy, and low-emission development. Achieving these priorities requires viable investment approaches that recognize the interdependence of food, water, energy, climate, ecosystems, digital systems, and rural livelihoods.

Green bonds and other sustainable finance instruments can help mobilize long-term capital for these investments when they are supported by credible project selection, transparent use of proceeds, sound governance, environmental and social safeguards, and measurable impact reporting. For agri-food systems, green bond readiness is not only about issuing a bond. It requires institutions to identify eligible investments, build bankable project pipelines, define environmental benefits, manage proceeds transparently, address risks and safeguards, and report measurable impacts.

This regional training program responds to these needs by strengthening the capacity of financial institutions, public agencies, regulators, development partners, and agri-food stakeholders to design green bond-ready investments that deliver practical multi-sectoral nexus solutions for climate-resilient agri-food transformation in the GMS.

### Rationale

Despite growing interest in sustainable finance, many institutions in the Mekong region remain at an early stage in applying green bond mechanisms to agriculture and food systems. Common readiness gaps include limited familiarity with green bond standards, weak project pipeline development, insufficient coordination between finance and agriculture agencies, and limited capacity to assess water-energy-food-climate interlinkages, and inadequate systems for Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) monitoring, impact measurement, and post-issuance reporting.

The region has strong potential for green investment in climate-smart agriculture, sustainable irrigation, water management, flood and drought resilience, renewable

energy for agri-food value chains, clean cold chains, sustainable aquaculture, nature-based solutions, postharvest loss reduction, circular bioeconomy, pollution prevention, and digital tools for traceability and climate risk management. However, these opportunities must be translated into bankable, measurable, inclusive, and investor-ready project concepts.

In response, the Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) and Mekong Institute (MI) propose a regional training program on **Green Bond Readiness for Nexus-based Agri-Food Systems**. The program will provide a practical platform for technical learning, knowledge exchange, partnership building, and early-stage project pipeline development. It will support participating institutions to understand how green bond principles can be applied to agri-food systems while ensuring that financing mechanisms can reach smallholder farmers, cooperatives, agri-SMEs, and climate-vulnerable rural communities.

### Training Objectives

The training aims to strengthen the capacity of financial institutions, public agencies, regulators, and development stakeholders to design, assess, and advance green bond-ready investment concepts that support nexus-based agri-food transformation in the GMS and wider Asia-Pacific region. Specifically, it will:

1. Strengthen participants' ability to identify green bond-eligible investments in sustainable agriculture, water management, climate adaptation, pollution reduction, and food security;
2. Improve understanding of green bond frameworks, issuance processes, investor expectations, and relevant international and regional standards, including the Green Bond Principles and ASEAN Green Bond Standards;
3. Support participating institutions to develop preliminary green project pipeline concepts and financing approaches for climate-resilient agri-food investments;
4. Build knowledge on inclusive use-of-proceeds models that can channel finance to smallholder farmers, agri-SMEs, and vulnerable rural communities; and
5. Enhance understanding of ESG safeguards, impact measurement, allocation reporting, and environmental monitoring for green finance instruments.

### Expected Outputs

By the end of the training, participants are expected to produce or demonstrate:

- Improved understanding of green bond applications for sustainable and climate-resilient agri-food systems;

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- A basic nexus impact framework covering climate, water, energy, food safety, ecosystem, social inclusion, and livelihood indicators;
- A draft use-of-proceeds pathway showing how finance can reach smallholders, cooperatives, agri-SMEs, and vulnerable rural communities;
- A stakeholder mapping of green investment opportunities using a nexus-based lens;
- A draft investor or stakeholder pitch for a green bond-ready agri-food investment concept; and
- Strengthened peer exchange and regional collaboration among APRACA members, Mekong institutions, public agencies, financial institutions, and development partners.

## Target Participants

The training will target approximately 15 participants from the Mekong region and selected countries in South and Southeast Asia. Priority will be given to institutions with mandates or active interests in agricultural finance, green finance, climate adaptation, rural development, and sustainable agri-food systems. Participants may include representatives from:

- Agricultural development banks, commercial banks, rural finance institutions, and microfinance institutions;
- Ministries of agriculture, environment, natural resources, water resources, energy, finance, planning, trade, and rural development;
- Central banks, securities regulators, and policy agencies involved in sustainable finance frameworks;
- Development partners, technical agencies, and institutions supporting climate-resilient agriculture and food systems;
- Farmer organizations, cooperatives, agri-SME support institutions, and value chain platforms; and
- Organizations working on sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, circular economy, digital agriculture, food safety, and climate resilience initiatives.

## Training Methodology

The training will adopt a practical, participatory, and application-oriented approach. It will combine technical sessions, regional case examples, group exercises, peer learning, project clinics, and investor-style presentations. These will help participants

translate green bond concepts into institutionally relevant financing ideas for sustainable and climate-resilient agri-food systems.

### Modules

#### **Module 1: Mekong Climate Risks, Agri-food Transformation, and Nexus-based Green Finance**

This module establishes the regional context by examining how climate change, water insecurity, energy needs, ecosystem degradation, food security, and rural livelihoods are interconnected. It introduces the role of green and public finance, blended finance, and risk-sharing mechanisms in mobilizing investment for climate-resilient agri-food systems.

Key topics:

- Climate change, water security, food system risks, and rural livelihoods in the Mekong region
- Water-energy-food-climate-digital nexus challenges in agri-food systems
- Implications of climate and environmental risks for agricultural finance, food security
- Green growth, climate resilience, circular economy, and low-emission agri-food transformation
- Sustainable finance trends and the role of green bonds in Asia and the Mekong region
- Public finance, blended finance, guarantees, and risk-sharing mechanisms

Regional cooperation needs and international experiences for transboundary resilience and agri-food value chains.

Practical exercise: Participants develop a nexus risk and opportunity map for their country or institution, identifying priority investment areas that could be supported through green bonds or sustainable finance instruments.

#### **Module 2: Green Bond Standards, Frameworks and Eligible Agri-Food Project Investment**

This module introduces the fundamentals of green bonds and guides participants through the structure of a credible green bond framework. It focuses on identifying eligible project categories in agri-food systems and linking these categories to

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recognized green bond principles, ASEAN standards, taxonomies, safeguards, and investor expectations.

Key topics:

- Fundamentals of green bonds, sustainability bonds, social bonds, and transition finance
- Green Bond Principles, ASEAN Green Bond Standards, relevant taxonomies and sustainable finance guidance
- Core components of a green bond framework, including use of proceeds, project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds, reporting, and external review
- Eligible project categories for agri-food systems, including climate-smart agriculture, sustainable irrigation, renewable energy, clean cold chains, low-emission logistics, sustainable aquaculture, water resource management, nature-based solutions, circular bioeconomy, pollution prevention, and postharvest loss reduction
- Avoiding greenwashing through credible eligibility criteria and measurable environmental benefits
- Aligning project eligibility with national priorities, regional cooperation frameworks, and institutional mandates.

Practical exercise: Participants screen a list of agri-food investment ideas against green bond eligibility criteria and select priority concepts for further development. The greenwashing checklist must be incorporated into the screening process.

### Module 3: Green Project Pipeline Development and Inclusive Use of Proceeds

This module supports participants to translate eligible investment ideas into preliminary green project pipeline concepts. It focuses on project design, beneficiary targeting, financing channels, aggregation models, credit enhancement, and mechanisms for reaching smallholder farmers, cooperatives, agri-SMEs, and vulnerable communities.

Key topics:

- Translate investment ideas into green bond-ready project concept
- Project pipeline development for banks, public agencies, and development partners
- Designing use-of-proceeds pathways for smallholder farmers, cooperatives, agri-SMEs, women and youth entrepreneurs, and rural communities
- Aggregation models, wholesale finance, credit lines, refinancing, guarantees, and blended finance structures

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- Role of farmer organizations, cooperatives, fintech, value chain actors, insurers, and local financial institutions
- Gender equality, social inclusion, and community-level access to green finance
- Partnership models involving public, private, community, academic, and funding actors
- Institutional roles and coordination mechanisms for pipeline development

Practical exercise: Participants prepare a draft green project concept note, including project rationale, eligible category, target beneficiaries, financing approach, implementation partners, expected environmental and social benefits, and potential risks.

## Module 4: ESG Safeguards, Impact Reporting, Digital MRV, and Regional Collaboration

This model focuses on safeguards, allocation reporting, impact measurement, investor communication, and post-issuance monitoring. It also supports participants to identify future collaboration opportunities and prepare institutional action plans for advancing green bond readiness after the training.

Key topics:

- ESG risk screening and environmental and social safeguards for agri-food investment
- Climate adaptation, mitigation, water, energy, biodiversity, circular economy, and livelihood indicators
- Allocation reporting and impact reporting for green bond proceeds
- Digital tools for monitoring, reporting, and verification, including climate-risk data, remote sensing, traceability tools, dashboards, and portfolio-level monitoring
- Investor expectations, transparency, external review, and post-issuance communication
- Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning approaches for institutional uptake and post-training continuity
- Regional cooperation opportunities among APRACA members, Mekong institutions, regulators, financial institutions, and development partners
- Institutional action planning for green bond readiness

Practical exercise: Participants prepare a simple impact reporting framework and present their green project concept to a mock investor or stakeholder panel.

## Tentative Agenda

Time	Session	Description
<b>Day 1 (August 3) – Module 1: Mekong Climate Risks, Agri-food Transformation, and Nexus-based Green Finance</b>		
08:15 – 08:30	Registration	Arrival and registration of participants
08:30 – 09:00	Opening program	Welcome remarks, course introduction, group photo
09:00 – 09:45	Getting to know each other & expectations setting	Participant introductions, and sharing of initial expectations and green finance interests
09:45 – 10:00	Coffee break	Networking and informal exchange
10:00 – 10:45	Session 1: Climate Change, Water Security, Food System Risks, and Rural Livelihood in the Mekong Region	Overview of climate, water, ecosystem, food security, and livelihood risks affecting agri-food systems
10:45 – 11:00	Activity 1: Nexus Risk Reflection	Participants work in pairs to identify key nexus risks affecting their country or institution
11:00 – 11:45	Session 2: Nexus-Based Agri-Food Transformation and Investment Priorities	Discussion on water-energy-food-climate linkages and priority areas for resilient agri-food investment
11:45 – 12:00	Activity 2: Nexus Opportunity Mapping	Each table identify potential investment opportunities linked to nexus challenges
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break	-
13:30 – 14:30	Session 4: Regional and International Experiences on Green Finance for Agriculture and Food Security	20-minute per case (3 cases) to learn on green finance applications in agriculture, food security, and climate resilience
14:30 – 15:30	Session 5: Introduction to Innovative Financing mechanisms including Blended Finance and Green Bonds	Introduction to sustainable finance, green bonds, blended finance, guarantees, and other risk-sharing tools
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break	Networking and informal exchange
15:45 – 16:30	Panel Discussion and Open Forum: Financing Climate Resilience and Food Security in the Mekong Region	Moderated discussion with resource persons and case presenters on opportunities, constraints, and collaboration needs
16:30 – 16:45	Debriefing	-
17:30	Departure for Reception Dinner	-
<b>Day 2 (August 4) – Module 2: Green Bond Standards, Frameworks and Eligible Agri-Food Project Investment</b>		

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<b>08:30 – 08:45</b>	Recap	Participant-led recap and reflections
<b>08:45 – 09:45</b>	Session 5: Green Bond Fundamentals, Standards, and Issuance Requirements	Overview of green bonds, sustainable finance instruments, Green Bond Principles, ASEAN standards, taxonomies, and external review
<b>09:45 – 10:15</b>	Activity 3: Green Bond Building Blocks	Participants work in country groups to identify the basic elements needed in a green bond framework
<b>10:15 – 10:30</b>	Coffee break	Networking and informal exchange
<b>10:30 – 11:30</b>	Session 6: Eligible Nexus-Based Agri-Food Investments and Greenwashing Safeguards	Review of eligible project categories and criteria for avoiding greenwashing
<b>11:30 – 12:00</b>	Activity 4: Eligible or Not Eligible?	Same groups screen sample investment ideas using eligibility criteria and a greenwashing checklist
<b>12:00 – 13:30</b>	Lunch break	-
<b>13:30 – 14:30</b>	Session 7: Designing a Green Bond Framework for Agri-Food Investments	Guidance on use of proceeds, project selection, management of proceeds, reporting, safeguards, and review
<b>14:30 – 15:00</b>	Activity 5: Framework Design Clinic	Same groups outline a basic green bond framework for a selected agri-food investment area for their country
<b>15:00 – 15:15</b>	Coffee break	Networking and informal exchange
<b>15:15 – 16:15</b>	Session 8: Aligning Green Bond Eligibility with National Priorities and Institutional Mandates	Discussion on linking eligible investments with national plans, institutional roles, and regional cooperation priorities frameworks, and institutional mandates
<b>16:15 – 16:45</b>	Activity 6: Institutional Fit Check	Same groups assess whether selected investment ideas fit their mandate, target groups, and financing channels
<b>16:45 – 17:00</b>	Debriefing	-
<b>Day 3 (August 5) – Module 3: Green Project Pipeline Development and Inclusive Use of Proceeds</b>		
<b>08:30 – 08:45</b>	Recap	Participant-led recap and reflections
<b>08:45 – 09:30</b>	Session 9: Green Project Pipeline Development for Banks, Public Agencies, and Development Partners	Guidance on turning eligible investment ideas into preliminary green project concepts

<b>09:30 – 10:15</b>	Session 10: Inclusive Use-of-Proceeds Pathways and Financing Channels	Discussion on how green finance can reach smallholders, cooperatives, agri-SMEs, women, youth, and rural communities
<b>10:00 – 10:15</b>	Coffee break	Networking and informal exchange
<b>10:15 – 11:30</b>	Activity 7: Project Concept Note Preparation (Part 1)	Country groups draft the project rationale, eligible category, beneficiaries, financing need, and expected benefits
<b>11:30 – 13:00</b>	Early lunch break	-
<b>Module 4: ESG Safeguards, Impact Reporting, Digital MRV, and Regional Collaboration</b>		
<b>13:00 – 13:30</b>	Session 11: ESG Safeguards and Risk Screening for Agri-Food Investments	Introduction to ESG screening, safeguards, governance, gender equality, and social inclusion considerations
<b>13:30 – 14:00</b>	Session 12: Impact Reporting, Digital MRV, and Investor Communication	Overview of allocation reporting, impact indicators, digital MRV tools, transparency, and investor communication
<b>14:00 – 15:00</b>	Activity 8: Project Concept Note Preparation (Part 2)	Country groups prepare their presentation
<b>15:00 – 15:15</b>	Coffee break	Networking and informal exchange
<b>15:15 – 17:00</b>	Activity 9: Mock Investor and Stakeholder Panel	Groups present project concepts and receive feedback from resource persons and peers
<b>17:00 – 17:30</b>	Closing program	Closing remarks, certificate distribution, and closing program

## Registration

Interested applicants should **complete the registration form on or before June 29, 2026**. Participants who require a Thai visa are encouraged to register early to allow sufficient time for visa processing.

Click the link to register: [REGISTRATION FORM - Training on Green Bond Readiness – Fill in form](#)

## Training Fees

To confirm attendance, a registration fee of USD 500 must be deposited to Mekong Institute using the following account details:

- **Account Name:** Mekong Institute
- **Account Holder Address:** 123 Khon Kaen University, Naimung Distric, Khon Kaen 40002 Thailand

## Green Bond Readiness for Nexus-based Agri-Food Systems

- **Bank Name:** Bangkok Bank Company Public Limited
- **Bank Address:** 147 Prachasamosorn Rd. Nai Muang, Muang District Khon Kaen 40000, Thailand
- **Account Number:** 840-101-0019-113661-501
- **Transit / Swift code:** BKKBTHBK
- **Currency of Account:** USD

The fee will cover accommodation, airport transfers, training materials, participation in all sessions, coffee and tea breaks, lunches, welcome dinner, and related programme activities during the training period. Participants or nominating institutions will be responsible for international travel, travel insurance, visa fees, and other personal expenses.

Self-paying participants are advised to purchase travel insurance.

A limited number of full training scholarships will be available for eligible government officials and representatives from farmers' cooperatives and smallholder networks.

Details regarding sponsorship support, accommodation arrangements, and payment procedures will be communicated separately in the official announcement and nomination letter.

## Contacts

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