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Experts say Cambodia's agricultural sector should turn to electronic production if it wants to compete with neighboring countries

Cambodia's agricultural sector has grown significantly in recent years, improving people's lives and the economy, but still faces competition from neighboring countries like Thailand and Vietnam. Dr. Ky Sereyvath, an economic researcher, suggests

dividing production for export and domestic consumption, focusing on chemical or organic farming. Electronic production can help Cambodia compete with neighboring countries, as it can be sold at high prices. To compete with neighboring countries, farmers should be organized as a community, reduce production costs, and find ways to produce seeds and raw materials for self-production. However, Cambodia's small cultivation area and family-run farming practices make it difficult to compete. In 2023, Cambodia exported over 656 thousand tons of rice, valued at \$466 million, and over 4 million tons of rice, worth over 1.3 billion dollars.

Source: [Cambonomist](#)

Leaders of the Ministry of Economy urge the General Department of Taxation to strengthen additional revenue collection

During a meeting on January 23, 2024, Deputy Prime Minister Aun Porn Moniroth appreciated the General Department of Taxation's tax collection results for December and 2023. Despite facing global economic and political uncertainties, the department managed to collect over 3.6 billion US dollars in 2023, exceeding 101% of the Financial Law Plan. The Deputy Prime Minister urged the department to strengthen tax revenue collection, focus on quality services,

modernize tax administration and IT systems, and work on human resource reform. The General Department of Taxation successfully implemented the Royal Government's Revenue Collection Strategy 2019-2023, aiming to increase capacity, efficiency, and effectiveness in revenue collection management.

Source: [Cambonomist](#)

Cambodia's economy expected to grow 6.4 pct in 2024

Cambodia's economy is anticipated to have a 6.4 percent growth in 2024, which is mostly driven by the tourism and manufacturing sector, said H.E. Chea Serey, the governor of the National Bank of Cambodia. She added that the Southeast Asian economy will face both internal and external risks, causing a decrease in international trade flow, lack of investment, and international financial market uncertainty. Internal risks also lead to a slowdown in the recovery of construction and real estate. In regards, the Cambodian government is actively taking measures to improve the business environment, infrastructure, and logistics, as well as, the development of human resources in particular skills, said Mey Kalyan, the advisor to the Cambodian government and chairman of Cambodia development resources institutes.

Source: [Khmer Times](#)

Bank of England could be about to open the door to interest rate cuts

The Bank of England anticipated to keep the interest rate at 5.25% on Thursday. The British Central Bank's Monetary Policy Committee is likely to leave the rates unchanged at their recent high level. Moreover, the market observers still observe closely the projection about the further interest rate cuts. Moreover, the services consumer price index came out at 6.4% in December, an increase from 6.3% in November according to the last data.

Source: [CNBC](#)

Red Sea tensions risk significantly higher inflation, OECD warns

The Red Sea Crisis had significantly increased the shipping cost which could contribute to inflation globally, said the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The rise of import price inflation among the 38 members of the OECD countries is estimated to grow by approximately 5 percent point, as a result of the recent increase in seaborne freight rates.

Major shipping firms had begun to move their vessel from Egypt's Suez Canal, which is the quickest trade route between Europe and Asia, in late 2023 since the attacks by Iran-backed Houtji militants based in Yemen.

However, the OECD countries noticed that there is a surplus in shipping capacity, causing new shipping containers to be ordered, which could lessen the cost pressure. Further, the OECD's Lombardelli acknowledged the gradual decrease in inflation in recent months, which is considered a positive outcome for the OECD countries.

Source: [CNBC](#)

Dollar hits 11-week high as Fed rate cut bets recede

The U.S. dollar increased to its highest within three months against the major currencies since the trader clawed back bets for the rate cuts by the Federal Reserve this year. Federal Reserve had repriced the money which exceeded the market expectations and sent U.S. bonds growing. Growth of the U.S. Dollar against the other major currencies such as Euro, Pound, Yen, and Yuan. Euro declined to its lowest from \$1.0747 in December to \$1.0752, showing a 0.36% drop. Likewise, Japan's Yen fell to 148.82 per dollar in December, and steadying stand at 148.36 per dollar. On the other hand, China's Central Bank effortlessly uses the official guidance fix to keep the

currency stable after struggling against the strong dollar rise.

Source: [The Korea Times](#)

Cambodia prepares nearly \$ 450 million to help people through six priority policies

The Royal Government of Cambodia has allocated nearly \$450 million for six priority policies to help people stabilize their national economy. Prime Minister Hun Manet highlighted the importance of stable living standards for a stable state and ensured that the Royal Government of Cambodia would not let Cambodian people experience hardship due to the lack of attention from the government. Over 6.5 million people have benefited from these interventions, with the state spending around \$100 million annually. The amount of approximately \$450 million will be contributed for social assistance, but they argue this is not permanent assistance or to create a culture of dependency, however, the fund will be used when it is needed. Moreover, the fund will invest heavily in education, health, infrastructure, and electricity systems.

Source: [Cambonomist](#)

Korean supermarket emart24 enters Cambodian market and plans to open its first branch in June

Emart24 Inc., a subsidiary of the Shinsegae Group, has opened over 6,000 mini-supermarkets in Korea and plans to expand its business in Cambodia. The company, a subsidiary of the Hanlim Architecture Group, will open its first store in Malaysia in 2021 and a store in Singapore in 2022. Emart24 Cambodia will offer a wide range of snacks and beverages, including traditional Korean food, fresh coffee stations, exclusive Korean snacks, and Korean beauty products. The company's decision to enter the Cambodian market was based on market research and the growing demand for high-quality retail. The partnership between emart24 Inc. and Saisons Brother Holding is seen as a testament to Cambodia's commitment to economic growth, job creation, and the well-being of its people.

Source: [Cambonomist](#)

Turkey achieves record export growth of \$ 20 billion in January

Turkey's exports, which have a population of over 86 million, rose 3.6% in early January, reaching a record high of over 20 billion US dollars by 2024. Imports fell 22% to over 26 billion, while the foreign trade deficit narrowed to 57% to over 6 billion. Turkey's annual exports reached a three-year high of nearly 260,000 billion in 2023, an increase of nearly 1% from 254 billion in 2022. Despite challenges such as two devastating earthquakes in southeastern Turkey a year ago, which caused an estimated \$6 billion in export losses, Turkey's exports continue to grow, despite global restrictions and geopolitical conflicts.

Source: [Cambonomist](#)

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