Reporting back from:
Food Security Challenges
(Session no. 1.2, 2.2 and 3.2)

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Session content

• Drivers of stress: GDP, diet change, biofuels, climate change
• Nexus hotspots in Mekong region, esp. energy-food (includes agr. and aquaculture)
• Nexus related to social structure and poverty alleviation
General observations

• Focus on nexus can illuminate mitigation strategies as well as stresses (eg. energy-agr.)
• Scale matters (eg. hotspots, local expertise, dam impacts)
• Markets drive stresses AND solutions
Transboundary issues

• Fish issues are inherently transboundary, as is energy grid and food market

• International experience shows that working across boundaries is key to developing solutions

• Transboundary investment adds possibilities
Nexus related aspects

- Most presentations were "bimodal," primarily energy-food
- Nexus useful for both stresses and mitigation strategies
- IWRM cannot be forgotten (surfacewater/groundwater/rainwater, transportation)
Key messages

- Globally, hydropower development has been a tool for transboundary approaches to water supply, jobs and economic growth illustrating the water, food and energy linkages. Yet challenges remain, especially to local communities, ecosystem health, and fisheries.
- Solutions to food, water and energy security are being found by the three sectors working together as shown in Niger and Indus; greater cooperation and joint investment enhances solutions.
- Lack of transboundary cooperation and investment in river basins is a key reason for development being held back.
- Political willingness for cooperation is the key to safe water, safe food, and safe energy.