

# Case Study on Land use Mgt of Mrs Thaing Koev in Sentepheap village

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Mrs. Thaing Koev is 55 years old living in Sentepheap village, Toul Pongro commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province, ex-Khmer Rouge strong hold areas and heavily contaminated with mines and UXO, since 1996. She has 5 members in the family. She has 2 hectares of agricultural land while she just lived.

In 1999, this village had more people came from different provinces to live in this village then the authorities provided agricultural land to them (338 families) with 2 hectares per family as Social Land Consumption that land has contaminated with mines and UXO, her families and other villagers stated to clear the forest, mine, and UXO by themselves and sometimes hire to clear the mine as well as the forest based on authority's planning map, but all of them did not have obtain land ownership through land title or land demarcation.

In 2004, the price of land was increased sharply so that it was grabbed from one Military Commander and his party including the past local authorities. At the time she didn't know how to solve and take it from them, she was very sad and didn't want to do anything at all especially in this land.

In 2006-2007, with supported from Human Right Vigilance of Cambodia and NGO Srer Khmer implemented a joint project funded by NPA worked together to address these issues of sustainable land use and agricultural development. Her family and other villagers had organized themselves to advocate for their legal rights on the land ownership and then 30 farmers has been selected by Srer Khmer to attend with a series of short course training on topics related to agriculture such as home gardening, seed storage technique, how to make family pond and water saving, self help group, etc. With the new knowledge and skills on agriculture, Mrs Koev and his family reshaped their home gardening with the ideas of integrated homestead production near the new pond constructed. Through their home garden, she said 'she increased her income generation and reduced expenses by not buying vegetables from the market that imported from Thailand with used a lot of chemicals. And on her conflicted land she had hopes and started cultivating again on this land with agricultural activities as growing rice, maize, and corn.

She and other villagers are very satisfied with the support of this project. They said that the only way to secure the land that they have claimed back from military is to use the land to improve their livelihood, the supports of Srer Khmer and Vigilance with funded from NPA is very valuable to them.

## Activities by photo

