



SRER KHMER

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BACKGROUND

Srer Khmer was established in December 2001, with the assistance of the FAO Community IPM Program, to complement government and NGO initiatives in community based Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Farmer Field Schools, *a proven approach to successful ecological learning and farmer networking*. The establishment of **Srer Khmer** is in a response to the need to further build and facilitate on the work of FAO in the areas of farmer-led activities. It began its operation in early 2002 after officially registered by Ministry of Interior.

Srer Khmer had been formulated with provision of the following Vision and Mission.

Vision: *“Farming communities must have the capacity, right and ownership in making decisions to any issues that are relevant to sustain their living”.*

Mission: *“In recognition of farmers’ rights to learn, use and manage their own community resources and participate in any decision related to their livelihood, is committed to provide farmers opportunities to gain knowledge and strengthen their capacity to lead and manage their lives through participatory learning approaches which build on understanding the fundamental relationship between agriculture, environment and rural societies”.*

To achieve this mission, **Srer Khmer** will work in close cooperation with relevant farmers groups, government institutions and other NGOs based on the values of honesty, equity, positive encouragement, gender equity and responsibility.

The management structure of **Srer Khmer** consists of a Management Committee, which oversees and provides day-to-day management of the organization, an Advisory Board that provides support and advises the Management Committee and a Director who provides leadership and liaison vis-à-vis other institutions and organizations.

STRATEGY

Farmer Field School in Integrated Pest Management has been used as an entry point to a wide range of farmer-led activities and community development. Farmer Trainers, who were selected and trained from the graduated farmers, have been actively involved in developing action plans based on the needs of communities to strengthen their knowledge in ecological agriculture and to improve their networking.

Srer Khmer works with Farmer Trainers as main partners in developing broad farmer-to-farmer training activities in the areas of ecological agriculture and livelihood related issues. Farmer Trainers have played an important role in organizing farmer meetings and follow-up training activities. Key government district IPM trainers have been contacted to support these activities as a technical advisor to Farmer Trainers.

WORKING AREAS

Srer Khmer has worked in approximately 40 communities as spread throughout the provinces of Kandal, Takeo, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap. See picture 1. Map of Cambodia and the locations where the organization has been working in year 2002.



Picture 1. Working areas in 2002

PROJECTS AND MAIN RESULT:

In 2002, **Srer Khmer** has been working in close cooperation and partnership with several organizations in the areas of farmer-led ecological agriculture and farmers networking. The cooperation projects, donors and major outcomes are highlighted below.

1. Letter of Agreement, FAO, Project GCP/RAS/172/NOR

The Letter of Agreement with FAO, LOA/RAP/2002/05, was signed on February. The agreement has provided **Srer Khmer** the opportunity to continue facilitating and supporting farmer-to-farmer training activities started by the FAO Community IPM Project during the period between 15th February and 31st December 2002. The agreement covered the operational cost of the organization including staff salary, training activities and administrative cost.



Picture 2. A drawing Human Ecosystem Analysis in a Farmer Life School.

Under the agreement, three main areas of farmer-led post-FFS activities including farmers action research, Farmer Life Schools & farmer networking have been carried out. The activities and number of farmers involved are indicated in table 1 below.

Table 1. Activities and number of farmers involved through the implementation of the Letter of Agreement, FAO, Project GCP/RAS/172/NOR

Activities	Number of farmers involved
IPM FFS (6 on Rice, 4 on Mung Bean and 2 on Vegetables)	329 (119 women)
Farmer Action Research (143 field experiments)	845 (359 women)
Farmer Life School (27 schools)	532 (350 women)
Farmer alumni meetings (50 meetings)	705
Refresher training for farmer trainers/farmers (13 courses)	277 (91 women)
Farmer trainers meetings (35 meetings)	116 (46 women)
Farmer health study related to pesticides uses (6 studies)	Conducted as part of FFS
Farmer-to-farmers exchange visits (14 visits)	288 (151 women)
Farmers forums (2 forums)	115 (63 women)
FTs' review & evaluation workshop (6 workshops)	137 (46 women)
Hosting International visits	4 visits

2. Banteay Meanchey Farmer Trainers Support Project, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

A partnership project had been signed with NPA to support the development of farmers-led activities in NPA target areas in the districts of Malay, Obeijan and Beung Trakoun of Banteay Meancy province. The project was assigned as the community development activities to support the demining project funded by NPA in those areas. The project was assigned for the period from March 2002-February 2003.

The activities carried out under this partnership project include farmers action research, Farmer Life Schools and farmer networking. The project has been assigned in nine communities within those target areas.

At least 211 farmers and 14 farmer trainers, in which 73 of them were women have involved in these project activities as a direct beneficiaries. The activities and number of farmers involved are highlighted in table 2 below.



Picture 3. A woman observed the crop in her field study, Malay, BTMC

Table 2. Activities and number of farmers involved in the Banteay Meanchey Farmer Trainers Support project, NPA

Activities	Number of farmers involved
IPM FFS (one in Mung bean, one in Home stead production)	55 (30 women)
Farmer field experiments (30 studies)	156 (43 women)
Farmer life school (2 schools)	47 (30 women)
Farmer alumni meetings (5meetings)	77 (27 women)
Refresher training for farmers trainers/farmers (4 courses)	149 (79 women)
Farmer-to-farmer exchange visit (8 visits)	114 (47 women)
Farmer congress (forum) (1 meeting)	41 (16 women)
Farmer Trainers review and evaluation workshop (2)	11 FT in each workshop

3. Farmer Organized Post-FFS activities on Vegetables IPM, FAO Vegetables IPM Program in South and Southeast Asia.

The allotment Advice (AA) had been made through the FAOR office in Phnom Penh to support the development of Vegetables IPM activities in Cambodia. The agreement allowed Srer Khmer to facilitate and support the post-FFS activities run by farmers after they graduated from FFS in vegetables IPM. The agreement was made for the period from March-December 2002 to support the post-FFS activities in the provinces of Kandal, Kampong Speu and Siem Reap. The activities completed and number of farmers involved under this agreement is given in the table3 below.

Table 3. Activities and number of farmers involved under the AA of the FAO Vegetable IPM Program in South and Southeast Asia.

Activities	Number of farmers involved
Farmer Field School on Vegetables IPM (4 schools)	115 (47 women)
FFS on Mung bean IPM (3 schools)	90 (35 women)
Farmer field experiments (42 studies)	251 (97 women)
Health study (1study)	Conducted as part of the FFS in vegetables IPM
Refresher for Farmer Trainers (3 courses)	34 (9 women)
Living soil training for farmers (3 trainings)	71 (23 women)
Farmer Trainers meeting (4 meetings)	58 (12 women)
Farmer cross visit (2 visits)	24 (9 women)
Support farmers organic group (1 group)	8

4. IPM FFS training, CARE Cambodia

A partnership contract with CARE Cambodia had been signed to carry out the IPM FFS training in the CARE's target area in Bavel district of Battambang provinces. The training had been assigned to support the community development activities of the CARE projects as a post project in supporting the demining project.

Five IPM FFS had been carried out during the contracted period in wet season in five different villages. Four field schools were conducted in Vegetables and one field school was conducted in Rice. In total 132 (in which 94 of them were women) participated in these field schools.

5. Participatory Plant Breeding Project

In recognizing the Farmer Field School approaches in providing education to farmers in complex ecology-based issues such as Integrated Pest Management, the FFS on Participatory Plant Breeding project was initiated as a pilot project in wet season 2002.

The project has been developed to strengthen traditional crop diversity in local communities. The project focuses on participatory plant breeding to improve rice varieties and on the diversity of traditional indigenous vegetables. The pilot phase of the project was funded by the FAO and the Netherlands' Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries and coordinated by CGN, the Center for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands.

Srer Khmer was contracted to carry out two pilot field schools in Kandal and Kampong Speu province.

A Training of Trainers course was organized for selected Farmer Trainers and government District IPM Trainers (DT) to develop the curriculum for this field school. Six Farmer Trainers, 2 DT and several trainers from other organization had been trained. The selection and collection of Rice seeds (both off type varieties and seeds from other location) and cross breeding completed by the farmer participants for the follow up field studies in the following seasons.

Two farmer field schools on Rice PPB were organized in the selected communities. A total of 43 farmers, including 10 women, participated in these field schools.

A baseline survey on Vegetables was conducted in these two sites to prepare for the curriculum of the vegetables component which plan to integrate in the field schools in the following seasons.

6. Insect Ecological Identification Project

The project had been made with the Southeast Asia project of the Dietrick Institute, USA, to carry out the insect collection, identification and classification in the conventional plot, IPM plots and grassy areas around vegetables fields. The contract had been made for the period between April 2002 and April 2003. Hundreds of specimens had been collected and documented. Farmers had involved insect collection and classification.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Beside the implementation of the above-mentioned projects, other activities had been carried out in cooperation with other organizations. These activities are indicated below

1. *Provided consultancy training to the Agricultural training section of PRASAC/EU on season-long Training of Trainers in Rice IPM in Kampong Speu province.* Thirty government district officers and PRASAC' field workers had been trained. Five farmer field schools with total of 122 farmers participation had been completed.
2. *Provided consultancy training to the DANIDA-IPM farmer training project, National IPM program, on the development of post-FFS activities "Community IPM activities and the formation of IPM farmer club"* Preparation meetings, preparation courses in the provinces and villages and refresher courses for Farmer Trainers and District government IPM Trainers had been organized in the provinces of Kampong Chhnang, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Thom, Prey Veng and Svay Rieng. Total of 104 district trainers and 152 farmer trainers had involved in these training workshops. Eighteen IPM farmers clubs with total of 354 farmer participants had been formed to carried out field studies based on the local needs.
3. *Australian Volunteer International for capacity building of farmer trainers on community development.* A Memorandum of Partnership had been signed with Australian Volunteer International to further build the capacity of farmer trainers in community development perspectives. Village visits, backstop visits to Farmer Trainers-run activities, reflection workshop had been organized with the assistances under this partnership framework in Battambang and Banteay Meanchey.
4. *FFS on Mung bean IPM in Siem Reap, FAO-NRM program.* Two Farmer Field Schools in IPM Mung bean had been organized with total of 53 farmers attended in the field school. DT and Farmer Trainers in Siem Reap have been contracted to carry out the training of these fields school.
5. *The FIELD Alliance.* A Memorandum of Partnership had been signed with FIELD Alliance for strengthening the regional network in the field of farmer empowerment and ecological agriculture.
6. *Supporting Student Thesis.*

Supported 4 students (two from the Royal University of Agriculture and two from Preak Leap Agricultural college) for completion of their thesis research and field research of their final year. The research thesis topics were conducted. These topics were Farmer Life School and Farmer Action Research. Field research was conducted by two students from Preak Leap Agricultural college on rice production of farmers and farmers field studies.

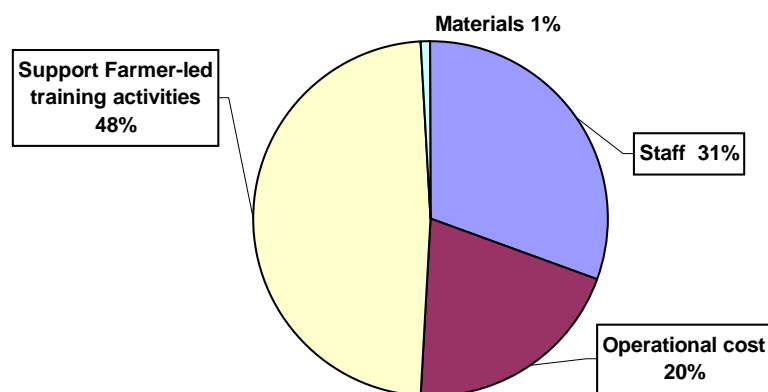
FINANCIAL FIGURE

Several donors had contributed to the implement of the projects. These donors with the amount of contribution are indicated in table 4 below.

Table 4. Cooperation partners/donors and their contributions

PROJECT AND DONORS	AMOUNT (IN USD)
<i>Letter of Agreement, FAO, Project GCP/RAS/172/NOR</i>	\$ 98,344.00
<i>Banteay Meanchey Farmer Trainers Support Project, NPA</i>	\$ 9,299.03
<i>Farmer Organized Post-FFS activities on Vegetables IPM, FAO Vegetables IPM program in South and Southeast Asia</i>	\$ 12,951.10
<i>IPM FFS training, CARE Cambodia</i>	\$ 4,271.10
<i>Participatory Plant Breeding project, CGN and FAO</i>	\$ 4,042.78
<i>Insect Ecological Identification project, Southeast Asia project of the Dietrick Institute, USA</i>	\$ 3,824.82
Total \$ 132,732.83	

Fig. Budget spent in 2002



STAFF

Total of 18 staff and support staff were involved in implementation and supporting the projects and maintain the office. The positions and number of staff are highlighted in table 5 below.

Table 5. Srer Khmer staff in 2002

Position	Number of staff
<i>Coordinators (including the Director)</i>	3
<i>Administrative and finance officers</i>	1
<i>Project assistance</i>	2
<i>Trainers</i>	1
<i>Provincial assistance</i>	4
<i>Driver</i>	3
<i>Guard</i>	2
<i>Office assistance and cleaner</i>	1
<i>Parenthesis (young graduate)</i>	1