



SRER KHMER

For farmer-led initiatives

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Contact Address:

SRER KHMER HEADQUARTER

#11B, Street: 101, Sangkat: Boeung Trabek, Chamcarmon

Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia

Tel/Fax: (855-23) 210-217

P.O. Box: 1517, Phnom Penh

E-mail: srerkhmer@online.com.kh

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Go
to the People;
Live among them;
Love them;
Learn from them;
Start from where they are;
Work with them;
Build on what they have.
But of the best leaders,
When the task is accomplished,
The work completed,
The people all remark:
"We have done it ourselves."

Lao Tsu



SUMMARY

Srer Khmer is a Cambodian non-governmental organization, non-profit and non-partisan dedicated to sustainable community-based development by promoting farmer-led activities, farmers networking, farmer organization, and farmer knowledge on ecological agriculture. Srer Khmer is working in seven (7) key target provinces: Kg. Cham, Kandal, Battambang, Takeo, Kg. Speu, Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey.

Areas of Focus. Srer Khmer was focused on Integrated Farming and Marketing System (IFFS), Farmer Networks, Advocacy and Rights, Farmer Life School, and act as Capacity Builders to other stakeholders.

Integrated Women Empowerment Project (IWEP). Srer Khmer cooperated with Agriculture Development Denmark Asia (ADDA) to implement the Integrated Women Empowerment Project (IWEP) in Siem Reap province over 3 years from 2005-2007. Our strategy is that farmers (women and men) will be participated in FFS and after the training the women are subsequently encouraged to form SHGs.

A production baseline study was conducted finished and a report was compiled.

There were 104 villages in 28 communes in 5 districts selected as our target areas. 41 indigenous villagers, aged from 20 to 45 years old from target villages (30 women and 11 men) were selected for Training as Village Extension Workers on Food Security and Gender in an FFS is now termed an "*Integrated Farmer Field School*". The TOT for the IFFS held from 10 October until 20 December 2005.

Capacity Development of Rural Farmers for Food Security Project. One Farmer Trainer Orientation Course on FFS was opened with some 12 farmers (5 women) selected to attend this training so that they will become farmer trainers. They were from the new target villages of Takung, Balaing, Banteay Timuoy and Kondorl in Banteay Meanchey province. Over 100 farmers participated in the FFS field experiments.

The 9 existing farmer associations had savings of 19,660,000 Cambodian Riels in total. Four new Farmer Associations were just established in Takong, Balang, Banteay Tipy and Kandorl Villages after finishing the seasonal-long farmer field school training.

Several families started integrated homestead production and grew many vegetables such as cabbage, petsai, red pepper, egg plant, pumpkin, water convolvulus, sweet potato and herbs, etc. Farmers also had a chance to have an exchange visit inside the province. Support was given for four family ponds for some potential farmers in the four villages of Lvea, Dambokvil, Koh Snuol and Santepheap so that they can improve farming activity and make model integrated farms.

Additional training on Participatory Plant breeding on vegetables was conducted with 13 participant farmer trainers in Malai and some key farmers. This course aimed to broaden genetic resources based management and farmer empowerment in participating and contributing to the improvement of vegetable production and marketing strategy in sustainable way.



At the end of the project implementation, a participatory project evaluation workshop was organized at the meeting room of Provincial Department of Rural Development with some 40 project beneficiary participants.

Post-Farmer Field School and Farmer Association Development. Several curriculum developments were finished for the National IPM Programme included Living Soils, Socio-economic analysis, People's Organization, Strategies and Guidelines for FFS to post-FFS and a field case study was documented.

Some 36 farmer leaders (12 were women) attended the *Grant Application Course* from the four provinces: Kandal, Kampong Cham, Siem Reap and Battambang. Additional training on soil ecology (living soils) was conducted for 29 Farmer Trainers from at Bek Chan Station in Battambang province. The training aimed to improve Farmer Trainer's skills and understanding on soil ecology and management, as well as to subsequently facilitate the training for Farmer Associations. The follow up training on soil ecology was conducted for 14 Farmer Associations (including 282 farmers--181 males and 101 females) by Farmer Trainers.

The Farmer-to-Farmer Insect Ecological Identification and Training was provided to farmer associations as needed to further build of capacity of farmers conducted farmer field experiments, research, etc. After training, farmer field experiments were prepared for the farmers in the vegetable IPM associations to carry out in support of field practices and training concepts.

The three-day training workshops on cost-benefit analysis were conducted with 18 farmer associations. Each workshop included some 15 club members, totalling approximately 270 farmers. These workshops trained farmers to understand methods for recording their inputs and outputs, and to calculate costs, profits and losses.

A pilot two-day workshop on People's Organization was conducted with one farmer association on concepts and methods of local organizations. This training helped them to explore methods and strategies to achieve sustainability for their associations.

An exposure visit of 36 Farmer Association members from Kampong Cham, Siem Reap, Kandal, Battambang, and Banteay Meanchey provinces was organized to visit the Banteay Srei organization, formerly the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA), based in Siem Reap province to learn more on saving and self-help groups, women in leadership, integrated farming systems, and food security.

Srer Khmer provided on-going backstop visits to organic vegetable producers, included help with farmers' cropping calendar development in Kandal. A one-day refresher course was conducted for inspectors to enable them to conduct field-level Internal Control System inspections on the quality of organic vegetables. The team conducted Internal Control System inspections with 10 organic farmers in Kandal province. A one-half day field trip for some 14 consumers was conducted to visit organic farmers at the Roleng Ken Organic Development Agricultural Centre in Thmey Village, Kandal Province.

A one-half day workshop on organic vegetables was organized with 15 consumers and six organic farmers. The meeting was to allow producers to discuss the difficulties and challenges in growing organic vegetables, and consumers on how they can continue to buy local organic vegetables that are the same quality, size and appearance as in-organic produce.

Some 237 farmers in 16 Farmer Associations participated in a course on cost-benefit analysis on crops grown in the wet season in four provinces. From the cost/benefits analysis,



most of farmers learnt the process of keeping records on what they spent for farming activities. Farmers were made aware of the types of costs and what they needed to spend and how to reduce costs. From the results, most of farmers gained benefits and they learnt the process of cost/benefits analysis.

As a result of post farmer club activity all thirty five (35) farmer clubs became officially-recognised Farmer's Associations from the commune councils and most of these farmer associations had saving activities.

The field experiment on low tunnel net technology development was conducted with 18 selected farmers to grow for both dry and rainy season with the involvement of 90 farmer participants and other interest farmers in their villages in Kiensvay and Saang district, Kandal province. The field experiments were conducted by farmer trainers with regular backstopping from Srer Khmer.

Participatory Plant Breeding. This project was carried out in Kandal, Takeo, and Kampong Speu provinces. The overall objective of this project is to strengthen the capacity of Farmer Trainers, government district trainers and farmer communities in participatory plant breeding (PPB) with a focus on rice, vegetables, animal improvement and marketing.

One TOT on rice was conducted with 6 farmer trainers and 2 District trainers from 2 provinces. Then the FTs and DTs continued to provide two FFS on rice with some 55 participants in Kandal and Takeo provinces. Nine farmer groups continued to conduct follow-up field observation study on rice experimentation from last year, each group consisted of 8-10 participants.

One TOT on vegetable was conducted with 6 farmer trainers and 2 District trainers from Kampong Speu and Kandal provinces. After completing the training, FTs and DTs continued to open two FFS on vegetable with some 50 participants. Nine farmer groups continued to conduct follow-up field observation study on vegetable.

One TOT on Local Pig Improvement was another combination added to rice and vegetable components for 12 farmer trainers and 3 District trainers from 3 provinces. The FTs and DTs opened two FFS on Local Pig Improvement with some 50 participants.

One TOT on Participatory Marketing Survey was conducted with 12 farmer trainers and 3 District trainers with technical support from Wageningen University, The Netherlands.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with great pleasure that we look back on the achievements of Srer Khmer during the year 2005. Firstly, we would like to note that these achievements would not have been possible without the great commitment of the staff, the management committee and our funding agencies.

The accomplishments have been made possible with the active support of the following donors: Agriculture Development Denmark Asia (ADDA), FAO Vegetable IPM Programme in Asia; Norwegian People's Aid (NPA); Center for Genetic Resources/Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands (CGN/WUR); The Dietrick Institute for Applied Insect Ecology based in USA; SUSPER-AVRDC, and Australian Volunteer International (AVI) supporting one Australian Volunteer to work with Srer Khmer as an Advisor on Institutional Strengthening. We would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for their support.

For bringing together the information from the field, we wish to thank all Srer Khmer staff members for their paramount hard work. Victor Onions of AVI helped edit this annual report. In 2005, we all had a great loss, one of our best colleagues, MR. YECH POLO, a Former Director and a Founder of Srer Khmer. We were deeply saddened by his passing away and we pray that his soul rests in peace. We shall always remember him.

Last but not least, we would also like to thank our partners, government and non-governmental organizations, farmer trainers, government district trainers, local authorities and people's organizations for their good collaboration and with great hope that it will continue.

*Srer Khmer
May 2006*



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADDA	Agricultural Development Denmark Asia
AVI	Australian Volunteer International
AVRDC	Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center
CDFS	Capacity Development of Rural Farmers for Food Security
CDRI	Cambodia Development and Resources Institute
CEDAC	Cambodian Center for Agriculture Research and Development
CFSP	Cambodia Fuelwood Saving Project
CGN	Center for Genetic Resources/The Netherlands
DANIDA	Danish International Development Aid
DT	District Trainer
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFS	Farmer Field School
FLS	Farmer Life School
FSNPSP	Food Security and Nutrition Policy Support Project
FT	Farmer Trainer
FTOC	Farmer Trainer Orientation Course
GMO	Genetic Modified Organism
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
IFFS	Integrated Farmer Field School
IU	International University, Cambodia
IWDA	International Women Development Agency
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
NRM	Natural Resources Management
PPB	Participatory Plant Breeding
PROLINNOVA	Promoting Local Innovation
SHG	Self Help Group
SUSPER	Sustainable Development of Peri-Urban Agriculture in South East Asia Project
TOT	Training of Trainer
UPA	Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture
VEW	Village Extension Worker



ABOUT SRER KHMER

Srer Khmer means *Field of Cambodia*, a Cambodian non-governmental organization, non-profit and non-partisan dedicated to sustainable community-based development by promoting farmer-led activities, farmers networking, farmer organization, and farmer knowledge on ecological agriculture.

Srer Khmer was established on January 9, 2002 by a group of former staff of FAO Community IPM Programme, the founders of Srer Khmer. The FAO project ended in late 2001 after operation in Cambodia since 1996, therefore, to continue the activity of community based integrated pest management (IPM) Farmer Field Schools (FFS), a proven approach to successful ecological learning and farmer networking, Srer Khmer was the response to the need to further build on the work of FAO and facilitate the work of farmers-led activities.

Srer Khmer management structure consists of a Management Committee, which oversees and provides day-to-day management of the organization, A Board of Directors provide support and advice to the Director and the Management Committee who provide leadership and liaison vis-à-vis other institutions and organizations.

Our Vision

Farming communities must have the capacity, rights and ownership in making decisions to any issues that are relevant to sustain their living.

Our 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.

Srer Khmer works to complement the government and NGO initiatives in community-based Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Farmer Field Schools (FFS). IPM FFS was 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 FFS 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 their 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 trainers supported these activities as technical advisors to Farmer Trainers.



SRER KHMER AREAS OF FOCUS



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1. Integrated Farming and Marketing System (IFFS)

- Farmer-centered learning and Farmer Field School
- Organic agriculture (vegetable and rice)
- Participatory Plant Breeding (Improve diversity of vegetable production, small animal, and marketing)
- On-farm processing

2. Farmer Networks, Advocacy and Rights

- Farmer networks and membership based associations
- Farmer learning centres
- Farmer run market surveys and information sharing
- Facilitation and support for producer associations
- Facilitating meetings and training for farmers to present issues that are relevant to their lives
- Farmers' rights

3. Farmer Life School

- Human ecology and social/economic constraints analysis by farmers
- Farmer and community health studies
- Farmer advocacy and rights
- Gender and vulnerable and marginalized groups; and
- Farmer planning for livelihood improvement

4. Building Capacity Nationwide

- Training on topics related to FFS/post-FFS, FLS, Socio-economic analysis, living soil, integrated homestead production, insect ecology, farmer association management and others related ecological agriculture and rural development.
- Training on Participatory Plant Breeding and participatory marketing
- Participatory research and analysis
- Project review and evaluation



PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



INTEGRATED WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

In May 2005, Sreer Khmer is cooperated with Agriculture Development Denmark Asia (ADDA), a Danish NGO working for the development of the agriculture sector mainly in South East Asia, to implement the Integrated Women Empowerment Project (IWEP) in Siem Riep province for 3 years from 2005-2007 with the following objectives.

- *Based on improved agro-technical knowledge, the productivity of vegetables, poultry and pigs is increasing, especially for female-headed households in the project area - (Service delivery).*
- *Based on the outcome of the self-help-groups the women involved has increased knowledge and awareness on nutrition and diet, general health condition, sex industry, consequences of using pesticides, ownership to- and value of land (capacity building).*
- *Based on the empowerment of the female farmers in the project area their influence is increased through the participation in the community-based groups/organizations (advocacy).*

Our strategy is that farmers (women and men) will participate in FFS and after the training the women are subsequently encouraged to form SHGs. These groups will decide upon their activities themselves, but are still able to receive support from the project. The women SHGs will be encouraged to initiate funds from which members can obtain cheap loans according to the regulations set by the group. The project will supply matching grants to the village funds following strict regulation.

The project will help to improve the market channels and market information for the products after harvest.

Major Accomplishments

- *Select District Facilitators.* One Team Leader and 5 District Facilitators were recruited for the project.
- *Select project villages.* 104 villages in 28 communes in 5 districts were selected and screened completely. The results of selection and screening based on many criteria that were prioritized for the implementation of IWEP activities such as:
 - ✓ *Villages are bordering each other and have potential for growing vegetable and raising animal such as pigs, ducks, chickens and cattle.*
 - ✓ *Women available to work with the project*
 - ✓ *Other NGO have provided some training courses*
 - ✓ *Road accessible to village in rainy season*
 - ✓ *The flooding period not longer than 3 months*
 - ✓ *No overlap with other projects*
 - ✓ *Have irrigation facilities*
- *Select Village Extension Workers (VEW).* The candidates for VEW were interviewed and selected on the basis of their qualifications. Village Extension Workers are the core unit of the IWEP. The success of the project is associated with the selection of VEWs. To effectively achieve this output it was decided to develop selection criteria and roles/conditions and other understanding together for the VEWs as follows:

- ✓ *What is an extension worker?*
- ✓ *What are the roles/conditions for them?*
- ✓ *What are the selection criteria?*

As result of the selection process, there were 41 indigenous villagers, aged from 20 to 45 years old from the target villages (30 women and 11 men) were selected for the TOT.

- *Plan TOT/curriculum on vegetable.* In order to have an excellent TOT, the TOT committee was established to discuss and plan for the entire TOT and there were several meeting organized in Siem Reap office. The TOT committee members were included from ADDA, Srer Khmer and outside resource persons. The TOT agreed to cover the following components:

(i). Curriculum was divided into 6 components:

- ✓ *Farmer Field School Approach*
- ✓ *Vegetable Production*
- ✓ *Animal Production including pig, chicken, duck and cattle raising only.*
- ✓ *Self-help group formation and management*
- ✓ *Gender and Society*
- ✓ *Farming as a business.*



(ii). Training Program duration and time allocation

- ✓ *Farmer Field School Approach approximately or more than (24h)*
- ✓ *Vegetable Production (160h)*
- ✓ *Animal Production including pigs, chickens, ducks and cattle raising only (120h)*
- ✓ *Self-help group formation and management (40h)*
- ✓ *Gender and Society (40h)*
- ✓ *Farming as a business (24h)*

(iii). The name of TOT was “Training of Village Extension Workers on Food Security and Gender and the name of FFS is Integrated Farmer Field School”.

- *Training village extension workers in TOT.* The TOT was started 10 October until 20 December 2005. The training was opened and presided over by H.E Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women’s Affairs, H.E. Sok Sophal, Siem reap provincial Deputy Governor and Mr. Helge Brunse, ADDA Coordinator in Cambodia. The TOT had objectives as below:

- ✓ *To enable the VEWs to efficiently teach on economic production of small livestock.*
- ✓ *To enable the VEWs to efficiently teach on vegetable cultivation techniques and economic feasibility of vegetables such as Tomato, Carrots and Salad vegetables.*
- ✓ *To enable the VEWs to calculate*





the cost and profit of small livestock and vegetable production and to prepare budget plans.

- ✓ *To equip participants with skills on how to facilitate and manage FFS.*
 - ✓ *To enable the VEWs to identify the gender needs and resources and right knowledge and self confidence to participate in democratic society and make life changes.*
 - ✓ *To enable the VEWs to form and manage the Self-help groups.*
- All 41 VEWs who attended this TOT were successful and as result everyone received the Certificate of Proficiency during the closing ceremony on December 20, 2005 presided by H.E. Sok Lakhena, Siem Reap Provincial Deputy Governor; Mrs. Gunhild Sander Garsdal, Representative of Danish Embassy and Mr. Helge Brunse, ADDA Coordinator.
 - *Conducted production baseline study.* Before starting up the FFS it is important to know the detailed basics about the vegetable production in the project area. The baseline survey must include figures on production from a representative group of farmers in each village. The baseline survey was conducted and the report was compiled as our benchmarking.



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL FARMERS FOR FOOD SECURITY PROJECT

The Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) has engaged in providing both technical and financial support to Srer Khmer since 2001 to implement the project called Capacity Development of Rural Farmers for Food Security based in Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province with the following objectives:

- *To support farmer field schools, farmer life schools and farmer action research organized by farmer trainers.*
- *To support the strengthening of village-based associations and farmer trainer networks through training, experimentation, cross visits/exchange visit and meetings.*

Major Accomplishments


- *Conducted pre-planning meeting with Farmer Trainers.* The meeting was conducted for 2 days from 21 to 22 July, 2005 at Sub-Office Malai district. 11 Farmer Trainers (5 were women) participated in this meeting to share work plan between farmer trainers and Srer Khmer after the work plan was approved by NPA, our technical and financial donor. As the result of the meeting, all farmer trainers could lead and prepare their individual work plans for all activities with the assistance from Srer Khmer technical staff. They knew what to do for this fiscal year from May to December 2005 such as preparing the field experiment, organize training on home gardens, strengthening the existing farmer associations, etc.
- *Open FTOC on FFS to new villages.* One Farmer Trainer Orientation Course on FFS was opened on 25 October 2005 to 07 November 2005 at Klakoun Rural Development Center. There were 12 farmers (5 women) selected to attend this training to become farmer trainers. They were from the new target villages included Takung, Balaing, Banteay Timuoy and Kondorl. This FTOC was focused on the some main topics as follows:



- ✓ *Management of FFS*
- ✓ *Special lessons/topics*
- ✓ *Discussion of FFS guideline*
- ✓ *Facilitation skills*
- ✓ *What about club/Association?*
- ✓ *What is self-help group?*
- ✓ *What is model farm?*
- ✓ *What is field action research?*
- ✓ *What is natural fertilizer and how to make compost?*
- ✓ *Understanding insects in the agro-ecosystem*

- *Field experiments.* All the farmers had a strong commitment for the action research because they could learn and investigate clearly what happens with their crops and what they need to know before they make decisions to apply ideas on their own farms. Approximately 100 farmers participated in the following study topics:

- ✓ *Rice seedlings per hill*
- ✓ *Rice growing techniques*
- ✓ *Seed selection*
- ✓ *Crop protection on yard long beans*

- *Followed up and meeting with the 5 Farmer Associations on Saving Activity (Self-Help Group).* There were 9 farmer associations and through the follow up activity, these associations are running very well with the amount saving per association. The total amount of saving hold by these associations was 19,660,000 Cambodian Riels. Moreover, they are knowledgeable and farmer trainers have improved facilitation skills. Most of farmer association members had good cooperation and led all works in their associations such as writing meeting minutes, sharing experience, sharing information and solve any problem related to their livelihood through regular meetings.
- *Establishing new Farmer Association:* Four new farmer associations were formed in Takong, Balang, Banteay Tipy and Kandoul Villages after finishing the seasonal-long farmer field school training. Because of the interest in working together and solving the problems together in the community, they asked Srer Khmer to facilitate to form their groups into farmer associations.
- *Integrated homestead production.* IHP follow up was done in Lovea and Banteay Timuoy villages and other target villages to visit some of the home gardens of farmers who got training last year. For this year, most of the farmers could prepare home gardens by themselves and grew many vegetables such as cabbage, petsai, red pepper, egg plant, pumpkin, water convolvulus, sweet potato and herbs, etc. These home gardens aimed to provide nutritious food for their family consumption and sold the surplus. As result, there was a 2-day follow up training on home gardening organized with the involvement of 30 farmer participants from the villagers in the 4 new target groups. After the training, each participant received some vegetable seeds to start up home gardens. However, there was still a problem of water shortage during the dry season; this resulted in poor vegetable yields.
- *Supported family pond.* Because of the water shortage, the project supported 4 family ponds for some potential farmers in the four villages of Lovea, Dambokvil, Koh Snuol and Santepheap. The selection criteria were discussed in very participatory ways with some 75 participants attending the discussion meeting. This was a pilot effort in order for families in the future to make model integrated farms.
- *In-province exchange visit.* One exchange visit was organized to study an integrated farming system of a Farmer Trainer's House (Mr. Ny Ly) in O'beichorn district. A group of 25 participants from different villages in Malai district participated to learn from Mr. Ny Ly's experience and innovative ideas included how to make integrated farming, how to make soil fertile, compost making, multi cropping, living fence, rice-fish raising, crop rotation, etc. Most of them want to apply this approach to their respective family.
- *Additional training on Participatory Plant breeding on vegetable.* A 5 days training was conducted at Brasat village, O'beichorn commune, Serei Sorphorn district Banteay Meanchey province. The facilitator was a Project Manager (Mr. Sours Sokha) of PPB (Participatory Plant Breeding) project from Srer Khmer. There were 13 participant farmer trainers from Malai district and some key farmers. This course aimed to broaden genetic resources based management and farmer empowerment in participating and contributing to the improvement of vegetable production and marketing strategy in a sustainable way. As the result from the course, each participant planned to apply this technique to improve their vegetable production through breeding. The specific vegetables are



eggplant, sponge gourd, pumpkin, wax gourd and bitter gourd. The following are the main contents for this course:

- ✓ *Weaknesses and strengths of plant breeding for farmers at the village level*
 - ✓ *Weaknesses and Strengths of plant breeding at research station level*
 - ✓ *Seeds evaluation*
 - ✓ *Finding vegetable seeds*
 - ✓ *Discussion on breeding and technique for seed selections*
 - ✓ *Purpose of breeding and observation in field*
 - ✓ *Appearances of flower and Genetic System*
 - ✓ *Practicing in field*
 - ✓ *Individual work plan after finishing this course*
- *Project study and its impact.* The study of CDFS project was done by a group of 4 students from the Norton University in order to obtain Bachelor of Science in Economics (Specialized in development economics). The study aimed to understand the entire development activities of Srer Khmer included the roles, structure and program implementation supported by NPA in Malai district especially the Farmer Field School, Farmer Life School and Capacity of Farmer Trainers. The report concluded as follows:

Target farmers understood about the uses of pesticides, integrated pest management in order to improve their living condition. The training was always linked to the practical experiences made it easy for farmers to understand. The experimentation made them learn through discovery based approach. Most of the farmers who received the training applied it to their own family farms.

The knowledge and skills of farmer trainers were gradually improved and availability of their resources in the community. Farmer trainers were the active person to help farmer groups formulating the farmer associations.

However, the home garden and integrated farming system was limited and Srer Khmer should improve food security in the target areas. Marketing issues should be introduced in the community and how to make effective marketing plans for them. The local products promotion should be considered in order to promote local products in the districts near the Thailand border.

- *Developed Monitoring Form for FFS, FLS and other post-FFS activities.* Srer Khmer together with farmer trainers prepared several relevant monitoring forms to all activities with the assistance from NPA M&E Officer included FFS, FLS, Saving, Home garden, field experiment, marketing chain and field visit. All monitoring forms are important in conducting monitoring and evaluation when staff go to the field and it also helped in coaching farmers on the ground.
- *Organized a Local Workshop on Prolinnova.* This workshop was organized by Srer Khmer project at Malai and supported by Prolinnova Cambodia. The workshop was conducted for 2 days from 27 to 28 September 2005 at Banteay Timuoy and Kondorl villages. There were 62 participants and 4 authorities. The title of the workshop was about "Malarial Botanizes Medicine" which is the innovative ideas for this area to treat the malaria disease by using traditional medicine effectively. At the end of the workshop, 2 farmers who had good cases were selected to attend a Dialogue on Innovation in Phnom Penh which was organized by CEDAC.
- *Conducted Project Annual Evaluation Workshop:* At the end of the project implementation, a participatory project evaluation workshop was organized at the



meeting room of Provincial Department of Rural Development. The workshop aimed to find out the impacts and effectiveness of the project and to document lessons learnt during the past year, and find out the areas of improvement for the future from the perspective of relevant stakeholders, these included: NPA and Sreer Khmer staff; target and non-target farmers; commune council members; and village chiefs. Totally, some 40 participants to attend the workshop. The workshop used the participatory approach such as presentation, group discussion and plenary sessions.

POST-FARMER FIELD SCHOOL AND FARMER ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENT

The specific objectives of this project were as follows:

- Provide training support, materials and curricula to the National IPM Programme
- Support and document field studies with existing Farmer Clubs
- Follow-up on cost-benefit analysis with existing Farmer Clubs
- Support and document the development of Farmer's Clubs into Farmers' Associations
- Training and follow-up support for grant applications by Farmers Associations
- Support for the development of organic vegetable production and marketing

Major Accomplishments

- *Curriculum development on Living Soils.* The Living Soils training curriculum for Farmer Trainers and Farmers' Clubs was discussed with National IPM Programme staff and finalized. The training curriculum in booklet form will be of use to both teams.
- *Curriculum development on Socio-economic analysis.* The Socio-Economic/Cost-Benefit analysis curriculum was developed.
- *Curriculum development on People's Organization.* The People's Organisation training curriculum for Farmers' Clubs was piloted with farmer association members and it was formulated into a curriculum.
- *Strategies and Guidelines of FFS to post-FFS.* Documented strategies and guidelines for conducting field studies both within Farmer Field Schools and as post-FFS training activities.
- *Field Case Studies.* Developed Case studies and documented of some field studies, including details of study design, inputs provided, data collected, and agronomic and economic results obtained from the farmer action research.





Training on Grant Application. Some 36 farmer association leader participants (12 were women) came from the four provinces: Kandal, Kampong Cham, Siem Reap and Battambang attended the training on Grant Application. Two (2) participants from the National IPM Programme also attended this training. The training aimed to give Farmer

associations understanding about the grant application writing to donors. There were some main contents to be discussed such as the cover letter, title page, background of association, problems statement, how to develop goal and objectives, activity and outputs, monitoring and evaluation, work plan and budget plan. The methods used for this training included introduction, impression, warm up, energizing game, group discussion/presentation, synthesis by Facilitator and Trainees, and conclusions. Most of the participants were able to prepare a small grant application form to any donors they might approach. However, they suggested that a refresher course on this type of training will be needed in the future because it is new for them and when they need to apply they may need some assistance.



- *Exchange visit for Farmer Leaders.* Srer Khmer was organized an exposure visit for Farmer Club members to Siem Reap province to learn more about self-help and savings groups, women in leadership, and food security.
- *Training on Soil ecology and follow up.* Additional training on soil ecology (living soils) was conducted for 29 Farmer Trainers from 24-27 January 2005 at Bek Chan Station in Battambang province, with technical support by Srer Khmer. The training aimed to improve Farmer Trainer's skills and understanding on soil ecology and management, as well as to subsequently facilitate the training for Farmer Clubs. The follow up training on soil ecology was conducted for 14 Farmer Associations (including 282 farmers--181 males and 101 females) by Farmer Trainers. Srer Khmer staff conducted spot checks to some provinces and farmer associations in Battambang, Siem Reap and Kampong Cham to make sure that the training followed the planned schedule and that quality was maintained, and no problems were discovered. After the training some farmers were motivated to use the waste materials



such as collecting the yard long bean and dry tree leaves and increasing the use of composting. It is also anticipated that the skills received from this training will be incorporated into many of the field studies conducted in the future.

- *Training on Insect Ecology and Identification.* The Farmer-to-Farmer Insect Ecological Identification and Training was provided to farmer associations as needed to further build capacity of farmers on the farmer field experiments research, etc. After training, farmer field experiments were prepared for the farmers in the vegetable IPM clubs to carry out in support of field practices and training concepts.



- *Conducted a three-day training workshops on cost-benefit analysis.* The Training was

conducted with 18 Farmer Associations. Each workshop included some 15 farmer association members, totalling approximately 270 farmers. These workshops trained farmers to understand methods for recording their inputs and outputs, and to calculate costs, profits and losses.



- *Organised and conducted a study tour.* An exposure visit for 36 Farmer Association members from Kampong Cham, Siem Reap, Kandal, Battambang, and Banteay Meanchey provinces

held over two days from 15 to 16 March 2005 with the Banteay Srei organization, formerly the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA), based in Siem Reap Province. This organization has long experience in saving and self-help groups, women in leadership, integrated farming systems, and food security. The first day included a brief overview of the Banteay Srei organization, visits to farmers' fields, and to the Hurredo Organic Vegetable Station. On the second day, along with temple visits, Sreer Khmer organized a group discussion to reflect on what the participants had learned, and then participants came up with some lessons which they could apply after returning home, such as more promotion for composting and botanical pesticides, the strengthening of their self-help groups, and encouraging women in leadership positions of the Farmer's Clubs.

- *Conducted a pilot, a two-day workshop for one Farmer Association on concepts and methods of local organizations (People's Organizations).* This training helped them to explore methods and strategies to achieve sustainability in their clubs. The training was conducted in Kandorl Leu Village, Kandal province on 21-22 April 2005. The training was conducted with focus on understanding the concepts and importance of people's organizations, and how to prepare and sustain people's organizations. Concepts addressed included working collectively, social relationships, responsibilities, meaningfulness and fulfilment, and women's empowerment. At the end of the training, the Farmer Club members developed by-laws with clear structures including chairperson, treasurer, and secretary to oversee the future management of their farmer associations.

- *Provided on-going backstop visits to organic vegetable producers, including help with cropping calendar development.* To continue regular follow-up and technical support to five farmers in Kandal Province. In Kandal Steung, help in identifying disease and insect problems was provided, as was assistance in crop scheduling for farmers in both Kandal Steung and Muk Kampoul.
- *Conducted a one-day refresher course for inspectors (including District Trainers, and staff of the National IPM Programme and NGOs) to enable them to conducted field-level Internal Control System inspections on the quality of organic vegetables.* This training involved two District Trainers from Siem Reap province who already learned about the Internal Control System in previous trainings with a Consultant from Hanoi Organic. The refresher course took place from 11-12 April 2005 at Srer Khmer office.
- *Conducted Internal Control System inspections with 10 organic farmers in Kandal Province.* These inspections were conducted by the two District Trainers with three farmers in two villages of Kandal province--Thmei Village, Roleng Ken Commune, Kandal Steung District and Prek Taben Village, Prek Anchanh Commune, Mouk Kampoul District--during the above training from 11-12 April 2005. The main objective of this inspection was to provide a clear cross-check of the quality of vegetable production--whether they are really safe or not--in order to provide evidence/confidence to the consumers. The inspections found that most of the standards were being followed.
- *Organized a one-half day field trip for consumers to visit organic farmers in Kandal province.* This activity was conducted with 14 participants, including organic consumers, a university student, local authorities, the Kandal Provincial IPM Coordinator, and a journalist to the Roleng Ken Organic Development Agricultural Centre in Thmey Village, Kandal Province. The main objective was to provide an opportunity for both consumers and producers to understanding the process of growing organic vegetables, and to encourage organic farmers to continue this good practice as part of promoting local organic agriculture production. The field visit was very interesting for the consumers, and they learned a great deal because they could see the real farming conditions in which farmers grew vegetables without using pesticides. The consumers saw that organic vegetable production used only compost and botanical pesticides and fertilizers and, even though they do not have the best appearance, they are high in quality and better for health. Most participants suggested that Srer Khmer should find ways so that the farmers can keep growing organic vegetables and consumers can purchase them regularly.



- *Organized a one-half day workshop on organic vegetables.* The meeting was to allow producers to discuss the difficulties and challenges in growing organic vegetables, and consumers on how they can continue to buy the local, organic vegetables that are the same quality size and appearance as in-organic ones. There were 14 participants to seeing the actual production conditions and asking questions, there was some discussion about how to make sure the vegetable produce is safe, and how to ensure a regular supply. The farmers were confident in answering the questions raised by the consumers on how to use tea compost and wood vinegar as pest repellents.
- *Follow-up on cost-benefit analysis with Farmer Associations.* 237 farmers in 16 Farmer Association attended a follow up course on cost-benefit analysis of crops grown in the wet season, May through November, 2005 in four provinces. From these cost/benefits analysis courses, most of farmers learnt the process of keeping records on what they spent for farming activities. Farmers were aware of the types of costs and what they needed to spend and how to reduce costs. From the results, most of farmer gained benefits and they learnt the process of cost/benefits analysis.
- *Transformed farmer to farmer association.* As a result of post-farmer field school activity 35 Farmer Clubs became officially-recognised Farmer's Associations from the commune councils and most of these Farmer Associations had saving activities.
- *Low tunnel net technology development.* This activity was to assist farmers in improving their farming practices in growing vegetables through field trials on low tunnel net. The field trial aimed at safe vegetable production technology on short cycle leafy vegetables in order to help farmers understand about different protection methods and managing their crop production. The field experiment was conducted with 18 selected farmers to grow for both dry and rainy season with the involvement of 90 farmer participants and other interest farmers in



the villages in Kiensvay and Saang district, Kandal province. The field experiments were conducted by farmer trainers with regular backstopping from Srer Khmer. While harvesting, a field day was organized to involve all stakeholders including the department of agriculture, village chief, commune council members and non-beneficiaries to understand the importance of low tunnel net technology development.



PARTICIPATORY PLANT BREEDING PROJECT

This was the 4 year of project implementation and also the last year of financial support from the CGN/UWR from The Netherlands.

This project was carried out in Kandal, Takeo, and Kampong Speu provinces. The overall objective of this project was to strengthen the capacity of Farmer Trainers, government district trainers and farmer communities in participatory plant breeding (PPB) with a focus on rice, vegetables, animal improvement and marketing.

For this year, the project was implemented in 13 villages, 5 communes, 5 districts of the above 3 provinces.

Major Accomplishments

- *Conducted TOT on rice.* TOT was conducted with 6 farmer trainers and 2 District Trainers from 2 provinces. Then the FTs and DTs continued to provide two FFS-PPB-Rice with some 55 participants in Kandal and Takeo provinces.
- *Field observation study.* Nine farmer groups continued to conduct follow-up field observation study on experimentation from last year, each group consisted of 8-10 participants in Kandal, Kampong Speu and Takeo provinces.



- ✓ *Kandal province in wet season 2005 they received from the follow-up field observation study F7 had 11 characteristics segregation included 6 characteristics early varieties and 4 characteristics medium rice varieties.*
- ✓ *Kampong Speu province in wet season 2005 they received from the follow-up field observation study F6 had 8 characteristic segregation included 4 characteristics early varieties, 2 characteristics medium varieties and 2 characteristics late varieties.*
- ✓ *Takeo province in wet season 2005 they received from the follow-up field observation study F5 had 10 characteristics segregation included 6 characteristics early varieties, 2 characteristics medium varieties and 2 characteristics late varieties.*



- *Conducted TOT on vegetable.* TOT on vegetable was conducted with 6 farmer trainers and 2 District trainers from Kampong Speu and Kandal provinces. After completing the



training, FTs and DTs continued to open two FFS-PPB-Vegetable with some 50 participants.

- *Field observation study.* Nine farmer groups continued to conduct follow-up field observation study on experimentation, each group consisted of 8-10 participants.
 - ✓ *Kandal province, farmer groups received pumpkin segregation F3 with three characteristics, wax gourd had 2 characteristics and bitter gourd had 2 characteristics.*
 - ✓ *Kampong Speu province, farmer groups received pumpkin segregation F3 with 4 characteristics, wax gourd had 2 characteristics and bitter gourd had 2 characteristics.*
 - ✓ *Takeo province, farmer group received pumpkin segregation F3 with three characteristics, Wax gourd had 2 characteristics and bitter gourd had 2 characteristics.*



- *Conducted TOT on Local Pig Improvement.* The training was another combination added to the rice and vegetable components for 12 farmer trainers and 3 District trainers from the 3 provinces. The expert was come from CGN to help us with this training. The FTs and DTs conducted two FFS on Local Pig Improvement with some 50 participants.
- *Organized TOT on Participatory Marketing Survey.* The training was conducted with 12 farmer trainers and 3 District trainers with technical support from CGN/UWR.



NETWORKING WITH GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NGOs

- *Least Developed Country People's Forum.* The forum was organized by many NGOs including the NGO Forum, OGB, WAC, etc., at the Sunway Hotel in Phnom Penh from 27 to 28 September 2005. Participants from some ten countries joined together to share experiences and their concerns about the World Trade Organisation.
- *Workshop on Integrated rice-fish-vegetable FFSs.* The workshop was organized by the Department of Agronomy and Agricultural Land Improvement (DAALI) with the support of DANIDA-IPM and GTZ/Food Security and Nutrition Policy Support Project (FSNPSP) on 29 September 2005. The workshop aimed to share and evaluate the results of the field schools and discuss future strategies.
- *International Seminar on Wood Vinegar.* The seminar was conducted from 13 to 14 October 2005 at the Holiday Villa Hotel, Phnom Penh, to introduce and share the advantages of wood vinegar among participants from several countries, including Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia. Two Srer Khmer trainers attended this seminar, and approximately 50 seminar participants visited farmers working with Srer Khmer in Kandal province.
- *FAO World Food Day.* The FAO World Food Day, with the theme of Agriculture and Intercultural Dialogue was organized on 17 October 2005 at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry. This event also commemorated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of FAO in Quebec City, Canada, on 16 October 1945.
- *National Conference on Organic and GMO Free Agriculture.* The National Conference was co-organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and European Commission.
- *Pesticides Reduction Network Cambodia.* Attended the study tour to visit the organic agriculture, integrated farming system in Battambang and Banteay Meanchey which was organized by NGO Forum on Cambodia.
- *Agriculture Competitiveness Study.* Attended the Conference on Agriculture Competitiveness Study at Phnom Penh Hotel which was organized by CDRI.
- *Attended the 41st Prolinnova Dialogue.* Prolinnova mean 'Promoting Local Innovation' is an NGO-initiated programme to build a global learning and advocacy network on promoting local ecologically-oriented agriculture and NRM. The focus is on recognizing the dynamics of indigenous knowledge learning and how to strengthen the capacity of farmers. In Cambodia CEDAC is the coordinating NGO for the inception phase of the Prolinnova and there are 15 NGO members including Srer Khmer and 4 government departments. One staff member and a Srer Khmer farmer trained attended in this dialogue at The International University (IU) in Phnom Penh. There were some 20 innovation topics related to agriculture techniques, food processing, traditional medicine, farmer associations, plant propagation presented during the dialogue.
- *Attended the District Integration Workshop in Malai district.* The meeting was conducted in Malai district to review the project activities of the NGOs working in Malai which was contracted with authorities last year and to continue supporting and contracting for the next year. There were 27 NGOs and Departments including Srer Khmer who participated in this meeting.



- *Attended The National Prolinnova Workshop.* One staff members attended the national workshop of Prolinnova Cambodia organized in *Kampong Chhnang province*. The workshop was to reflect on the accomplishments of the year 2005 were and put forward the next year plan. There were 73 participants from different NGOs and government agencies.

**INTERNATIONAL MEETING/WORKSHOPS/VISITS ATTENDED**

Staff Members	What	When	Where
Pou Sovann	Attended the Launching workshop on UPA: Towards better understanding of low-income producers' organization	17-19 October, 2005	FAO Headquarter Rome, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, Italy
Sours Sokha and Yech Polo	Attended the Regional Workshop on PPB	16-18 March, 2005	Jakarta, Indonesia
Sours Sokha	Attended the Regional Seminar-Workshop Towards Sustainable Seed Conservation, Development and Use.	22-23 November, 2005	Vientiane, Lao
Koung Sokunthea	Attended Bi-Annual Regional Vegetable IPM Programme Meeting	15 to 17 November 2005	Kanchanaburi, Thailand
Koung Sokunthea	Attended Bi-Annual Regional Vegetable IPM Programme Meeting	27 to 29 April 2005	Luang Prabang, Lao PDR
Phoung Dara	Attended the exposure visit on Forestry, Coastal Fishery Communities Development and Watershed Management	2 to 10 April 2005	Eastern Samar, Ulot Watershed and Salcedo, The Philippines



CONCLUSIONS

Srer Khmer puts all its efforts towards the goals and objectives of providing 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. With sophisticated planning, good performance and sound management, Srer Khmer completed almost all the activities planned for the year 2005.

Some donors/contract agencies finished financial support to Srer Khmer, i.e., FAO IPM Project supported Srer Khmer on post farmer field school since the start-up of this organization and the support came to an end this year, therefore, the real challenge is to continue support the existing farmer groups so that they are able to learn more in order to improve their family economic situation. Farmer education as well as capacity building is on-going process and takes time.

Many people viewed Srer Khmer as an important contributor to the work of agricultural development, especially for farmers-led initiatives/discovery learning approach in the areas of ecological agriculture learning and farmer group formation in Cambodia.

Srer Khmer will face other great challenges in the coming years, work on the frontline of sustainable agriculture and rural development; therefore, the support both technical and financial will continue to be needed from national and international communities. The broad acknowledgements of their fruitful support are a sign of the successful work of Srer Khmer in facing these challenges.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The total income in the year 2005 was **US\$182,588.55** from the following funding agencies/donors:

- DANIDA through ADDA
- FAO Regional Vegetable IPM Programme, Bangkok, Thailand
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Center for Genetic Resources/UWR, The Netherlands and FAO through PEDIGREA Foundation
- Dietrick Institute for Applied Insect Ecology, USA.
- SUSPER-AVRDC-French MOFA
- Australian Volunteer International (AVI)
- Services provided to other NGOs/Institutions

EXPENDITURE BY OBJECTIVES

