



**SRER KHMER**

*For farmer-led initiatives*

*A local NGO dedicated to the support of sustainable socio-economic development through research, training education and community development by promoting farmer-led activities, networking, environmentally sound agriculture, and natural resources management.*



# ANNUAL REPORT 2006

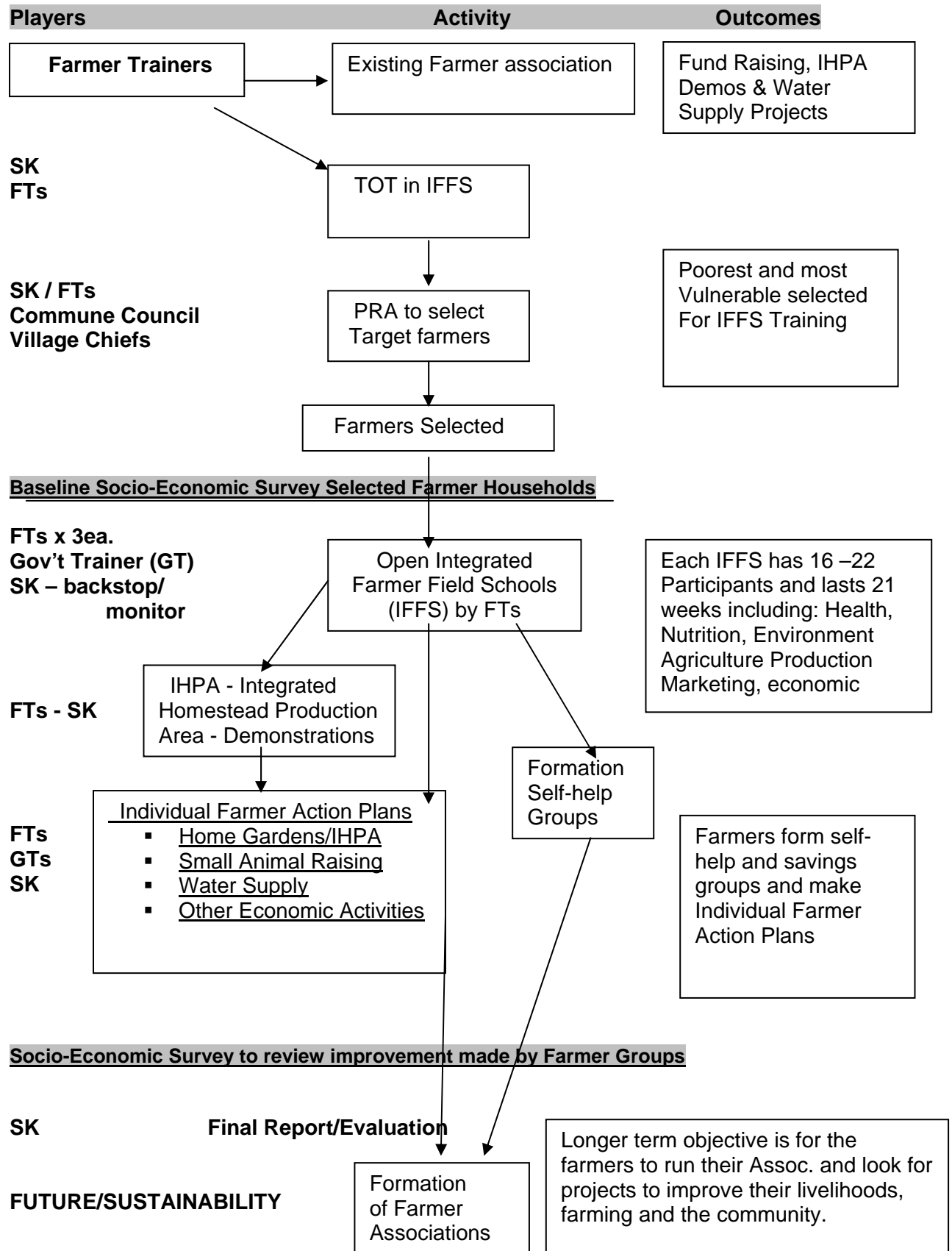
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**MOST OF OUR PROJECTS USED THIS APPROACH**





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with great pleasure that we look back on the achievements of Srer Khmer during the year 2006. Firstly, we would like to note that these achievements would not have been possible without the great commitment of the staff, the management committee, our funding agencies and our Board of Directors.

Srer Khmer's accomplishments have been made possible with the active support of the following **donors: Agriculture Development Denmark Asia (ADDA), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA); FSIF/CIDA, DANIDA/IPM/ITSP, CDF AusAID, EC UNDP SGP PTF, FAO Headquarter in Rome, ADB/IRRI/CARDI, Australian Volunteers International (AVI)** supported one Australian Volunteer to work with Srer Khmer as an Advisor (Mr. Victor Onions) on Institutional Strengthening based in Phnom Penh office and **Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD)** supported one Volunteer (Mr. Sam Roseby) to work with the project based in Banteay Meanchey province. 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.

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.

*Staff Members of Srer Khmer and Management  
April 2007*

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**ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

ABE	Association of Buddhists for Environment
ABiC	Agriculture Business Institute Cambodia
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADDA	Agricultural Development Denmark Asia
AVI	Australian Volunteer International
AYAD	Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development
BPS	Buddhist for Progressive Society
CARDI	Cambodia Agriculture Research and Development Institute
CDA	Children Development Association
CDF	Community Development Fund from AusAID
CDFS	Capacity Development of Rural Farmers for Food Security
CGN	Center for Genetic Resources/The Netherlands
CRDT	Cambodia Rural Development Team
DANIDA	Danish International Development Aid
DATE	Development and Appropriate Technology
DT	Government District Trainer
EPDO	Environmental Protection and Development Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLD	Farmer Livelihoods Development
FSIF	Food Security Initiative Fund from CIDA
FT	Farmer Trainer
FTOC	Farmer Trainer Orientation Course
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
IFFS	Integrated Farmer Field School
IFFLS	Integrated Farmer Field and Life School
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
IWEP	Integrated Women Empowerment Project
MB	Mlub Baitong
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
RDCNRM	Rural Development and Community Natural Resources Management
SCW	Save Cambodia's Wildlife
NRM	Natural Resources Management
SGP PTF	Small Grants Programme to Promote Tropical Forests
SHG	Self Help Group
SS	Santi Sena
TOT	Training of Trainers
UPA	Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture
VEW	Village Extension Worker
VSG	Village Support Group
WACD	Women Association for Community Development



## ABOUT SRER KHMER

**Srer Khmer** means *Field of Cambodia*, a Cambodian non-governmental organization, non-profit and non-partisan dedicated to the support of sustainable socio-economic development through research, training, education, and community development by promoting of farmer-led activities, farmers networking, environmentally sound agriculture and natural resources management.

**Srer Khmer** was established and registered with the Ministry of Interior of the Royal Government of Cambodia 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 provides support and advice to the Director and the Management Committee who provide leadership and liaison vis-à-vis other institutions and organizations.

### **Vision**

Farming communities and community development workers must have the capacity, right and ownership of decision making on any issues that is relevant to sustain their living.

### **Mission**

SRER KHMER, in recognition of farmers' right to learn, use and manage their own community resources and participate in any decision related to their livelihood, is committed by providing farmers and community development workers 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, economics and rural society.

### **Strategy**

To achieve this mission, SRER KHMER works 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.

### **Goal**

Farmers and community development workers to have increased control of their lives based on a mastery of sustainable agriculture, environment, economic and social knowledge and skill.

### **Target areas coverage**

In the 5 years since formed Srer Khmer has delivered a wide range of farmer led training to in excess of 12,000 plus families (48% of whom were women), farmer trainers and Government District Trainers (approximately 58,100 farmers) by using the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach (participatory learning and discovery) in 180 villages, 45 communes, 37 districts of 10 provinces: Kandal; Kampong Cham; Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Takeo; Kampong Speu; Pursat, Battambang; Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey.



## **SRER KHMER AREAS OF FOCUS (2006-2010)**

### **1. Integrated Farming and Marketing System (IFFS)**

- Farmer-centered learning and Farmer Field School
- Organic agriculture (vegetables and rice)
- Agro-biodiversity
- 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

## **MAJOR PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006**

### **1. Integrated Women Empowerment Project (IWEP)**

This project was funded by ADDA to operate in Siem Reap province to implement the Integrated Women Empowerment Project (IWEP) 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 have increased knowledge and awareness on nutrition and diet, general health condition, sex industry, consequences of using pesticides, ownership and value of land (capacity building).
- Based on the empowerment of the female farmers in the project area their influence is increased through their participation in the community-based groups/organizations (advocacy).

Up to date, IWEP conducted 86 IFFS for the first and second cycles of Integrated Farmer Field School. Each IFFS had 25 to 30 participants and two VEWs managed each school with the technical support from IWEP staff members. Each IFFS lasted about three months with training only half day per week either in the morning or afternoon. The total farmer

participants were 2,624 (Livestock FFS was 1,540 participants and Vegetable FFS was 1,080 participants).



An IFFS management workshop was organized for VEWs and staff members to analyze strengths and weaknesses of IFFS performance in the first cycle and make the recommendations for improving the quality of FFS performance in second cycle; to provide further training regarding vegetable production, livestock production, facilitation skills and especially the formation of self-help groups. 28 SHGs were formed with about 20 members in each group.

A refresher course was organized for 11 VEWs aimed to strengthen their capacity in IFFS facilitation and management in the next IFFS cycles.

## 2. Capacity Development of Rural Farmers for Food Security Project

This project was funded by NPA in Banteay Meanchey province. In the year 2006, NPA supported Srer Khmer to implement a project called "Capacity Development of Rural Farmers for Food Security" based in Malai and O'Chrov Districts with the following objectives:

- To strengthen the capacity of 25 Farmer Trainers through a 5 day training on socio-economic analysis and integrated homestead production.
- To support farmer trainers to continue providing training to 11 farmer associations with some 220 members on integrated homestead production and socio-economic analysis and marketing.
- To support the development of farmer association members' capacity through organizing one exchange visit, one farmer forum, and participatory planning.

To date, the Project trained 25 Farmer Trainers to support 220 Farmer Association members in 11 Farmer Associations in 11 villages. Farmer Trainers are trained in areas relating specifically to ecological agricultural techniques; land rights and resource entitlement; economic planning; environmental protection; health; education; and disaster prevention. Integrated Farmer Field and Life Schools (IFFLS) meet once per week to study these topics. Each year the capacity of Farmer Associations are further strengthened through exchange visits, Farmer Forum meetings and Farmer Trainer Network meetings. Farmer Associations have self-help and savings groups to sustain their development. Association members meet regularly and have self-help groups and are actively involved in farmer research trials.

Target villages in Banteay Meanchey have increased rice yield to 1.9 tons hectare in the past year with an average saving of 734,500R per hectare. 18 demonstration farms are currently in operation and the Project has contributed to the establishment of 14 family ponds/open wells. Increased vegetable and fish production has allowed target families to increase their incomes by about 360,000R per year.



Farmer Associations have each saved 3 million Riel on average which is used to support Association member families in need. 5 exchange visits, 4 Farmer Trainer Network meetings and 2 Farmer Forums were conducted to facilitate farmer dialogue and the sharing of information and ideas. Furthermore participatory feedback suggests an overall increase in education participation levels in schools and a marked decrease in health problems associated with pesticide use and lack of nutrition.

**3. Food Security and Livelihoods Improvement Project.**

This project is funded by FSIF-CIDA to operate in Battambang province to implement a two-year project titled "Food Security and Livelihood Improvement in Banan, Sangker and Thmor Korl districts, Battambang province".

The project objectives are to select and work with 14 groups of the poorer farmers in the community to improve their livelihood situation by IFFS training and self-help group activities, and to evaluate IFFS as a self-help poverty alleviation approach for sustainable development

After the project was launched, training was conducted in 7 villages for key villagers to select the target farmers, followed by a *baseline farmer survey*.

Three-week training in IFFS for 16 Community Trainers was conducted. The CTs used this knowledge and skills to manage and facilitate IFFS with 7 farmer groups (150 farmers). The first cycle of IFFS will be finished in March 2007. Farmer participants now know how to make compost, understand the importance of home gardens, natural fertilizer and the negative impact of chemicals and how to maximize use of time for improving livelihood. Each IFFS had one demonstration on pig raising and home gardening.



#### 4. Livelihoods Improvement Project

This project was funded by CDF-AusAID to operate in Kampong Cham province to implement a one-year project titled “Livelihood Improvement.”

The project took 6 groups of the poorest farmers in areas of Kampong Cham Province where trained farmer trainers associated with the 6 existing Farmers Associations were available to take these new groups through the Farmer Life School training process and other training to improve their food security, livelihood sustainability.

A Farmer Life School (FLS) training course was organized for 10 Farmer Trainers (FT) in target areas with the main topics focused on human ecology and social/economic constraints analysis. Then, 25 Volunteer farmers were selected for each of the six Farmer Life Schools through a wealth ranking exercise.



The 6 Farmer Life Schools were conducted with the target groups for 18 weeks with a total of 122 participants (59 were women) and an estimated 730 indirect family beneficiaries. Most farmers successfully finished the FLS, and came up with Individual Action Plans for improving their livelihood by home gardening, pig, chicken, and fish raising.

Five Farmer Associations and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were formed in five villages in two districts in Kampong Cham province with the total of 88 participants. The total amount of savings in 5 of the Farmer Associations/ Self-Help Groups was 4,335,990 Cambodian riel (\$1084.00) as at the end December 2006.

Training was conducted on grant application to assist Farmer Association members to write a small grant proposal in order to find resources for livelihood improvement. After the training course, one Farmer Association was able to raise 200,000 Cambodian Riel and submit a request to Srer Khmer for some support from the CDF/AusAID project and the Commune Council to rehabilitate their village dam. Their request for support was successful and the deepened dam is now of benefit to many farmers with land surrounding the dam.

## 5. Capacity Building of Farmer Associations Project

This project was funded by Danida-IPM/ITSP.

Within the framework of the overall project strategy for self reliance, ownership and sustainability, Srer Khmer supported farmer organisation initiatives at the village level with farmers trainers who graduated from IPM farmer field schools and farmer life schools. Starting with an objective of building on common interest and innovating farmers, the associations are being developed for diversified economic and social purposes.



In order to strengthen the capacity of farmer associations to be more effective and sustainable with support from DANIDA through ITSP/DANIDA IPM project Srer Khmer organized exchange visits for the 35 farmer associations (some 525 members), one study tour to Thailand for a group of farmer leaders and management training for the farmer associations and a reflection workshop on farmer association management.

## 6. LEARN-IT Project

This project is funded by ADB/IRRI/CARDI to have a pilot operation in Prey Veng, Svay Rieng and Pursat provinces.

The primary objective of the project is to help Cambodian farmers to make rice management decisions that will improve their rice productivity and profitability.

A needs assessment in the 3 target provinces was conducted in six villages to find out the main problems to improve rice production. Pre-workshops were organized to the 3 provinces in cooperation with the NGO partners aimed to present the needs assessment findings and to provide awareness on the LEARN-IT project to the target villagers prior to developing training materials regarding rice production.



### **7. Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Project**

The project was funded by GCP/INT/955/CAN through FAO Rome, Italy for ten cities including Hyderabad, Phnom Penh, Harare, Kinshasha, Accra, Cairo, Nairobi, Antananarivo, Dakar, and Caracas to support of the preparation of a City Case Study on urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA).

The final documentation on this project will be made into a book called “Capacity building of Low Income Producers Organizations: Guidelines for group promoters and community organizers” based on the ten city case studies.

### **8. Proactive Project to provide capacity building to 15 SGP PTF partner NGOs**

This project was funded by EC UNDP SGP PTF to implement a one-year project called “Proactive project to support 15 NGO partners of SGP PTF”. The principle thrust of the SGP PTF is to support community-led initiatives that promote sustainable forest use and the management and enhancement of livelihoods.

The proactive project aimed to deliver one three round participatory training workshops plus reflection and final workshop to 15 SGP PTF Programme partners (30 participants) in Business Planning; Livelihood and Marketing, Knowledge Management and Project Management/Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation.

The partners of SGP PTF were included DATE in Kampong Chhnang, ABE in Kampong Chhnang, EPDO in Pursat, AK in Pursat, WACD in Pailin, CDA in Odar Meanchey, FLD in Preah Vihear, MB in Kampong Thom, CRDT in Mondulhiri, ABiC in Kratie, RDCNRM in Rattanakiri, Santi Sena in Svay Rieng, SCW in Kampot, VSG in Banteay Meanchey, and BPS in Preah Vihear.



The training and workshops organized by Srer Khmer were successfully conducted and finished to satisfaction by all participants. The participants were willing to learn new knowledge and skills to apply in their respective organizations. They fully participated throughout the training and workshops with good discussion and interaction between facilitators and participants.

### **9. Training guides development**

Srer Khmer was funded by DANIDA-IPM/ITSP to develop several training guides related to agriculture, community development and natural resources management including:

- Participatory Rural Development
- Participatory Improved Local Pig Production
- Home Gardens



- Participatory Plant Breeding
- Egg Hatching
- Grant Application
- Self-Help Group Formation/Management
- Marketing
- Participatory Internal Control System
- Participatory Marketing Study
- Participatory Plant Breeding on Vegetables
- Participatory Plant Breeding on Rice
- Socio-economics Analysis for Farm Management
- Farmer Life School
- Organic Vegetable production

#### **10. Facilitation in FFS on Soil Ecology**

Srer Khmer was offered a short contract from FAO Vegetable IPM Programme (GCP/RAS/209/NOR) to provide one Srer Khmer Trainer to conduct a TOT and follow up activities for the selected farmers and District Trainers on principles of SRI and soil ecology in rice production in Prey Veng province. This work was undertaken in close cooperation with FAO Vegetable IPM and National IPM Programme.

#### **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Srer Khmer is a learning organization and puts all its efforts towards the goals and objectives of providing farmers' opportunities and community development agents 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 careful planning, good performance and sound management, Srer Khmer completed almost all the activities planned for the year 2006.

Many people viewed Srer Khmer as an important contributor to the work of agricultural development and providing capacity building to the related sectors, especially for farmer-led initiatives/discovery learning approach to support the sustainable socio-economic development through research, training, education, and community development.

Srer Khmer will face other great challenges in the coming years, working 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 community. The broad acknowledgement of their continued support is a sign of the success of the work of Srer Khmer in facing these challenges.



## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The total income in the year 2006 was **US\$252,596.17** from the following supporters:

- Agriculture Development Denmark Asia (ADDA)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Community Development Fund from AusAID
- Food Security Initiatives Fund (FSIF-CIDA)
- DANIDA-IPM Project/ITSP
- EC UNDP SGP PTF
- ADB/IRRI/CARDI
- Australian Volunteers International (AVI)
- Australian Youth Ambassadors (AYA)
- FAO Headquarter in Rome, Italy
- Services provided to other NGOs/Institutions/UN agencies

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### **Case Study 1: Management and Leadership on Ponleu Kasekor Phum Lvea Association**



Ms Chheng Sokhim is 25 years old living in Lvea village, Beung Beng commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. Nowadays, she is living with her parents with 4 members in the family. Previously, she farmed based on her parents' experiences but the yield return was not sufficient for the family consumption.

In 2003, Srer Khmer arrived her village to open a Farmer Field School, a seasonal long training with full participation from farmers, lasted 18 weeks with half-a-day training each week. Sokhim was the one of the training participants.

Due to see her positive attitude and active participation during training, Srer Khmer invited her to become a farmer trainer in her village; the idea was accepted by her, other villagers and by the local authority. Therefore in 2004, she was selected to attend a Farmer Trainer Orientation Course (FTOC), a course to train farmers to become farmer trainers. Srer Khmer continued to support her with more capacity building in technical skills, management and leadership and by visits to other provinces.

After accomplishing the FTOC, she continued to disseminate knowledge and skills learned and to gather villagers to form a farmer association named Ponleu Kasekor Phum Lvea Association. She was elected to be chairwoman in this association and to lead the monthly meeting with members to discuss the issues related to saving activity, the farmer association matters such as how to write a proposal to ask for budget support for the association and to encourage members to work more actively in the village towards food security, homestead production and income generation. She has stressed that this task was very important for her as it gave her more experience and encouraged her gradually to dare to speak out when attending any meeting, workshop/seminar something which she had never did before.

She also emphasized that this knowledge and skills were from the support of Srer Khmer and NPA to make her brave enough to speak in front of fellow villagers and to solve any problem arising in the farmer association.

## Case Study 2: Impacts from the Integrated Homestead Production

Mr. Rith Sarem is 52 years old living in Kandorl village, O'sralov commune, Malai district, Banteay Meanchey province. He has 8 members in the family. He earned a living by growing mung beans with 14 rai of land to support the family. He only grew mung bean with no other supplementary activities so that the income from selling mung beans was not enough to support the family. He always bought vegetables, meat and fish from Thailand food known to have a lot of chemicals and as result his family's health was not good with typhoid and headaches very often. This sickness made him spent more money to buy medicines. The situation made all his children drop out from school and stay at home to help in farming activities.



In the year 2004, Srer Khmer arrived in his village and opened a Farmer Field School, with season participatory training on crops and the negative impacts of pesticides used and other short course training on integrated homestead production. He was one of the training participants because he wanted to learn new things to help his family. After finishing the course on integrated homestead production, he prepared his homestead land with an area 2m x 200 m as an integrated farming system including fish pond, frog pond, and dug a canal for water management and a place for fish and frog to play as an entertainment, together with some vegetables such as mung beans, egg plant, lemon grass, hot pepper, pumpkin, sponge gourd, tobacco, long bean, onions, cabbages, papaya, custard apple and an experimental plot of rice seedlings.

He knew that growing only one type of crop could not support the family demand, but when he started an integrated farming system he could meet the family consumption and sell the surplus. The garden produce used no chemicals so that they tasted delicious and gave us better health. I will do my best to improve my farm from time to time. Meanwhile, he also asked the neighboring families and villages to establish farming systems to avoid purchasing products from the market which mostly contain chemicals and then we can save money for the family.



### Case study 3: Experience designing home garden

Mr. Yi La is 46 years old, a farmer living in Angkorl Village, Sopheas commune, Steungstrang District, Kampong Cham Province. His family has eight members (3 are women) and his farmland measures only 1,800m<sup>2</sup>. His family plant rice in the wet season and some vegetables such as corn and cucumber, but the yield was not enough for his family's use.

In January 2006 Mr Yi La joined the Farmer Life School training in his village organized by Sreer Khmer. After training he designed and prepared a home garden and some chicken raising. He did not use artificial fertilizer or chemical pesticides on his vegetables but only used compost and botanical pesticide, crop rotation and pest removal by hand for pest control.

Normally his family buys around 500 to 1,000 Riels worth of vegetables per day, now he doesn't buy any from the market and his farm environment and soil is better than before.

Beside providing a good environment and income generation, this integrated home gardening provides daily employment for his family members and healthy food. In his next Action Plan Mr Yi La wants to dig a pond to irrigate his vegetables and raise some fish.

Table of home garden income from 24 April until 20 December, 2006

N	Type of crop	Time	Yield (Kg)	Total yield (Kg)	Unit price (Riel)	Total price (Riel)
1	Cucumber	2	80	160	500	80,000
2	Egg plant	1	20	20	600	12,000
3	Kang Kong	3	40	120	600	72,000
4	Tomato	1	30	30	1,500	45,000
5	Yard-long bean	2	15	30	1,500	45,000
6	Spring onion	2	20	40	3,500	140,000
<b>Total</b>						<b>394,000</b>

List of expenditure

N	Type of crop	Time	Seed/plant material	Unit price (R/Kg)	Total price (Riel)
1	Cucumber	2	0.1 Kg	52,000	5,200
2	Egg plant	1	0.05 Kg	88,000	4,400
3	Kang Kong	3	4 .50Kg	6,500	19,500
4	Tomato	1	0.10 Kg	20,000	2,000
5	Yard-long bean	2	0.40 Kg	40,000	16,000
6	Spring onion	2	2.00 Kg	6,000	12,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>59,100</b>

Note: This expenditure didn't included the depreciation of tools

Total incomes of home garden = 394,000 Riels less expenditure of 59,100 Riels, so Mr Yi La's net benefit from the garden is 334,900 Riels (\$83.70) in addition to savings on having to buy vegetables and having healthy and nutritious food for his family

Recommendation of Mr Yi La's experience:

- Determine clear objectives
- Understanding of the importance of home gardening
- Try and believe what we do
- That a home garden must have a fence or cover net and to mix-crops.