



**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, sustainable agriculture and natural resources management.**

## **Integrated Women Empowerment Project**

### **Background**

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.

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.

### **Purposes of Project**

- Based on improved agro-technical knowledge, the productivity of vegetables, poultry and pigs is increasing, especially for female-headed households in the project area.
- 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.
- 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.

### **Key Results**

The farmers, women and men, will participate in Farmer Field Schools and after the training the women are subsequently encouraged to form Self Help Groups. These groups will decide upon their activities themselves, but are still able to receive support from the project. The Women Self Help Groups will be encouraged to initiate saving to village 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.

A market survey related to the agricultural production in Seam Reap province show that the production of vegetables and small livestock (poultry and pigs) is weak and not at all able to meet the demand.

Finally the project will supply full scholarships for studies at PNSA for a limited number of poor students, a majority of whom are girls, from Seam Reap province. After training the women will take up positions in their local communities.

### **Main Activities**

- The project will train approximately 3.000 farmers in vegetable production. This will be done through 100 FFS. At least 75 % of the participants must be women.
- The project will train approximately 3.000 farmers, at least 75 % of whom are women, through 100 livestock FFS.
- Groups with up to 20 members may be established after graduated from FFS. It is expected that a total of 75 - 100 women SHGs will be established
- The women SHGs to establish funds for community development by initiating saving schemes and the project will subsequently provide matching grants to the village group fund. Loans to members for production improvements or initiating new production systems will be approved by the SHG members themselves. The women will learn to manage funds and to administrate loans in between themselves.

### **Contributing Donors**

Agriculture Development Denmark Asia/DANIDA

### **Duration**

May 2005 to April 2008 with possible extension

### **Total Budget**

146,361.98USD (since May 2005 to December 2007)

### **Cooperating Partners**

Village Extension Workers, Department of Women's Affairs and Department of Agriculture

### **Location**

Siem Reap province

### **Contacts**

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