



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.

Rural Ecological Agriculture for Livelihood (REAL)

Background

35.9 percent of Cambodians live below the national poverty line (the poverty line deemed appropriate for a country by its authorities) of US\$0.45 per day (World Bank, 2006).

Between 1993 and 2004 the number of people living on less than US\$0.45 per day fell from 47 to 35 percent of the population. During the same period, per capita consumption of the richest 20 percent of the population grew by 45 percent, compared to a growth of 8 percent for the poorest 20 percent.

Rural households account for nearly 90 percent of the country's poor.

The adult literacy rate for Cambodian men is 82.1 percent; that for women is 67.4 percent. However, a study carried out by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reported that functionally literate people make up only 37 percent of Cambodia's adult population.

About 42 percent of Cambodian women and 21 percent of men above the age of 15 have never attended school.

About 93 percent of Cambodian children attend primary school, but in remote areas enrolment is only 76 percent. There are 1,238 pre-schools, 6,063 primary schools, 486 lower secondary schools and 212 upper secondary schools in Cambodia, staffed by 76,350 teachers and serving 3,433,048 students.

30 percent of pupils drop out from school between grades 1 and 2. 43 percent of pupils complete grade 6 and 19 percent complete grade 9. On average there are 51 pupils per primary school teacher.

Around two million children aged between five and 17 (about half of all children in that age range) are involved in work. 1.5 million of these are aged 14 and under. More than two-thirds of working children are employed in agricultural activities, including fishing and work on rubber plantations (NIS, 2001).

Therefore, it is a need for development of school & community ecological agriculture ie. awareness of pesticides impacts to health and environment and pilot activities to improve the situations through education of school and community on ecological agriculture.

The Field Alliance is one of the partners in the Swedish-supported Pesticide Risk Reduction Programme that is being implemented in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Yunnan Province in China and Vietnam. Under the programme, TFA is responsible for providing technical support to develop capacities of selected schools and communities in creating awareness, health and environmental education, as well as advocacy work in support of a non-toxic environment.

The Rural Ecological Agriculture for Livelihood (REAL), a project of TFA, has been identified and is being utilized in this effort to promote and create networking among schools, communities and

concerned agencies at the national and regional levels. Srer Khmer was selected as a partner to implement this project in Cambodia.

Purpose of Project

Key segments of the public, including government staff, private sector, consumers, NGOs, farming communities and rural youth made aware of the risks associated with pesticide use. Rural communities are actively involved in monitoring pesticide issues & development/ implementation of pesticide risk reduction action plans.

Key Results

- Two Srer Khmer staff members capacity developed
- 3 schools have developed ecological agriculture activities
- School curriculum developed
- Network on REAL school established

Main Activities

- Train Srer Khmer staff members to be familiar with REAL project
- Select and confirm 3 primary schools and 6 teachers in this project
- Prepare materials for teacher training
- Development of school and community ecological agriculture activities through series of training and provision of on-going visiting supports to school and community efforts
- Development of school curriculum
- Implement REAL school education plan by teacher
- Provision of on-going visits and technical supports to selected schools and communities.
- Held exchange forums for teachers and dissemination of the efforts through exhibition and meetings
- Facilitate communities to detail and implement action plan for reducing pesticides use, risk and increase bio-diversity in farm land.
- Annual forum with teachers and students
- Documentation

Contributing Donors

SIDA through the Filed Alliances (TFA) based in Bangkok, Thailand.

Duration

May to December 2007 with possible extension.

Total Budget

9,820.00USD with Srer Khmer contribution of amount 2,200.00USD.

Location

Kampong Cham province

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