



**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.**

## **Small Scale Irrigation System to Support Livelihood Security (SISL)**

### **Background**

Sreer Khmer was approved by the National Steering Committee (NSC) of UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme to implement a project titled "Sustainable Land and Biodiversity Conservation Project" from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009 in Ou Reang Ov and Tboung Khmum districts of the Kampong Cham province.

Most of Cambodian farmers depend on rainfall as their only source of water. Rainfall levels during the months from October till April are extremely low and as such the chances of growing alternatives crops are reduced.

In order to support small scale irrigation and having clean and safe water for daily life to villagers of Sreer Khmer target areas in Kampong Cham province, Sreer Khmer staff members conducted a participatory rapid assessment to both districts, Ou Reang Ov and Tboung Khmum. The assessment was conducted through meeting with relevant stakeholders; focus group discussions with commune council members, village chief and conducted visit to the areas of having water problems, canal, and dams for rehabilitation as well as meeting with the district agriculture staff and rural development staff members.

The result from this rapid assessment showed that scarcity and competition for water in the dry season stand as a major threat to future advances in poverty alleviation in the area. Clean and safe water is a key necessity for life and livelihood security through growing crops and raising animals. When rainfall is not sufficient farmers are severely restricted as to what they can produce.

Poor rural families in the 10 target villages within the Kampong Cham province make use of a variety of sources of income and subsistence activities to make their livings. However, the majority of their income comes from agro-ecosystems which are directly based on nature - like subsistence commodity crops, small-scale farming and livestock rearing, home gardens, some aquaculture, hunting, and collecting of firewood and other natural products.

Participatory discussion activities in the region also showed that the majority of the villages are coming to see entitlement and access to water for food production, livestock and domestic purposes as more critical than access to primary health care and education.

### **Purpose of Project**

- To improve the living condition of community by distribution of ceramic water filter in order to make them having safe drinking water.
- To ensure water supplies to increasing agriculture productivity and diversification of community through supporting small scale irrigation system.

### **Key Results**

The proposed project will directly benefit some 250 participants with an estimated 1250 indirect family to have rabbit water filter and for the public uses including schools, health center and pagoda of some 150 rabbit water filters.

The small irrigation system will make water sources available widely within the community for more than 20 villages in two commune of Ou Reang Ov and Tboung Khmum districts to increase their agriculture production and diversification especially growing rice from one time to three times per year.

The formation of water user committee should allow farmers to continue to monitor water supplies, their environment and improve their agriculture after the project finishes.

### **Main Activities**

**Objective 1:** To improve the living condition of community by distributing rabbit water filter in order to make them having safe drinking water.

**Activity 1.1.** To conduct needs assessment to the ten target villages focusing on Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) of safe drinking water

**Activity 1.2.** To conduct village orientation meeting on the importance of having rabbit water filter

**Activity 1.3.** To select the villagers who can contribute in co-sharing cost to purchase the rabbit water filter and distribution

**Activity 1.4.** To select the schools, health centers and pagoda for distributing the rabbit water filter as the benefit to the public uses such as school students, etc.

**Activity 1.5.** To conduct weekly monitoring by using the checklist developed to all users.

**Objective 2:** To ensure water supplies to increasing the agriculture productivity and diversification of community through supporting small scale irrigation system.

**Activity 2.1.** To conduct meeting with local authorities

**Activity 2.2.** To conduct meeting with relevant departments such as departments of rural development and water resources and meteorology to study the plan

**Activity 2.3.** To organize village meeting to inform about the small scale irrigation systems

**Activity 2.4.** To form water user committee on well in target villages with recognition from commune council

**Activity 2.5.** To dig 10 small wells (10mx20m) and 6 deep wells (more than 40 m depth) in the ten target villages

**Activity 2.6.** To form water user group on dam, canal and water gate in the two target villages with recognition from the commune council

**Activity 2.7.** To rehabilitate 2 lines of dams (First dam: 1m x 70m x 4m and second dam: 1m x 200m x 4m) with 5 water gates in 2 villages of one commune

**Activity 2.8.** To monitor monthly with water user committees and members

**Contributing Donors**

UNDP TRAC FUND

**Duration**

September to December 2007.

**Total Budget**

30,805.00USD plus community and organizational contribution of amount 3,115.00USD

**Location**

Kampong Cham province

**Contacts**

Koung Sokunthea, Programme Coordinator, E-mail: [vegetable.sk@online.com.kh](mailto:vegetable.sk@online.com.kh)

Meach Centmill, Project Team Leader, E-mail: [centmillkh@yahoo.com](mailto:centmillkh@yahoo.com)

Pou Sovann, Executive Director, E-mail: [srerkhmer@online.com.kh](mailto:srerkhmer@online.com.kh)

Tel: (855-23) 210-217

Fax: (855-23) 220-598

Website: [www.srerkhmer-cambodia.org](http://www.srerkhmer-cambodia.org)