

CAMBODIA



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CHAIN - CAMBODIAN HORTICULTURE ADVANCING INCOME AND NUTRITION PROJECT

Promoting horticulture value chains for sustainable increase production, incomes and food security of smallholder farmer's households in targeted rural areas in Cambodia.



Mrs. Put Sary, a commercial farmer of CHAIN in Stung Treng Province

has resulted in more demand for safe local fruits and vegetables. This constitutes new market opportunities for previously isolated farming communities and female-headed households, due to improvements in rural infrastructure. The increasing market demand for fruits and vegetables provides a huge opportunity for smallholder farmers and processors, particularly women, to increase income and food security.

Responding to these challenges and opportunities, SDC has developed a program in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) through the General Department of Agriculture and the provincial departments of Agriculture in Preah Vihear, Stung Treng, Kratie and Oddar Meanchey provinces. The program supports female and male smallholder farmers and processors to increase sustainable production, income and resilience in four of the poorest provinces of Cambodia: Kratie, Stung Treng, Preah Vihear and Oddar Meanchey. Based on tender, the implementation of the program was awarded to SNV.

BACKGROUND

Agriculture continues to dominate the Cambodian economy, accounting for 28.7% of GDP and representing the largest source of employment for the rural labor force (56%). Poverty remains largely a rural phenomenon, as about 80% of the poor (2.5 million people) live in rural areas and more than 40% suffer from food insecurity. Poor households have limited income sources and smaller agricultural landholdings. A significant portion of the population remains 'near poor' and is at high risk of falling back into poverty at the slightest income shock. Low agricultural productivity and the impact of extreme weather exacerbate poverty.

Most Cambodian farmers are smallholders with less than two hectares of land per household. Cambodian smallholder agriculture substantially relies on female farmers, with women's contribution to food production totaling about 65% of agricultural labor. Currently, approximately 70% of fresh fruits and vegetables consumed in Cambodia are imported from Thailand and Vietnam. Fast economic growth

APPROACH

1,000 commercial farmers (50% women), 5,000 homestead farmers (95% women and 10% ethnic minorities), 200 processors (80% women and 10% ethnic minorities) will profit from Phase I of this project (2014-2017).

Within the fruits and vegetables sector in the target provinces, CHAIN tackles market system constraints in the four provinces, to improve the inclusive service delivery to poor farmers households, women headed households and ethnic minorities. The project focuses on the necessary sustainable systemic changes, to be reinforced with the private sector services and products, and through on farmers' groups for collective action, farmers' fields, improved services from the groups, and capacity building of farmers' groups through the public extension agencies. These interventions will work as a push factor, make farmers "market-ready", improve their production of vegetable, and increase demand for private agro-

advisory services. Private extension services, mostly embedded with the inputs and agro-solutions, will create a push factor, when linked with the farmers' groups. This will help the private sector companies to reach to a larger pool of farmers with products and services with lesser efforts and time. Interventions providing demand-driven services to the farmers will also create a pull factor, bringing more farmers out of subsistence farming.

This will be achieved through:

- Introducing sustainable women-friendly homestead models to improve production for household consumption and surplus for markets;
- Introducing improved sustainable and market-oriented production technologies for commercial farmers, as well as a household level fruit or vegetable processing (inclusive) business model;
- Strengthening farmers and processors to organize themselves for collective action;
- Promoting leadership, governance mechanisms and service delivery of farmer groups;
- Establishing partnerships with the public and private sector for demand-driven, gender-inclusive and accountable services (inputs, advisory and access to credit);
- Increasing the technical capacity of public sector for improved service delivery and enabling environment.
- Promoting public-private partnership mechanisms for inclusive service delivery;
- Contributing to policy development on (bio) pesticides and other technologies;
- Strengthening extension services on sustainable technologies for production, post-harvest and processing.

OVERALL GOAL AND EXPECTATIONS

The overall goal of CHAIN is to increase the income and food security of smallholder farmers in targeted rural areas of Cambodia. It is expected to provide sustainable income growth to 15,000 homestead farmers, 3,000 commercial farmers, 1,200 processors and improved household food security and nutrition for 72,000 households by 2022.

The CHAIN Project relates to the SDC Country Strategy for Cambodia 2013-2017 on supporting Cambodia's poor and marginalized women and men gain equitable access to economic opportunities, improved livelihoods and participation in decision-making.

Three specific results (outcomes) will be achieved:

1. Commercial and homestead producers and processors (male and female-headed households) increase productivity by adapting improved technologies
2. Farmer groups and processor groups provide

- demand-oriented services and facilitate transparent and fair market engagement
3. Public and private sector actors deliver demand-driven, gender-sensitive and accountable advisory services.



Beneficiaries children of CHAIN project



Mother group discuss of food and nutrition

PROJECT AT A GLANCE:

Duration

Phase 1 December 2014 - December 2017

Budget

SDC budget CHF 4 million

Implementing agencies

Consortium of SNV (lead) and Swisscontact, in collaboration with AVRDC (The World Vegetable Center)

Other partners:

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Women's Affairs and Ministry of Commerce

Imprint

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