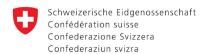
CAMBODIA



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

CAMBODIAN HORTICULTURE ADVANCING INCOME AND NUTRITION PROJECT (CHAIN) - PHASE III



Mrs. Sin Chenda, 23 years old farmer, married with one son, living in Kamphun village and Commune, Sesan District, Stung Treng province, Cambodia
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BACKGROUND

Cambodia's agricultural shows sector continued growth, both in production and export, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, poverty remains largely a rural phenomenon as about 80% of the 2.5 million poor people live in rural areas. Cambodian smallholder farmers' low productivity is the result of limited access to quality agricultural input, technical knowhow and innovation as well as limited marketing opportunities and market information. 65% of people engaged smallholder agriculture are women, women-headed households remain the most vulnerable. Pressure on water resources and the effects of climate change are additional challenges. Limited involvement of the private sector in agricultural extension services, and weak cooperation with public sector actors restrain the development of prosperous smallholders. Cambodia is not self-sufficient in vegetable production and fast economic growth resulted in higher demand or safe and quality local fruit and vegetables. This provides a huge opportunity for smallholder farmers

and processors, particularly women, to increase income and food security. Moreover, improved rural infrastructure has increased the mobility of rural poor people, providing them access to diversified markets and job opportunities.

Responding these challenges and to opportunities, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has developed the Cambodian Horticulture Advancing Income and Nutrition (CHAIN) programme in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries through the General Department of Agriculture and the provincial departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. It forms an integral part of the Swiss Cooperation Programme in the Mekong Region 2022-25.

OBJECTIVES

CHAIN's overall goal is to improve income and nutrition of rural households through safe horticulture production and trade, and to assist the Royal Government of Cambodia in the transition from subsistence farming to commercial farming by establishing inclusive extension services for safe production, and for advanced smallholder farmers' productivity. Three specific outcomes will be achieved:

Outcome 1: More efficient and inclusive local market systems in which smallholder farmers and private sector undertake profitable year-round production and business.

Outcome 2: Increased management / steering by provincial and sub-provincial government institutions supporting sustainable, inclusive and climate smart growth of the vegetable sector.

Outcome 3: Improved policies and performance by national level government institutions and private sector for growth of the horticulture sector.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE:

Duration

Previous phases: 2014 - 2020 Phase III: Jan 2021 - Dec 2022

Budget

SDC budget of phase III: CHF 1,950,000

Implementing Agencies

- Consortium of SNV (lead),
- Swisscontact and MetaMeta

Other partners

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

EXPECTED RESULTS

In its third phase, it is expected that CHAIN will reach 6,000 semi-commercial and commercial farmers and another 1,200 farmers indirectly, leading to a total outreach of 7,200 smallholders. The targeted farmers' average net income is expected to increase by USD 600 per household.

At the institutional level, the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (PDAFF) set up lead farmer incubator as well as rural agribusiness accelerator programmes implemented in four provinces, supporting local market actors (traders and input suppliers) to expand business. Furthermore, market actors (public and private) in the four provinces have started to offer technical advice about smart water solutions and CAM-GAP technical practices

At the policy level, four provincial horticulture strategies and investment plans were approved, and a national horticulture policy finalised and endorsed by the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

APPROACH

CHAIN III continues to work with the existing network of 6,000 semi-commercial and commercial farmers organized in 14 clusters from 259 villages (65% female, 10% indigenous people). CHAIN is using a market system development approach promoting the inclusion of poor people in the local horticulture market systems as to secure better access to quality agricultural input and quality services for sustainable year-round and marketoriented production of diverse, safe vegetables and fruit, and to gain higher incomes. The project focuses on five intervention strategies: (1) lead farmer incubator, (2) agribusiness accelerator, (3) year-round safe production, including agricultural water services, (4) local learning platforms and increased access to knowledge and services through information communication technology, and (5) commercial clusters and hubs for horticulture.

This last phase of CHAIN puts a focus on smart water management at farm, commune, and district levels, and the transition of leadership and ownership of the support to the horticulture sub-sector in the target areas to the General Directorate of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries at both national and provincial levels.

Imprint

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KEY RESULTS AND INSIGHTS OF PREVIOUS PHASES

CHAIN I & II have reached 10,200 farmers (73% women, 10% indigenous people) through 400 farmer groups. They have gained better nutrition, and have doubled or tripled their income. The farmer groups developed by CHAIN are now linked to clusters and networks that include input suppliers, traders, and buyers, making it possible for them to plan production ahead, and to adjust it to the market demand avoiding both over and under supply.

Farmers now have better access to effective and gender-sensitive services thanks to enhanced capacities of and collaboration between public and private sector partners. This also includes four business-to-business provincial horticulture platforms that serve to better understand market demand and supply, varieties, seasonal production, volume, price, quality etc. Furthermore, the government uses the platforms to inform on new laws and regulations.

As a result, the production of local safe vegetables for sale in four provincial markets increased from 32% in 2018 to 52% in 2020. Sixteen traders have doubled their income by buying up to 25 tons of safe vegetables from farmer groups daily. Twenty agricultural input retailers have doubled their sales and revenue. 80% of female CHAIN farmers reported that their workload in vegetable production has been reduced while at the same time, the average annual net income of semi-commercial and commercial farmers has tripled or quadrupled.

TARGET GROUPS AND PROJECT LOCATION

CHAIN aims at sustainable income growth for 15,000 homestead farmers, 3,000 commercial farmers, 1,200 processors, traders, and agriculture input suppliers, and improved household food security and nutrition for 72,000 households by 2022 in the four provinces of Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Kratie and Stung Treng.



Target provinces highlighted in green colour