

## 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 sector shows 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 in 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 for 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 to these challenges and 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.

