

Case Study of Home Garden Mrs. Ngeous Nheourk in MDK

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I. Introduction

Andong Kraleng village is plenty of the mountains, sloping chamkar that is the reason of losing soil fertile, so the yield of Chamkar are not good. Additionally, the wild life destroys the chamkar production also. Moreover, the people stay in this village lack the water for using and growing the vegetable on dry season, because of plenty of mountain and are many rocks. The small stream is the main water source, that some people need to grow vegetable for support their families. Especially, this location is raining hard on wet season and wind very hard in dry season.

Traditionally, the most villagers in this village always grow the vegetable with rice plantation at Chamkar in raining season, messy farm, not the garden style. The kinds of the vegetable are chili, gourd, pumpkin, eggplant, papaya... So they collected these vegetable and wild vegetable for family consumption. They never sold for make family income generation. Especially, they did not enough food for home consumption in whole year and did not replies to their working hard or daily working, because reason why from pest, wild life and the climate so change from year to year. So, their family's situation depends on the natural resource (NTFP Production).

II. The history of Mrs. Ngeous Nheouk cooperation with CRDT project

Cambodia Rural Development Team is local NGOs was train agriculture technical to the villagers such as: rice improvement, Composting, manure tea, fish raising, chicken raising, and home garden preparing, vegetable growing through improvement their technique knowledge. The project was selected beneficiaries for project implementing since September, 2006 until present.

Mrs. Ngeous Nheourk is a widow, 38 years old. Her have 5 members family (4 females) in 4th group, Andong Kraleng village, Senmonorom commune, O-reang district and Mondulkiri province. Her main family's jobs are the Chamkar making, resin collection and labor for make income. After CRDT working in this village, she was a beneficiary who cooperated with project such as: saving group member and home garden. She is a good vegetable grower and tries to grow all the time, because she needs to support her families. *She said, before I am very difficult and spend a lot time to collect the wild vegetable from forest for support family and specially did not make income generation.*

During she cooperation with the project, she always grown many king of vegetable: radish, curly cabbage, Chinese cabbage, eggplant, long bean, cucumber, salad, chili, water spinach, gourd and pumpkin... She started grow vegetable from November to June every year and other month reduce growing, because she was very busy with chamkar rice and her home garden place was flood. Her home garden make at near small stream, may be 1 km far from her house at village.

III. The activity and result of Mrs. Ngeous Nheouk working with project

In the first year, she was tried to improve technique skill such as: she was purify the seed, sock the seed one night and then keep this seed 24 hours, sew the seed on the self place to avoid from the ant and termite, during seedling 3 or 5 leaves to transplant . She prepared the soil by chopping mix with compost fertilizer and then dries 7 days before transplanting. During take care the plantation, always uses the green manure. ***In the result, she could get good production. For example: a clump of cabbage equal 1 kg and 2 rhizome of radish equal 1kg. There were 4 months in 2007 she can make money amount 550, 800 riel and 30 kg for home consumption.*** She also shared vegetable to her neighbors in the village. Her home garden site is 400 m².

In the second year, she was started to grow vegetable again by using the technique skill from the same last year and added more technique from experience. She tries to keep vegetable seed herself. And she said that: ***Now I was decreased to buy the seed from out site or market and I always put compost and green manure to support vegetable bed. From January to May, 2008 she was earn money amount 1, 000, 000 riel and more vegetable was supported family consumption and always sharing to her neighbors in the village. Her home garden site is 400 m². Now, she is chief of vegetables group and she is extension worker (EW). She always shared experience to her group during training course or site visit.***

In the third year, she was mad home garden bigger than last year, 550 m². She used her experience at the last year. CRDT staffs always conducted out site training to her and try to simple method (learning by doing). ***She got vegetable very good yield more than two last year in both income generation and home consumption. From September, 2008 to May, 2009 she mad money in total 1, 139, 000 riel and 190kg of vegetable home consumption.*** In the previous year, she didn't know more about the marketing, selling, after she attended with CRDT training, she known more about vegetable price at market need, potential vegetable that people need more, plan for growing and especially she could grow the vegetable as rotation. Soil of gardening place have been improved fertilizer and decrease the pest in the vegetable garden. For example: 1 bad of vegetable, she grew rotate such as: on the first growing fruity vegetable, then on second for bean plantation to increase the soil quality, then on the third growing the rhizome vegetable for making the soil soft and then on the forth grow the leafy vegetable, then on the fifth rotate to bean plantation to make increase the soil fertile and then rotate to fruity vegetable again. This is experience that this farmer could do and get good yield. And right now, she has been starting to grow some vegetable kinds at Chamkar in the raining season by separate the land for vegetable and rice growing is difference.

She said that “since she has been cooperating with CRDT project on vegetable growing. My livelihood have been improving and reduce time go to forest for collect the resin tree and wild vegetable. In the previously, she go to forest far away from village to collect the resin for selling and use that money buying the rice, because of her Chamkar rice yield did not supported her family in whole year.

Before, she spent one week for going to forest and meet the more obstacle (wild life, malaria disease, raining...), in the result she got income for buying the rice only 25 to 30 kg from resin tree. If compared from now, she never went to forest far from home and always stayed at home only. She make time to increase the land of home garden, have more time to take care her family and increase her vegetable yield. She can earn more income as above for buying the rice enough consumption, have vegetable enough for consumption,

and left some money for saving. Especially, her families have been more healthy and more income generation.

IV. The comment and recommendation

The good thing that she well done:

1. She grow vegetable in rotation for increasing the soil fertile and decreasing the pest
2. She make the compost for using before transplant and green manure for using during take care the cropping strengthening.
3. She use the green leaves for cover the vegetable bed during dry season for keeping the moisture.
4. Seed purifying and preparing the seed before sewing.
5. Making and using the natural pesticide and decrease the insect by her hand.
6. Using the self for sewing the seedling avoid from ant and termite.
7. Making the fence around the home garden.
8. Trying hard to grow vegetable.
9. She try to change the traditional habit.
10. She can take the vegetable selling in village or next village and can get high price.
11. She shared the experience to other beneficiaries.

The bad thing that she done:

1. She not grow full year.
2. She not applies the green tea enough.
3. The fence is not so strong.
4. Make the natural pesticide in a small amount.
5. Not produce more for supporting to Mondulkiri town market, only in village.
6. Less organically fertilizer (animal manure).
7. Spent more time for preparing the rice chamkar.

The main point that she should know:

1. Extend the site of home garden and produce integrated kinds of vegetable for respond to market need.
2. Saving more organic fertilizer especially the manure tea.
3. Implementing the Integrated Pest Management method.
4. Attending more with meeting or workshop especially training about vegetable growing technique and marketing method to increase the capacity for growing the vegetable enough and supporting to the market need.

V. Conclusion

In the previously, Mrs. Ngeous Nheouk was laughed derisive from other villagers in village when she followed the improvement technique. But after she got the good yield from home garden, some neighbors were very interested with vegetable growing. In right now, there are 8 persons, growing the vegetable, because of Mrs. Ngeous Nheouk has enough food for consumption and decrease going to forest for finding the wild vegetable and collecting the resin tree for income generation.

After cooperation with CRDT, Mrs. Ngeous Nheouk was admired by her neighbor or some villagers in village. And she promise that will keep going on to grow the vegetable every year, the both raining season and dry season. Especially, she will produce the vegetable for selling at Mondulkiri town.

Picture showing Mrs. Ngeous Nheouk's activities:

