

2017

Cyclical Farming

Case Study

Performed at Kampong Damrey, Sambor District, Kratie province
By CRDT

CAMBODIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM



OVERVIEW

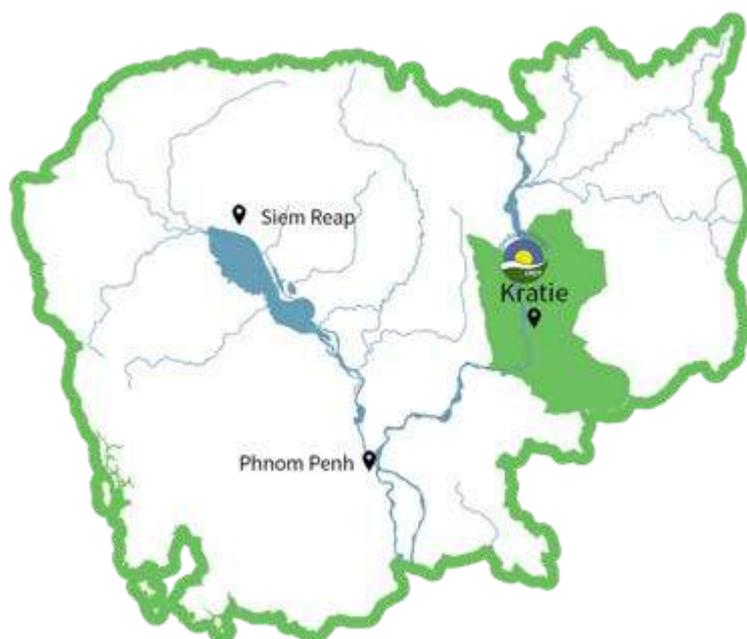
The changes in the water cycles and hydrology of the Mekong River have had implications for agriculture and food production in the communities of Boeug Char Commune, Kratie Province. Communities have reported major increases in drought frequency and duration since 1995, along with incidences of devastating floods. The impact of these climate changes have resulted in decreasing crop yields, and worsening food security.

Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT) has developed an agriculture innovation called 'cyclical farming' for promoting agriculture product and market demand by using cyclical techniques. These techniques are demonstrated to our beneficiaries through our model farms and model farmers. Cyclical farming also helps to increase income generation for the agriculture cooperative union and improves access to the market. At the same time, the ACU helps to support local agriculture production by strengthening the capacity of our beneficiaries, and connecting with the commune council plan.

The cyclical farmer project for 'promoting resilience in agricultural production and enterprises for food security among subsistence farmers along the Mekong' started in July 2016 and will finish in June 2019 with substantial support from Cambodian Climate Change Alliance (CCCA).

LOCATION

This case study takes place in Kampong Damrey village. The village is on the island along the Mekong River which is located in Boeug Char Commune, Sambour District, Kratie Province. The village is only accessible by boat and the journey is approximately two hours long from the Sambo dock.



Model Farmer Project Brings Skills & Hope to Rural Families

Ms Van Samnang found her opportunities limited

Ms Van Samnang, 25 years old, lives with her 5 brothers and 4 sisters in the village of Kampong Damrey which is located in Boeug Char Commune, Sambo district in Kratie province. She and her family are rice farmers but everyday life is tough and the farming they do is just for their own consumption.

Opportunities to generate more income are limited and because of this, Samnang's parents were unable to support her past Grade Three in school, due to the extra costs involved including for books and transport. She lives on a remote island which has few transport links to the urban centre.

CRDT offers communities the chance to acquire new skills and knowledge in farming

In 2016 CRDT launched the project to promote resilience in agricultural production and enterprises for food security among subsistence farmers along the Mekong, in order to provide villagers the opportunity to acquire new skills and carry out sustainable farming methods.



CRDT offers trainings and seminars to farmers on how to cultivate a wide variety of different crops and how to implement more efficient working practices. These farmers can then act as role model for the rest of the community, encouraging others to replicate similar climate-change resilient agriculture methods.

Ms Samnang was excited to get involved with this project and join CRDT's partnership with the CCCA (Cambodia Climate Change Alliance).

"I joined CRDT because I wanted to have knowledge on agriculture like vegetable-growing and livestock-raising." Samnang explains.

She was able to greatly expand her farming activities

Since Ms Samnang was selected to join CRDT's cyclical-farming project, she has increased the variety of vegetables cultivated and has diversified her farming activities to include raising livestock as well.

"So far I have cleared the land for CCCA-CRDT farming projects. I have also built a fence around the land and constructed a chicken pen, as well as growing different type of vegetables such as the long bean and lettuce." Samnang enthuses.



Ms Samnang has learnt a number of innovative farming techniques that have allowed her to grow crops more efficiently. In particular, she uses drip irrigation to water her crops; this method minimises waste by applying water to localised areas slowly which reduces evaporation. CRDT has also installed an automatic solar-powered water pump that supplies clean water directly from the river.

These agricultural techniques increase the sustainability of food production as they are resistant to the impact of climate change. Water is now available all-year as a result of both the solar-powered pump and the drip irrigation system, which recycles any excess water. Because of this, Ms Samnang is able to grow crops throughout the year even in periods of drought, thereby increasing the quantity and range of food products harvested.

Ms Samnang hopes to be a role model for her community

Ms Samnang has already learnt a number of skills through the model farmer project and earns a monthly wage of 23,000R (\$57) from CRDT. Ms Samnang is very hopeful about the future: “I hope this is just the starting point of me being a model farmer with CRDT. I hope that, through CRDT, I will gain more skills and knowledge and finish the project.” Ms Van Samnang is only 6 months into her 3-year project with CRDT and is looking forward to the further skills she will learn and the positive impact this will have on her community.



Once she completes her project with CRDT, she hopes to have gained the knowledge to independently engage in cyclical farming and sustainably grow her own food products. Moreover, it is hoped that Ms Samnang can act as a model for the rest of the community, so other farmers can learn about and adopt the same sustainable production methods. She hopes to encourage others to harvest a wider range of different crops that are resilient to climate change; thereby generating more income within the community and increasing access to markets.



www.crdt.org.kh

Cambodian Rural Development Team

#696, Street 2

Kratie Town, Cambodia

Tel: +855 72 6666 771

Email: info@crdt.org.kh

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