

Income Generation

A case study by Bin Dim

Performed at Ampel Theok Village, Kampong Cham Commune, Sambo District, Kratie Province



Ampel Theok is one of 9 Villages in Kampong Cham Commune and stands on Koh Rognearv island, Sambo District, Kratie Province, about one hour by boat from Sambo Market.

Mrs. Khoun Seth's family are located in the north of Ampel Theok village. There are five Villages on Koh Rognearv Island: Samphin, Koh Phao, Kampong Krabei, Ampel Theok and Khsach Makak. The villages lay along the Mekong River and are surrounded by jungle, forest and water. In 2011, there were 262 families and 1220 people living in this area, 614 of these were women. People living here are dependant on crops, vegetables, rice growing, hunting, fishing, livestock, and most of the villagers mine for gold at Phnom Chi and Dambok Sor in Beong Cha Commune after the rice harvest is finished.

Mrs. Khoun Seth is a farmer, 42 years old, and has been married since 1990. She currently lives in Ampel Theok village, and has 7 children - one of whom is a monk. Her family's earnings depend on agriculture activities such rice and vegetable growing, animal husbandry and fish cultivation.



Mrs Khoun Seth is very interested in the development of her village and is involved with CBOs and participates in village meetings and decision making. She has been involved with CRDT since the end of 2009 and during this time she began raising fish and chickens. Her husband is older than her, and is unfortunately seriously ill. Therefore, she has had to take on many more roles to ensure the stability of the family income. In early 2010, she had a good opportunity to get a toilet and rain water storage, because she is an executive member of the fish raising and home garden groups. She has also become a member of the saving group created by CRDT during the project in the second half of 2010. She was also provided a biodigester funded by a GlobalGiving project.

She claimed she enjoyed the saving activities and vegetable growing activities the best. Saving prepares by CBOs to stand on their own after CRDT pull out, it's easy for them to apply for a loan and they can use this to support their livelihood activities. Savings group regulations are not too strict which helps. Furthermore, her family has earned money from selling vegetables every year since working with CRDT. The animal cultivation has had some problems though, especially their chickens which have met with disease - the family is lacking the technique to solve this problem. This worries her every day, because the family cannot get the farming and other tasks done.

Since she began investing time in income generation activities, their lives have improved - as now she has rain water storage, a toilet, and biogas. So it is easy to live a comfortable life and be healthy. Relating to CRDT's implementation of income generation activities, she will try and keep these new ways to improve the lives of her and her family, as well as her crop growing and animal raising, all as part of natural resource conservation.



She hopes and believes that CBO members and the villagers understand what the project entails and that they can help each other. She found that the activities have increased income in a sustainable manner, because the villagers and CBO members understand much with the profit from their products and other project activities. CRDT selected the extension workers to be the leaders/key people to provide the technical information on agriculture and other management issues to the groups and other villagers.

“When CRDT started working in my village, they provided chicken seed, fish, and vegetables, and after that a rain water collector, toilet, and a biodigester. I have taken chickens for sale at the market and am able to feed myself and my family on the food that I grow. Even though I don't have enough fish to sell, we can still eat them because my pond is small. Now we have rain water storage the pond can contain water from the river, we'll keep the clean water for drinking! The toilet means we don't have to go to an uncomfortable area of the forest, especially good for my children. I have not been recording the income from selling veg, but I just remember one day I sold 2 to 3 Kg of vegetables and cucumber at 2000riel per kilogram, Chinese cabbage at 3000 riel per kg and Water spinach at 2000riel per kg. During the early part of the dry season I can earn around 400,000.00 riel from selling.”

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