

Strengthening Small-scale Farmers



Mondulkiri, Cambodia



Economic Empowerment

Budget \$28,200

Project Timeline

\$5,187 TO GO

JUL 22

JUN 23

Overview

Mondulkiri province is situated in the north-eastern highlands of Cambodia, close to the Vietnamese border. It is home to a large population of indigenous groups, primarily the Bunong people. With cultural and livelihood connections to the forest, they remain among the most impoverished in the nation. Our partners are helping innovative indigenous farmers create sustainable livelihoods and take advantage of appropriate technology and local resources. They work to identify resilience strategies, improve small-scale farming, build cooperation and organisation amongst the farmers and mobilise them for forest protection and rights linked to economic empowerment.

Impact for July - December 2022

45 Training seminars and workshops for farmers



90 people were trained in setting up rubber tanks for community fish ponds, maintenance, monitoring water quality and care of fish. 45 pilot families were selected to be model fish farmers, with each receiving some fingerlings to get started. Monitoring of vegetable growing practices and forest protection continues. Knowledge is increasing and some families are selling their excess vegetables.

Innovating with new livelihood ventures

Increasingly, villagers are experimenting with new knowledge and applying it to novel livelihood ventures, such as eco-tourism. Capacity building of model farmers aims to help them support the wider community in livelihood planning and to share experiences with new generation farmers.



Supporting sustainable farm practices

Work continues to develop wise and appropriate agricultural methods, through workshops and follow-up to see how they are being applied. Regular visits to villages provide technical support and encourage reflection and new initiatives. To reduce the cost of buying fish food, readily available local sources (azolla grass, wormeries, insects) are being explored.

Improve small-scale farming and seed bank

A study of seeds previously grown by farmers in 4 new target villages, revealed some rare and endangered seeds which were collected and added to the seedbank. Our partners continue to work with farmers to collect seeds for saving to the seedbank and also for later replanting.



Mrs Treung Lang's Story

At first my family was reluctant to start catfish farming but after watching other farmers raise the fish, we decided to try it. With a rubber tank and some training, I soon realised it was not as difficult as I feared and is an efficient and organised way to raise fish. We can find natural feed like moths, insects, plants and kitchen waste and we are beginning to enjoy the many benefits: less time fishing in streams or trapping wild animals in the forest, reduced costs buying market fish and healthy and more plentiful vegetables in the dry season using the nutrient rich fish pond water. There is a lot of interest in raising catfish now!



Thank you for making a difference