

Strengthening Small-scale Farmers

KHM-NCE-SSF-P03



Mondulkiri, Cambodia



Economic Empowerment

3 Year Project: July 2022 to June 2025

Total Budget: \$84,600



Overview

Mondulkiri province lies in Cambodia's remote north-eastern highlands near the Vietnam border. It is home to many indigenous communities, especially the Bunong, who maintain deep cultural ties to the forest but face severe poverty. Our local partners are supporting forward-thinking Bunong farmers to develop sustainable ways of earning a living, using suitable technology and natural resources. They collaborate with communities to strengthen climate resilience, improve household farming, promote farmer cooperation, and organise collective efforts to protect forests and advocate for land rights connected to economic empowerment.

Objectives



Training and support for farmers



Ecotourism and a Social Enterprise started

Impact

Over 800 farmers have directly benefitted from training in fish farming, raising chickens and pigs, instruction in growing organic vegetables, supply of materials, seeds, and animals. Over 2000 people have indirectly benefitted from shared information.

40 people are involved in a startup social enterprise that sells meals featuring traditional dishes, using organic, locally grown vegetables supplied by the 40-member Vegetable Group. Another 100 people are part of the Ecotourism Group, which focuses on forest conservation.

Tael Ny's Story

Mrs Tael Ny, a farmer from a small Bunong village, grows a range of crops to support her family, while also gathering forest products and working seasonally to earn additional income. Through our partner's support, she received seeds and fingerlings to start a small fish pond at home—an initiative she describes as a new occupation for her family. The home-raised fish have improved their diet and reduced food expenses, while offering a reliable source of protein. She now shares her experience with others in the community, encouraging them to raise fish, snails, or frogs as a practical way to improve food security close to home.



Life change

- **Improved Livelihoods and Food Security:** Seed banks, natural fertilisers, and training help indigenous farmers boost yields, cut costs, and improve nutrition using local, sustainable methods.
- **Stronger Communities and Innovation:** Farmer groups explore new ideas like animal raising, lifting incomes and morale. Youth are increasingly engaged as farming becomes more appealing.
- **Advocacy for Indigenous Rights:** Our partner advocates for indigenous communities on land rights and environmental issues, ensuring their voices are heard nationally.