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Working Together for Positive Change



LEADING STORIES

The First Quarterly Member Meeting of NGO Forum in 2020



Mr. Om Sophana, Member of Management Committee of NGO Forum and Executive Director of Mlup Baitong gave warm welcome remarks and thanked all NGO members, government, and development partners for their participation in the important meeting.



Chair of the meeting informed the objectives to share information with NGO members and discuss their challenges and needs in order to accomplish the goal asset in the NGO work plan. Chairman also briefed the key agendas of the meeting as follows: 1) updating on the significant progress report of NGO Forum; 2) Update on Production Forest Strategic Plan; 3). Update on Strategic Plan for IP Conservation and Development 2020-2024; 4). Update on extent gender equality has been integrated into policies and programs of climate change.



The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) organized its quarterly member meeting on February 27, 2020, at Phnom Penh Ecumenical Diakonia Centre (PPEDC/ICF) from 08:00 – 12:00 presided over by Mr. Om Sophana, Member of Management Committee of NGOF and Executive Director of Mlup Baitong. There were 105 participants (20 female) represented to NGO members of NGOF in Cambodia.

Key guest speakers are Mr. Lim Bunna, Deputy Director, Department of Administration, Planning and Finance, Forestry Administration, Mr. Chhun Sivitha, Deputy Director, Department of Indigenous People, MRD and Ms. Lim Sereyroth, representative of UN Women Cambodia. The agenda for this meeting are: 1) Welcome and opening remark by Mr. Om Sophana; 2) Updating on the significant quarterly progress report of NGOF by Dr. Tek Vannara; 3) Election for a new Management Committee member to replace the two members that going to finish their mandate facilitate by Mr. Ouk Vannara; 4) Update on Production Forest Strategic Plan by Mr. Lim Bunna; 5) Update on Strategic Plan for IP Conservation and Development 2020-2024 by Mr. Chhun Sivitha; 6). Update on extent gender equality has been integrated into policies and programs of climate change by Ms. Lim Sereyroth.

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Dr. Tek Vannara also updated briefly the progress of NGOF as the following major achievements from November to February 2020:

- MAFF has incorporated CSOs inputs into the draft of Agriculture Sector Master Plan 2030 through the consultative workshop
- Organized NDF-C steering committee meeting and 8th NFF reflection meeting: the first steering of NDF-C steering committee meeting was held at NGOF office
- Organized 1st NDF-C Quarterly meeting: 1st NDF-C quarterly meeting was organized in objective to Update general information among members (related to agriculture, food security, and safety...),
- Attended Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on Capacity Assessment for Responsible Agri-Investments and youth in Agricultural Sector from 09-13 December 2019 at Bangkok, Thailand: The training is organized by FAO and AsiaDHRRA.
- Finalized CCB report and make it



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available for launching to the general public. NGO Forum is going to officially launch on March 4, 2020 at Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh.

- WoMA incorporated CSOs into draft Gender and Climate Change Action Plan (2020-2023) through the consultative workshop which was organized on Jan 28, 2020 at Himawari hotel.
- Organized exposure visits on Climate-smart agriculture and agriculture technique to NDF-C and NECA members: NGOF hosted an exposure visit to Battambang province to enable NDF-C and NECA members to learning from the practical experience of PDA, local community and private sector in contract farming, coping with climate-smart agriculture.
- RCC developed CSO's press statement concerning Luang Prabang project and published: RCC on February 6th issued a press statement concerning the proposed Luang Prabang hydropower project. As a result, there were 5 media reported and echoed the statement, including RFI, VoD, Khmer Times, Cambodia Daily, and VoA.
- RCC coordinated its member organizations to participate in the 2nd National Consultation on the proposed Luang Prabang project on 9th Jan in Kratie province. As a result, CSOs and the community raised a lot of comments and suggestions on the proposed dam to CNMC.
- Finalized the Report on Doing Good Index which will be endorsed during this year. Which the report has illustrated about the 1)- Fiscal taxation 2)- Regulation (Civic space) and 3)- Government procurement plan.
- Developed two videos documentary, one CSDGs and one is NSDP.
- Joint with CCC in providing statements and inputs to Sub-Working Group on LANGO of Mol.
- Developed a 5-year BWG strategic plan of the BWG (2020-2024) through consultation with BWG members, EU, UNDP, and SIDA representatives.
- Finalized and submitted two project proposals to UNDAF.



Mr. Ouk Vannara, has introduced the three management committee members that going to finish their mandate and interest to be select and serving the second term including Mr. Run Saray and Mrs. Luy Raksmeay.

The results of MC election in the following:

1. Mr. Run Saray has received 24 votes.
2. Mrs. Luy Raksmeay has received 20 votes.
3. Ms. Pry Phally Phoung has received 18 votes.



Guest Speaker 1: Mr. Lim Bunna, Deputy Director, Department of Administration, Planning, and Finance, Forestry Administration presented about Production Forest Strategic Plan. Forestry Administration has cooperated with UNDP to develop Forest Strategic Plan. There are many policies. SDGs goal 15 related to forestry. FA has developed the National Forestry Action Plan and the protected area under the supervision of MoE. FA has developed a strategic plan for forestry governance. Every five years the NSDP has included forestry development plan. MAFF five years strategic plan included forestry governance. Many works of FA need to reform such as transfer the role and responsibility of forestry into the Provincial Agriculture Department.

Based on the reform MAFF has developed a Forest Strategic Plan through the consultation workshop. The seventh draft was submitted to MAFF. The inputs from CSOs will be incorporated into the Forest Strategic Plan. It includes vision, mission, and goal. There are four objectives with 23 projects from 2018-2032.



Guest Speaker 2: Mr. Chhun Sivitha, Deputy Director, Department of Ethnic Minority, MRD presented about Strategic Plan for IP Conservation and Development 2020-2024. This Ethnic Minority Department under the ministry of rural development has the following objectives:

The role of department:

- Support ethnic minority studies in the mountains, plateaus, and plains by clearly identifying the identity, traditions, and customs of each community.
- Coordinate all indigenous development activities in the mountains, plateaus, and plains in the Kingdom of Cambodia.
- Monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the implementation of minority development programs and projects in Cambodia.
- To train civil servants at all levels of ethnic development and conduct workshops with all stakeholders implementing ethnic development programs and projects.
- Active in the development of ethnic minorities in the mountains, plateaus, and plains.

Read more at: <https://www.ngoforum.org.kh/the-first-quarterly-member-meeting-of-ngo-forum-in-2020/>



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Press Statement Luang Prabang Dam increases concerns over the change of Lower Mekong River



Phnom Penh, 6th February 2020

Press Statement

Luang Prabang Dam increases concerns over the change of Lower Mekong River

Fish migration, hydrology and sediment flow are the significant transboundary impacts that would occur from the hydropower projects on the Mekong mainstream that civil society organizations are most concerned about. The concern has been increased after the Laos government proposed for prior consultation on the project, which will be the 5th project to be constructed on the Mekong mainstream in late 2020.

A group of CSOs working on water governance in Cambodia have found that the proposed project together with existing projects will pose a threat on hydrology that would make the lower Mekong be repeatedly faced with low water levels. This would result in the increased fluctuation of hydrology due to the lack of information on water flow and cascade management of hydropower projects upstream. The prediction of the fluctuations has not taken into account the impact of climate change. If climate change in the form of floods or droughts occurs, it would pose a serious impact on the lower downstream areas of the Mekong, however, the proposed project has not had a concrete measure to minimize the impact.

On the other hand, we have also found that the project will contribute to a reduction of sediment flow to downstream of the lower part of the Mekong. This would pose a threat on bank erosion and affect river bank agriculture of downstream riparian's communities. The project document has recognized a dramatic impact on sediment flow, however the report did not provide possible concrete measure to address the issue.

We are very much concerned over fish migration species that might be affected by the proposed dam as they need to migrate up and down to find spawning and feeding ground on the Mekong river. The project has initiated a good design, however there is a doubt as to whether it works or not. The change of hydrology has an obvious connection with fish reproduction because of the regular hydrology flow that facilitates fish species to migrate to spawning and feeding grounds, and grow up in tributaries such as the Mekong and particularly Tonle Sap Lake, which is the heart of Cambodia.

We are concerned by the timeframe proposed by the Laos Government to commence construction at the end of 2020 as it will not provide sufficient time for developers to conduct more rigorous studies upon the comments and recommendations put forth by relevant stakeholders. We request the Laos Government, project developer and MRC to find appropriate solutions for the cumulative and transboundary impact to ensure the equitable and reasonable use of the Mekong river which is the main principle of the Mekong Agreement 1995.

For further information, please contact:

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Refresher Training on National and Sub-national budget and Video training



The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF), under the fund support from OXFAM Cambodia to implement the project entitled "Promote Citizen's Participation in the Public Spending" which will be implemented in two target provinces: Siem Reap and Ratanakiri. Based on the agreement, the NGOF will implement the series of activities including, capacity building, research, dialogue and budget monitoring...etc. On 24th-25th February 2020, the NGOF cooperated with the provincial NGO network, provided the Refresher training on National and Sub-national budget to the existing NGO network members and youths in Ratanakiri Province. There were 20 provincial NGO network members and youths participated in this training.

Training Objective:

- To provide basic perception of National and Sub-national budget
- To refresher knowledge on National and Sub-national budget
- Support NGO network members and youths to monitor budgetary process and expenditure
- To provide basic understanding on video editing
- Understand how to produce video with good quality

Mr. Keo Bunly welcomed trainees by introducing briefly about the project entitled "Promote Citizen Participation in Public Spending". He stated that to implement the project successfully, we have to work with existing NGO networks include Budget Working Group (BWG). The BWG has been working on monitoring the government budget allocation at both national and sub-national levels in with transparency and accountability especially promote citizen to engage in sub-national expenditures. This project will be implemented in Ratanakiri and Siem Reap provinces. The project intends the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) to contribute in promoting citizen to participate in public spending.

To take apart with the government, BWG, CSO as well as youths have to be well equipped themselves with sufficient knowledge of national and sub-national budget. Furthermore, the project outcome was to influence government increase more space for citizen CSO and youths for policy dialogue and encourage youths to raise their concerns through producing evidence based including videos or case studies.



Mr. Mot Pisey opened speech that some of the youths in his community used to do research about sub-national budget because it was very important for citizen. The understanding of national and sub-national budget, citizen will be able to join monitoring the government budget expenditures for sub-national administration with transparency and accountability especially produce the supportive evidences before accusing the government of spending money without transparency and accountability.



Mr. Din Makara, to measure the participant's knowledge on National and Sub-national budget; he conducted pre-test before this session started. As a result, citizen knowledge on National and sub-national budget were limited. Within the Refresher training on National and Sub-national budget, participants were introduced how to gather the National budget information by accessing to Ministry of Economy and Finance website.

Additionally, Mr. Din Makara enlighten



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HIGHLIGHT STORIES

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them how National budget have been formulated and in charge ministry and institution in each process. For instance, National budget strategic plan formulation was the first step of National budget formulation. This process each ministry had to prepare their budget plan from March to May. Second, Budget preparation; this step all the ministries had to submit their budget request to the Ministry of Economy and Finance from June to September. Third, Budget adaptation, this was very important process because in October, the minister reviewed and approved on National budget request by each ministry, in November National Assembly and Senate adopted the national budget and in December the king approved on it.

Besides, participants increased the knowledge on the flow of national revenue and expenditure especially domestic income and international income such as tax revenue, debt and international fund.

At the same time, Ms. Vanndy Sorida facilitated the Sub-national administration budget session. This session, participants increased the knowledge the flow of



sub-national budget, the flow of sub-national budget, revenue and expenditure, especially the step of Sub-national budget formulation and its timeline.



In the afternoon session, Mr. Phourn Yu, Media and Communication Coordinator of NGOF, introduced the participants on video training. This session all the participants practiced on how to set up camera, choose the video quality option

before taking the video. Furthermore, they acknowledge and know the form of video such as VOX POP, Frame Rate and B-ROLL. VOX POP video form refers to video which used the questionnaires to interview the audience on a specific topic. The second day, participants was divided into two groups to play role, practical video taking and video editing on Adobe Premiere.

Conclusion

The Refresher training on National and sub-national budget and Video training successfully completed by produced many achievements such as participants could describe the National and sub-national budget, increased the knowledge on the flow of national and sub-national revenue and expenditure, acknowledge when national and sub-national budget formulation. Another significant achievement was all the participants know the useful tools and tips to produce the video with quality especially they could produce the video by following instruction of the video trainer.





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1st Quarterly NDF-C Meeting

On February 26, 2020, Network of Food security and Safety in Cambodia organized its first quarterly member meeting at the NGO Forum office, Phnom Penh. There were 34 participants (10 women) attended the meeting, including RAO, CCDO, CTOD, RAHDO, KWWA, NOD, LNU, KAWP, FAEC, Oxfam, Chettor, NRD, FIDAC, CFED, Gold Palm, World Renew, CEDAC, FNN, PADEK, HEKS, WEEFFECT, VSG and NGO Forum which are mostly provincial organization from Kampong Thom, Svay Rieng, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Kratie, Kampong Cham, Siem Reap, Pursat, Takeo, and Phnom Penh, as well as WEE partners such as AFD, Srer Khmer and Rachana. There particular agenda of the meeting have been shared and discussed on 1) updating progress of each member, 2) provide inputs on the Agriculture Development Strategic Plan 2030, 3) define what is ASDP's JMI and how it relevant to smallholder farmers.

Starting with the progress sharing of network member, AFD stressed their food security and Gender Governance Projects: Challenges on collaboration between civil society organizations in supporting agricultural communities among more than 10 institutions in the past. The Network also organized the Community Farming Forum which costed up to more than \$ 5,000 and has joined plans and increased collaboration with stakeholders and farmer community. NRD updated Climate Change and Agriculture Projects which has been working with 15 schools, funded by Child Fund. Another project is operating in 41 villages, piloting 7 families on vegetable farming in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Agriculture. CEDAC produced guiding books on climate change and conservation agriculture and agriculture techniques in the Northeast provinces. KWWA raised a drought challenges and agricultural product markets exist in kratie province. RAO has joint meeting with the Department of Agriculture to design a network of agricultural communities (rice, vegetables, animals and water) to mobilize technical



support and funding. Communities that work well on rice and vegetables with savings and stocks. This 2020 will provide capacity building with CCC funding. CCD supported their community on the training of cucumber crop in two communes in Samrong district. There was a challenge during the harest season, thus CCD will provide training on processing know-how by increasing the use of non-chemical processing products. Srer Khmer Organization has been pomoting rice production with 271 farmer on rumduol, sen kra orb and somaly variety, and supporting 21 saving groups, WLAS group, production group (vegetable, chicken, meat and eggs), 5 rice banks, rice mills and two drinking water producer. The problem is water scarcity, especially for rice. PADEK: Projects in Battambang faced water shortages and people are migrated, especially women. Through the NCDM information, there will be another drought will occure. RACHANA: Supports 8 communities supported by Heifer and Oxfam, with two communities contracted with Green Farm company to supply chickens (3,000 kg / month) to produce chickens for sale to the community. We should have model farmers as business farmers.

NDF-C members reviewed and provided inputs on Agriculture Strategic Development Plan 2030 that is incorporated comments/inputs from stakeholders. NGO Forum is one of focal CSO representative will bring the inception inputs to respective focal person of ASMP 2030 of MAFF. The inception inputs focused on following strategic including



1) improving agriculture value chain and competitiveness, 2) increase agricultural infrastructure and agri-business facility, 3) sustainable management of forestry and fishery resources, and 4) institutional and human resource strengthening.

In identify and define what is ASDP's JMI that is relevant to smallholder farmers, each member, as a result, two of five thematic programs have been identified for prepare monitoring indicator are (1) increasing productivity of agricultural diversification and agribusiness, (2) Harnessing animal health and production. Remarkably, there consequent sub-program was identified by each member and/or by provincial/regional platform of join monitoring plan. This indicator identification was made upon thematic area of individual organization focuses, and contribution to small holder farmer, particular women farmers anticipation. NGO Forum produced the recording format of ASDP or PASDP's JMI 2019-2023 so called "Monitoring track sheet" that would enable individual organization tracking significant achievement done by provincial department of agriculture and reflect to PASDP's indicator.

Last but not least, Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGO Forum shared the upcoming event on natural rubber plantation guideline that each member would develop a case study to present in the event on food and agriculture forum that will be held on 9-10 December...

Read more at: <http://www.ngoforum.org.kh/1st-quarterly-ndf-c-meeting/>



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1st Quarterly Meeting of Steering Committee of CSO REDD+ Network in Cambodia,

The Cambodia CSO-REDD+ Network of the NGO Forum on Cambodia facilitated the First Quarterly Meeting of Steering Committee on February 26, 2020. The meeting had three main objectives

1. Disseminate the 2020 operational plan of the Cambodia CSO-REDD+ network.
2. Strategic Discussion on the Up-coming activities,
3. Strengthening Voices of Non-State Actors including CF, CPA, and CFI,

There were 06 (1 Female) Steering Committee members and secretariats who participated in this quarterly meeting, which was facilitated by Mr. Pheap Sophea, Land and Forestry Program Manager of the NGO Forum.

1. Disseminate the 2020 operational plan of the Cambodia CSO-REDD+ network.

The Annual Operational Plan of CSO-REDD+ Network divided into four main areas:

- Capacity Building focused on training, exposure visit, and strengthening knowledge related to REDD+, customary rights, land tenure rights, and others.
- Networks and alliance coordination included national and international meetings, annual reflection meetings, quarterly meetings, monthly meetings, and other network meetings or consultation meetings.
- Evident-Based Information included producing research, documentation, case study, fact-finding, investigation, evaluation, video producing, and data analysis reports for further dialogue.
- Policy Dialogue and Engagement brought evident-based information from network members and partners to meet with the national and sub-national government. As well as organized policy dialogue for solving issues, policy and law enforcement and improvement for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable people.

2. Strategic Discussion on the Up-coming activities,

2.1 Organizing Awareness Workshop on Concept and Implementation of REDD+ Program

The network is going to organize awareness-raising workshops to strengthen the concept of REDD+ implementation to University students such as the Royal University of Agriculture and the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Besides, the Secretariat of the network is looking for a Steering Committee member and Network member, who has enough ability to share any related to topics of the REDD+ program that has been implemented in Cambodia.

Steering Committee mentioned that the selection of resource persons should be identified for those who are implementing the REDD+ program, as well as who is REDD+ researcher for the national and international from the basic to expert level with the high confidence and reliability.

2.2 Organizing Training Workshop to CSO-REDD+ Network Member (iv) Contribution to Community Forestry (CF),

The Steering committee members understood that the network membership should be updated in advance to prepare training more effectively and better results for network members.

After updating the network members, the Secretariat of the network has to organize evaluation assessment training topics that are selected by the network members as well as the capacity development plan made by the V4MF project. In this case, it will help them to understand the subject quickly and also respond to their requirement.

In this case, the Network Secretariat may raise some thematic issues as an alternative to them relating to customary tenure rights, land tenure rights, and



REDD+ program implementation that have been implementing in Cambodia.

2.3. Discussion on the topic of organizing ASEAN Forestry 2020 in Cambodia

The ASEAN Forestry Forum is going to organize in Cambodia by June 2020. The Forestry Administration encouraged CSOs to organize a CSO meeting before the ministerial meeting.

It is advised to consult with NGO members and partners who have experience in organizing the forum. Also, we can mobilize funds and resources to prepare the event.

3. Strengthening Voices of Non-State Actors including CF, CPA, and CFI,

The secretariat was under communicating with network members for updating a list of network members as well as encourage representatives of CF, CPA, and CFI to involve effectively in the network meeting to share the progress, lesson learned, challenges, and propose options to deal with those challenges. It would help bridge and strengthen the voice of the community to the government through the coordination of NGOs.

Next action plan

The network members' meeting will be held in March 2020 before the consultation on the simplification of the community forestry management plan of the Forestry

Read more at: <http://www.ngoforum.org.kh/1st-quarterly-meeting-of-steering-committee-of-cso-redd-network-in-cambodia/>



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Exposure visit on climate change adaptation and agricultural techniques to CSO members



The NGO Forum organized an exposure visit on climate change adaptation and agricultural techniques to CSO members which held on February 10-12, 2020, Battambang Province. This exposure visit was organized with the aim to increase the capacity and knowledge of the network members to understand and learn from good practices of stakeholder collaboration in addressing and implementing climate-sensitive agricultural techniques, contract farming practices, and agricultural production chains. There were total 21 participants, including 07 women attended the exposure visit.

In the beginning of exposure visit, there was a learning workshop on roles of multi-stakeholders responding to climate change adaptation and climate resilient agriculture technique. Mr. Ouk Vannara, Deputy Executive Director of NGO Forum welcomed the participants, respective speakers from the Provincial Department of Agriculture, the University of Battambang, the Amru Rice Company and farmers representative from Rang Kesi Chamroen Phall Agriculture Cooperative, especially members of the Network for Environment and Climate Change Alliance (NECA), and the Network for Food Security and Safety in Cambodia (NDF-C). He shared the participants about NGO Forum's mission, vision and thematic areas of eight respective networks does. Mr. Ouk Vannara then updated progresses of NECA and NDF-C networks, including consolidate CSO's inputs into National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023 focuses on climate change, agriculture and irrigation



infrastructure, organize 8th National Farmer Forum to influence stakeholders to enable farmers to invest in agriculture, which aim to improve smallholders farmers access to Water, Capital and Market in agriculture, and provided CSO's inputs on Join Monitoring Indicator of TWG on Agriculture and Water 2019-2020.

Mr. Ouk Vannara, Deputy Executive Director of NGO Forum facilitated the dialogue on role of multi-stakeholder in responding to climate change resilience and agriculture technique. There were four respective speakers Mr. Long Thorn, Deputy Director, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Battambang province, Mr. Sreang Pov, Dean of faculty of Agriculture and Food processing, University of Battambang, Mr. Pich Pitou Reasey, Representative of Amru Rice Company, and Ms. Yan Srey Yat, farmers representative from Rang Kesi Chamroen Phall Agriculture Cooperative.

First of all, Mr. Long Thorn, Deputy Director, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Battambang stressed that climate change effects human life, animals, plants and causes to have less and more rain respectively. The Royal Government of Cambodia has developed a National Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation which is contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation. We observed that the temperature increased in 100 years scale, increasing by one degree. For the agricultural sector, the crop needs to be considered in terms of soil type, in terms of water sources, irrigated fields, weather

resistance, and flooding. Water usage must be taken into account for the type of crop that is appropriate for the region and season. e.g. In the rainy season, prepare a dry season self-using a drop system. Water-saving measures for home use, insecticide protection, disease, and water-saving and easy to manage, and at low cost. He shared PDA have been implemented and promoting climate-resilient agriculture. With this Mechanism, PDA has formed up technical working groups to respond to climate change at the provincial and district level. In operational plan of PDA is to support 88 formal community structure, which 54 communities are in the process, and 20 communities are well-progress.

Mr. Sreang Pov, Dean of faculty of Agriculture and Food processing, University of Battambang, impressed that drought is a risk for farmers and climate change, and there's need human resource development coping with this issue, thus University of Battambang was initiated established by Samdech Sor Kheng, Minister of Interior. UB has three damental programs focuses on: 1. Industrial training, 2. Research and 3. Sharing experience. The training program focuses on Animal Science, Food processing and aquaculture. Most of the training conducted in the Northwest that will increase student understanding of the local community and bring information from the community to the laboratory (Orsondon Greenland) so that the community and students integrate the theory into practice through various laboratory, company and community. Research and outreach program has been disseminate of agricultural techniques to the community, regaring wild vegetables (such as Saam, moringa, etc.), which are highly nutritious, promotes the production of wild vegetables for consumption. He added that for five to ten years later, Cambodia will be able to process, manufacture, and export free-chemical produce such as pumpkin noodle, raw



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fermented fish that can be storage in a long period. He continues the last outreach program which mostly take place in Orsondan Farm or ecological farming, growing rice, horticulture, researching and cultivating viable plants that keep plants healthy and productive. For example, the link between tomato and eggplant is resilient technique to drought that can be growth in waterless land area. UB also conducted an experiment study on soil quality that is the basis of crops focuses on micro organism in soil, multi-tillage which is improve soil quality and conservation agriculture, that's a part to improve livelihood of farmers and avoid migration.

Mr. Pich Pitou Reasey, Representative of Amura Rice Company has introduced the SRP standard in collaboration with the community (Contract farming) to ensure that farmers have a good livelihood and are aware of rice safety. The SRP standard consists of 8 principles, including 1) Paddy rice preparation 2) Rice growing calendar 3) Water management 4) Soil fertilizing management (organic fertilizer usage) 5) Pest management (prepare rotated plants) 6) Harvesting management 7) Healthy and Safety 8) Rights and participation. There's regular training on SRP, so far, provides in two ways: 1) ToT from staff to trainer and 2) Trainer to farmer producer. He added that in order to comply the standard properly it must be considered on 1) Well-keeping used materials 2) Do not fire rice field and 3) Do not encroach forest land and protected area.

Ms. Yan Srey Yat, farmers representative from Rang Kesei Chamroen Phall Agriculture Cooperative shared the experiences in organizing the community to have contract with Amru rice company in supplying standard rice. The Rang Kesei Chamroen Phall Agriculture Coopertive was begined with 155 members and expand to 318 member presently. Main business activities of AC is to buy and sale rice, and produce rice seeds (10 households producers). She stressed that this achievement could not present without support from relevant

stakeholder, including VSO organization, Village Supporting Group Association and PDA in facilitate contracting with the company. There're some challenges in supplying rice did not meet the contract with company, some of members still using chemical fertilizer/pesticide improperly. Another issue is community facing with drought in dry season and storming.

On the second day of exposure visit, The delegation has visited Rang Kesei Chamroen Phall Agriculture Cooperative (AC) located in Svay Cheat Village, Rang Kesei Commune, Sangke district, Battambang province, Ms. Yan Srey Yat, a committee member of Rang Kesei Chamroenphal agriculture cooperative informed very brief details that the AC was established in January 04, 2013 with 165 household members. Presenty, the AC has 318 members, including 115 women members from the village of kandal, svay cheat, Tuol Snuol, and Boeng Veng. The total share is accounted for 2188, which cost 30,000 Riels per share that have setted among member. Rang Kesei Chamroen Phall AC has major businesses in buy and sale rice from the members in respond to the need of Amru rice company. Secondly, they buy and sale organic fertilizer which has quality check by



committee member and recognized by the Amru rice company. Rice seeds is a kind of business of AC that it could produce and sharing to other members with technical supporting from Amru rice company and Provincial Department of Agriculutre, particularly follow the SRP standard. Key success of Rang Kesei Chamroen Phall



is that they could produce rice twice per year, remain transparent benefit sharing among members, reliable, trust and solidary cooperation among committee and members. We learnt that women participation has increased since the AC has started mobilize its member, most of women and men are rotate in community meeting, training when one were stick to another bususines. Women has been engaged actively in community and it made them having more self-reliance and raising up their voice and decision-making both community and family. However, there's some challenges have faced such as lack of reserving fund/capital to purchase rice from farmers, late reversed fund from company, not be able to extend growing rice to three times per year and scarce of irrigated water, some farmers did not practice SRP statardad properly which lead to lower the price of rice, and facing the climate change issue (drought) in dry season.

" I've got car accident when I started a community rice business, was to present the rice sampling to the rice mill in Banteay Meanchey province. I won't see it a big barrier to stuck me at all on behalf of a rural women, so we come up with today's achievement. Ms. Yan Srey Yat's said"

Read more at: <http://www.ngoforum.org.kh/exposure-visit-on-climate-change-adaptation-and-agricultural-techniques-to-cso-members/>



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ការចងចែកសម្រាប់សង្គម
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Budget Working Group Monthly Meeting

On January 9, 2020, The NGOF facilitated Budget Working Group (BWG) monthly meeting at NGOF's office. There were 9 participants (5 females) from SC, WV, CRC, GADC, YRDP, STAR KAMPUCHEA and TI. This meeting aimed to discuss the draft of BWG 5-year strategic plan as well as joint action plan with members.

Suggestion from BWG members

- Regarding to the refresher training on basic budget analysis, trainer should identify the topic align with trainee's capacity by designing the assessment test before conduct the training.
- NGOF should designed learning system include online course of how to read data and basic budget analysis which Mr. Kim Song is a resource person.
- TI has some budget to provide the capacity building on Tax training.
- BWG strategic plan should be easy to understand.
- Outcome 4 should add another indicator and separate by sector.
- The strategic plan should explain the key term and its scope.
- Within the strategic plan all BWG members unable to contribute all the progress maker, but we are possible to contribute some point.
- This strategic plan, BWG secretariat should send to each ED members and let them know the BWG's work.

The BWG monthly meeting was crucial for BWG members to update their progress activities plan and raise some joint activities plan which BWG members could work together. Within the meeting, all the BWG members enjoy sharing and provide the useful comment to support in designing the effective BWG 5-year strategic plan.



Partnership Meeting between NGO Forum and MRD

On 16 January 2020, the partnership meeting was organized by NGO Forum and the Department of Minority, the Ministry of Rural Development to review the 2020 joint-action plan and strengthen future cooperation for the benefit of the indigenous people especially female-led households. There were 15 participants including 4 females.

In the meeting, Mr. Soth Soeung, Department Director, MRD appreciated key achievements which coordinated by the NGO Forum on Cambodia and its members and partners. Those were included (i) the 25th Indigenous Peoples Day organized in Rattanakiri province; (ii) A Exchanged visit on Land and Forest Governance organized in the Philippines; and (iii) quarterly meetings of technical working group on the IPs.

In addition, by 2020, the Department proposed the NGO Forum to facilitate and mobilize resources to support four key activities as below:

- 1) Organize national dissemination workshop on "Indigenous People Development Policy and Strategic Plan on Development and Conservation of Indigenous Peoples".
- 2) Organize local and international exchanged visit related to development and conservation of indigenous peoples.
- 3) A Study and establishment of indigenous cultural village.
- 4) Organizing 26th Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 in Kratie.





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The NGO Forum on Cambodia

On The Media



Topic: Public Participation in National Budgetary Process

Date: 09 January 2020

Source: Blue Media

Mr. Keo Bunly National Development Program Manager of NGOF and Mr. San Chey, Executive Director of ANSA participated as guest speakers of Modernization of Cambodia.



Topic: Discussion on the challenges faced by indigenous women

Date: 03 January 2020

Source: Sarika FM and Re-broadcast VoD

The topics of this discussion focus on the challenges faced by indigenous women with the aim of educating the public about what challenges women face (living, education, health, abuse...). It also urges all stakeholders to find ways to reduce the challenges faced by ethnic women.

UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS 2020

03 March

Celebrate the 109th Anniversary of the International Women's Day 8 March

04 March

Launching workshop on Cambodia's Citizens Climate Budget for 2017

13 March

3rd National Consultation Process on Laos' Luang Prabang Hydro-power Project

13-14-15 April

Khmer New Year

22 April

Earth Day



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