



Project History

Economic and Social Relaunch of the Northwest Provinces in Cambodia (ECOSORN), a five-year project, is funded with contribution of € 25,000,000 by European Commission (EC), and € 1,000,000 by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) to contribute to poverty reduction through increased household income, agricultural productivity and local community empowerment. The project officially started on 7 December 2005 with the temporary deployment of the International Technical Assistance (ITA) Team Leader, and ran into its inception phase with the arrival of most of the ITA during January 2006. The formal organizational structure for the project was established quickly, accompanied by a fast secondment of RGC staff. ITA staff was strongly engaged in all aspects of operational set-up while Local Technical Assistance (LTA) helped to expand operational structure to the provinces. The project life will end on 31 December 2010.

Project Description

The project, currently, is implemented by Executing Agent, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, through its provincial departments in three provinces - Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, and Battambang.

Project Approach

The project focuses on Integrated Rural Development in target Communes/Villages, using a participatory approach with Beneficiaries and Stakeholders. Four types of farming system will be developed with Pilot Farmers: lowland rainfed rice, irrigated rice, upland crops, and specialised productions (e.g. vegetables)

Target Group

The target group in 14 target districts is identified as follows:

- 40 of 96 communes = 68,000 households
- 55,000 agricultural households = 280,000 people, including:
 - ⇒ 140,000 people with food deficit of 4 months/year,
 - ⇒ 90,000 people with insufficient income to purchase minimum food,
 - ⇒ 67,000 women between 18-64,
 - ⇒ 25,000 youths between 15-17.

Target Provinces	Target Districts	# of Com.
Siem ReapPro	Srei Snam, Soutr Nikom, Kralanh, Chi Kraeng, and Angkor Thom	14
Banteay Meanchey	Phnom Srok, Preah Netr Preah, Thmor Puok, and Svay Chek	13
Battambang	Koh Krolor, Sampov Lun, Moug Russei, Ratanak Mondol, and Bavel	13

Main results:

CI. Agricultural, livestock and fisheries production intensified, diversified and increased:

- Two-month annual rice shortage of households in project area,
- 20-25% adoption of improved agricultural technologies by direct beneficiaries,
- Increase in yield of rice (rainfed rice) by immediate beneficiaries from 1.2 to 2.4t/ha,
- Increase in yield of rice (irrigated rice) by immediate beneficiaries from 1.8 to 3.0 t/ha,
- Rate of adoption of improved livestock and fish culture technologies from 15 to 20%,
- 1,200 ha of irrigation development.

C2. Economic and employment opportunities developed:

- Vocational training: 1,800 people,
- Silk: 400 people involved in silk production and generate additional incomes,
- Vegetable marketing: 3 Producer Associations supported and developed,
- Fish processing: 10 women fish processing units set up,

C3. Empowerment of local communities:

- 40 communes strengthened,
- 270 line department staff strengthened,
- Communities and associations set up and re-inforced in 90 villages, and
- 27,000 households aware of water sanitation, health, gender and literacy issues.

C4. Improved physical access to available social amenities and markets, greater access to potable water supplies:

- Construction of 1,200 water points
- Construction of 500 latrines
- Rehabilitation of 300 km of rural roads
- Easier access to credit: access to credit and saving services facilitate for 16,000 villagers.

C5. Safer and permanent access to arable land and social infrastructures:

- 300 ha of land are cleared by the project,
- 80% of IRDM participants are facilitated by the project with land title,
- Mine Risk Awareness campaigns are conducted in place for 18 active campaign months.

ECOSORN Organizational and hierarchical Structure:

• At national level:

- ◊ Project Steering Committee, including MAFF, MRD, MOWRAM, MOI, and MOWA, as well as MLMUPC (associated)
- ◊ ECOSORN Project Task Force (implementer).

• At provincial level:

- ◊ Technical Working Group in PRDCs,
- ◊ Provincial Project Task Force (implementer).

