

Resilient animal raising does matter.



Photo: UNDP Cambodia

Ms. Sun Pon is feeding chickens and ducks with her homemade fodder in Lhong village, Sronal commune, Kralanh district, Siem Reap.

SIEM REAP— Amid loud clucks and quacks, Ms. Sun Pon happily feeds her chickens and ducks. Poised with a grin reaching from ear-to-ear, the 53-year-old widow rises each morning to tend the coop behind her home in Lhong Village, Sronal Commune, Kralanh district. Meanwhile, her son is feeding their frogs, which they raise in car tires closely surrounded by wire netting. The roof to the frog habitat is made from green recycled plastic and old palm leaves, and helps to protect the frogs from the hot Cambodian sun.

“Raising chickens and ducks using resilient techniques I learned from the project really makes a big difference in my daily livelihood, which is hard to believe. In the old days, I conventionally raised around 10 chickens or so just for our own use, and sold one or two to get extra money to buy something,” said Ms. Sun Pon, pointing to the approximately healthy 80 chickens and ducks eating homemade organic fodder around her.

Her tireless persistence, coupled with her eagerness to learn and practice new and different techniques, is the driving force pushing her and her family forward.

Her family is among the 795 beneficiary households in Siem Reap province, who are currently implementing the various climate resilient agricultural livelihood activities under the project, which include chicken raising, frog raising, vegetable gardening, and rice farming.

“In the past, I raised the chickens and ducks in a traditional way. I just fed them with rice and did not care enough if they had water to drink—especially in the dry season, had coop to sleep, or had nest box to lay egg or hatch. Sometimes, they were sick or dead and we just accepted that it was the normal time for the chickens and ducks to be so.”

During community consultation, Pon expressed interest in participating in the SRL project). She then receives continuous hands-on trainings and demonstrations pertaining to the chicken raising techniques from the private service provider hired by the project to provide extension on the climate resilient agricultural livelihood activities to the farmer’s groups in Siem Reap and Kampong Thom.

“Now that I acquire better knowledge and techniques from the project, I manage to raise the chickens and ducks quicker with good results I know how to make organic fodder using banana tree, Chaya leaves, and bran, which not only helps minimize the cost, but also maximizes the physical growth of my chickens and ducks. I’m fully convinced that vaccination really matters for my poultry and they do need proper shelter and healthy fodder to be highly productive like we do too,” chuckled Ms. Sun Pon while finishing off feeding under a mango tree inside the coop.

On average, Ms. Sun Pon can make approximately forty thousand riels per poultry sale, which she says is a pretty big chunk of saving when combined with add-on income made from her small retail shop in front of her home. She leverages her savings to practice additional income generating activities, such as raising frogs and fish, as well as growing vegetables.

“I think if my family can earn extra money from other income sources, our livelihood will be more stable. I’m delighted that the project also provides training to our villagers on the techniques for climate resilient frog raising and vegetable gardening. I usually go to observe it whenever there is a training session because I’m so eager to learn those new, useful techniques. Basically, the money earned from the sales of my poultry and retailing is a critical income source, thus enabling our family to exercise other income generation activities.”

“Our village is fortunate to gain this project support. I wish the project could help every household in the village. I always want to see our villagers have stable and decent livelihood and they don’t need to migrate overseas for work.”



Photo: UNDP Cambodia

Ms. Sun Pon’s son is placing the old palm leaves on the roof of the frog enclosure.

The project “Reducing the vulnerability of Cambodian rural livelihoods through enhanced sub-national climate change planning and execution of priority actions (SRL)” has been implemented in 89 target communes within 10 districts of Siem Reap and Kampong Thom. It strives to increase the household incomes from climate resilient agriculture and linked activities through enhancing and integrating climate change into subnational plans, building and rehabilitating small-scale water infrastructures (PBCR grants), and purveying extension packages for resilient agricultural livelihood activities.

As part of the resilient livelihood improvement, the project contracted a Specialized Service Provider (SSP) to form different farmer groups, including Farmers’ Water User Group/Water User Group, Livelihood Improvement Group, and Saving Group.

