

## Background and objectives

FAEC Cambodia was established and formally registered on 17 January 2019 and has functioned with dynamic and potential efforts to strengthen and support the farmers’ organizations.

### FAEC CAMBODIA’S VISION

Family farmers have achieved prosperity and brightness which they have passed down to their future generations.

### FAEC CAMBODIA’S MISSION

FAEC Cambodia empowers family farmers and their well-structured organizations to achieve sustainable growth in all aspects – economically, socially, and environmentally. By providing tailor-made solutions, training, and resources, we help farmers create a better future for themselves and their communities. Join us in our mission to promote sustainable agriculture and support local farmers.

### FAEC CAMBODIA’S GOAL:

- Improved economy and well-being of family farmers
- Sustained functionality of farmers’ organizations at the national and sub-national level
- Conserved environment and biodiversity conservation

### FAEC CAMBODIA’S STRATEGY, HOW WILL WE DO IT?

By encouraging family farmer members to form well-structured groups, we aim to strengthen their production planning and execution skills and practices. This helps improve their economic prospects, well-being, and environmental sustainability. Our approach involves working closely with the core trainers and committees of existing well-structured farmers’ organizations.

### RAPESD PROJECT’S OVERAL & SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

FAEC Cambodia is implementing the project “Resilience and Adaptation Planning for Ecosystem and Sustainable Development, RAPESD”. This 30-month project in the targeted areas of Battambang and Kampong provinces by working with 13 agriculture cooperatives.

The RAPESD project’s overall objective is to “reduce the vulnerability to negative impacts and risks of smallholder farmers through their participation in climate change response action and sustainable developments”.

To reach this overall objective, the RAPESD proposes three desired specific objectives as follows:

- Increased climate resilience, agroecosystem sustainability, and food and economic security of smallholders through adaptation planning, training on climate-smart agriculture techniques;
- Access to affordable carbon-based agricultural inputs (carbon-based fertilizers, biochar, and natural pesticides) to build long-term soil resilience and increase yields for food security; and
- Identify pathways for smallholder farmers to access international carbon finance in exchange for increasing the carbon content of their soil using carbon-based fertilizers and other biochar-based products.

## Approaches and technology used

- Promotion of technology of climate-friendly agri-food value chains and agribusiness and inclusive and gender-responsive management in farming operations and structures of farmers’ organizations.
- The access to markets and finance goes through the collective business plan and central centers for running the business of farmers’ organizations.
- Strengthening of Producer, Public, and Private Participation (P3) methods through B2B matching and contract farmings.
- Increasing participatory methods for improvement of integrity, transparency, accountability, and solidarity of farmers’ organizations.
- By encouraging family farmer members to form well-structured groups, we aim to strengthen their production planning and execution skills and practices. This helps improve their economic prospects, well-being, and environmental sustainability. Our approach involves working closely with the core trainers and committees of existing well-structured farmers’ organizations.



AC forum in 2021



ToT Training



Sale of Biochar to Farmer



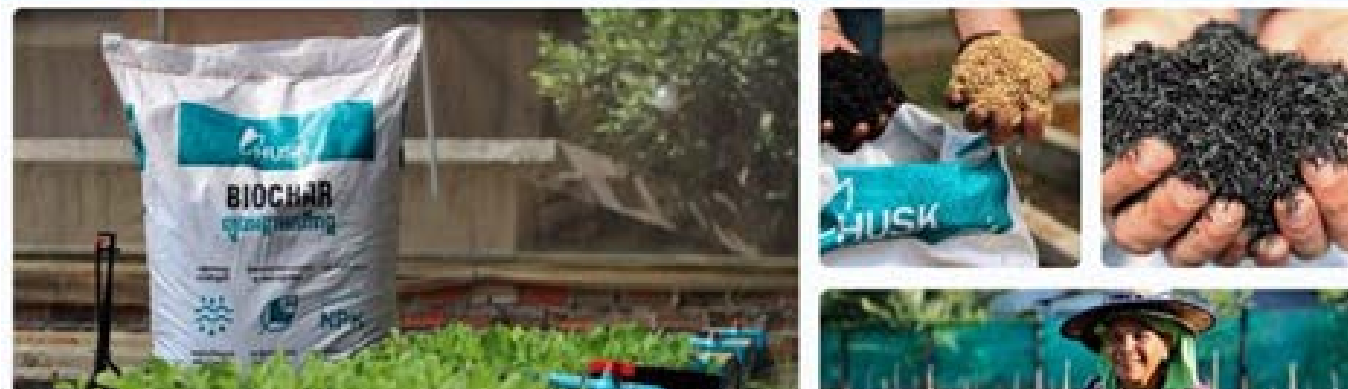
Carbon-Based Fertilization Training



Business Plan Development



Carbon Finance Research



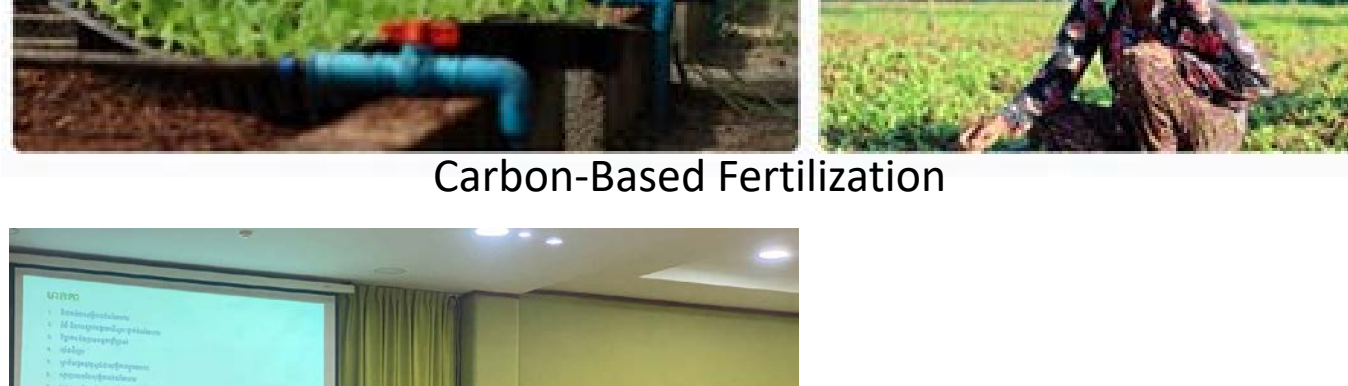
Carbon-Based Fertilization



AC Participated in CC’s Meeting



B2B Matching Workshop



AC Learning Forum in 2023

## Results

- A baseline report of smallholder farmers and their organizations was developed and distributed to the farmers’ organizations and their smallholder members.
- 130 focal points of smallholder farmers in 13 farmers’ organizations have received climate resilience training courses and they have spent their efforts in coordination of climate adaptation and resilience in their farmers’ organizations’ economic and agribusiness plans.
- 13 focal points of 13 farmers’ organizations trained on skills of training facilitation and they have involved practices in awareness raising for their farmers’ organizations regarding climate change, financial planning, business planning, etc.
- Researched the status of the farmer calculator tool for farmers to calculate the return on investment (ROI) from increased yields after using carbon-based products to improve their soils.
- 26 focus points of 13 farmers’ organizations are trained in strategic and business plan development and they have been involved in the coordination so that 13 strategic plans and 13 collective business plans of 13 farmers’ organizations developed with the format that aligned to the business plan of the world farmer’s organization recognized by IFAD. Climate resilience was integrated into their business plans and those plans were submitted to IFAD for getting revolving funds and loans without collaterals. These farmers’ organizations in this RAPESD project are registered within the World Farmers’ Organization platform and they have the right to get loans from IFAD’s program every year.
- Researched on status of animal feed formula in which biochar is mixed with the animal feed for improvement of nutrition and boosting yields and shorting period of feeding. This result is shared with the smallholder farmers on the project side.
- 10 model farms were installed at the community level with the agreed format designed by the RAPESD project and 10 model farmers adapted this model.
- 130 climate ambassadors of 13 farmers’ organizations are trained in technical support for using the biochar and they have been involved in the promotion of this carbon-based fertilizer to reach the farmers in their farmers’ organizations.
- Carbon-based fertilizers were sold to smallholder farmers and their quantity increased up to 180 metric tons overdue the plan. This is a good sign for the promotion of soil health in farm operations.
- The yield of model and non-model farms was evaluated as proof of evidence for the promotion and transformation of model-resilient farms at the cooperative level.
- One format of farmers’ organizations’ meetings and management are formed and 100 youth and women ambassadors from 10 cooperatives are trained, they have coordinated so their cooperatives have prepared a calendar of meetings and have shared the basic information regularly.
- Trained ACs on managing their account and logistics to make sure all transactions of their businesses are controlled and shared transparently.
- 13 ACs participated regularly in the meetings or forums of the commune councils and they shared with their counterparts the basic needs and information.
- B2B workshop and contract farming conducted to present the potentials of producer groups or cooperatives and seek partnership and capital through the approach of P3.
- The financial management system of farmers’ organizations is evaluated and developed
- Researched carbon finance and pathways for access to the internal carbon market and these results of research were shared with the smallholder farmers and their organizations.

## Scale up plan

In the next coming plans, FAEC Cambodia expects to scale up for many expected projects that commit to continuing or extracting previous experiments from this RAPESD project as follows:

- Increasing the technical knowledge of smallholder women, men, and young farmers to produce the pathway-making biochar and process biomass and using thermal heat generated by pyrolysis for drying processes such a circular on-the-farm solution to utilize residues by converting biomass to biochar in their farming operations for achieving higher yield, soil health improvement, and lower inputs costs and partially extending international carbon markets to be reachable for them for getting additional value.
- Supporting agriculture and livelihood technical assistance in the social concession land areas for sustainable rural livelihood development and environment.
- Implementing climate-friendly and gender-inclusive agribusiness that focuses on the creditable, inclusive, and gender-responsive governance and finance, investment, and market solutions for sustainable rural livelihood development and environment.
- Implementing agriculture value chains and market-demand production for sustainable economies and environments.
- Strengthening specific capacities on sustainable land planning and management for effective land management through sustainable investment and management for livelihoods and ecosystems.

These expected plans will be implemented with the farmers’ organizations including vulnerable groups indigenous communities and community-protected areas in the provinces of Cambodia.