

## Bio-digesters Improve Livelihoods in Svay Rieng Province

On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013, a CCCA delegation consisting of CCCA staff and representatives from development partners including the European Union, UNDP and the Swedish Embassy visited CCCA beneficiaries in Svay Rieng Province.

The "Adaptation to Climate Change through Alternative Livelihoods in Community Forestry" project which is implemented by the Department of Forest and Community Forestry of the Forestry Administration, is supporting local communities to adapt to climate change through changing livelihood habits. Significant activities involve building capacity of local communities to sustainably manage community forest and providing options for adaptive practices to enhance food security through home gardens and bio-digesters.

Women are most likely to receive greater benefits from this project. Their household works have been reduced and they can ensure food security for their family by using bio-digester and home gardening techniques.

Livestock dung is collected to produce methane gas that can be burned into energy for cooking and lighting. This can reduce dependence on firewood and high-cost electricity. Waste from the bio-digester can be used as organic fertilizer to substitute chemical fertilizer, and feed animals and fish. People can make some savings and earn some income from vegetable garden and livestock.

This project also works on building community capacity in sustaining the community forest on a 404-hectare land. Currently 677 families from three districts have become member of the community forest and they volunteer to guard the forest. People can receive some direct benefits from the forest including collecting wild mushrooms, traditional medicine and dead branches for firewood.

### Up Coming Climate Change Related Events:

CCCSP consultative meeting with nine line ministries, Protected Area, Tourism, Waste management, 10 May 2013, Sihanouk Ville Province.

Climate Change Communication Meeting, May 2013, Phnom Penh

National and World Environment Day, 5th June, 2013, Phnom Penh

Provincial Workshop on Climate Change Awareness Raising, 20-21 June, 2013, Siem Reap Province.

The second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP 2), 29th April - 3rd May, 2013, Bonn, Germany

The thirty-eighth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 38) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advise (SBSTA 38), as well as the third session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP 3), June 2013, Bonn, Germany

*"Before I had to collect firewood from the forest and was exposed to exhaust everyday. By having bio-digester my health is better and I can well manage my family food by growing vegetable in my home garden from bio-digester waste," said Ms. In Sok, a 54 years old lady in Ang Kdouch village, Chantrea district.*



Ms. In Sok and her bio-gas stove



A home garden growing cucumber and morning glory using bio-digester waste

The CCCA Newsletter provides information about CCCA program activities, NCCC and CCTT related information as well as other impacts from the community level through CCCA grant projects. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of MoE, EU, UNDP, Sida and Danida.

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## Cambodia's Position to the CoP18, International Response

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conducted its 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (CoP 18) from 26 November to 07 December 2012 in Doha, Qatar. The conference was participated by 9,000 representatives from 192 member countries. There were 23 Cambodian delegates attended the conference and led by H.E. Thuk Kroeun Vutha, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Environment. The delegates are members of the National Climate Change Committee, Climate Change Technical Team, the representatives from key line ministries and Civil Society Organizations.

Prior to the conference, Cambodia submitted its position paper to the UNFCCC by declaring that Cambodia fully supports the efforts to address climate change based on the key principles of the UNFCCC. Likewise, Cambodia negotiating position has been proposed in line with those of the Least Developed Country (LDC) group and the G77+ China group. Below are the key points from the Position document:

### Cambodia's Position:

- Recognizes that achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), poverty reduction are the priority for the Least Developed Countries Group.
- Supports the commitment on the implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions, which should be equally treated for the future climate regime.
- Supports the Kyoto Protocol second commitment period but the CDM implementation procedures should be simplified and explored to enable LDCs to fully participate in CDM projects as well as supports the establishment of the new market mechanism under the UNFCCC.
- Encourages developed countries to commit and increase their financial supports to climate change vulnerable countries especially LDCs.



H.E. Thuk Kroeun Vutha, from left to right, H.E. Nuth Chansolha NCCC member from MoP, H.E Prak Channey, NCCC member from MoWA, in CoP18, Doha, Qatar

tries especially LDCs.

- Encourages developed countries to provide US\$100bn annually by 2020 as indicated in the Copenhagen Accord.
- Welcomes the establishment of Cancun International Technology Mechanism which is operated under UNFCCC convention.
- Supports the establishment of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Centers and Networks (CTCN).
- Capacity building should support developing country parties in developing and implementing capacity building projects and strengthen sub national, national and regional capacities to address the climate change.

### Key Decisions of CoP18:

- All parties agrees to reduce GHG emission at a minimum level to maintain an increase in temperature not exceeded 2 degree Celsius .
- Continues the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2020 and Countries that are taking on further commitments under the Protocol have agreed to review their emission reduction commitments at the latest by 2014, with a view to increase their levels of ambition.
- Decides to draft the strategic plan to respond to climate change lost and damaged in developing countries and build their climate change adaptive capacity.
- Agrees on the establishment of national adaption plan and operationalization of the provision of support from LDC Fund.
- The CoP19 will be organized in Warsaw, Poland in late 2013.



Cambodian delegation joined side event discussion on green growth and climate finance mechanism



CCCA is a comprehensive and innovative approach to address climate change in Cambodia that involves project financing for generating evidence-based information to support decision making processes. It is a multi-donor initiative funded by EU, Sida, Danida and UNDP.

## Raising Climate Change Awareness Among Cambodian Journalists



H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth providing opening remarks in the launch of Media Training on Climate Change at Ministry of Information. Photo by Cedric

On March 07, 2013, the Ministry of Information organized a Media Training on Climate Change in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and with the support from CCCA. The opening ceremony attracted participation of approximately 120 participants including representatives from government institutions, development partners, Civil Society Organizations, academia and the media. It was presided Over by H.E. Dr. Mok

Mareth, Senior Minister, Minister of Environment, H.E. Khieu Kanharith, Minister of Information and H.E. Anne Hoglund, the Swedish Ambassador to Cambodia.

The aim of the workshop is to raise climate change awareness among Cambodian journalists, to deepen their understanding of climate change terminology,

*Continued on page 2*

## Development Partners Appreciate CCCA

In the morning of 13 February 2013, the Ministry of Environment organized the 7<sup>th</sup> CCCA Program Support Board (PSB) meeting, presided by H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth, Senior Minister, Minister of Environment and Chair of CCCA PSB.

The meeting was participated by representatives from CCCA's development partners including EU, Sweden and UNDP. The main objectives of the meeting were to review the

implementation of the CCCA program in 2012, to plan the way forward for 2013-2014 and to discuss the future development of Cambodia Climate Change Financing Framework which is an effective mechanism for responding to climate change issues.

In his welcome remarks, H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth highlighted the key achievements of

*Continued on page 2*

### Newsletter January-March 2013 Issue 1

#### Inside this issue:

Adaptive Agricultural Technology is piloting in Prey Veag Province	3
CCCSP Will Safeguard Cambodian People in Responding to Climate Change	4
Enhance Climate Change Knowledge among Youth Through Library Corner	4
Bio-digesters Improve Livelihoods in Svay Rieng Province	5
Cambodia's Position to the COP18, International Response	6



## Raising Climate Change Awareness...

the concept of causes and effects and key mechanisms for effectively responding to climate change in order to increase media accuracy and coverage on climate change.

A recent study by the Ministry of Environment reveals a limited understanding of climate change among Cambodian public. It is, therefore, challenging in dealing with climate change issues in Cambodia as well as helping people reduce their vulnerability.

*"Cambodian public awareness about climate change is still limited, so it poses a great challenge in engaging people to effectively respond to climate change."* said H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth in the opening remarks for the Media Training.

The findings have contributed to engaging the Ministry of Information to play a key role in disseminating climate change related information as the majority of Cambodian people, particularly people in rural communities, rely on mass media as the source of information.

The two-day training has provided knowledge about causes of climate change, its risks and impacts on key sectors and response strategies. After receiving the theoretical component of the training, the trainees were assigned to work in the field for three months to collect climate change related information for their articles with mentoring from media



Climate change experts were invited to share their knowledge on climate change

experts.

Addressed in his welcome remarks, H.E. Khieu Kanharith said that journalists would be able to write climate change articles with more accuracy after receiving this training.

CCCA expects to see the increase of media coverage on climate change related information which can contribute to helping raise people's awareness and reduce their vulnerability.

## CCCA Donors ...

the CCCA program includes the development of Cambodia Climate Change Financing framework, grant provision to 19 climate change pilot projects, Climate Change Strategic Plan, mainstreaming climate change education and awareness raising into sectoral strategic development plan and the implementation of the coastal zone adaptation component.

CCCA Development Partners appreciated CCCA achievements under the administration and coordination of the Ministry of Environment and provided extra constructive recommendations on key actions including institutional capacity development, mainstreaming climate change into the National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018. A significant discussion also focused on strengthening cooperation and resource mobilization for future climate change actions that help Cambodia develops towards a greener, climate resilient, equitable, sustainable and knowledge-based society, which aligns with H.E. Yim Chhayly, representative of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, recommended in the second National Forum on Climate Change.



7th Program Support Board Meeting chaired by H.E Dr. Mok Mareth, Senior Minister, Minister of Environment

The Cambodia Climate Change Alliance, a multi-donor initiative program funded by EU, Sida, UNDP and Danida, was launched in 2010 with a total grant of 12 million US dollars. The program is coordinated by the Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Environment to strengthen government institutions in managing and implementing climate change actions in Cambodia aligning with the Government's development priorities.

## Adaptive Agricultural Technology Is Piloted in Prey Veng Province

Introducing effective agricultural technologies and suitable rice varieties can help people adapt to climate change. Currently, a CCCA grant project is working closely with farmers to test the varieties in Prey Veng, which is known to be vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, such as extended drought period and severe floods.

The "BUILD-FARM-ADAPT" project, which is implemented by the Royal University of Agriculture in collaboration with Chea Sim University of Kamchaymear, is testing the above methods in three districts of Prey Veng province namely Ba Phnom, Kamchaymear and Pea Reang. Two rice varieties, Chul' Sa and Raing Chey, and enhanced agriculture technologies were introduced to farmers in order to improve crop yields, reduce pests and the use of chemical fertilizer.

Chul' Sa and Raing Chey are among the Government's top ten rice varieties. Chul'Sa is a short duration variety that can be harvested in less than 90 days; and farmers can plant before and after floods. Raing Chey is a long duration variety resistant to long period of drought; therefore, it is ideal for drought prone areas. Also, it can tolerate up to 7 days of flooding.

In January 2013, CCCA donors visited beneficiaries at the three demonstration sites and were impressed with the positive feedback. *"It is very interesting to see farmers feel positive on these newly introduced varieties and techniques. Normally farmers are rightly reluctant to change their traditional crops overnight but these varieties have obviously taken the attention of the farmers"* said Mr. Koen Everaert, EU Delegation to Cambodia.

*"I thank CCCA for introducing Chul'Sa to my village and helping us with farming technologies. Now, we can get higher yield with less fertilizer and can harvest before flooding. I wish CCCA could spread this variety to the rest of my village."* said a CCCA beneficiary in a demonstration site in Phea Rieng District, Prey Veng Province.

Villagers who live nearby the beneficiary sites are also interested in these varieties and suggest further contribution of crop and technology to the rest of village. The project itself has already initiated the long term solidarity approach by having beneficiaries to share some of the amount of their first harvest to neighbors.

However, one constraint faced by beneficiaries is that market mechanism are not yet fully in place to support these two new varieties (availability of seeds and buyer interest for new varieties need to be promoted).



New agricultural technologies and rice varieties were introduced to a flood prone area in Prey Veng as a measure to adapt to climate change. The CCCA beneficiaries are happy to see the unexpected high yield and thank to CCCA and its donors.



A farmer is holding Chul'Sa rice after his first harvesting



Raing Chey demonstration field in Pea Reang District, Prey Veng Province

## CCCSP Will Contribute to Safeguarding Cambodian People in Responding to Climate

The Royal Government of Cambodia has emphasized the importance of effective responses to the impacts of climate change as it has experienced climate-induced damages on the economy and livelihood. Its current National Strategic Development Plan recommends developing a national climate change strategic plan.

The Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Environment under its Cambodia Climate Change Alliance program, is guiding the development of Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP), and supporting nine line ministries to develop their sectoral climate change strategic plans (Sectoral CCSP) alongside the CCCSP. The sectoral climate change strategic plans are the backbones for the implementation of the CCCSP. The development of CCCSP and sectoral CCSP is to safeguard the livelihood of Cambodian people, the economy and nature from climate change negativities, as well as to support national development efforts.

The year 2012 was dedicated to the development of and alignment between CCCSP and sectoral CCSP. By the end of 2012, the first draft of CCCSP and the sectoral CCSP of nine line ministries were completed.

Presently, the CCCSP is undergoing peer review and technical consultations with key stakeholders. Technical consultations have been held with civil society organizations, the private sec-



Representatives from relevant Civil Society Organizations joined CCCSP consultation

tors, universities and research institutions. Meanwhile, comments on CCCSP have been obtained from individuals who have experience working on climate change in Cambodia. There is a strong enthusiasm especially among Civil Society Organizations and the private sector to see the action plans for CCCSP and Sectoral CCSP.

The CCCSP working group will hold further technical consultations with development partners and Climate Change Department and the nine line ministries. Subsequently, they will consolidate the comments before holding the final consultation. At the end, CCCSP will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval and official launch.

## Enhance Climate Change Knowledge Among Youth Through Library



MoU signing ceremony on installation of climate change library corner with the Royal University Agriculture

With regard to this, human resources are needed particularly in the field of climate change. Relevant knowledge about this issue should be enhanced from the secondary education up to higher education.

Currently, CCCA is working with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to develop a sectoral strategic plan to mainstream climate change in the education sector. In addition, CCCA has collaborated with three universities namely the Royal University of Phnom Penh, the Royal University of Agriculture and Pannasastra University of Cambodia, to establish a climate change corner in their main libraries with the purpose to raise climate change awareness and promote climate change research among university students and researchers.

CCCA will continue disseminating climate change related books and materials to the libraries and in the meantime CCCA encourages all stakeholders to contribute additional publications on climate change related issues to the libraries to expand the knowledge depository.

Climate change is a complex and uncertain issue and poses challenges on almost all sectors, so it is crucial to extend climate change research for getting new information and technology to help people adapt to climate change.