

Evaluation Report

Agricultural Livelihood Support Project

Leang Dai Commune, Angkor Thum District,
Siem Reap Province, Cambodia

CSAJ-HOC Support 2009

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Acknowledgment

The evaluation team would like to thank the Education for Population Support for supporting the Agricultural Livelihood Support project and assisting during the evaluation of the project. A special acknowledge to CSAJ-Help Our Community Project for supporting and financing the young team to implement the project. Finally, thanks to the young team for their dedication and hard work to help and empower the eight extreme poor families in Leang Dai Commune to increase their income and move out of poverty.

List of Abbreviations

ALS	Agricultural Livelihood Support
CSAJ	Cambodian Students Association in Japan
EPS	Education for Population Support
HOC	Help Our Community
RUA	Royal University of Agriculture

1. Background:

Agricultural Livelihood Support (ALS) Project was implemented from 15 September to 15 December 2009 in Leang Dai commune, Angkor Thum district, Siem Reap province, Cambodia by a young team consisted of five volunteers. The project was financed and supported by Help Our Community (HOC) Project, which is one of the educational charity projects organized by Cambodian Students Association in Japan (CSAJ). The project was also supported by the local authority (Leang Dai commune) and a local NGO namely Education for Population Support (EPS).

ALS project aims to address the following objectives: (1) to help the community through vegetables project for improving food security and nutrition to poor farmers typically have insufficient knowledge and skills, (2) to support chicken raising project (develop livestock production) through providing quality training to apply new technologies or inputs as quality seed, fertiliser or veterinary drugs, (3) to gather and promoting young teams to develop the community through their capacities management in building community good human resources to become the independent persons in supporting themselves, their families, and society, (4) to do poverty reduction for population and their communities, and (5) to increase communities manpower for developing their sustainable communities.

Based on their feasibility study, the project team has selected eight families in Tropaing Svay Village, Leang Dai commune, Angkor Thum district, Siem Reap province to undertake activities to achieve the five above objectives.

2. Assessment Objectives and Methodology

The aim of the evaluation report of the ALS project is to assess the project approach and activities in achieving their objectives to determine the effectiveness, sustainability and impact on the local community.

The evaluation is based on qualitative information derived from informed comments from a wide range of stakeholders including the project team, EPS staff, local authorities and particularly the eight selected families in Tropaing Svay Village, Leang Dai commune.

3. Evaluation Findings and Discussion

3.1. Project's Implementation:

The young team has implemented the project for 3 months from 15 September to 15 December 2009. They have studied the situation of the village, and choose the target families carefully making sure that they're the extreme poor families in the village.

With assistant from a provincial community coordinator, the trainer team from the Royal University of Agriculture has made their trips to the target village to provide the agricultural trainings and help with the actual doing after the training. The followings are the activities they have done:

- Solid composting and building of compost storages
- Vegetable gardening and building of vegetable gardens
- Chicken vaccination and raising and building of chicken cages



During the implementation, they've provided various trainings to the 8 selected families including: how to process compost, practicing compost; grow vegetable, practice of vegetable growing at beneficiaries' homes; do chicken raising as new techniques; and provide agricultural materials: buckets, hoe, spade, shove, seed vegetables kinds.

Upon completion of the project, as part of their sustainability strategy, the young team has conducted a regular monitoring to strengthen the beneficiaries of their capacities on the implementation, difficulties and issues rising, and ensure that their target families are doing well.

3.2. The Beneficiaries:

The beneficiaries are 8 families (43 people in which 25 are female) in Tropaing Svay village, Leand Dai commune. They were carefully selected by the young team, and they are the real poor families in the village (group discussion with Commune Council).

3.2.1. Actual Outputs, Outcomes and Impacts

Input	Output	Outcomes	Impacts
Training and building compost storages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each of the 8 target families have their own compost storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They have used their compost fertilizer in their vegetable gardening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less-chemical impact due to no usage of chemical fertilizer
Training and making vegetable gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each of the 8 target families has their vegetable gardening; some of them are well-maintained while a few of them are not. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families are able to pick up vegetables from their own gardens for food as well as for selling to other villagers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families can save money from having to buy vegetable. Women can stay home more, not having to go into the forests cutting vine for making basket
Training on chicken raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 families get trained on chicken vaccination Each of the 8 families have a chicken hut with 10 chickens in each hut 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They know how to do chicken vaccination; however, not all may have the confidence to do it themselves. They have a better-designed hut, no longer traditional one, and thus they can raise their chickens in a more healthy way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hopefully less chicken disease Better family hygiene and cleaner home-environment because chicken hut is separate from the house

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have interacted with villagers and experienced real challenges in Cambodia’s rural settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They’ve learnt both the good and not-so-good practices (challenges and successes) and these shall be a great experience for their future career and life.
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3.3.2. The Young Team’s Impression:

“I feel more proud of myself to have been sharing my knowledge with the poor villagers and they are able to do this themselves, and I think this is a success.” – Ou Mean, a project manager and a senior student at Royal University of Agriculture.

“I have learnt that there are a few things that we did not actually discuss with the villagers before hand, and when we implemented it, it wasn’t really successful. Example, we thought growing bitter melon was good; and thus we bought them seeds. However, after the bitter melons grown up, the villagers complaint they don’t sell well, because people do not like it.” – Hean Sokkhuoch, a Provincial Community Coordinator.

4. Sustainability

The strategies including collecting money and chicken back after one year (similar to *provas* in Cambodia practice) from the 8 families would possibly be able to provide such support to other families in the village. A regular monitoring by the young team and ESP staff after the project would also ensure that their target families are continuing taking care of their chicken and vegetable, and practicing their skills that they have learned from the young team. It is possible that there are some direct and indirect effects on community through the development activities and training such as compost making and building of compost storages, vegetable gardening and building of vegetable gardens, and chicken raising and building of chicken cages.

5. Recommendations

Recommendations are given in consideration of the limitations imposed by the prevailing administration context. Key recommendations made by the evaluation team include:

- Further support provision both material and skills to supporting families focusing on vegetable growing inside their house plot
- Regular monitoring and follow-up to supporting families
- Ensuring the repayment of money and/or chicken from supporting families in order to give support to other poor families
- Making a transparent accounting corresponding to the project activities
- While supporting families should share their skills to other villagers, young team should share their experience to other university students in Phnom Penh