



CASE STUDY

CAMBODIA

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WORKING
WITH



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CHICKEN FARMING ADDS AN INCOME SOURCE AND IMPROVES LIVELIHOODS FOR VILLAGERS

Villagers in Sambo District in Kratie Province of Cambodia can now earn extra income by raising chickens. By spending just a little time and money on chicken care and vaccination, farmers can have eggs to collect, and chicks and adult chickens to put up for sale. Introduced by WWF, these simple practices offer locals an alternative source of income to complete dependence on fishing in the Mekong River and other natural sources.

Initiated in April 2019, chicken farming has remarkably improved farmers' livelihoods. Mrs. Heng Srey Oun, a 45-year-old Community Fishery (CFi) member living in Anlung Preah Kur Village in Wattanak Commune was able to earn 50 percent more income for her family, just by raising chickens and selling their eggs. With 44 chickens, she could now collect at least 25 eggs per day, and sometimes over 130 eggs in a week. With the price of 1,000 Khmer riel (US\$0.25) per egg, she could get a net profit of around 1,6000 Khmer riel (US\$4) each day from selling them, after cutting cost from chicken feed, vaccines and medicine.

"I don't think raising chickens is tiring. It's a normal, easy job. I want to add more chickens to more cages so that I can earn a little bit more. Before raising the chickens, I didn't have much money, but now, I have enough money," said Mrs. Srey Oun. "It's easy for me to spend my money, since I don't have to depend on my husband's money. So even when my husband is away from home, I still have my own money to spend."

In addition to selling chicken eggs, Mrs. Srey Oun also sells chicken feed to other villagers. She learned how to mix the ideal feed for chickens and began sharing the recipes and feeding techniques with other villagers. Soon, villagers began coming to her to buy their chicken feed. Now, Mrs. Srey Oun could earn up to 75,000 Khmer riel (US\$18.75) from selling the feed each week, on top of her regular income.



Mrs. Heng Srey Oun holding chicken eggs. © WWF-Cambodia / Sina

Launching the initiative in April 2019, WWF-Cambodia first gave basic training and equipment to help farmers raise fish and chicken, as well as produce chicken eggs and grow organic vegetables at home. For the chicken farming project, selected farmers were trained to raise chickens for eggs in 1.5m x 6m cages and for chicken meat in 3m x 6m cages constructed consecutively adjacent to each other in a row. Farmers were also trained on how to give correct feed, vaccination and medicine to the chickens. Farmers who produce chicks for sale were provided with one incubator to start with.

“Raising chickens is easy and light work. In the morning, we just clean the troughs then prepare the feed and water for them. That’s it. Nothing is tiring,” she said. “The benefit is that even if my husband doesn’t have a job, I can still have the money to support our family.”

For some farmers, raising chickens has changed their livelihoods completely—from having barely enough to eat, they now have savings for their family. This transformation has inspired other villagers to begin raising chickens, too. One example, Mr. Soun Pel, a 48-year-old farmer living in Ou Preah Village, Ou Kreang Commune used to make a living by farming rice and giving seasonal vaccinations to animals like cows, buffaloes, chickens and ducks—jobs that hardly earned him enough for his daily meals. But today, by raising chickens and also chicks in incubators, he can finally properly provide for his family.

Mr. Pel now earns around 900,000 Khmer riel (US\$225) for selling chicks and animal medicine, with an expense of 500,000 Khmer riel (US\$125) per month.

“The money I earn from selling chicks, eggs and animal medicine is used to buy rice and food for my family. Our livelihood is now better than before,” he said. “Back then, we’d eat rice with salt or Prahok (fermented fish paste). But now, if we want to eat chicken, we have chickens to eat, and if we want to eat fish, we have money to buy fish. I also have money to give my children for their school days.”

People would come to visit Mr. Pel’s chicken coops and incubators, asking him for advice on how to successfully raise chickens. He eventually learned how to make an incubator himself, and has since received six orders from other farmers.

“In the future, I want to expand my chicken coops and have more chickens. I want my community to come and learn from me, so that they can improve their livelihoods and have a better living quality like I do,” Mr. Pel said.

Inspired by Mr. Pel’s success and his helpful advice, Mrs. Tim Char, a 25 year-old housewife living in Koh Khnhaer Village in Ou Krieng Commune, bought 40 chicks from him to raise at home. In just three and a half months, Mrs. Char sold 30 of the 40 grown-up chickens and earned 540,000 Khmer riel (US\$135). After deducting expenses, she still had 100,000 Khmer riel (US\$25) left to spare.



Mr Soun Pel, holding a tray of chicken eggs in front of incubation machine.
© WWF-Cambodia / Sinra



Inspired by Mr. Pel's success and his helpful advice, Mrs. Tim Char, a 25 year-old housewife living in Koh Khnhær Village in Ou Krieng Commune, bought 40 chicks from him to raise at home. In just three and a half months, Mrs. Char sold 30 of the 40 grown-up chickens and earned 540,000 Khmer riel (US\$135). After deducting expenses, she still had 100,000 Khmer riel (US\$25) left to spare.



Mrs Tim Char, feeding her chickens. © WWF-Cambodia / Sina

“Even though the profit is not a lot, it helps my family. I want to raise more chickens. I think it’s easy, not a heavy task,” she said. “We just need to regularly feed them, but there’s no need for lifting or carrying any heavy load.”

“I don’t want to just stay at home and be free [all day], sleeping and having nothing to do. In the future, I want to become an agriculturalist with visible skillsets to earn more income. I don’t want to be poor—I want to be rich,”

Wanting to lift some pressure off her husband and alleviate their family expenses and improve their well-being, Mrs. Char also wants to raise other animals such as pigs and ducks, aiming at a bigger goal for the future.

One of WWF-Cambodia’s livelihood programs to support farmers, this initiative is supported by BMZ and the Healthy Place Healthy People (HPHP) project, with the objective to improve farmers’ livelihoods through sustainable farming techniques and practices in the Kratie Province.



WWF-Cambodia in Numbers

167,000+

number of followers on
WWF-Cambodia Facebook page

27,450km²

Total area of Mekong Flooded
Forest landscape (MFF)

62,863

total area of protected areas in
Sambo Wildlife Sanctuary and
Praek Prasab Wildlife Sanctuary in
the Mekong Flooded Forest landscape.

92

The Irrawaddy dolphin in the
Mekong Flooded Forest landscape
increased from 80 in 2015 to 92 in
2017, the first increase in 20 years
in the history of dolphin survey.



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to
build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

wwf.org.kh

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