

# Vocational Training Program to build new generations of Agroecology young farmers

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PS9 – Building the new generation of agroecology farmers and promoters (Education, training and Agroecology)

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**VIVRE**  
DE SA TERRE

## Let's remember! Who are the young people in Cambodia?

67 %  
of farmers

(FAO, 2014)

- ▶ Smallholder agriculture is the first employer

24  
median  
years old

(NIS, 2017)

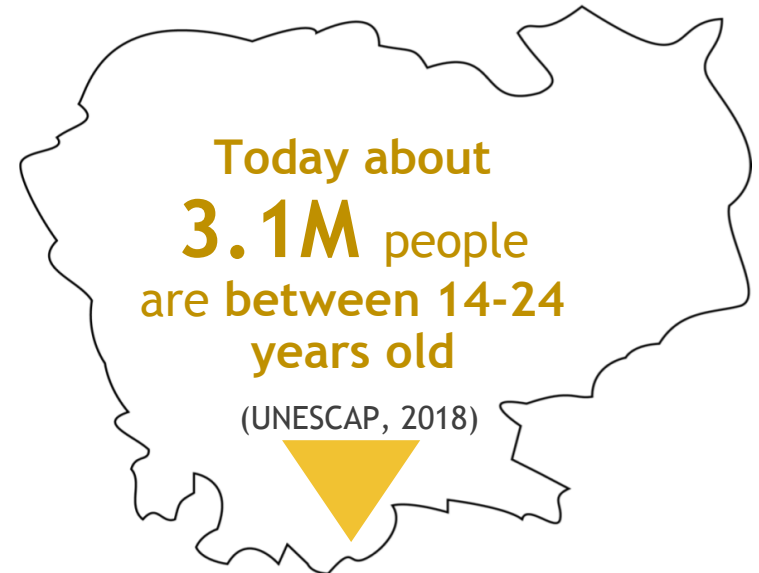
- ▶ 45% of poor people are under 20 years old

(UN, 2018)

Labor force  
increase of  
2M  
since 2010

(UNESCAP, 2018)

- ▶ Add 164,000 people to labor force each year from 2020



60% of them could work on their family farm?



1.8 M young would need **vocational training on agriculture?**

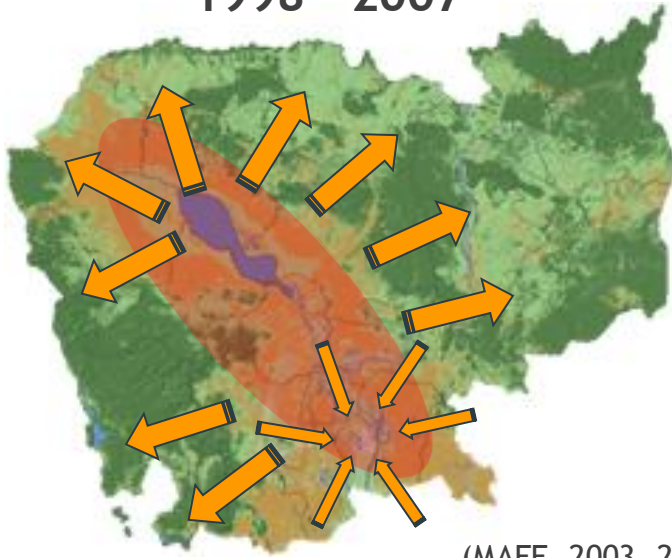
Background: Cambodians are mostly young and mostly farmers



## First barrier: Let's remember migration process

Where is Cambodian young people ?

1998 - 2007

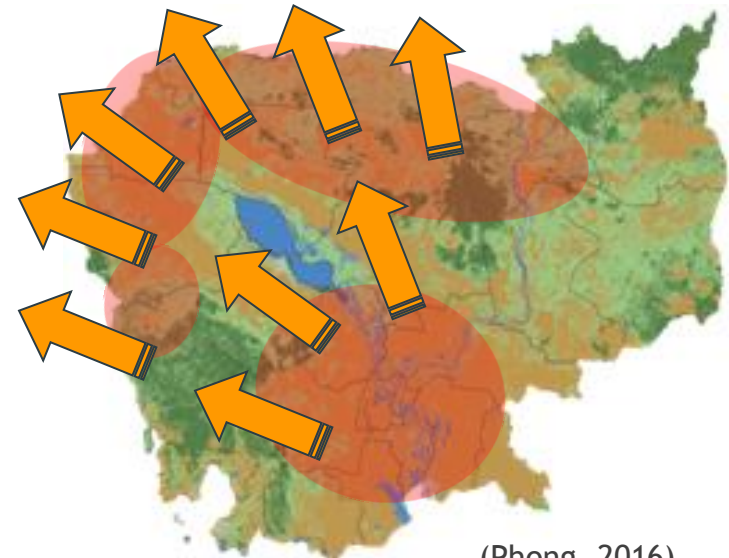


(MAFF, 2003, 2007, 2010)

### ▶ Land migration

- ▶ Deforestation 84% forest losses
- ▶ Crop boom-bust cycles (*soybean, maize, cassava, black pepper, mango tree*)
- ▶ Yield losses to 63% soil degradation

2008 - 2020



(Phong, 2016)

### ▶ Labor migration

- ▶ ≈3.5M migrant workers to Thailand
- ▶ Farm input costs increasing
- ▶ Job farm workers shaky

Background: Land resources and labor migration

## Second barrier: Let's remember farming image

Well-known challenge regarding the target audience



- ▶ Painful  
Hard work



- ▶ Price volatility  
and indebtedness



- ▶ Threat of climate  
change risks

Holmes, 2004



Young people's wishes:  
**to leave the farm distress  
to town-life**



Current challenge:  
**to urgently shift paradigm  
on farm to change our  
vision of farming work**

Altieri, 2018

Key finding: farmer job seen  
by young people



## Life and Soil NGO's Initiative Approaches



- ▶ **A way:** Promoting Agroecology as action lever to involve young people to smallholder farming



- ▶ **A challenge:** Ecosystems are complex and diverse, Agroecology requires high-level of knowledge input



- ▶ **A priority:** Developing Vocational Training for young rural people to learn about and adopt Agroecology approaches



Young from  
Oddar Meachey,  
2018



Mix-crops,  
VDST farm,  
2018



VDST Students  
Ratana Mondul,  
2018

Empowering young people by involving them to smallholder farming ?

## Life and Soil NGO's Small-Scale Initiative Framework



- ▶ Training a new generation of young smallholder farmers to implement and disseminate Agroecology



- ▶ All students come from poor smallholder farmers in northern cross-border provinces in Cambodia



- ▶ 4-years experience in Battambang province in the field of technical support to farmers and Agroecology action-research



- ▶ Launched in June 2017 thanks to ALiSEA Small Grant Facility



VDST Students  
Phnum Sompav,  
2018



Students at VDST  
Office, 2018



Initiative: 2-years Vocational Training  
Program Associate Degree level



# Basic interactions to design AE training content



## Designing AE vocational training

- ▶ Focus on **practical skills**, hands-on and field skills: tool to become sustainable development stakeholders
- ▶ Focus on **scientific knowledge**: to teach students to think for themselves - Getting Smart
- ▶ Deep understanding **diversity** and **complexity** of healthy agro-ecosystems
- ▶ Include a lot of **fieldwork** and **hands-on activities** → *composting, mulching, biopesticides, crop rotation, crop association, plant compagnon, etc.* **Actually practice first would be well**
- ▶ High involvement into rural development → learning the technician job, social worker, farming advisor, pilot farmers



# Vocational training Example on Vegetable crops

What we practice ?



## Designing vocational training

# Vocational training: Example on field crops

What are we practice ?



## Designing vocational training



What are we are teaching ?



Designing vocational training

## Initiative Framework



- ▶ **Full-time training (30-35 hours/week) in small-classes, with food and accomodation**
  - ▶ 1st promotion started on Jan. 2018 with 15 students
  - ▶ 2nd promotion will start on Jan. 2019 with 20 students
- ▶ **Provide scholarships and tailored support for students**
- ▶ **Internships program on farm and at organizations, social enterprise, cooperatives**

2-years Vocational Training Program  
Associate Degree level



## Initiative Impacts on Farmers

### Farmer Community Services

- ▶ Students are providing services to smallholder farmers in Sangker district, Samlot district, Aek Phnum district



Become Agroecology stakeholders:  
first vocational training extension

## Initiative Impacts



## Video-based learning sharing on Facebook with Smartphone

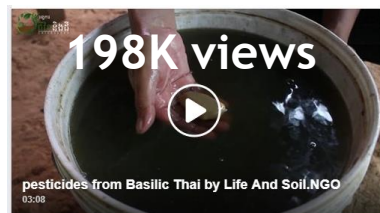
- ▶ Students are making sharing-videos on Facebook to disseminate Agroecology practices by online peer-to-peer support for young people



**Mulching**



**Biopesticide Basilic**



**Biopesticide Neem**



**Liquid compost**



**Making Dry Compost**

Become Agroecology stakeholders:  
first vocational training extension

## What we have to continue ?

- ▶ Continue to write new lessons based on field cases-studies and empirical approach of updating knowledge building
- ▶ **Strengthen the skills of new teachers in Agroecology and upgrade our teaching practices**
- ▶ **Advocate for recognition new curriculum by Ministries (MoLVT, MoEYS, MAFF)**
- ▶ On-going small project > **initiative have to grow: developp new training programs for other level and in the other provinces ?**
- ▶ **Building AE famers futures : loan access, AE business plan, equipment access, etc.**



Next steps...





ALiSEA  
Agro-ecology Learning alliance in South East Asia



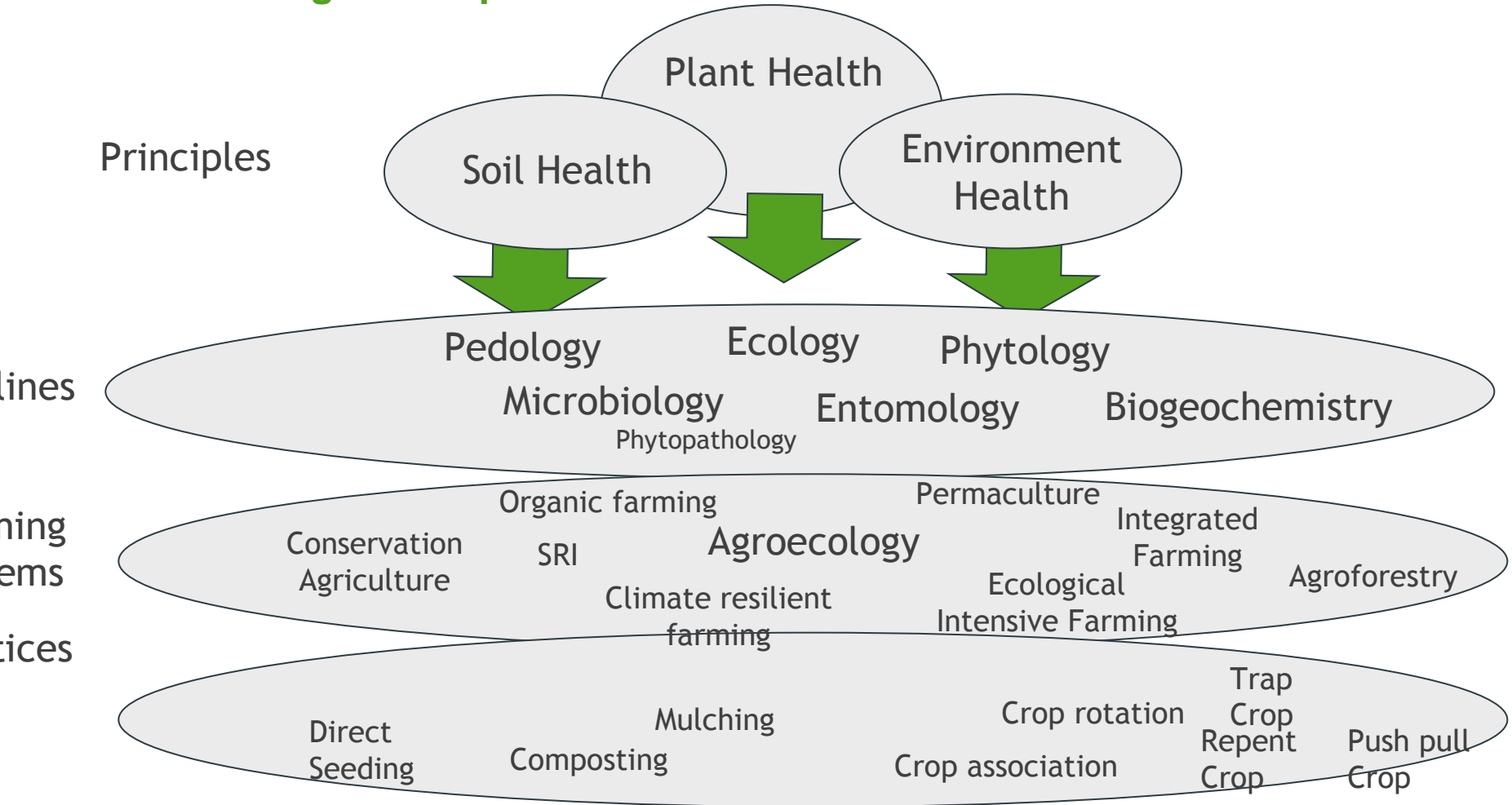
Thank you



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# Basic knowledge conceptual framework



Designing vocational training



## Chivet & Dey Local NGO

Founded in 2017

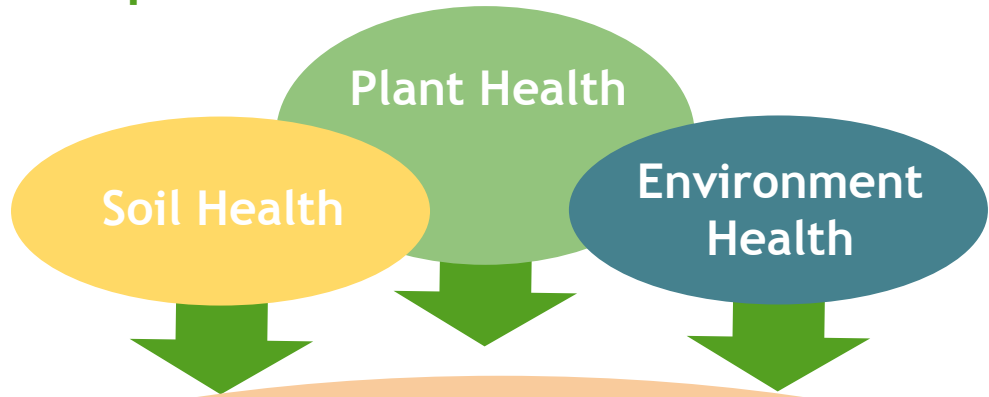
Based in Battambang

Fund by Vivre de sa Terre, French NGO

Web : [www.vivredesaterre.org](http://www.vivredesaterre.org)

# On-going process

# Basic knowledge conceptual framework



- Mulching
- Trap-Crops
- Composting
- Crop rotation
- Push-Pull Crop
- No tillage
- Direct Seeding
- Repent-Crop
- Crop association
- Trees
- Rice-Fish-Duck
- Green manure
- Mix Cover crops
- Companion plants
- Crop-Livestock
- Legume Cover crops
- Relay-Crops
- Crop-Livestock
- Non-Legume Cover crops
- Legumes
- Maize-legume Intercrop
- Biopesticides
- Maize-legume Intercrop
- Pheromones
- Crop-Tree Intercrop

Designing vocational training



# Vocational Training What are we teaching and practices ?



## Designing vocational training



## Initiative Framework

### ▶ Leave Conventional



### ▶ Shift

- ▶ 1st
- ▶ 2nd



2-years Vocational Training Program  
Associate Degree level