

ASSESSING FARM SUSTAINABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Davon Farm in Cambodia



Seasonally tropical (rainy season: May to October)



~ 1400 mm/year



Avg max: 38°C - Avg min: 17°C

Key Figures

Land size: 3.2 ha

UAL: 2.9 ha

Annual Income from farming: ~ 4 million riels

Location: 50 km from Phnom Penh

Selling strategy: Farm gates selling
Farmer since 2017

Introduction

Since her parents moved to live on this farm in 1991, they have grown many types of field crops and cash crops. Davon started involving on and off with farming activities since a young age. After graduated in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in General Business Administration at National University of Management (NUM) in Cambodia, she has worked with an NGO to support people living in slum areas around Phnom Penh city.



As agriculture is one of her major interests, Davon has managed to get involved with farming activities during the weekend with her parents while working with the NGO. In 2017, she joined Mekong Youth Farm Network as a member, which received fundamental supports from the network in building her capacity related to agriculture.

Agroecological Sustainability

At Davon Farm, there is a huge range of crop species available including rice, fruit trees, leaf and fruit vegetables and some root crops. That shows a significant compliance with the agroecological principles. However, as cattle production is not included in the on-farm activities, the shortage of organic manure is a major challenge. A huge amount of cow manure is imported to Davon Farm every year, making her farm very dependent on outside sources for organic fertilizers. This factor

limits the soil improvement program to its minimum level, which leads to an unsustainable practice if this condition persists.

With less contact with agro-chemical inputs, there is a positive sign of good health among Davon's family members. There is also a huge pond in the farm for keeping wild fish and frogs to harmonize the nature, and reserving water for irrigation in dry season. This large water reservoir enables Davon Farm to produce crops all year round.

Social Sustainability

Davon Farm does not provide much employment to local communities since most farming activities were managed by her parents. Besides this autonomy in labor, there is also less interaction with other local capacity development projects to improve the knowledge of other villagers regarding agriculture. The crops were mostly produced for household consumption, except for some major cash crops such as seasonal mango, sugarcane and cucurbit crops which are sold at local markets or through direct selling at a stall in front of the house.

Economic Sustainability

Since most crops are produced for household consumption, Davon does not earn much from her farm. The price of major cash crops is sometimes limited by middlemen, making the chance of getting profits from their farming even thinner. Positively, Davon is committed to improve the economic sustainability of her farm by incorporating 300 fragrance coconut trees in her farm in the future and create a direct link of sale to customers in Phnom Penh.

Sustainability Chart

