

GreenShoots

FOUNDATION



Green Shoots Foundation Agri-Tech Centre

Samrong, Odar Meanchey, Cambodia

6 months progress report

January 2019- July 2019

Contents

• Executive Summary	3
• Introduction	4
• Opening Ceremony	4
• Milestones	5
• Site Plan	6
• Activities	7
• Training & Education	8
• Notes from the Field	9
• Budget use	10
• Publicity	11
• Next steps	11
• Donors to Thank	12

Executive Summary

Green Shoots Foundation (Reg. No. 1138412) is a UK registered charity that has been operating in SE Asia since 2012.

In December 2018 we inaugurated an Agri-Tech Centre, a purpose-built eco facility to hold horticulture and rural development courses. This report conveys our achievements from the first six months of operations.

GreenShoots FOUNDATION

FOOD, AGRICULTURE & SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

80%

of Cambodia lives in rural areas and works in agriculture

27%

of Cambodia's GDP is via the agriculture sector

70%

of the Cambodian population is under 35

3:4

female farmers have no access to training or loans for agribusiness

400 t

amount of fresh fruit and vegetable imported into Cambodia



Lack of training is becoming one of the major causes for rural exodus into urban areas. Small-holder farmers are unable to cope with environmental changes and socioeconomic factors. They also tend to reject subsistence farming as an occupation for their children due to hardships faced.

Access to skills, introduction to concepts and formalised training can result in creating opportunities for young people and strengthening rural economies as a whole.

Where We Work



FASE is operational in Cambodia & The Philippines

How We Work- Cambodia



Knowledgeshare

- Training programs on horticulture and farm management
- Local and regional farm exchanges
- Establishing Agri-tech centre to be hubs of learning

Capacity Building

- Partnering with local organisations
- Projects are led by a needs assessment
- Holistic learning by focusing on environmental stewardship

Entrepreneurship

- Investing in social capital of youth
- Encouraging home-grown problem solving
- Job creation where it is needed the most

TARGETS



1,000

Youth and female farmers trained in agriculture and rural development in the three years



6,000

Hours of agri-training provided in three years



50

School vegetable gardens sustained in rural provinces



7+

Produce to encourage diversity in diets for better health and better farm practice



8+

Types of renewable and low-cost farm tech introduced within our site



20

Incubation and launch of agribusinesses for rural development in three years

All photos in this report are owned by Green Shoots Foundation and taken by volunteers: Sido Francès, Cloe Ando or Edward Dale-Harris at SAWA

Introduction

In July 2017 with the help of local government Green Shoots Foundation and CIDO secured a 0.5 ha (1.2 acre) site in Trabek Village, Bossbov Commune, Odar Meanchey Province of Cambodia.

As an isolated province, sharing a border with Thailand, the area is prone to out-migration of young people and not enough investment from the national government. Despite being an agrarian province there is limited investment in improving water resources or provision of guidance for farmers. For the past six years Green Shoots has worked with local schools in the area on horticulture skills. Branching out to target young farmers, high-school dropouts and out-of-job youth is the ideal way forward to further our vision of an improved rural economy.

In 2018 with the assistance of architects, engineers, local labourers and donors we completed the construction of our Agri-Tech Centre.

Numerous volunteers were engaged from partner organisations to assist with the design and delivery of this building.

Our key objectives with the space are:

- **Provide** access to vocational training in horticulture, integrated farming and other sustainable farming practices and technology
- **Improve** practical application of rural development skills in-line with environmental preservation
- **Enhance** the capacity of young farmers for enterprise development

In this report we share our journey from the last six months that has been instrumental in paving the way for us to achieve the above outlined educational and training objectives

Our Partner:

Community-based Integrated Development Organization (CIDO) is a Cambodian sustainable agriculture NGO founded in 2006. It is committed to improving the livelihood of poor rural communities through technical assistance for farmers, village rehabilitation and self-help groups.



Opening Ceremony



A traditional opening ceremony took place on the 20 of December 2018 at the Agritech Centre. This included a monk-blessing, speakers from the provincial government, our local partners and founder Jean-Marc Debricon.

In attendance were other NGOs operating in the locale, directors from the Secondary Schools and High Schools along with other relevant ministries such as Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Vocational Training. The ceremony was our chance to announce the centre as a community space and enhance partnerships with organisations and individuals in town and the nearby villages

Milestones

2018

December: Completion of building

December: Opening Ceremony

January : Village outreach

Classes Commence with local farmers

February : MoU Signed with local NGO on sharing volunteers

First harvest of long beans and cucumbers

March : MoU Signed with local secondary schools for Life Skills

Frog raising activity introduced on site

April : Income generation from sales of produce

May: Regular sales of vegetables from the Agri-Tech Centre

June : Arrival of our first long-term volunteers at the Centre

July: Worm raising activity on site for compost and chicken-feed

First Microfinance seminar arranged for farmers

2019



Site Plan

NOTES:
 DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING.
 ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED ON SITE.
 ALL CONDITIONS AND DISCREPANCIES TO BE
 REFERRED TO THE ARCHITECT IMMEDIATELY.
 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. THIS WORK IS COPYRIGHTED
 IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, GRAPHIC, ELECTRONIC
 OR MECHANICAL, INCLUDING PHOTOCOPYING, WITHOUT
 PERMISSION OF SQUIRE & PARTNERS
 ARCHITECTS.

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES:

- 1- OFFICE
- 2- AGRITECH HALL
- 3- BLOCK MAKING
- 3A - STORE
- 3B - FROGS
- 4- WATER HARVESTING
- 5- COMPOST
- 6- ME HOUSE
- 7- GROWING STRUCTURE
- 8- TREATMENT POOL
- 9- BIO GAS KITCHEN WC'S AND DINING AREA
- 10- CHICKEN HOUSE
- 11 - EARTH WORKS
- 12 - COMPOSTING

TREE LIST:

- A- PALM TREE
- B- ROSE WOOD
- C- CHINESE BAMBOO
- D- YELLOW FLOWER TREE
- E- MANGO
- F- GUAVA
- G- PAPAYA
- H- BANNA
- I- BANNA
- J- BANNA
- K- BANNA
- L- BANNA
- M- BANNA
- N- 2M HIGH BUSHES
- O - HOME GARDEN



For Information	TG	D
DATE	21/02/18	EDH
DESIGNER	21/02/18	EDH
BUILDING PERMISSION	16/02/18	EDH
CONTRACT SIGNATURE	02/02/18	EDH
DATE	DATE	DATE
NAME	NAME	NAME

SQUIRE & PARTNERS

The Department Store
 100 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF
 Tel: 020 7788 3000
 www.squireandpartners.com

Project:
 Green-Shoots Agri-Tech Centre
 Krong Samrong, Oddar Meanchey
 Cambodia

Drawing:
 Proposed Site Plan

Drawn	Check	Date	Scale
EDH		04/01/2018	1:1000
17068		G200_P_00_001_C	Revision

Activities

Village Outreach

A key component for the success of the agritech center is conducting outreach and awareness within the surrounding villages. Devising a strategy and working with our staff on how to conduct these was essential. This includes, who to invite, time of the day and also what materials to take.

A total of 5 villages in the area were targeted during the first month of opening and we had attendance from approximately 15-20 households.

Materials taken to the outreach included: a poster introducing Green Shoots Foundation and CIDO and handouts from the Agritech Centre



Secondary Schools

To sustain essential partnerships Green Shoots and CIDO developed between 2013-2017, we opened the Agritech Centre to secondary schools that were part of the Agriculture Skills in Public Schools Project (ASPUS).

Groups of 20-30 students from grade 8-10 attend the centre on a weekly basis and participate in training related to vegetable growing, frog raising and chicken raising. This forms part of **the Life Skills Training** that all secondary schools are required to provide. In the coming months we anticipate adding more skills and topics to these students



Partnerships Sustained



Computer Aid

A UK registered charity, Computer Aid (Reg. No. 1069256) have committed to donating six laptops to the AgriTech Centre. This partnership is essential in further the educational and entrepreneurial goals of the centre



Green Lion Cambodia

With Green Lion we share a robust volunteering network. Green Lion hosts volunteers from the world over and shares opportunities of placements of one week+ at the AgriTech Centre.



Chameroun Microfinance

Organised the first Introduction to Microfinance seminar at the Agritech Centre and will continue to support subsequent workshops and seminars relating to business development, proposal writing and loan applications



Enfants du Mekong

Maintaining an ongoing partnership since 2012, by assisting them with a vegetable garden and management of green spaces in their educational facility based in Samrong Town.

Training & Teaching

Students attending

60

Hours of Training

370

Student drop out

10%

The Agri-Tech Centre is open daily from 8 am- 5 pm as a demonstration site and place for learning.

Topics introduced in the first six months include:

Horticulture

- Preparing the land and beds for farming
- Compost making
- Preparing Seedlings

Advanced options include:

- Making natural pesticide mixes using tree barks, local alcohol and chillies.
- Making natural fertiliser using cow manure and green herbs
- Post-harvest care of produce

In the future we want to also include financial literacy around managing a small plot of land.

One of our demonstration sites is the 100 USD garden, a home garden that showcases what can be achieved through a saving of USD 100 and how much can be recovered from it overtime.

Chicken Raising

- Breed selection
- Preparing a chicken house
- Preparing chicken feed
- Chicken pests (snakes, dogs, large birds)

Advanced options include:

- Vaccinations/ disease resistance
- Breeding
- Egg hatching
- Selling of healthy chickens

In the future we want to also include more on the role of chickens within integrated farming, incubating eggs and promoting that as a business



Eco Building

- Producing clay blocks
- Producing cement/ earth blocks
- Natural plastering such as with cassava
- Troubleshooting for plastering and block making
- Discussing ideas for how to use blocks on site.

Notes from the field

Having spent a considerable amount of time this year in Samrong, it has been rewarding to see the progress the Green Shoots and CIDO Agritech Centre is making. The painstaking efforts of staff well and truly pay off when we have a space that is attractive for young people to visit and also is producing vegetables at a healthy rate that we can sell to the local community.

However, true to Green Shoots ethos, we are continuously evaluating our performance and bringing about a culture of evaluation at our local partner's organisation. The month of July was a time where we observed activities from the last few months and devised a strategy to make changes and ensure we stay on the path toward success.

Together, we realised a few points that are essential to making The Agritech Centre a success:

- Involving local community and ensuring they stay up to date with our activities
- Being able to showcase individual projects as successful business models that can be replicated
- Good quality seeds that we can save and share with the community
- Learning opportunities for our staff which allows them to keep up with new research and knowledge

In this report, we share what the next steps to take are to confirm we are able to achieve our goals.

Mmejay J.

Volunteer Involvement

Volunteers play an important role within the Agri-Tech centre as first and foremost, they allow us to keep our overheads low by having an extra pair of hands to carry out day-to-day tasks.

Secondly, based on skill set, they can help with the promotion and development of activities at the centre.

In the last few months we have had photographers, artists and also farming experts all that have made a contribution towards activities and day-to-day management on site. These include helping to build the frog house, plastering of the WC block, designing and painting signs and finally land preparation and planting.

“

We are really happy to have volunteers at the Agri-Tech Centre, because they help us a lot in hard work, improving English speaking, enjoying rest time, and building communication with the people from overseas.”

– Sarin Sak, Project Manager



“

We want to harness local creativity and ingenuity in a time when rural areas face harsh realities of climate change, loan sharks and low productivity”



Budget Use

		USD						
Months	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	
Activities								
1.1	Home garden setup & running				57	40		
1.2	commercial agriculture plots set up and running		60					
1.3	Water and irrigation	151	78	25	22	10	10	
1.4	Compost House set up & running	127	30	70			74	
1.5	Agri-tech centre tools	115		82				
1.6	Training costs	300	432	430	400	400	468	
1.7	Nursery set-up and running	36	7	68			96	
1.8	Chicken house running		30	37.5	22.39	9.86		
1.9	Earthworm house			88	33.58			
2.0	Frog raising				22.39	93.81	18.43	
2.1	Natural materials		15		42.03			
2.2	Agritech Grounds maintenance				1,149	159.12	106.36	
	Sub-total Activities	729	652	800	1748	713	410	
Administrative								
3.1	Food and Agriculture manager Salary	300	300	300	300	300	300	
3.2	Finance and admin Salary	151	151	151	151	151	151	
3.3	Agronomist Salary		300	300	300	300	300	
3.4	Agritech Caretaker Salary	215	200	200	200	200	200	
3.5	Local transport and office costs	22	45	57	27	58	41	
3.6	Bank fees and misc		9	18	44	78	44	
3.7	Green Shoots Admin + M&E		700	700	700	700	700	
	Subtotal Operational	1,397	1,724	1,726	1,722	1,786	1,717	
	Agri-Tech Costs per month	2,125.58	2,376	2,525	3,470	2,499	2,127	
	in GBP	1,687	1,886	2,004	2,754	1,983	1,688	

Publicity

On 19 June 2019 The AgriTech Centre won Collaboration of the Year award at the Architecture Journal Awards, AJ 100.

This award is jointly shared with Squire & Partners and SAWA Collective, both organisations that were instrumental in the design, completion and success of the Agri-tech Centre.

Links

- [DeZeen](#)
- [ArchDaily](#)
- [DesignBoom](#)
- [Cambodia Daily](#)
- [Permaculture Magazine](#)



“

In my view the best architecture comes where each material is allowed to do its job, along with an attention to detail and commitment to joy. If you follow these rules, the quality will follow.”

Tim Gledstone, Squire & Partners



Next Steps

Our next steps with the Agri-tech centre are:

- More regular outreach with farmers and youth in villages along with a robust strategy to follow up
- Providing them with business ideas and opportunities
- Developing partnerships that enable our farmers to pursue business opportunities
- Installation of solar power/ solar equipment to enable lighting and operation of laptops from Computer Aid
- Developing a robust strategy to attract volunteers that can assist our farm workers. A key detail here is to ensure we keep our overheads low.
- Ensuring biogas output so we can include nutritional workshops as part of our repertoire
- Improved Monitoring of day-to-day farm activities and projects

Donors to Thank

- Porta Pia 2012
- Souter Charitable Trust
- Ashworth Trust
- The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation
- Sculpt the Future Foundation
- Trust 2000
- Private Donors, individuals and Small Trusts





Green Shoots Foundation
22 Lavender Hill, London, SW11 5RN, UK
Charity Reg No. 1138412
www.greenshootsfoundation.org
muneezay@greenshootsfoundation.org

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[YouTube](#)