



Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) in Cambodia

PGS helps my family grow

Story of MR and MS Chheangmeng

I have never lost profit since I have planted PGS organic vegetables, as I and my wife have buyers who signed purchasing contract with an agreed prices. Before, I grew vegetable with chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and I lost profit from two to three times a year, said Mr. Ke Chheameng, a farmer living in Baran Leu village, Svay Teal commune, Sa'ang district, Kandal province, with his wife, Sieng Lykeang.

Mr and Ms Chheameng have three children, two among which are studying and working in Phnom Penh, while the youngest, 14 years old, is studying and helping some farming. He started growing PGS organic vegetables in a net house on the land of 250m² in 2017, and after five months of planting, he extended up to 500m², because he made profit.

I planted PGS organic vegetables on a new site since September 2017, and it's been a year now. I have got many visitors, including technical specialists, buyers and farmers from far and near who came to visit my vegetable garden, and we exchanged practices. PGS has given me knowledge in making liquid and solid compost fertilizer, in getting rid of insects naturally, and in cultivating organic agriculture. My soil is good because I use cow manure about full 12 carts (around 6, 000 Kilograms) a year. Previously I used pesticides and chemical fertilizers for my vegetables, and I know that the pesticides affected health badly. I felt dizzy and headache, as well as sweaty parts below my knees during sleeping at night for 2 or 3 days after I sprayed the pesticides.

Since I stopped spraying these chemicals, I have no longer had health problems as before, and I got more profits than growing chemical vegetables, at least more than half of chemical vegetables. I cultivate many types of vegetables, including leafy veggies, cauliflowers, and cabbages from 5 to 6 times a year, and I earn more than USD3, 700 of annual income on my land of just 500m². My wife manages this money for food, household expenses, and some for savings for our old age. Organic vegetable production takes time to clear grass, make compost fertilizer, and catch insects, but it is a job that can be done by our family members, and does not require extra paid laborers. Markets are available for our produce at reasonable price as stated in contract.



I can grow PGS organic vegetables every season in the net houses with UV roofs, and our veggies grow very well with the yield as high as vegetables growing with chemical fertilizers. I advised my neighbors to follow me, and they are interested and participated. There are many buyers have approached me, but I have my contracted the Natural Agriculture Village.

I have no worries about the market since I have grown these PGS organic vegetables. My health is also better; my families consume more organic vegetables that we grow by ourselves, more revenues, and more saving.

