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## CASE STUDY

### FORESTRY SMART AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

(IN DAK DAM COMME, O'REANG DISTRICT, MONDULKIRI PROVINCE)

CAMBOIDA



#### I. Introduction

Unlike the low land Cambodian People, who have designated permanent farming land such as rice farming land, Cash crop farming land and so forth, the Bunong indigenous people, in the contrary, do not have designated permanent farming land. Their farming practice is always of shifting agriculture or agro-forestry. For instance, Bunong indigenous people plant their rice crop in the sloppy hill forest, however, for some family who have many children or members and in need of more yield, they would cut and burn the forest trees to clear for bigger farming land. In a few years, when soil become poor in fertility,



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they would abandon the site and move to the new fertile areas. From the practice of this shifting agriculture, there is no lack of fuel woods, Indigenous people can collect cut trees from nearest shifting agriculture site.

Notably, Indigenous people still depends heavily on forest for their daily cooking such as vegetable, mushroom and spices. Along the way to collect vegetable and spices, they bring their hunting and cutting tools, to make new walking path toward new sources of vegetable and spices, they use their long knife to cut small tree, spiky or thorny plants that block their ways. In all to get their vegetable and spices, quite amount of biodiversity is damaged or permanently lost.

In order to get for more harvest; the indigenous people would have to clear by cutting more tress for bigger agriculture sites. at the same point, Indigenous, in order to collect fuel wood, they tends to cut down the whole tree and let it dry for some time and they would fetch the dry wood for cooking need.

## II. FORESTRY SMART FARMING

Mrs. Keu Peub, a native of Bunong indigenous people who have 1 children is one of the project beneficiary working toward agro-forestry transition. From the project, she now understands that some farming practices that they think leading to more harvest, such as clear forest for big-farming land seems to be ineffective. Yet, from the project, she also understands that forest plays important roles for their livelihoods but take it for granted.

As the transition to a sound agroforestry, Mrs. Keu Peub agrees to participate in the project and also serve as the local forestry smart farmers. With the support of the project, She is educated to analyzed what vegetable and spice that her family, as well as other family in the community, need to collect from the forests that can be domesticated or planted at home-garden or substituted by regular garden vegetable or spice. Basically, the project



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and participating indigenous people agrees that FORESTRY SMART AGRICULTURE METHOD OF FARMING is a possible way to increase yield and harvest.

Mrs. Keu Peub got trainings from the project on permaculture training and domestication of wild cooking spices. She now has a variety of vegetable and cooking spice at his home garden. She reports that this save much of her family time to go to forest to collect vegetable and spice, at the same time, she starts to see opportunity to have vegetable surplus for selling locally. As for fuel wood, she is now collecting only wood from natural fallen-trees or cutting the branch of trees. By the end of the project, even now, she is full time home gardener producing food and surplus, since food is now produce at home, he saves times and spend time with other livelihood activities at home namely animal husbandry. From this new FORESTRY SMART AGRICULTURE, from the group reflection meeting, people agrees that this approach applied by Mrs. Keu Peub do lead to more productivity, including saving labor and time though it is challenging at the start up. At the same time they also sees the positive impact to local forest and ecology as home garden production reduce the risk of biodiversity damage or lost. They agrees that the crops that they consume for food in traditional ways, we have identified that winter-melon, gourd, pumpkin, papaya, bulb leek are commonly used by indigenous people as food so the project promote the these crops productivity at home garden and the farmers have applied two methodologies of farming:

- o Promote strategic crops – refer to fruits and vegetable with long life such bamboo shoot , coconuts, jack-fruits, moringa, which they can plant around the border of their land,
- o Promote short cycle – cash crop – refer to vegetables with short life cycle and need to be replanted from cycle to cycle









However, the future challenge is that, trendy, for family economic reasons, most of the indigenous people would become commercial farmers which a bigger land is required. The bigger farming land, traditionally refer to forest – cleared farming land. In this prediction, MIPAD would continue to support and work with indigenous people on land-use planning and since of their land are covered by forest, innovative agroforestry planning is a key solution.

Dak Dam community, Monduliri province

The land of Buong Indigenous people.