

Quarterly Report

[August-October, 2015]

1. Overview/Introduction

Cambodia HARVEST is five-year food security program focused on increasing incomes for 70,000 rural Cambodian households as part of the United States Feed the Future and Global Climate Change initiatives. The Cambodia HARVEST approach to date has developed agricultural solutions to address poor productivity, postharvest losses, food safety issues, lack of market access, environmental degradation, and the effects of climate change on food vulnerable populations. The subcontractor will contribute to overall Cambodia HARVEST program targets and goals through implementation of the technical activities as outlined in the scope of work.

The Rural Economic and Agriculture Development Agency (READA) is a non-profit organization jointed partner with international and local NGOs such as CONCERN, ADDA, LOTUS RELIEF CHARITABLE, AGRISUD, CCC, and DAI. Director of Rural Economic and Agriculture Development Agency (READA) signed a sub-contract to receive a grant from Cambodia HARVEST project for 18 Month from April-2014 to October-2015 namely, Saving Fund Project for intervention in 12 villages of 4 communes in 1 district of Siem Reap province. The objectives of this project are as follows:

- FSNG members and saving fund members will receive training and mentoring support to establish self-managed savings and lending funds to increase their access to small loans, to be used to support improved food security and nutrition.
- From membership of a self-help group, rural women develop saving funds and invest them in small businesses that engage in marketing and other commercial activities in order to improve their food security and nutrition.

2. Activities and Its Achievements

2.1 SF Group Structure and Organization

2.1.1 SF Group Management Committee

- ✓ *There were no changes during the period from August to October 2015 in any SF group.*

2.1.2 SF Group Policies and Procedures

- ✓ *There were no changes during the period from August to October 2015 in any SF group.*

2.1.3 Recognition of SF Groups

- ✓ *There were no changes during the period from August to October 2015 in any SF group.*

2.2 SF Group Membership

2.2.1 Membership Update

In the quarter 6 of August to October 2015, a total of 198 members have participated in the saving fund group which includes 179 females. This is an additional 7 members compared to the previous quarter. This shows that the farmers have a better understanding on the advantages of the saving group project. (Table 1)

Table 1-SF group membership update

Table 1-SF Group Membership Update			
Quarter: August-October, 2015			
SF Groups	Members at beginning	Total changes during quarter	Membership at end of quarter

	of quarter – total	New members	Resigned members	Total	Women
Ouleu village (KromAharobthaomSansomPrak)	7			7	7
Pou village(SatreysamakiSansomPrakReakReay)	18	1		19	17
Samroung village(KasekorSamakiSansomPrak)	10			10	7
Ruesseilouk village (SamakiSansomPrakReakReay)	24			24	24
Spean Touch village (SamakiSansomPrakChuyKhunEng)	13	6		19	14
ThnalKaeng village (KasekorChuyKasekor)	12			12	9
ChambakKphos village (KrusarSansomPrakDeumbeiAphivat)	16			16	16
Khong village (MeadaSansomPrak)	25			25	23
LveangRuessei village (KromDomnangKasekor)	16			16	13
Oukraom village (KromSansomPrak)	13			13	12
Spean TnoatMuoy village (SahakarReakChomRoeun)	19			19	19
Spean TnoatPir village (KasekorRoungReung)	18			18	18

2.2.2 Assessment of Membership Status

For this quarter, there are two SF groups that are classified as 'not stable' because each group has some new members participate in the group during this time. (Table 2)

Table 2-Assessment of SF Groups Where Membership is not Stable Quarter VI: August-October, 2015			
SF Group	Drop outs: number and reasons	New members: number and reasons	Actions and Recommendations
Pou village(SatreysamakiSansomPrakReakReay)		One (1) new member had participated in the saving activities because they see the benefit of saving that not only for borrow but they can earn money through interest earn. And also they can borrow money from group when they meet urgent case.	-Before selecting new members has to looking their characteristic so that the new members will not make the group messy.

Spean Touch village (SamakiSansomPrakChuyKhlunEng)		Six (6) new members had participated in the saving activities because they see the benefit of saving that not only for borrow but they can earn money through interest earn. And also they can borrow money from group when they meet urgent case.	-Before selecting new members has to looking their characteristic so that the new members will not make the group messy.
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2.3 SF Group Training and Coaching Activities

2.3.1 Group Training

- ✓ *There is no core training delivered during the period from August to October, 2015*

Other group training

A total of 71 trainings have been conducted during this quarter in all 12 target villages, with 555 participants including 535 being female. The details of the training activities and subjects are shown in table 3:

Table 3-Other Group Training Activities					
Quarter: August to October; 2015					
SF Group	Training Subject	Number of Training Sessions	Total number of participants	Number of women participating	Assessment
Pou village(SatreysamakiSansomPrakReakReay)	-Negotiate Loan -Group management, new member and participation	3	40	40	- After repayment to the group, any member would be able to calculate the interest -The leaders gain more knowledge on how to manage their group and strengthen the group -The selection of new members has been agreed by all current members. -Meetings,

					savings and repayments are on time
Ruesseilouk village (<i>SamakiSansomPrakReakReay</i>)	-Group structure, group goals and policy, member responsibilities -Group management, new member and participation	2	25	25	-The leaders gain more knowledge on how to manage their group and strengthen it. -The selection of new members has been agreed by all current members. -Members aware of what is their responsible, what is the policy of group and what is the goal of group
Spean Touch village (<i>SamakiSansomPrakChuyKhluEng</i>)	-Loan Negotiate -Record keeping -Group management, new member and participation	7	59	59	-After repayment to the group, any member would be able to calculate the interest. -The leaders gain more knowledge on how to manage their group and strengthen it. Members know how to record in the book to make it more clear and easy to understand

<p>ThnalKaeng village (<i>KasekorChuyKasekor</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Loan Negotiate -Record keeping -Group management, new member and participation 	<p>5</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>28</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -After repayment to the group, any member would be able to calculate the interest. - Members know how to record in the book to make it more clear and easy to understand -The leaders gain more knowledge on how to manage their group and strengthen it.
<p>Samroung village(<i>KasekorSamakiSansomPrak</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Loan Negotiate -Group management, new member and participation 	<p>1</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -After repayment to the group, any member would be able to calculate the interest. -The leaders gain more knowledge on how to manage their group and strengthen it.
<p>OuLeu village (<i>KromAharobthaomSansomPrak</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Group structure, group goals and policy, member responsibilities -Loan Negotiate -Group management, new member and participation 	<p>4</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>27</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -After repayment to the group, any member would be able to calculate the interest. -The leaders gain more

					<p>knowledge on how to manage their group and strengthen it.</p> <p>-Members aware of what is their responsible, what is the policy of group and what is the goal of group</p>
Oukraom village (<i>KromSansomPrak</i>)	<p>-Group structure, group goals and policy, member responsibilities</p> <p>-Loan Negotiate</p> <p>-Group management, new member and participation</p>	8	57	53	<p>-After repayment to the group, any member would be able to calculate the interest.</p> <p>-The leaders gain more knowledge on how to manage their group and strengthen it.</p> <p>-Members aware of what is their responsible, what is the policy of group and what is the goal of group</p>
Spean TnoatMuoy village (<i>SahakarReakChomRoeun</i>)	<p>-Loan Negotiate</p> <p>-Repaid loan and interest</p> <p>-Record Keeping</p> <p>-Group management, new member and participation</p>	10	69	69	<p>-After repayment to the group, any member would be able to calculate the interest.</p> <p>- Members know how to record in the</p>

					book to make it more clear and easy to understand -The leaders gain more knowledge on how to manage their group and strengthen it.
Spean TnoatPir village (KasekorRoungReung)	-Loan Negotiate -Repaid loan and interest -Record Keeping -Group management, new member and participation	9	61	61	-After repayment to the group, any member would be able to calculate the interest. - Members know how to record in the book to make it more clear and easy to understand -The leaders gain more knowledge on how to manage their group and strengthen it.
LveangRuessei village (KromDomnangKasekor)	-Loan Negotiate -Repaid loan and interest -Record Keeping -Group management, new member and participation	7	57	47	-After repayment to the group, any member would be able to calculate the interest. - Members know how to record in the book to make it more clear and easy to

					<p>understand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The leaders gain more knowledge on how to manage their group and strengthen it.
Khong village (<i>MeadaSansomPrak</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Loan Negotiate -Repaid loan and interest -Record Keeping -Group management, new member and participation 	6	46	43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -After repayment to the group, any member would be able to calculate the interest. - Members know how to record in the book to make it more clear and easy to understand -The leaders gain more knowledge on how to manage their group and strengthen it.
ChambakKphos village(<i>KrusarSansomPrakDeumbeiAphivat</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Loan Negotiate -Repaid loan and interest -Record Keeping -Group management, new member and participation 	9	73	73	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -After repayment to the group, any member would be able to calculate the interest. - Members know how to record in the book to make it more clear and easy to understand -The leaders gain more knowledge on how to

					manage their group and strengthen it.
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2.3.2 Coaching Activities

2.3.2.1 SFF Attendance at SF Group Meetings

SFFs usually conducted SF group meetings either every two (2) weeks or four (4) weeks. From August to October 2015, the total number of SFF group meetings attended by SFFs is 66, which is 100%. Table 4 shows the key coaching needs for these meetings.

Table 4 – SFF Attendance at SF Group Meetings

SF Group	Frequency of regular group meetings (e.g., monthly, every 2/4 weeks)	Number of meetings SFF attended (Aug.,-Oct., 15)	% of meetings SFF attended (Aug.,-Oct., 15)	Key coaching needs
Ou Leu village (<i>Krom Aharobthaom Sansom Prak</i>)	Every 2 weeks	6	100 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recording book ✓ Penalty ✓ New member ✓ Closing Cycle
Pou village(<i>Satreay Samaki Sansom Prak Reak Reay</i>)	every 4weeks	3	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recording book ✓ Penalty ✓ New member ✓ Closing Cycle
Samroung village(<i>Kasekor Samaki Sansom Prak</i>)	Every 2weeks	6	100 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recording book ✓ Penalty ✓ New member ✓ Closing Cycle
Ruesseilouk village (<i>Samaki Sansom Prak Reak Reay</i>)	Every 4weeks	3	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recording book ✓ Penalty ✓ New member ✓ Closing Cycle
Spean Touch village (<i>Samaki Sansom Prak Chuy Khlun Eng</i>)	Every 2weeks	6	100 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recording book ✓ Penalty ✓ New member ✓ Closing Cycle
ThnalKaeng village (<i>Kasekor Chuy Kasekor</i>)	Every 2weeks	6	100 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recording book ✓ Penalty ✓ New member ✓ Closing Cycle
ChambakKphos village (<i>Krusar Sansom Prak Deumbei Aphivat</i>)	Every 2 weeks	6	100 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recording book ✓ Penalty ✓ New member ✓ Closing Cycle
Khong village (<i>Meada Sansom Prak</i>)	Every 2 weeks	6	100 %	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recording book ✓ Penalty ✓ New member

				✓ Closing Cycle
LveangRuessei village (<i>Krom Domnang Kasekor</i>)	Every 2 weeks	6	100 %	✓ Recording book ✓ Penalty ✓ New member ✓ Closing Cycle
OuKraom village (<i>Krom Sansom Prak</i>)	Every 2 weeks	6	100 %	✓ Recording book ✓ Penalty ✓ New member ✓ Closing Cycle
Spean TnoatMuoy village (<i>Sahakar Reak Chom Roeun</i>)	Every 2 weeks	6	100 %	✓ Recording book ✓ Penalty ✓ New member ✓ Closing Cycle
Spean TnoatPir village (<i>Kasekor Rong Reung</i>)	Every 2 weeks	6	100 %	✓ Recording book ✓ Penalty ✓ New member ✓ Closing Cycle

2.3.2.2 Other Coaching Activities

A total of 555 coaching (Extension visit) have been provided to SF group members in 12 target villages, including 4 events in Ou Leu village (*Krom Aharobthaom Sansom Prak*), 3 Pou village (*Satrei Samaki Sansom Prak Reak Reay*), 1 Samroung village (*Kasekor Samaki Sansom Prak*), 2 Ruesseilouk village (*Samaki Sansom Prak Reak Reay*), 7 Spean Touch village (*Samaki Sansom Prak Chuy Khlu Eng*), 5 Thnal Kaeng village (*Kasekor Chuy Kasekor*), 9 Chambak Kphos village (*Krusar Sansom Prak Deumbei Aphivat*), 6 Khong village (*Meada Sansom Prak*), 7 Lveang Ruessei village (*Krom Domnang Kasekor*), 8 Ou Kraom village (*Krom Sansom Prak*), 10 Spean Tnoat Muoy village (*Sahakar Reak Chom Roeun*), and 9 Spean Tnoat Pir village (*Kasekor Rong Reung*). Table 3 shows the number and details of the coaching activities.

Table 3-Other Coaching Activities

Quarter: Feb. to April, 2015					
SF Group	Topic or Issue	Coaching Format (group refresher training, individual, small groups)	Number of Sessions	Total Number of Participants	Assessment
OuLeu village (<i>Krom Aharobthaom Sansom Prak</i>)	-Group structure, group goals and policy, member responsibilities -Loan Negotiate -Group management, new member and participation	Small Group	4	27	Extension visit/TA
Pou village (<i>Satrei Samaki Sansom Prak Reak Reay</i>)	-Negotiate Loan -Group management, new member and participation	Small Group	3	40	Extension visit/TA

Samroung village(<i>KasekorSamaki Sansom Prak</i>)	-Loan Negotiate -Group management, new member and participation	Small Group	1	10	Extension visit/TA
Ruesseilouk village (<i>SamakiSansom Prak Reak Reay</i>)	-Group structure, group goals and policy, member responsibilities -Group management, new member and participation	Small Group	2	25	Extension visit/TA
Spean Touch village (<i>SamakiSansomPrakChuy Kh lun Eng</i>)	-Loan Negotiate -Record keeping -Group management, new member and participation	Small Group	7	59	Extension visit/TA
ThnalKaeng village (<i>Kasekor Chuy Kasekor</i>)	-Loan Negotiate -Record keeping -Group management, new member and participation	Small Group	5	31	Extension visit/TA
ChambakKphos village (<i>Krusar Sansom Prak Deumbei Aphivat</i>)	-Loan Negotiate -Repaid loan and interest -Record Keeping -Group management, new member and participation	Small Group	9	73	Extension visit/TA
Khong village (<i>MeadaSansomPrak</i>)	-Loan Negotiate -Repaid loan and interest -Record Keeping -Group management, new member and participation	Small Group	6	46	Extension visit/TA
LveangRuessei village (<i>Krom Domnang Kasekor</i>)	-Loan Negotiate -Repaid loan and interest -Record Keeping -Group management, new member and participation	Small Group	7	57	Extension visit/TA
OuKraom village (<i>Krom Sansom Prak</i>)	-Group structure, group goals and policy, member responsibilities -Loan Negotiate -Group management, new member and participation	Small Group	8	57	Extension visit/TA
Spean TnoatMuoy village (<i>Sahakar Reak Chom Roeun</i>)	-Loan Negotiate -Repaid loan and interest -Record Keeping -Group management, new	Small Group	10	69	Extension visit/TA

	member and participation				
Spean TnoatPir village (Kasekor Roung Reung)	-Loan Negotiate -Repaid loan and interest -Record Keeping -Group management, new member and participation	Small Group	9	61	Extension visit/TA

2.4 SF Group Financial Status

2.4.1 Savings Fund Activities

2.4.1.1 Summary of Savings Fund Activities

The table below shows that the total saving contribution from the present quarter is 9,217,700KH. The numbers of loan contracts negotiated during this quarter were with 85 members. The total value of loan negotiated during this quarter is 19,800,600KH. A total amount of 1,998,400 KH has been earned from interest during this quarter. A total of 10,220,000KH has been repaid by members to SF groups with 18,000 KH in penalty due to late repayment. In addition, during this quarter, there was one member who withdrew money back from the group and amount of 8,000KH was expended for stationary.

The total of 469,500KH has been contributed by members into the social fund. 51 members have borrowed money from the social fund at an amount of 2,524,600 KH and the amount of 2,437,900KH had been repaid to SF group during this quarter.

Table below is the saving fund activities during the quarter VI:

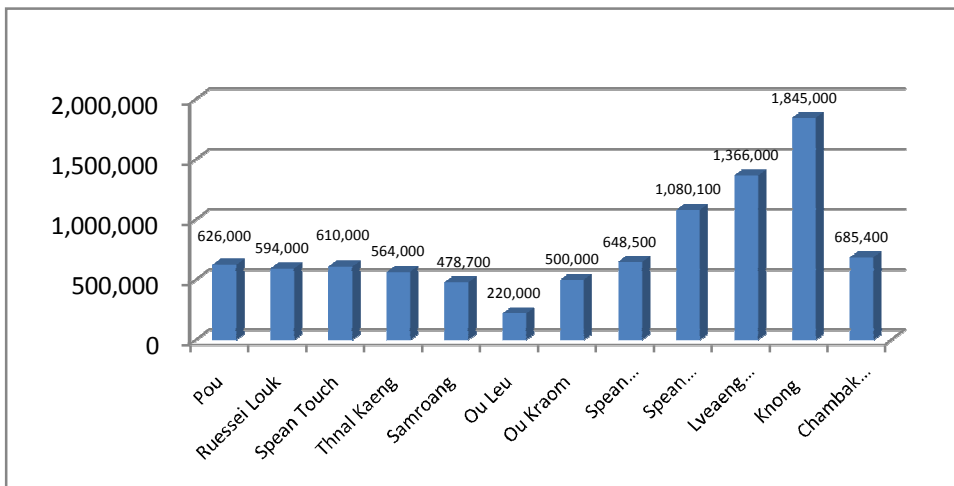
Saving Activities	Unit	Amount
Saving Description		
Total Saving Contribution	riel	9,217,700
# Loan Contract	person	85
Total Loans Negotiated	riel	19,800,600
Total Interest Earned	riel	1,998,400
Total Value of Principal Repaid	riel	10,220,000
Total Penalties Paid	riel	18,000
Total Other Income	riel	29,800
Total Costs Incurred	riel	8,000
Total Saving withdrawal	riel	0
Social Fund description		
Total social fund contributed	riel	469,500
# member received assistant	person	51
Total Disbursements	riel	2,524,600
Total Repayments	riel	2,437,900

2.4.1.2 Savings Contribution

The column chart below shows the saving contribution for each village during quarter 6. In this period, no members missed their saving targets, as ensured by the field technicians who constantly make reminders before the time of saving. As a result, Knong village has saved 1,845,000 KH which is the largest amount out of all the groups mainly because it has the highest number of members. On the other hand, OuLeu village has saved 220,000 KH, the lowest amounts out of all the groups because they have the smallest sized groups. Other saving contributions ranged between 478,700 KH and 1,366,000 KH.

As a recommendation, all members of each saving groups should increase their saving contribution as an approach to increasing capital and further supporting the loan fund. Moreover, all members should continue following the saving group rules and provide loans to balance with capital. This means that SF group members should give loans as a percentage of capital, for example a 10-20% loan of capital.

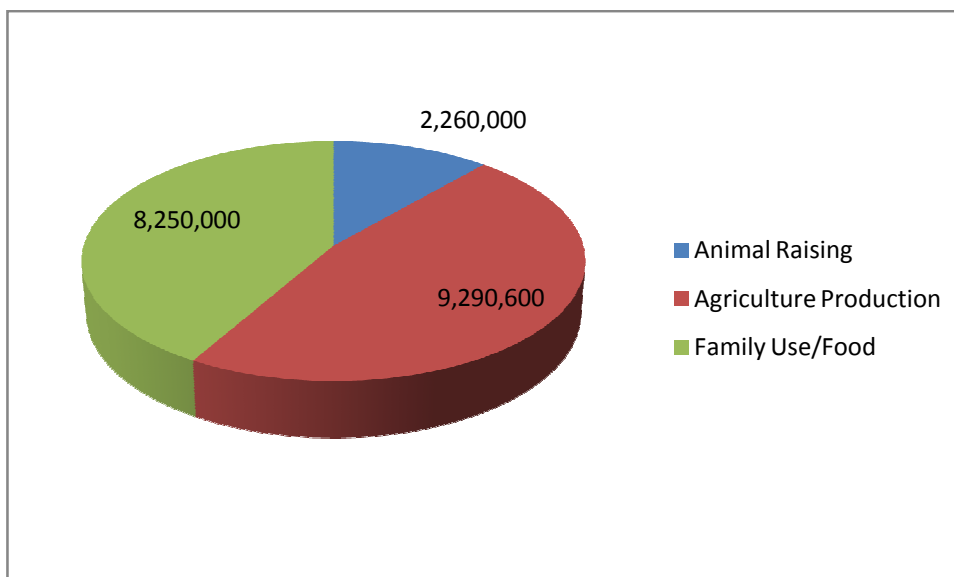
Chart I: Saving contribution during quarter V:



2.4.1.3 Lending Activities

During this quarter, the total of 85 SF members has borrowed money from the group, at a total amount of 19,800,600 KH. The pie chart below shows that the members have borrowed money from the saving fund group for three main purposes which are: agricultural production, feed for animal raising and family use/food. A total of 9,290,600 KH has been disbursed to 32 members for the agriculture production (purchase fertilizer for their rice), while an additional 2,260,000 KH has been disbursed to 9 members for animal-raising. In addition of the lending activity amount went to family use and food purchases at an amount of 8,250,000. Although the amount of disbursement is lower than before, SF groups are continuing with the good progress. Anyway, after members of saving groups took out loans from the group, the secretary recorded their repayment schedule in pass books which is then given to the borrowers in order for them to remember their individual repayment dates. Staff has witnessed themselves the repayment of members throughout the quarter and that they are regularly paid on a monthly basis.

Chart II: Lending activities during quarter:



2.4.1.4 Other Income and Costs

An amount of 47,800 KH was earned through penalty collection as some members made late repayments to the saving group in the period of August to October 2015 and the remain money from the first cycle. During the group regulation talks, a reminder was made to the members that a late repayment will mean a penalty of 500 KH to 10,000 KH followed by the capital borrowed. Moreover, if a member did not make a saving contribution at any time, the group would face a

penalty of 500 KH. If this happened three times, the members would have to pay a penalty of 1,500 KH and receive a warning from the committee leader. In-addition, if that member still continues to hand in late savings repeatedly, the management committee will discuss alongside other members during the meeting to delay disbursing a loan to that member. This group regulation was advised in the discussion between SF group members under the facilitation from READA staff and those members who were happy to comply.

2.4.1.5 Capital Assets and Cash on Hand

There are no outstanding issues related to the overall financial situation of SF groups as those groups are going well in terms of both saving and lending.

2.4.2 Social/Emergency Fund Activities

Saving group members have contributed some money to the social/emergency fund in order to help any SF group member who might need an emergency assistance-safety net. The social fund acts as a reserve of money which would be released to a member in urgent cases without having to pay back with interest. The members of SF group had agreed to make the same amount of contribution, followed by their regulation for each group which started from 500 KH to 1,000 KH per meeting. This emergency fund will be provided to members who in the case of an emergency such as illness, accident and other cases. The average amount of social fund released to a member depends on the money in their hand (*money that a member has contributed during meeting*). Before releasing the social fund to members, the management committee will have a meeting with their SF group members to agree. If 60% of members do not agree the social fund should be released to that member requesting it, the management committee will not allow the release of that fund. During this quarter, the total amount raised for the social fund during the period of August to October 2015 is 2,524,600KH. Up to this date, an amount of 5,554,100KH had been raised by the members' contribution.

3. Assessments and Forward Planning

❖ Lessons learned

- ✓ If the members use the loan to for business purposes, then they would generate profit to be used for family usage; this is better and more sustainable than borrowing money to pay for something to eat.
- ✓ The Community rice bank scheme is a good way to reduce food shortage, especially during the rainy season. So, for the farmers to have something available to eat all year round, this is a good way to establish a community rice bank in each village.

❖ Constraints and challenges

- ✓ Saving Fund groups only earn money through credit. It should be earned through more ways, such as purchasing fertilizer and then selling it on to other members. It is cheaper to purchase fertilizer in bulk than it is to pay for it individually.

❖ Solution

- ✓ We will try to explain this concept and coach them in business skills. If possible we will lead them to make a detailed business plan.

❖ Conclusions and recommendations

- ✓ The number of capital is increasing from quarter to quarter, and loans disburse also going well with successful repayments.
- ✓ Some of social fund in saving groups were used for their families' needs such as illness or accident. Members of saving group also used this social fund for the purpose of hospitalization.

❖ Recommendations

- ✓ There should be further support from donors to assist the groups in order to establish some community rice banks which is aimed at reducing food shortages.
- ✓ Increasing the social fund is the best way for vulnerable families; this is for when they urgently require money, for example when suddenly needing to go into hospital.

- ✓ Should establish another exchange visit in order to give a chance for SF members to study what they are doing and how they are earning money beside credit.
- ❖ Work plan for next quarter
 - ✓ Continue to provide individual coaching to the group members
 - ✓ Follow up and monitor their saving, meetings, lending, repayments, and management.

4. Operation

This project is very productive and efficient for both local people and staff. Moreover many lessons have been learnt throughout the process according to project leaders and other Cambodia Harvest staff during the project implementation, as well as from other local people within the area. SFFs are gaining more experience through working with people who have been supporting the multi-project components including horticulture clients and family nutrition clients during the same period.

5. Others/pictures



