

The Improvement of Livelihood through Small-Scale Business

Implementing Agency : Rural Economic and Agriculture Development Agency (READA)
Name of Project : Appropriate Way for Community Livelihood Improvement (AWCLI)
Author : Mrs. Yoeun Sineng, Project Manager & Mr. Oit Sey El, Assistant Project Manager
Location : Sang Kae village, Kok Thlok Leu commune, Chikreng district, Siem Reap province
Focus of Case study : Livelihood Activities
Type of Case study : Small business
Name of Interviewee : Miss. Houm Yom
Agreed by Interviewee: Yes

Sang Kae village is one of villages in Kok Thlok Leu commune, Chikreng district, Siem Reap province and located about 72 Km from Siem Reap town and 10 Km from the regional market of Chikreng district (Kampong Kdei market). Miss.Houm Yom, 29 years old, lives in this village. She is single. She has 4 sisters. She lives with her mother Mrs. Seiv Yen. She is the third daughter in her family.

Miss. Houm Yom had stopped studying since 2000 with her grade nine, she has lost her farther. She has previously worked in Siem Reap town. The 5 years she worked in Siem Reap were very sad because she lost her young sister. After that, Miss.Houm Yom decided to move back to live in her home-village (Sang Kae) in 2005. Miss Houm Yom then worked in the field, she is farmer.

After then, Miss.Houm Yom started to cultivate rice and raise animals such as chicken and pigs. However, her low knowledge in agriculture resulted in about 80% of her chicken dying. With an average of \$20 income per month, Miss. Houm Yom moved to work in Siem Reap again. She spent one year work and saved money for studying sewing skill. After one year of work, she had saved enough money for her school fee and started to study sewing skill in a tailor shop in Siem Reap province for another year.

In July 2010, Miss. Houm Yom was invited to attend a meeting which organized by READA in Sang Kae village in order to assess the poor and poorest families. Houm Yom was selected by the villagers as one of the poorest family in the village and consequently became one of READA's beneficiaries. Miss. Houm Yom also joined a Self Help Group (she is a group leader). The group has 14 members including 12 women. The members developed the group regulations such as roles and responsibilities, process for saving, borrowing and revolving the group fund etc. They have agreed to save 1,000 Riels every month for each. Before the grant was distributed, READA's project staff assisted all group members into developing family and group planning as well as a budget plan which was later used to request the financial support from READA. The results of the Training Need Assessment (TNA) have been addressed by READA's project staff through providing agricultural training such as vegetable growing, animal raising, compost making and book recording etc. The grant supports have been received according to the family and group plan. Miss. Houm Yom received 300,000 Riels (75 dollars). She used this amount of money to purchase sewing machine.

Thanks to the training provided, Miss. Houm Yom is now also growing vegetables such as long bean, corn etc. Furthermore, Miss. Houm Yom has been applying for a new course on animal raising technique which has resulted in a decrease in chicken death (now 35-45%). Miss. Houm Yom is now earning an average of US\$ 45 a month. As a result, she has purchased a motorbike and 2 pigs. Furthermore, she has now revolved the grant to her Self Help Group and borrowed again from the group to further develop her business through the purchase of extra sewing equipment.

Miss. Houm Yom is very hard working and eager to continue learning. She is very happy about the improvement for her family and her village. It is obvious that she is proud of her new knowledge as she reminds us of what she has learned during the training. Miss. Houm Yom has now become a

village livestock agent (VLA) and is being trained by READA to assist her village with animal health and vaccinations

Miss. Houm Yom would like to express her appreciation and wish a long life to READA staff and Lotus Trustees for helping Sang Kae village through providing them with the ability to diversify their livelihood activity. She encourages everyone to work hard and apply the technique provided.



Miss. Houm Yom is showing her sewing machine



Photographed by Mr.Oit Sey EI