

# CAMBODIA



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Swiss Agency for Development  
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## CHAIN-CAMBODIAN HORTICULTURE PROJECT ADVANCING INCOME AND NUTRITION PHASE III



Photo@SDC CHAIN Cambodia

Mrs. Sin Chenda, 23 years old farmer, married with one son, living in Kamphun village and Commune, Sesan District, Stung Treng province, Cambodia

### BACKGROUND

Agriculture continues to dominate the Cambodian economy, accounting for 23.5% of GDP. The agriculture sector absorbed about 32% of employment in 2019, and this is expected to increase during the period of COVID-19 outbreak and economic slowdown in 2020. Agriculture is also expected to gain more importance in the livelihoods of young people migrating back to rural areas. Poverty remains largely a rural phenomenon, as about 80% of the 2.5 million poor people live in rural areas. Most Cambodian farmers are smallholders with less than two hectares of land per household. 65% of Cambodian women engaged in farming, women-headed households and children (30% malnutrition rate) are the most vulnerable. Low productivity of smallholder agriculture is the result of limited access to quality agricultural inputs, technical know-how and innovation, as well as marketing opportunities and market information. Pressure on water resources and the effects of climate change are additional challenges. Limited involvement of the private sector in agricultural extension services and weak

cooperation with public sector actors restrain the development of prosperous smallholders. Cambodia is not self-sufficient in vegetables; over 300,000 tons get imported annually. Imported vegetables are often associated with high contamination of chemical and pesticide residues. Fast economic growth has resulted in more demand for safe and quality local fruits and vegetables. This provides a huge opportunity for smallholder farmers and processors, particularly women, to increase income and food security. Moreover, improved rural infrastructure has increased the mobility of rural poor people, providing them access to diversified markets and job opportunities.

Responding to these challenges and opportunities, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has developed the Cambodian Horticulture Advancing Income and Nutrition (CHAIN) programme in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries through the General Department of Agriculture and the provincial departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

### Expected Results and Approach for CHAIN III January 2021-December 2022:

CHAIN III continues to work with the network of 6,000 semi-commercial and commercial farmers organized in 300 farmer groups and 14 clusters. 65% will be female and 10% will be indigenous people (IP).

It is expected that another 1,200 farmers are reached indirectly, leading to a total outreach of 7,200 smallholders. The targeted average net income increase is USD 200 per household.

### Three specific outcomes will be achieved:

**Outcome 1:** More efficient and inclusive local market systems in which smallholder farmers and private sector undertake profitable year-round production and business

**PROJECT AT A GLANCE:**

**Duration**

Phase I: Dec 2014-Nov 2017  
Phase II: Dec 2017-Dec 2020  
Phase III: Jan 2021-Dec 2022

**Budget**

SDC budget of phase III:  
CHF 1.95 million

Estimated SDC budget for the whole intervention: CHF 10.45 million (8.5 years)

**Implementing agencies:**

Consortium of SNV (lead), Swisscontact, and MetaMeta, selected through an open tender process.

**Government partners:**

Cambodian Ministries:  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,  
Ministry of Women's Affairs and Ministry of Commerce

**Imprint**

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**Outcome 2:** Increased management / steering by provincial and sub-provincial government institutions supporting sustainable, inclusive and climate smart growth of the vegetable sector

**Outcome 3:** Improved policies and performance by national level government institutions and private sector for growth of the horticulture sector

CHAIN is aligned with the Royal Government of Cambodia's strategic orientation for the agriculture sector development plan - ASDP 2019-2023, aiming at an annual growth of 5% and to increase the export of agricultural products by 7% per year through agricultural modernization, increased productivity, diversification into crops with high potential and strong competition in markets.

This last phase of CHAIN, will put a specific focus on smart water management at farm, commune and district level, and the transition of leadership and ownership of the support to the horticulture sub-sector in the target areas to the General Directorate of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries at both national and provincial levels.



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**OVERALL GOAL AND EXPECTATIONS**

CHAIN's overall goal is to **improve income and nutrition of rural households through safe horticulture production and trade** and to assist the Royal Government of Cambodia in the transition from subsistence farming into commercial farming by establishing inclusive extension services for safe production and for advanced small farmer's productivity.

CHAIN shall assure sustainable income growth for 15,000 homestead farmers, 3,000 commercial farmers, 1,200 processors and improved household food security and nutrition for 72,000 households by end of 2022 in the four provinces of Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Kratie and Stung Treng.



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**Results of CHAIN Phase I & II**

Up to now, CHAIN has reached out to 10,200 farmers through 400 farmer groups. This includes 3,300 home gardeners, 6,000 semi-commercial and commercial farmers and another 900 farmers of various sizes and commercial orientation reached indirectly (73% women and 10% indigenous people).

CHAIN built networks of farmer groups, input suppliers and traders for adjusting production and trade to market demand. It facilitated close collaboration between public and private sector partners, and improved their capacity to provide effective and gender-sensitive services to farmers, and four Business-to-Business provincial horticulture platforms between public and private actors have been setup and are active. As a result, the supply of local safe vegetables for sale in four provincial markets increase from 32% in 2018 to 52% in 2020, sixteen traders have doubled their income by buying up to 25 tons daily of safe vegetables from farmer groups, and twenty agriculture inputs retailers who have engaged with the project have doubled their sales and revenue. 80% of CHAIN female farmers reported that their workload in vegetable production has been reduced while the average annual net income of semi-commercial and commercial farmers has tripled or four times increased.



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