



Reflection Workshop on Agroecology Concepts with Farmers Network: Synthesis of Results



ALiSEA Coordination Meeting

Phnom Penh, 2nd November 2016

Objectives of the workshop

- To Better understand the functioning of each Farmer Organization (mandate, agricultural models promoted, difficulties/challenges faced by their members, how these challenges/constraints have been addressed, and dissemination of information by FO to their members);
- To assess the understanding of FO of the AE concept (through the use of movie) and facilitate the co-development of a clear definition of the agroecology in Khmer, which can be easily understood by farmers;
- To present ALiSEA and discuss the potential collaboration, especially on how to mainstream agroecology at farmer level;
- To identify potential outstanding sites (farms) that could relate to AE concept and would be worth documented (for sharing experience amongst FO members).

Methodology

- Participatory/interactive process;
- Presentations, group discussion, and World Café method;
- Facilitated by a national consultant.



Angko
FWUC

- Total 17 participants (4 women)
- 13 are representatives of 8 farmer networks/federations

Short Profiles of Farmers Federations/Networks



- Established in 2010 with support of AVSF
- 70 FOs members from 5 provinces: Prey Veng, Takeo, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap & Battambang
- Xxxx household members as of 2016



- Established in 2005 with support of CEDAC
- 945 FOs members from 16 provinces
- 57666 household members (38041 women) as of 2016
- Saving groups with total amount of saving 26,599,306 USD



- Established in 2009 with support of ADG & CIRD
- 60 FOs members from 10 provinces: Battambang, Kampong Thom, Takeo, Kampong Speu, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Kandal, Kampot and Steung Treng
- 3,865 household members as of 2016



- Established in 2009 with support of GRET, CIRD, AFD, MoC and MAFF
- Covered 3 districts (Oudong, Samrong Toang and Kandal Stung)
- 177 household members as of 2016

Short Profiles of Farmers Federations/Networks



- Established in 2011 with support of GRET, CEDAC, AFD
- 21 FWUC members from 11 provinces
- 30,000 household members as of 2016
- Areas covered by irrigation schemes: 40,000 ha



- Established in 2016 with support of Oxfam
- 500 women members from 24 provinces
- Divided into 5 regions (Northern Tonle Sap, Southern Tonle Sap, Mekong, Lowland and Coastal regions).



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Angko
FWUC

- Established in 2011 with support of CAVAC
- Located in Koh Krobay village, Kampong Ko commune, Kampong Svay district, Kampong Thom province
- Canal length of 7 km in total, irrigation coverage of 640 ha
- 313 household members as of 2016

Mandates of Farmer Federations/Network

- Serve interests of the members
- FAEC, FNN, FCFD, FWN and KSPA share common mandates: enable members to have better access to market and finance
- Prey Nup Polder FWUC and Angko FWUC: only irrigation infrastructure management/maintenance and water regulation; no technical advices on agricultural production provided to their members
- Farmer Women Champions is a newly established network, with no concrete activities yet

Agricultural Models Promoted

- FNN promotes a whole range of ecological/organic agricultural practices (crops, livestock and aquaculture), with a strong focus on integrated farming/multipurpose farms
- One of the FAEC's objective is to promote agroecology practices. With support ADG and CIRD, FAEC is promoting agroecology practices in 4 provinces, namely Takeo, Kampong Speu, Prey Veng and Svay Reng
- Key agroecology practices promoted by FAEC include rice seed production, farm-range chicken production, vegetable production, integrated pest management, soil fertility improvement by using liquid and solid compost, Bokashi, green manure, crop rotation, and intercropping
- FCFD focuses mainly on marketing of agri-products especially rice while KSPÁ focuses on palm sugar production



Challenges/constraints

- The market prices between ecologically grown products and non-ecological products are not much different
- Using chemical inputs give quick results, and thus many farmers like using chemical inputs
- Drought and extreme weather event
- Organic methods are usually labour intensive, lack of labour in the households
- KPSA: rice fields are sold to private investors, the investors removed palm trees => less palm trees for sugar production
- Women Champions: it is not widely recognized
- Limited financial and human resources within each FO

Knowledge sharing and dissemination of information

- Mainly through meetings
- Peer to peer
- Exposure visits to model farmers
- Most of FOs have their own Facebook pages, but activities are not regularly updated
- FNN Facebook page has 3,738 likes. FNN sets a privacy for internal chat/shares among their members
- Farmer Women Champions Facebook page has 1228 likes
- The shares of information, events etc. are mostly done by trainers/facilitators through their own account.



បណ្តាញកសិករនិងទឹក FWN added 2 new photos.
5 mins · 🌐

បណ្តាញកសិករ និងទឹកបានចូលរួមប្រជុំពិភាក្សាជាមួយឧត្តមក្រុមប្រឹក្សាសេដ្ឋកិច្ចជាតិ និងសហព័ន្ធកសិករផ្សេងទៀតស្តីអំពីការប្រើប្រាស់ប្រព័ន្ធផ្សព្វផ្សាយព័ត៌មានស្រូវតាមប្រព័ន្ធអេឡិចត្រូនិច។
ភ្នំពេញ ថ្ងៃទី 28 តុលា 2016



FWN and other farmer federations attended a meeting with SNEC to discuss use of information technology to promote rice commercialization (28-Oct-2016)

Understanding Agroecology Concept

- FOs have different levels of understanding agroecology concept
- FNN and FAEC are more advanced and are familiar with the term Agroecology translated into Khmer “Kset Pak Ri Than”
- For other FOs, it is their first time to hear the term “Kset Pak Ri Than” but they are familiar with the principles of agroecology
- The practices linked to agroecology are referred to as “Kak Si Kaim Thoma Cheat = Ecological agriculture/farming”
- Among the six schools of agroecology (SRI, IPM, CA, Organic Agriculture, Integrated Farming, and Agroforestry), Integrated Farming and Organic Agriculture are the schools which were explicitly mentioned and discussed among FOs.
- They also discussed some principles/practices of IPM e.g. use of biopesticide and mechanical measures to control pest, but they do not directly mention the term IPM

Definition of Agroecology in Khmer

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គឺជា កសិកម្ម:

- ដែលមិនប៉ះពាល់គុណភាពនិងបរិស្ថាន
ដោយប្រើប្រាស់ធនធានធម្មជាតិដែល
មាន ឲ្យអស់ពីសង្គមភាពនិងប្រកប
ដោយនិរន្តរភាព

Agroecology is an agricultural system, which does not have negative effects on health and environment, by using own organic materials to the extent possible and in a sustainable way.

និយមន័យ.

- គឺជា កសិកម្ម ដែលមិន ប៉ះ ពាល់ គុណភាព និង បរិស្ថាន
- គឺជា កសិកម្ម ដែល ប្រើ ប្រាស់ ធនធាន ធម្មជាតិ ដែល មាន ឲ្យ អស់ ពី សង្គម ភាព និង ប្រកប ដោយ និរន្តរ ភាព

Agroecology is an agricultural system, which does not have negative effects on health and environment. It is an agricultural system, bearing responsibility for the consumers.

Collaboration/support needed/anticipated between FO and ALiSEA

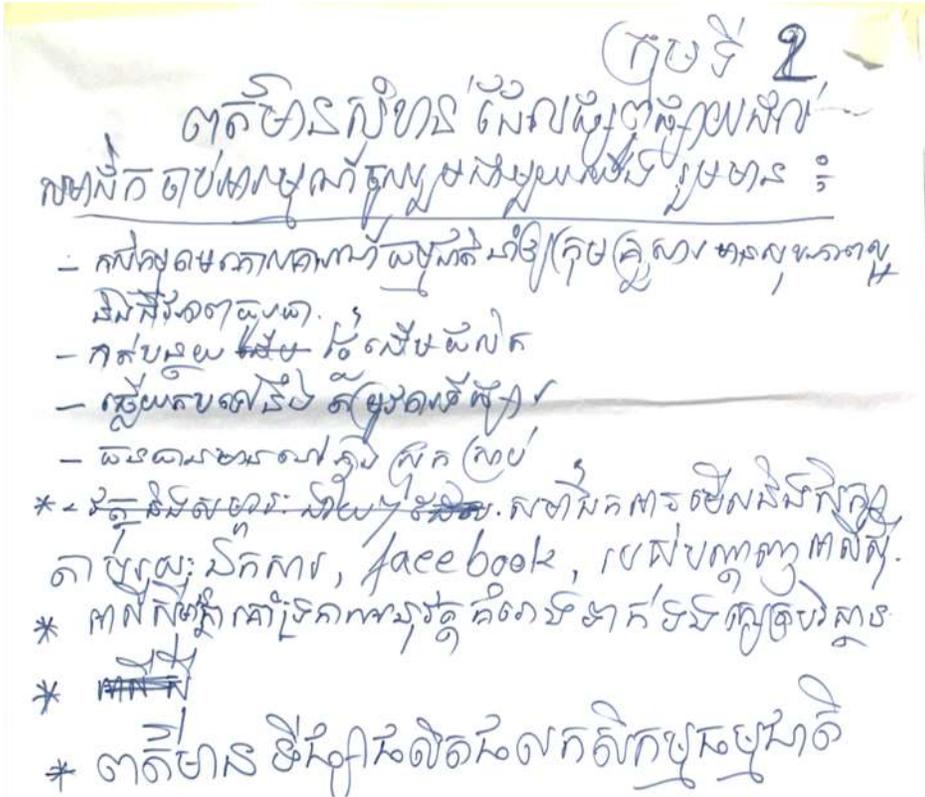


- Provide trainings to representatives of FOs on agroecology
- Provide financial supports for developing agroecology projects
- Facilitate linkages of FOs with regional FOs/networks
- Facilitate the exposure visit to successful models of agroecology
- Provide market information (price) from location to another, from region to another, in the country and abroad
- Provide information about agroecology projects to line ministries and other stakeholders

Added by ALiSEA

Increase visibility of FOs by disseminating FOs activities, events, achievement etc. through ALiSEA knowledge/information sharing platform

Kind of information should be disseminated to FO members to foster adoption of agroecology practices



- Explain to members about the advantages of agroecology practices:
 - Ecological agriculture safeguards health of the family and improves livelihoods of the family
 - It reduces cost of production
 - It responds to market demand
 - It uses locally available resources
- FOs' members can access to information via printed documents, Facebook, ALiSEA network.
- ALiSEA should support implementation of agroecology projects
- Provide market information on ecologically grown products

How ALiSEA could help FO to access and share information on agroecology



- Workshop
- Online platform (Facebook, email etc.)
- Publish and disseminate technical guide book
- Radio, TV program etc.
- Study visit in the country and abroad
- Provide technical trainings on ecological agriculture to farmer networks
- Field demonstration

Conclusion



- Successful workshop/very interactive/participative process
 - FOs leaders were very dynamics and active in the discussion
 - Most of FOs have mandate of supporting members in market access and access to credit
 - FOs have different levels of understanding agroecology
 - FNN, FAEC and KSPA have strong experience in agroecology
 - FWN, Angko FWUC and Prey Nup Polder do not provide technical advices in terms of agricultural production to the members.
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- Most of FOs have their own Facebook pages but the pages are not regularly updated. The sharing of information have been mainly done by trainers/facilitators via their own Facebook account
 - Collaboration and supports needed/anticipated from ALiSEA are in line with ALiSEA mandates.



**Thank you very much for
your attention**