

Summary of the Progress Report (January - June 2024)

Project Overview:

- **Title:** Strengthening the Capacity of Grassroots Community-based Organizations in Cambodia
- **Grant Number:** CEPF-112790
- **Duration:** January 1 - December 31, 2024
- **Coverage:** 7 villages, 3 communes, 3 districts, 2 provinces (Stung Treng & Kratie)
- **Beneficiaries:** 190 members (122 females), including 52 CBET members and 138 AC members.

Key Achievements (January-June 2024):

1. Agriculture Cooperatives (ACs):

○ Activities Conducted:

- Credit guideline training for AC committees.
- Strategic plan updates, business plan revisions, and performance reviews.
- Trainings on climate-smart agriculture (chicken raising, vegetable growing).
- Support in market linkages and signing one contract for vegetable and chicken supply.

○ Outcomes:

- Increased membership (129 to 138 members) and share investments (265 to 417 shares).
- Capital investment rose from \$7,489.45 to \$10,262.37.
- ACs generated \$120 from selling agricultural supplies and secured agreements to supply 232 kg of vegetables/day and 10 kg of chicken/week.

2. Producer Farmers:

- 8 training sessions conducted with 61 participants (45 females).
- Topics included disease management, organic farming techniques, and marketing.
- 104 farmers earned \$3,422.10 from selling chicken and vegetables.

3. Community-Based Ecotourism (CBETs):

- Follow-up sessions with Koh Preah and Koh Tnoat CBETs.
- 114 visitors recorded (40 foreigners), generating \$4,729.50 in revenue.
- CBETs are enhancing promotional strategies, including video content development.

Challenges:

- Delayed hiring of consultants for CBET promotion due to prolonged quotation evaluations.

Environmental and Social Safeguards:

- Grievance mechanisms were reviewed, ensuring compliance with conservation bylaws.
- Integrated waste management practices in agriculture and ecotourism operations.

Key Impacts:

1. **Economic Growth:** AC investments and membership expanded, though household income improvements remain below target.
2. **Environmental Conservation:** Progress in sustainable practices (e.g., reduced illegal logging and overfishing) but broader biodiversity impacts are pending.

Conclusion:

The project demonstrated solid progress in building the capacity of ACs and CBETs, fostering economic and environmental benefits while addressing challenges in promotional activities and achieving long-term impacts.