

Country Report - Cambodia

Prepared for the meeting of the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC), Ayutthaya, Thailand, November 2001

Mr. Nuth Sakhan¹ and Mr. Ngin Chhay²

1. Introduction

The National IPM programme was initiated in 1993 after a national workshop on "The Environment and Integrated Pest Management". The programme commenced its activities as a pilot phase from 1993-1995 with the technical and financial support from the IDRC, IRRI and FAO. It was at this time that Cambodia joined the FAO Inter-Country Project for IPM in Rice in South and Southeast Asia. After the completion of the pilot phase, the FAO implemented a season long Training of Trainers Courses (TOT), Farmer Trainer Orientation Courses (FTOC) and Farmer Field Schools (FFS). Cambodia subsequently joined the FAO Southeast Asia Regional Vegetable IPM Programme in 1997.

2. Organization and Funding Arrangements

The Cambodian National IPM Programme is based at the Department of Agronomy and Agricultural Land Improvement (DAALI) of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). IPM activities in provinces are under the supervision of the National IPM Programme in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (PDAFF). The activities are led and managed by a provincial IPM Coordinator and are run by district trainers and farmer trainers.

The Cambodian National IPM Programme of DAALI has received funding support for the implementation of the activities mainly from FAO, donors, NGOs and other international organisations. However, the programme now has a much broader funding base. Many other projects have adopted the FFS farmer-centered learning model pioneered in Cambodia by IPM.

Below are the highlights of the 4 major organizations that have actively been implementing IPM in Cambodia namely FAO IPM Community, IPM/APIP Sub-Component, Danida IPM Farmer Training Project and World Education supported IPM in Schools.

¹ Director of DAALI and National IPM Programme

² National IPM Coordinator



2.1 FAO IPM Community Programme

During the past five years the FAO assisted the National IPM Programme of the MAFF to develop a strong IPM training capability. This capability has been used to implement a large number of IPM Farmer Field Schools (FFS), funded by a range of donors. Up to this time the role of FAO IPM Community has primarily been to build the capacity of the MAFF's National IPM Programme by providing technical and programme support.



However, to ensure the sustainability of the work more emphasis is urgently required on follow up activities at the farmer level. Therefore, FAO Community IPM recently has been focusing its efforts, and remaining resources, on supporting community-based farmer IPM activities. In particular, FAO wants to help develop the capability of IPM farmers to plan and manage their own activities, including

field studies and the training of other farmers by farmers. In order to effectively implement this work FAO Community IPM now makes strong efforts to assist in the establishment of a Foundation called "SRER KHMER". This is an approach that offers great potential for farmer IPM to make a significant contribution to sustainable rural livelihoods in Cambodia.

2.2 IPM/APIP Sub-Component Project

The IPM Sub-component is a part of the Agronomy Component of the Agricultural Productivity Improvement Project (APIP) of MAFF. This is a 5-year project with a total budget of 1,456,050 USD. This amount of budget is a loan from the World Bank to Cambodia. The FAO-ICP is providing the IPM Technical Assistance (TA) for implementation of the project. The project begun in full operation in 7 provinces namely Kandal, Takeo, Kampot, Kampong Speu, Kampong Cham, Pursat and Siem Reap in July 2000.

2.3 DANIDA IPM Farmer Training Project

This project is a part of the Danish-Cambodian Natural Resources and Environment Programme (Component III: Community based natural resources management), funded under the Danish Environment, Peace and Stability Facility (MIFRESTA). The Agreement between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark on the implementation of IPM Farmer Training Project was signed on May 31st 2000.



The duration of the project is five years, which comprises of a two-year Phase I and a three-year Phase II with the overall indicative budget of USD 2.1 million and USD 2.4 million respectively. The implementation of Phase I started in September 2000 with the arrival of the senior project advisor in 7 provinces namely Battambang, Banteay Mean Chey, Otdor Mean Chey, Kampong Thom, Kampong Chhnang, Svay Rieng and Prey Veng.

2.4 World Education- IPM in Schools project

IPM in Schools activities have been running in Cambodia since 1996 and with the official involvement of the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MOEYS) since 1998. Principal activities have included Field Schools in rice and vegetables for students at rural Primary and Lower Secondary Schools and their teachers, for students at Teachers Training Colleges and for young school drop outs. These Field Schools were supported and monitored staff from a number of NGO's and IO's, the MOEYS, trainers from the National IPM Program and community representatives, including farmers. Funds to support Field Schools were provided directly to local Community-School Management Committees.

To date, IPM Field Schools for rural school students have been extra-curricular. The MOEYS has now embarked upon a process of integrating agriculture into the national curriculum as part of a new subject called Lifeskills. As part of the development of capacity within the education system to introduce an agricultural component of Lifeskills, the MOEYS is working with World Education/ Cambodia (WE/C) to run an initial 4 months ToT for selected teachers in dry season 2001-2002. Graduates from the ToT will form small province-based teams to expand the reach of the project in the future by planning, implementing and evaluating IPM activities in schools, including teacher training. Teacher and student support materials are also under development by WE/C and the Pedagogical Research department of the MOEYS



3. Training Achievements since July 1999

During this period the main training activities undertaken were season-long Training of Trainers course, Farmer Training Orientation Courses, Teacher Trainers Orientation Center, Teacher Field Schools, Farmer Field Schools and Student Field Schools (the results are summarised in the table below). In addition to these there have been many other training courses such as refresher courses for district IPM trainers and refresher



courses for IPM farmer trainers, farmer self studies on pesticide health hazards, facilitation skills, participatory planning, curriculum development, and living soil training courses.

Training results since July 1999

N°	Activities	Crops			Total Courses
		Rice	Vegetable	Mung Bean	
1	Season-Long IPM TOT	3	1	1	5
2	Farmer Trainers Orientation Course	10	0	0	10
3	Teacher Trainers Orientation Center	1	0	0	1
4	Teacher Field Schools	9	0	0	9
5	Farmer Field Schools	836	73	23	932
6	Student Field Schools	95	8	0	103

N°	People Trained	Rice		Vegetable		Mung Bean	
		Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
1	Provincial IPM Trainers	100	50	32	11	30	10
2	Farmer IPM Trainers	297	107	0	0	0	0
3	Teacher IPM Trainers	33	13	0	0	0	0
4	Teacher Trainers	333	62	0	0	0	0
5	Farmer Trained in IPM FFS	25,235	8,985	2,064	775	651	299
6	Student Trained in IPM FFS	3073	560	259	69	0	0
Total Trained People		29,071	9,777	2,355	855	681	309

4. The Key Policy Development

4.1 Agricultural Policy and Reforms

The Royal Government of Cambodia with FAO and UNDP have developed a paper entitled "Agricultural strategies and policy framework for sustainable food security and poverty Alleviation" in 1999. The main objective of the paper is to formulate a coherent policy framework and to craft viable agriculture strategies to solve Cambodia food security problems and alleviate poverty.

Several activities in this policy are linked to IPM programme such as dissemination of information to help farmers adopt improved farm technologies and apply new techniques in the management of soil, water, and natural vegetation; and the recognition of important role of rural people's participation in the identification, design, and



implementation of programmes and promotion of "bottom-up" planning or decentralization of organization and management.

This policy clearly shows that the education of farmers and the involvement of farmers in development activities are very important. It supports the IPM approaches that are actively involved farmers in the process of learning, conducting; experiments and programme management and planning.

4.2 Establishment of the National IPM Programme in MAFF

After having supported IPM Programme since 1993, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of the Royal Government of Cambodia officially declared Integrated Crop and Pest Management Programme (IPM) as a country's key crop production strategy on the 6th February 1998 in a regional vegetable IPM in Cambodia. This aims to make IPM the standard approach to crop management in Cambodia, with an emphasis on rice, vegetables, fruit and field crops with pursuing a policy of sustainable food production to ensure food security in Cambodia.

Recently, the document on establishment of the National IPM Programme has been prepared and submitted to MAFF to be officially endorsed. The National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme will be institutionalized under the MAFF and the Department of Agronomy and Agricultural Land Improvement (DAALI) is responsible for the implementation.

The overall objective of this policy is to make required expansion and sustainability of IPM by incorporating the activities of the National IPM Programme into the work plan of the MAFF that enables the IPM programme receive funding from the government for implementing activities. In addition, this policy allows the National IPM Programme to facilitate coordination of all IPM activities in Cambodia irrespective of the number and type of donor agencies and crops.

Furthermore, the formulation of National IPM Programme steering committee has been proposed in this paper. The compositions of the committee consist of representatives from different ministries that are involved in IPM activities, NGOs and donor agencies.

The Roles and duties of the National Steering Committee are to provide direction and policy framework for the implementation, monitor concepts and technical aspects, discuss and approve annual work plan and report; discuss and solve major problems that may occur as the obstacles in implementing the National IPM Programme.

4.3 Sub-Decree on Standards and Management of Agricultural Materials

In order to regulate agrochemicals and to reduce risks of handling these substances, the MAFF has prepared a Sub-Decree on Standards and Management of Agricultural Materials. This Sub-Decree was signed by the Prime Ministers on 28th October 1998.



This Sub-decree is aimed to guarantee consistent high quality agricultural material inputs to enhance agriculture production and to promote a highly efficient and sustainable agriculture in the country by providing appropriate quality standards and regulatory mechanisms to protect the end-users, the manufactures, distributors, and dealers of these inputs as well as the environment.

This Sub-decree applies to agricultural materials inputs namely, fertilizers, pesticides, seeds and veterinary medicines, and animal feedstuffs and feed additives which are the key inputs to efficiency and productivity in crop and animal husbandry.

4.4 Establishment of Foundation "SRER KHMER"

In recognition of the need for farmers to be better educated in sustainable agricultural practices, the MAFF has been since 1993 implementing IPM farmer training programme in all the major crop production provinces of the country. There are now over thirty thousand (30,000) farmers who have completed IPM Farmer Field Schools (FFS) through the National IPM programme.

Farmers who are IPM trainers themselves now carry out most of this training. This is a major evolution in the mode of conducting IPM training with farmers. However, with this approach, comes a concomitant need to support the actions of these FFS alumni and farmer trainers once a FFS is completed through the establishment of a *Foundation* called "SRER KHMER".

The SRER KHMER is an independent, non-political, non-profit organization dedicated to the development of farmer networks, farmer knowledge, ecological agriculture and sustainable livelihoods in rural Cambodia. It is being established to compliment the Governments initiatives in support of ecological agriculture and to encourage local responsibility for conducting community based IPM processes.

The Department of Agronomy and Agricultural Land Improvement of MAFF endorses the establishment of SRER KHMER, as one step in the establishment of a regional network, and in line with the recommendations of the Mid Term Review. SRER KHMER will work closely with the National IPM Programme to facilitate the formation of independent farmer owned networks that are emerging out of the work of farmer trainers in ecological agriculture aiming at farmers having increased control of their lives based on a mastery of ecological knowledge.

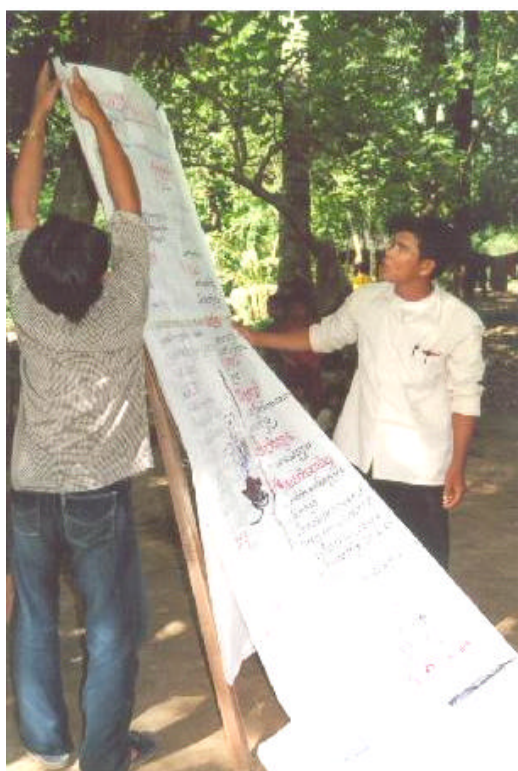
5. Development in Community IPM

Building on the achievements of the National IPM Programme, FAO IPM Community has developed and supported farmer based IPM approaches that will directly promote ecological agriculture by farmers. The aims are to strengthen civil sector support mechanisms by and for IPM farmers, and provide the basis for farmer IPM networks.



The pursuing strategy to achieve this work focuses on farmer centered learning, science, planning, organizing and networking; IPM farmers as the key initiators of IPM activities and training in the farming areas; and farmer associations based on the membership of farmers. *The main activities that have been organized by farmers are as follows:*

- Farmer field schools managed by farmer trainers
- Regular meetings of a small group of IPM alumni
- On farm experimentation conducted by farmers (farmers science)
- Visit of provincial government IPM facilitators on invitation of farmers
- Refresher training courses based on the needs of farmers in their location
- Local study tours by farmer groups
- Farmer Trainer Orientation courses
- Regular meetings between farmer groups
- Exchange visits by one farmer group to another farmer group
- Farmer Life Schools



In addition the newly developed activity called "Farmer Life School" is an important follow up activity to IPM FFS. Farmer Trainers represent a new network of civil society actors. These are independent farmers not merely functionaries of the National IPM programme. They are essential for the implementation of IPM. Without them FFS are not sustainable activities beyond the limits of the resources of the project. In recognition of the fact that production is not constrained primarily by a lack of technology but poverty and lack of access to information and resources the training skills of IPM farmer trainers are being utilized to conduct "human ecology". This the farmers themselves analyzing their social systems based on their understanding of ecology and their place in the ecosystem. This has led to the innovation of Farmer Life Schools (FLS) where farmers conduct their own social analysis of their farming system. In the FLS all aspects of

farming life are examined in much the same way that farmers examine the ecology of their crop. These FLS are run by IPM Farmer Trainers in a new civil society network. FAO Community IPM is facilitating these activities by providing assistance for logistics and communications.



6. Future Plans and Priorities

- To get the National IPM Programme officially established and the National IPM Steering Committee formed and then get them to be in full operation.
- Prepare workplan and proposal for the support from the Government
- Through Danida IPM and IPM/APIIP project, to produce 2 IPM trainers per district and a team of 3 farmer trainers in every 1 or 2 communes in 14 provinces .
- Developments of World Education project for 2002, including the transfer of management of many IPM in Schools activities from WE/C to the MOEYS and the development of new adaptations of the Field School model by NGOs working in partnership, including partnerships with the newly formed Srer Khmer (Field Cambodia) Foundation.
- Support the operation of SRER KHMER