

**CGIAR Research Program on
Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)**

**Organisational Baseline Study:
Overview Report for Rohal Suong,
Cambodia (KHM01)**

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RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
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INTRODUCTION

This report covers the Organisational Baseline Study (OBS) for the Rohal Suong, a CCAFS climate-smart village in Cambodia. During November 2014 interviews were conducted with five organisations working or collaborating with farmers and/or the community in Rohal Suong village, Eak Phnom district and Battambang province.

Rohal Suong is an old village and covered largely by flooded forest before the 1990s, the flooded forest provided high value benefits to environment as well as to local villagers. Flooded forest provided a good habitat and feeds to fish, water births and retails; those fish and wild & water animals were caught by villagers for household consumption. The flooded forests, however, were degraded rapidly as a result of agricultural expansions and high demands of fired wood of flooded tree. The grass lands were also converted to rice field over last 10 years; some parts, however, are kept as forage source for their cattle.

This OBS report supplements the quantitative household baseline surveys and the qualitative village baseline studies at the same location.

The objectives of the organisational baseline study are to:

- Provide indicators to monitor changes in behaviours and practices of locally relevant organisations that have climate change related activities in Battambang over time
- Understand the provision of information/services at the local level that informs farmers' decision making about their livelihood strategies in response to climate change

ORGANISATIONS INTERVIEWED

During the Village Baseline Survey, several organizations, both formal and informal, were identified by villagers. Those organizations were classified into three level, community, locality, and beyond local locality level. Villagers study were asked to build an institutional landscape of their community by listing the most important organisations that were active in the area and then providing information on how they were involved in the community. In the key-informant interviews, only five organisations were included in the OBS. Details of the methodology and topic guide for the OBS are shown in the Annex 1.

The Village Baseline Study in Rohal Suong site generated a list of 18 organisations, five were selected for interview after their relevance to the Organisation Baseline Study. Table 1 below shows the list of 18 organizations working in Battambang province and their operation level.

The preferred key informant from the organisation was somebody who is familiar with the organisation's work and strategy and aware of the activities that are conducted in the field. A questionnaire (see Annex 1) was used to guide the semi-structured interview. Prior to the interview, a request for appointment was sent to the each interviewee with the topics that would be asked during the interview.

Table 1. List of organizations identified by local community groups

No	Name of Organization	Operation Level
1	DSR Irrigation Committee	Community
2	Rohal Suong CFi	Community
3	Aphivat Strey (AS)	Locality
4	Buddhist monks and Buddhists in Australia	Beyond Locality
5	HARVEST Project	Beyond Locality
6	WorldFish	Beyond Locality
7	Vision Fund	Beyond Locality
8	Prasak	Beyond Locality
9	Government of Cambodia	Beyond Locality
10	Aceda bank	Beyond Locality
11	AMK	Beyond Locality
12	FACT project	Beyond Locality
13	Thoneakea Phoum	Beyond Locality
14	Belgium Friends for Sanitation	Beyond Locality
15	Sustainable Livelihood Tonle Sap Project (Cow Bank)	Locality
16	Saving groups	Locality
17	Students' parent committee	Community
18	Other micro finance institutes	Locality

However some organizations are not so important to local villagers and some have completed their tasks in this village. Only 7 organizations were found that they are implementing in the CSV, as summarized in Table 2 below:

Table 2. List of key organizations that plays important role in Rohal Suong

No.	Organizati on name	Main activities	Type	Operational Level	Existed Period	Formal/ informal
1	AS	Facilitate and build community spirits Build capacity of Rohal Suong CFi committee Raise general awareness among community members Provide seeds, technologies, inputs	NNGO	Locality	>5 yrs.	Formal
2	HARVEST Cambodia Project	Build fence Build guard post Provide boats Provide patrol equipment Home garden program Fish raising program Rice program Nutrition	INGO	International	3 yrs.	Formal

3	WorldFish	Build community visioning and action plan Facilitate community visioning Provide capacity and awareness to the community Provide funding for irrigation canal development	INGO	International	3 yrs.	Formal
4	Department of Agriculture	Provide seeds, feed, technologies, implements, inputs	Government	Int'l	> 5 yrs.	Formal
5	DSR Irrigation Committee	Canal rehabilitation Extend the existing canal Provide additional culverts	Local community	Community level	> 5 yrs.	Informal
6	Rohal Suong CFI	Control illegal fishing Establish conservation area Plant flooded forest Expand conservation area Build guard posts Place post markers for boundary of conservation area	Local community	Community level	> 5 yrs.	Formal
7	Buddhist monks and Buddhists in Australia	Repair dirt road Provide toilets for Rohal Suong primary school Assists poor school children	Male Buddhist followers	Int'l	> 5 yrs.	Informal

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Below we give a summary of key activities of ten interviewed organisations that relate to (1) natural resources management, (2) food security, disaster risk response and prevention and (3) Food crisis. The topic guide used for the interviews is available in the Annex. A summary for each organisation is given in Table 2.

Organizations are responsible for Natural resources management

Men and women groups shared similar perceptions on organizations who are working on natural resource management. Women group identified four organizations what are working related natural resources including Community Fisheries (CFi), AS, Harvest Cambodia, and local authority; while men group found only three organizations that are working on including CFI, AS, and Harvest Cambodia (Table 3). Natural resource that they are working on related to fisheries resources, flooded forest and pond conservation. Specifically, the fish pond and associated flooded area were allocated to be a conservation area where is banned for fishing activities; CFI replanted the flooded forest and did patrolling to combat illegal fishing. AS worked hard with community people groups and other stakeholders to designate this area as CFIs management regime; as a result the CFI was officially recognized by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). AS provided the capacities building

to CFi committees and members, capacities were provided including resource management, community leadership, and communication.

Harvest Cambodia provided equipment and facilities to CFi such as guard post, patrol boats, boundary markers for the conservation area, planting flooded forest surrounding the conservation lake. Local authorities, commune councilors, did not have fund to work on natural resource directly but they always provided a good collaboration and support to community fisheries.

Table 3. Summary main activities of organizations that working on natural resources

Organisation Name	Main Activities	Type of Natural Resource
CFi	Conservation of natural resources and flooded forest Planting flooded forest Patrol and control of illegal fishing	Flooded forest Fisheries resources
Local authority	Support CFi and protect natural resources	Fisheries and natural resources
AS	Support and establish CFi Provide training to build people's capacity and awareness on the importance of natural resources and their management Conserve fisheries resources and flooded forest	Flooded forest Fisheries resources
HARVEST Cambodia	Provide equipment and facility such as guard post, patrol boats, boundary markers for the conservation area, planting flooded forest surrounding the conservation lake	Forest around conservation lake Fisheries resources

Food security, disaster risk response and prevention

Based on group discussions with both groups, only five organizations are working on food security, those are included DSR irrigation/water user committee, AS, Harvest Cambodia, WorldFish, and department of agriculture (DoA)

DSR/water user irrigation committee, a community-based organization, mobilized the internal and external resources to install the culverts and rehabilitate the water channel; while AS, a local NGO, plays a key role to provide the farming techniques, market information, and awareness on the importance of nutrition and food security to famer households. Harvest Cambodia plays main role to provide the farming techniques including vegetable gardening, fish farming, rice farming and some input materials as well. Harvest Cambodia also focuses on food safety which provides awareness and food provision program in the community. WorldFish plays very important role to provide capacity building to the community, WorldFish mobilize the local community to build a community vision and community action plan. A lot of guidance, motivation supports and marching funds were provided to community in order to achieve their action plan of small irrigation rehabilitation. DoA, a provincial government department, used to provide farming techniques, seeds, and some input materials to farmer households.

Food crisis

Participants were asked to define a time when there was a food crisis in the community and to identify the organizations that were involved in providing support during that period. Both

groups shared similar understandings of a food crisis: “*there was not enough food to eat, huge rice fields were destroyed by flood and drought*”. Participants stated that they experienced a heavy flood in 2013 that lasted longer than the average year, destroying huge rice plantations. The local community was facing a food shortage as a result. Both male and female focus groups indicated that the Cambodia Red Cross came to their community and provided food relief during the flood. The men’s focus group also highlighted that the commune authority reported the water level, extent of damage, and numbers of households affected by the flood to the district authority, NGOs, and sectoral agencies.

Table 4. Summary main activities of organizations that working on food security

Name of organization	Availability		Access				Utilisation		
	Production	Distribution	Exchange	Affordability	Allocation	Preference	Nutritional value	Food safety	Social value
DSR Irrigation Committee	Canal rehabilitation, canal extension, and additional culvert provision to enhance farm production for HH food security	Access to water for all season rice production							Increase farm productivity and improve livelihood
AS	Provision of farming techniques	Provision of market information to farmers					Provide training and capacity on nutrition	Education on importance of nutrition and food security	
HARVEST Cambodia Project	Vegetable garden Fish farming Rice farming	Provide market info to farmers				Provide quality rice and other crop seeds to farmers to improve their health and enhance crop production and to generate higher income from sale of their products	Deliver child nutrition program	Educate farmers on importance of chemical free food and sufficient consumption before sale	
WorldFish	Collaborate with the DSR Irrigation Committee for canal rehabilitation, canal extension, and culvert provision to enhance dry season farm production								
Department of Agriculture	Provide seeds for farming							Support for irrigation and seeds	

Implications for CCAFS

Rohal Suong experiences seasonal and year-to-year climate variability, and has devised production systems that are well adapted to the natural conditions. However, these existing interventions are not yet adapted to climate-related variability. There is an opportunity for CCAFS to implement and promote context-specific and useful climate-smart agricultural techniques and practices that can support villages to adapt to, and mitigate, climate change.

A few of the priority interventions, specifically better water management, can help build the community's climate resilience. CCAFS can focus its effort in supporting those interventions. On the other hand, there are many other possible climate-smart practices that are either common sense, "no regret" interventions, for example basic skills training and information access, or practices that can be tested and validated for this specific site, such as improved crops and varieties more tolerant to flood conditions. CCAFS can also support local communities to explore these additional options for future climate adaptation.

Table 5. Potential CCAFS partners

Organization	Sphere of operation	Activities	Strength
Department of Agricultural Extension, MAFF	Beyond locality	- Agricultural Extension	- Technology and crop/livestock variety research and development - Incorporate findings into gov. policies
Battambang Provincial Department of Agriculture	Locality	- Develop & implement agri. plans - Ag. Extension	- Technology and crop/livestock variety research and development - Inform results from piloting and implementing to MAFF
Aphivat Strey (AS)	Locality	- Build community capacity - Community development - Transfer ag. technologies	- Community mobilization - Community capacity building
DSR Irrigation Committee/Water user committee	Community	- Develop community action plan - Mobilize community and resources - Rehabilitate & manage water channel & fee	- Community mobilization - Community based organization

Recommendations for major opportunities

Based on the VBS findings described above, below is a list of knowledge gaps and opportunities where CCAFS or other local development partners can support. These recommendations are largely based on the local community priorities identified during the baseline survey, and the situation analysis. Therefore the feasibility of each option has not been assessed in detail.

Table6. Recommendations for major opportunities

Gaps in knowledge/ current constraints that could provide opportunities/niches for CCAFS and partners	Opportunities for research (CCAFS)	Opportunities for Action Research (CCAFS partners)	Development Interventions (Partners)
Crop varieties that are suitable for this area	X	X	X
Build capacities of famers on farming techniques (including rice disease treatment)			X
Enhance soil and water conservation	X		
Build local capacity on how to manage and use water efficiently	X	X	
Extend the water channels and increase number of ponds			X
Build more fish refuge ponds			X
Replant flooded forest			X
Build capacity of Community Fisheries and famers on fish refuge pond management and rice field fisheries improvement	X	X	
Build paths and bridges to paddy fields			X
Market agricultural product with a higher price and improved access to market information			X

Annex 1**The list of the interviewees**

Number	Interviewee	Position	Organization
1	Mr. Mak Sithirith	CRP—AAS National Coordinator	WorldFish Center
2	Mr. Khoeum Sarith	Chief of Rohal Soung Community Fishery	Community Fishery
3	Mr. Ponh Oudom	Deputy director of agriculture department	Battambang Provincial Agriculture Department
4	Ms. Chhleum Savin	Agriculture Technician	Aphivat Strey Organization
5	Mr. Nen Neth	Chair of committee	Water user committee of Rohal Suong