

Cambodian Children's Advocacy Foundation

Case Study

The basic agricultural training

The case study below tells of a farmer who participated in EM training in April 2011

Pov Sokhom is married and has two children. She and her family live in Or Veng Village, Kampong Speu Province, where they earn a living by growing vegetables and rice, as well raising a number of cows and chickens.

During an initial meeting with CEO Channarith, Sokhom decided that she would join the EM training programme, as she was more aware of EM technology than her husband was. On the 4th April 2011, she attended a two-day workshop, during which she learnt how to produce natural fertiliser with EM technology. When CEO Channarith asked her what she thought of the training, she said, "I am so happy that I chose to attend this workshop, as I have learnt many new techniques for making fertilisers with EM. I hope that now my vegetables will grow far better than if I had continued to use chemical fertilisers."



Sokhom attends EM training

In May 2011, CEO Channarith and a representative of the EM Training Centre visited Sokhom and her husband at their home and found them producing fertiliser for rice and vegetables. They watched as the couple made compost, which was mixed with EM liquid and dried.

"I taught my husband how to make the fertiliser, and he does a good job!" said Sokhom. "We have saved about US\$30 on fertilisers this year," her husband added, "and as we are no longer using chemical fertilisers – which many buyers fear will make them ill – we think that our vegetables will sell far better than usual!"



Sokhom and her husband produce fertiliser at home

In mid June 2011, CEO Channarith together with the EM training staff visited Sokhom and other farmers. We met Sokhom and her husband worked at the rice and gardening farm. As the raining start now, Sokhom use EM fertilizer for growing rice and green salad. Sokhom grows 25 ridges of green salads (about 40kgs/ridge). These salads are 20 days old and are ready to sell in the market. We noticed that her green salads are growing well if compared to other farmers who are growing this kind of salad. When we asked Sokhom why her salads are growing better than the others, she said "Because I use fertilizer that made with the EM concentrate and follow the instruction well". We also asked her when she will collect these salads and how much she will earn, Sokhom smiles and said that "In the next few days I will be able to sell them and because of

it is the rainy season, so I will be able to sell in good price". We worked with Sokhom to do the cost analysis as below:

Expenditure: KHR20,000 (US\$5.00) on green salad seed.
KHR10,000 (US\$2.50) on EM concentrate.

Total expenditure: KHR30,000 (US\$7.50)

Income: Selling price: KHR1,700 x 1,000kg = KHR170,000.00 (US\$42.50)

Total net income: KHR140,000 (US\$35.00)



Sokhom scatters fertilizer at her rice farm.



CEO Channarith and Sokhom at her home gardening site.

On December 22nd, 2011, the CCAF team conducted a follow up visit to Sokhom's home. We observed her collecting rice and she did not hesitate to share her experiences with us.

“This year, I was able to use the organic fertilizer that I produced for my rice field of about 0.5ha. My rice grew well, and I managed to harvest about 1500kg,” says Sokhom.

CCAF team and Sokhom did the cost calculation of her usage of the EM organic fertilizer compared with fertilizer that she bought last year (2010).

In 2010, Sokhom spent KHR120,000 (£19.30) on fertilizer from the market for her 0.5ha rice field and harvested 1,200kg of rice.

This year 2011, Sokhom spent KHR30,000 (£4.840) on EM concentrate, along with other raw materials for producing fertilizer. In the same area (0.5ha) she harvested 1,500kg of rice.

So, she earned £14.46 and the quantity of rice was increased compared to before she began use of EM fertilizer.

Sokhom told CCAF that “It was busy work producing EM fertilizer, but the quality and quantity of my rice is far better, and I spent less money than when I used fertilizer that I bought from market. I think that people unwilling to put in the necessary effort will not produce EM fertilizer because it is a long process. As for me, I will continue to produce EM fertilizer for growing rice and my vegetables for next year.”



Sokhom collects rice from the mobile milling machine