



## **External Evaluation Report**

**Facilitation Partner Community-led Economic Development,  
Resilience Communities and Forest Management  
In 17 villages in two Districts of Preah Vihear Province, Cambodia.**

**A consultancy commissioned by Development and Partnership in Action**

**By**

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The overall goal of the project is to increase income and food security; improve access to sanitation facilities; enhance resilience to the impact of climate change; and have more sustainable management and protection of natural resources of indigenous people and vulnerable men and women have in 17 villages in two districts of Preah Vihear province.

## Acknowledgement

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## List of Abbreviation

AC	: Agriculture Cooperative
CCA	: Climate Change Adaptation
CF	: Community Forestry
CPA	: Community Protected Area
DPA	: Development and Partnership in Action
DRR	: Disaster Risk Reduction
FGD	: Focus Group Discussion
KII	: Key Informant Interview
MSC	: Most Significant Change
NTFP	: Non-Timber Forest Product
PASSA	: Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness
PASSA	: Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awarenes
PG	: Producer Group
TOR	: Term of Reference
VDMT	: Village Disaster Management Team

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## **Executive Summary**

Development and Partnership in Action (DPA) is implementing a two-year project, 'DPA's Facilitating Community-Led Economic Development, Resilient Communities and Forest Management in 17 villages in two districts, Preah Vihear Province, Cambodia', under the financial support of Manos Unidas, between November 2021 to October 2023. The main project goal is to enhance income and food security, improve access to sanitation facilities, enhance resilience to climate change impact, and more sustainable management and protection of natural resources in Preah Vihear province.

The key results of the evaluation findings are as below:

### **Relevance**

The project intervention has been highly relevant in addressing the needs and priorities of the target communities, with a strong emphasis on improving economic security, food security, natural resource management, and gender equality. The project has enabled communities to build sustainable livelihoods and adapt to changing environmental conditions while promoting inclusive and equitable social development. The relevance of the project's activities is reflected in the tangible improvements in livelihoods, food security, and economic development, as well as the enhanced capacity of communities to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters and adapt to changing environmental conditions.

### **Effectiveness**

The project intervention has effectively achieved its objectives of improving agricultural practices, increasing food security, enhancing access to best practices for DRR, promoting natural resource management, and promoting gender equality. The intervention has increased income for the community by adopting improved agricultural practices that add value to farm products and markets. This has increased food security from vegetable and livestock production, reducing malnutrition and hunger risk.

### **Efficiency**

The project has demonstrated high efficiency, with limited resources achieving significant and sustainable results in improving the livelihoods of the target communities. Implementing improved agricultural practices has increased the income of the households, added value to farm products, and expanded market opportunities. Increased food security from vegetable and livestock production has improved the community's nutrition and reduced the dependence on external aid. The access to best practices in the PASSA facilities and DRR, coupled with an increased ability and resources to mitigate natural disaster risks, has resulted in a more resilient community. Additionally, natural resource management initiatives have secured the forest and forestland and sustainably used those resources to improve livelihoods.

## **Impact**

The project significantly impacted beneficiary knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour. The beneficiaries' economic security was improved through increased income from improved agricultural practices and value addition. Their resilience to natural disasters and other shocks was enhanced through DRR and PASSA training and exercises. The project also promoted sustainable natural resource management and gender equality while reducing domestic violence. The beneficiaries' changed knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour in these areas have the potential to lead to lasting positive impacts on their communities and the environment.

## **Sustainability**

The sustainability of the project intervention in the target areas has been positive in various areas, including community ownership, income generation, forest patrolling activities, value-added agriculture, and gender equality. The project has increased food security and improved agriculture outputs, contributing to household security. Additionally, the project has supported the implementation of DRR/CCA activities, which have improved the preparedness of the communities for natural disasters and climate change. The project has also promoted natural resource management by supporting the CPAs and CFs, leading to increased income generation from NTFP harvesting and preventing illegal logging through forest patrolling activities. Raising awareness of forest conservation among villagers has also contributed to the sustainable management of natural resources.

## **Challenges**

The project faces several challenges related to agriculture and livelihoods, including the outbreak of chicken disease, crop damage by pests, and the impacts of climate change. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive and integrated approach that includes conducting assessments, developing targeted interventions, and strengthening the capacity of local communities to manage these issues. By addressing these challenges, the project can help improve the resilience and livelihoods of the target communities and contribute to achieving the project's goals and objectives.

## **Recommendation:**

Here are some recommendations to address the project challenges:

- The reduced workload of project field staff
- Improved security of field staff
- Finding alternative sources of irrigation systems
- Finding more support for forest patrolling activities
- The project can also consider providing vaccinations or other preventative measures to protect the chicken population.
- The project can train community members on integrated pest management techniques, such as crop rotation and natural pest control methods.
- The project can promote climate-resilient farming practices, such as agroforestry and rainwater harvesting.



## 1. Project Description and Overview

Development and Partnership in Action (DPA) is implementing a two-year project, 'DPA's Facilitating Community-Led Economic Development, Resilient Communities and Forest Management in 17 villages in two districts, Preah Vihear Province, Cambodia', under the financial support of Manos Unidas, between November 2021 to October 2023. The main project goal is to enhance income and food security, improve access to sanitation facilities, enhance resilience to climate change impact, and more sustainable management and protection of natural resources in Preah Vihear province. In addition, the project intended to positively impact the poor and marginalised people 6,169 (3,283 females) project participants in 17 villages. There are five key project components (1) increase crops yields and increase capacity to add value to and market of agricultural products; (2) increase food security through increased appropriate agricultural and livestock production techniques; (3) improve access to best practices in participatory approach for housing and sanitation facilities; and increase ability and resources to reduce natural disaster risks, and farming practice to changing weather patterns; (4) increase protection and securing forests and forestland with a sustainable collection of non-timber forest products (NTFPs); (5) the active involvement in promoting and protecting the rights of community women and women in leadership.

To accomplish the project's goals and objectives, DPA started designing a variety of intervention strategies, including supporting the leaders of agriculture cooperatives (AC), enhancing producer groups' capacities in agriculture production, livelihood enhancement, disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA), protecting natural resource management, and promoting and defending women's rights.

## 2. Evaluation Objectives

The overall purpose of the evaluation is to assess the current situation of target groups before and after the project intervention in the project target areas to help inform the implementation of DPA's project. The specific objectives of the final project evaluation study are:

- To assess and score the project's achievement of its anticipated outcomes and outputs as set out in the project log frame;
- To evaluate the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the project outcomes and outputs;
- To assess the extent to which the project integrated community development into its new design and implementation, promoted gender equality and women's empowerment, and was able to meet the assessed initial needs of the communities;
- To provide information on what worked well, what did not, and why; and
- To provide recommendations and lessons learnt for improvement for the upcoming project design.

### 3. Evaluation methodology

The evaluation methods included qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. The evaluation team conducted participant surveys, focus group discussions (FGD), key informant interviews (KII), and most-significant change (MSC) documentation and collected secondary data related to the project. The evaluation team also analysed the project documents, reports, and other relevant documentation. Therefore, the evaluation aimed to pinpoint the key accomplishments and gaps and offered lessons learned and doable corrective measures. The Consultant developed important evaluation questions based on the TOR that targeted four essential criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. Additionally, based on the definitions offered by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the evaluation reflected the factors above. Referring to the TOR developed by DPA, the evaluation study proposed the following methodologies:

#### 3.1. Qualitative method

##### **Document Review**

After evaluating the TOR, information gaps were identified, and the scope of additional data-gathering techniques was adjusted accordingly. A document study was also conducted to learn more about the project participant's position in the target province and pertinent government plans and regulations affecting women-headed households, indigenous people, people with disabilities, and impoverished farmers. The document review of available vital documents such as:

- Approved project concept notes and project proposal
- Project documents: project log frame and annual project plan
- Project report: project progress report and annual report
- List of target villages and beneficiary selection criteria
- Performance Indicator Tracking Table/System for the project
- Relevant published materials

##### **Focus Group Discussion (FGD)**

Qualitative methods included seven FGDs (8-10 respondents per FGD) from a participant from the eight selected villages. The FGD proposed to discuss with Agriculture Cooperative (AC) governing board and supervisory committee members; the producer group; DRR/CCA and NRM members; community protected areas (CPA) members; community forestry (CF) members; and the women group. This participatory technique will generate feedback, considering gender and age differences. FGD guides will be developed in consultation with the DPA team. Each FGD took between 1:30-to-2-hour long.

##### **Key Informant Interview (KII)**

There were five KIIs with the selected village chief, AC governing board and supervisory committee members, and project staff. Different interview questions were developed in consultation with the

DPA team, targeting the various stakeholder groups. The final list of individuals/target groups for interviews in the target province was further discussed and selected in consultation with DPA Evaluation Committee.

### **Most Significant Change (MSC)**

MSC collected and documented, focusing mainly on higher-level project results such as outcomes and impact on different particular target groups of the project. Notable, the MSCs documented based on the five main project components, as mentioned in the reasoning section. This would allow participants to explore changes in themselves as part of or due to their participation in the project interventions. Therefore, the Consultant proposes five MSCs.

### **Debriefing workshop**

After conducting field visits, a collaborative and interactive workshop was organized after conducting field visits to facilitate shared learning and reflection on the implementation outcomes in the target areas. The workshop brought together stakeholders representing various levels, including the AC supervisory board committee, producer group, and DPA ICD project staff. This inclusive gathering allowed all participants to review and analyze the progress made collectively.

## **3.2. Quantitative method**

### **Participant Survey**

The structured interview questions were used to conduct a face-to-face interview with identified respondents who directly engaged with the project intervention. The sample was determined using a sample size calculator using a simple random sampling method of the target population in the districts of Chhaeb and Chey Sen in the Preah Vihear province that actively engaged in the project intervention ([www.raosoft.com](http://www.raosoft.com)) accessed on March 31, 2023. The sample size was calculated with a design effect of 1.0, a margin of error of 0.05, and a confidence level of 0.95. With a population of 6169, a 395 sample size was advised for the survey from 8 out of 17 villages.

The household survey appointment with target groups and stakeholders was set up with the help of the DPA ICD project team in Preah Vihear province. The length of interviews took between 40 to 60 minutes per respondent. There were five trained enumerators to survey field data collection under the proper training organized by the consultant. Before administering the survey data collection, a pilot test was conducted with the field data collection team so they were familiar with the data collection tools and process and to inform any possible revisions of the tools.

The survey interview was conducted using electronic devices, tablet-based data collection, and KOBO Collect to reduce the ecological footprint and paper consumption. In addition, the tablet-based would enable the consultant to analyse statistical measurements, such as frequency and cross-tabulation quickly.

### **3.3. Methods for Data Management**

The team comprises four female enumerators and a male with data collection experience and a background in sociology, economic development, agriculture economics, community development, and rural development. To ensure they understood the project, the questionnaires, and how to conduct an effective interview, the lead consultant trained all enumerators for a half-day and administered a pre-test for an additional half-day. A lead consultant oversaw the field survey and the FGD, KII, and MSC.

The course's main topics are the project background, research ethics, safeguarding policies, comprehension of structured questionnaires, and KoBo Collect data collection techniques. Before gathering data, each person was asked to practice conducting interviews.

### **3.4. Data analysis and processing**

Electronic devices, tablet-based data collection, and KoBo Collect were used to collect responses for the structured (quantitative) interviews. The Lead Consultant may swiftly analyze statistical metrics like frequency and cross-tabulation with the tablet-based system. After converting the KoBo Collect data to SPSS for additional analysis based on the structured questionnaire, project objectives, and log frame, MS Excel was used for post-processing. Frequency and cross-tabulation are used to portray the results in quantitative numbers. To highlight the significant findings, the results were finally summarized with tables.

Focus Group Discussion, handwritten responses to the questions, and discussion were documented on the questionnaire sheets. These will be typed up and saved in an MS Word document. The themes from the interviews and the rating matrix were used to summarize them.

The consultant team met for about an hour after each day to discuss the results and difficulties encountered. The Lead Consultant sought assistance from the DPA's supporting team to overcome the issues during the interview. A direct quote perfectly summarises or illustrates each project outcome utilized to show the findings.

### **3.5. Quality Assurance**

The Consultant is dedicated to the assignment's transparent, top-notch operation. As a result, the Consultant maintained constant contact with DPA focal points, especially during crucial times like initial meetings, document reviews, the production of training materials, and any problems that arose during a changing system development environment. These communications are intended to inform all parties involved of progress at various stages and handle difficulties as they appear.

By implementing systematic checks on the accuracy, consistency, dependability, and validity of the obtained data through triangulation and follow-up meetings as necessary, the Lead Consultant assures the integrity of the data collection process. The Lead Consultant had daily debriefings with the team as part of this procedure. The main Consultant significantly contributed to ensuring that the

assessment report addressed all evaluation goals, provided adequate support for all conclusions, and served as a basis for all recommendations.

The lead Consultant does not foresee any potential conflict of interest among the evaluation team members concerning this evaluation.

### **3.6. Ethical consideration and Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**

The guiding principles of this project assessment include a participatory approach with stakeholders, respect for stakeholders' rights, displaying gender sensitivity and inclusivity, and ethical integrity in reporting data collected. Respecting individuals' right to provide information in confidence and educating people about the meaning and parameters of confidentiality is of utmost importance. This comprises safeguarding the security and privacy of participants and data, respecting participants' decisions and choices, ensuring that participants are not injured throughout the process, and providing accessible sources of assistance. The introduction to each participant will be debriefed in one-on-one interviews, FGDs, and case study documentation. Verbal consent will be requested. Survey and interview participation is entirely optional.

Before conducting field data collection, the consultant team adheres to DPA's Safeguarding Policy and standard; each enumerator must sign the DPA code of conduct and DPA Safeguarding Policy. This ensures that child protection and safeguarding policies are considered during the consultancy.

## **4. Constraint/limitation**

The following are the constraints of an evaluation study that focuses on the lack of participation from participants due to farming activities and indirect involvement with the project. Firstly, time constraints. The evaluation study faced difficulties in scheduling interviews or focus group discussions with participants who were too busy with their farming activities, leading to data collection and analysis delays. The proposed sample size for the participant survey was 398; however, 358 participated, and approximately 10% of respondents did not participate.

Secondly, incomplete data due to some participants being indirectly involved with the project. The evaluation study did not gather complete data about how the project impacted their lives and the community, resulting in difficulty drawing conclusive evidence and recommendations—additionally, reduced representation. The lack of participation from respondents reduced the representativeness of the sample size, leading to difficulty in generalizing the findings to the population.

Thirdly, incomplete data. Approximately 10% of the sample size that was not directly involved with the project may lead to incomplete data about the project's impact, thereby affecting the validity of the findings—lastly, biased results. Finally, the evaluation study's data may be personal towards those who participated actively in the project, leading to incomplete or inaccurate findings about the project's impact.

## 5. Findings

### 5.1. Demographic Information

In the context of project evaluation efforts, the gender participation breakdown in the household survey is a critical factor in assessing the project's impact on the community. The fact that, as shown in Table 1, 256 women participated in the survey, accounting for 72% of the respondents, suggests that women are interested and engaged in the study. This may indicate that women are more willing to participate in evaluation studies and actively engage with the project, which is a positive sign for future studies and project design. The participation of women in the study can also lead to a more holistic and comprehensive understanding of the issues under examination, as women's perspectives and experiences may differ significantly from men's. The relatively low number of male respondents (28% of the sample) may indicate a need for more outreach and engagement with men to ensure that their perspectives and experiences are not overlooked or undervalued. Analyzing gender participation in household surveys can help to identify potential biases or gaps, which can inform recommendations for the future. Ultimately, understanding the gender breakdown in evaluation studies is essential to ensure that research findings reflect the entire community's experiences and can inform more equitable and effective programs and policies.

Table 1 Target location where household survey conducted

No.	Location	Frequency	Per cent
	Chhaeb Kuert	31	9
2	Chhaeb Lech	57	16
3	Chork Chey	47	13
4	Mlou Prey	45	13
5	Phneak Roleuk	40	11
6	Preus Kha'Ork	47	13
7	Sra Em	42	12
8	Tmea	49	14
	<b>Total</b>	358	100

Table 2. Gender of respondent

	Frequency	Per cent
Female	256	72
Male	102	28
Total	358	100

Table 3 depicts the age-group distribution of the population surveyed and offers valuable insights into the demographics of the study's sample. The survey respondents were divided into six age groups, from 17 to over 60. The majority of the sample fell into the 31-40-year age group, with 100 individuals (28% of the total sample). The group of respondents between the ages of 21 and 30 (70 persons, making up 20% of the sample) also constituted a considerable segment, indicating that the study interested the younger generation. The least represented age group was people over 60, with 40 people or 11% of the sample.

It is important to note that the age group distribution can impact the study's outcome, as different age groups may have varying opinions and perspectives on the topic under study. The responses from the youngest age group, 17-20 years old, could represent a new and inexperienced point of view, while those aged 51-60 could represent the more experienced and seasoned perspective. Understanding how the age group distribution affects the study results is essential for analyzing the

data and drawing relevant conclusions. Overall, the age group distribution in the sample shows an adequate representation of varying perspectives and experiences, strengthening the study's validity and relevance.

*Table 3 Age group of respondents who participated in the survey*

No	Age group	Frequency	Per cent
1	17-20-year-old	17	4.7
2	21-30-year-old	70	20
3	31-40-year-old	100	28
4	41-50-year-old	66	18
5	51-60-year-old	65	18
6	More than 60-year-old	40	11
Total		358	100

The participants' marital status in the household survey was diverse, with married, divorced, and single individuals included in the sample. The largest group was the married category, with 341 participants, indicating that most participants were currently living with a partner or married. This sizeable group is essential in understanding the dynamics of families and households, as they represent a significant segment of society. Both males and females were represented. The group of divorced individuals had only six participants. Although the sample size was relatively small, this group's inclusion in the survey is crucial, as it sheds light on the realities of divorce and its effects on individuals and households.

The single group was the smallest, with only eleven participants. As this group comprises individuals not currently living with a partner or married, a more in-depth understanding of their perspectives and experiences is necessary, as shown in Table 4. Overall, the proportion of marital status represented in the household survey provides essential data for understanding the complexities of relationships and family dynamics in society. In addition, it creates opportunities for informed actions that support households, individuals, and couples in fostering healthy and supportive relationships.

Table 4 further illustrates that the household survey included participants from various family backgrounds and parenting experiences, focusing on understanding the number of children in each household.

The proportion of respondents with no children was low, with only fifteen participants reporting no children. Most participants reported having 1-2 children, with 129 respondents falling into this category. This group's proportion reflects the trend in many countries where couples often have one or two children. Understanding the dynamics of households with one or two children is essential as they make up a significant proportion of households in society. The group with 3-4 children had 112 participants, with a slightly lower ratio than households with 1-2 children. Lastly, the survey included responses from 102 with more than five children. This group is crucial in informing strategies to support large families, including access to essential services and resources.

To sum up, the proportion of respondents by the number of children they have provided valuable insight into the diverse experiences of households in target areas. The sample captured families with different numbers of children and presented NGOs, researchers, and other stakeholders with a clearer picture of the varying needs, challenges, and support systems required for these households.

Table 4. Respondent's marital status and number of children

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Married	341	95
Divorced	6	2
Single	11	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Do not have	15	4
1-2 children	129	36
3-4 children	112	31
More than five children	102	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>100</b>

The household survey sought insight into the participants' educational backgrounds, particularly determining the highest degree of education attained. As a result, the survey represented diverse educational experiences and found that most respondents had some primary education level.

Out of the 358 respondents in the survey, 24 per cent, equivalent to 90 respondents, did not have any formal education. Around 55 per cent (198) of the participants attended school but did not finish primary education, stopping between grades one to six. This group's inclusion in the survey is essential as it can inform interventions to ensure equitable access to education, especially for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Additionally, the survey included respondents who had completed 12th grade and one who had finished a literacy course, as shown in Table 5. While the numbers are small, the experiences of this group can help inform educational policies that promote lifelong learning and adult education opportunities.

In conclusion, the proportion of respondents with the highest level of education attended provided valuable insights into the educational background of the surveyed households. The sample included participants from diverse educational backgrounds, and the findings can inform policies and project interventions aimed at addressing educational inequalities and improving access to quality education for all.

The household survey aimed to provide insights into the current occupations of participants, with a focus on understanding the distribution of different jobs. The survey represented diverse occupational experiences, with most respondents engaging in farming activities.



Table 5 Highest education attended by the respondent.

Education attended	Frequency	Per cent
No study	85	24
By primary level (grades 1 to 6)	198	55
Finished 6th grade	8	2
Secondary school (7th to 12th grade)	47	13
High school (grades 10-12)	14	4
Finished 12th grade	5	1
Complete literacy class	1	0

As shown in Table 6, out of the 358 respondents in the survey, 91 per cent (330) were involved in farming activities, including planting cassava and vegetables and raising livestock. This group's inclusion in the survey is vital as it highlights agriculture's significant role in the local economy and the livelihoods of households. Only 1% (4) of the respondents reported being government officials providing social services, while 1% (5) were assistants/salespeople. Six participants (2 per cent ) reported being teachers, highlighting the crucial role of education in the community's development. Two per cent (2), equivalent to 8 respondents, were homemakers, while another 2 per cent (8) did not have significant work. While the sample size for some of the occupational groups is small, including these experiences can provide insights into the distribution of jobs and inform strategies to encourage the diversification of livelihoods, especially for disadvantaged groups.

Table 6. Current occupation of respondent

Current Occupation	Frequency	Per cent
Farming (planting cassava, vegetables and raising livestock)	325	91
Government officials provide social services	4	1
Assistants / Sales	5	1
Teacher	6	2
Student	2	1
Housewife	8	2
No work	8	2
Total	358	100

Table 7 illustrates the captured data from a diverse range of respondents, including those who had engaged with the project before and after 2021 and those who could not remember their participation.

Out of the 358 respondents in the survey, 70 per cent (254) reported engaging with the project before 2021. This high proportion highlights the project's long-standing presence in the community and the significant participation of households in the project. The project's goals, objectives, and impact have likely been well documented and disseminated in the community over the years. Nineteen per cent (68) of the respondents reported engaging with the project after 2021, indicating that the project is ongoing and continues to attract participants. This group's inclusion in the survey is valuable as it sheds light on the project's recent experiences and the new participants' perceptions and attitudes. However, eleven per cent (41) of the participants reported not remembering their participation in the project. While this group may be small, their responses provide insights into the challenges of retaining project participation within the community, highlighting the need for better strategies for documenting and disseminating project information.

Overall, the proportion of respondents engaged with the project provides valuable insights into the project's reach and impact. The high proportion of respondents who engaged with the project before 2021 suggests that the community has embraced the project and can be a valuable tool for promoting sustainable development. Including more recent participants and those who could not remember their involvement highlights the need for better documentation and dissemination of project information to ensure its success.

*Table 7 Respondent information: year participated with the project, poor ID Card holder, and indigenous population*

<b>Year participated in the project</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Before 2021	249	70
After 2021	68	19
Do not remember	41	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Poor ID Card Holder</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Poor 1	29	8
Poor 2	18	5
Do not have	311	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Indigenous Population</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Yes	110	31
No	248	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 7 further depicts the data on the representation of Indigenous people among the respondents. The survey covered a diverse range of households across the selected target areas.

Out of the 358 respondents in the survey, 31 per cent (110) identified as Indigenous people. This proportion indicates that the Indigenous population is well-represented in the survey data. The data shows that 69% (248) did not identify as Indigenous. It is important to note that this group might include individuals from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities. The high proportion of Indigenous

respondents suggests that the survey did a good job of reaching out to and engaging with Indigenous communities in the target areas. The data on the Indigenous population is particularly important for the project and its stakeholders, such as government agencies, who might use it to design targeted programs and initiatives to support these communities. In conclusion, the proportion of respondents who identified as Indigenous is critical for understanding the region's demographics. The project should identify and address the unique challenges faced by Indigenous communities and work towards greater inclusion and equity.

## 5.2. Household Economy

According to the project reports, the household economy situation of the project participants has significantly improved. As a result, project participants have seen enhanced crop yields and livestock production, leading to increased income and food security. The project also provided training and equipped project participants with the knowledge and resources to mitigate the impact of natural disasters. Additionally, the project focused on natural resource management, helping communities secure and sustainably use their forests and forestland, leading to more sustainable livelihoods. These interventions have positively impacted the household economy of project participants, contributing to poverty reduction and improved livelihoods in rural Cambodia.

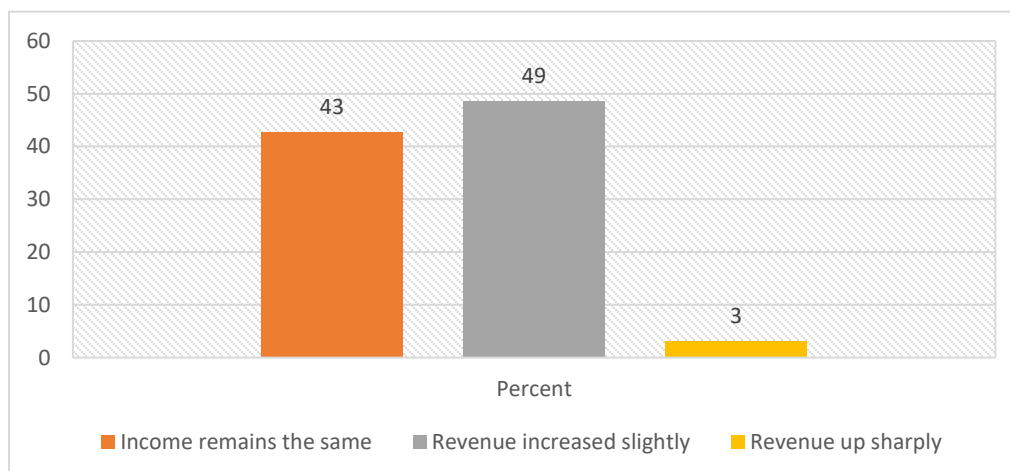


Figure 1. Changed household income after the respondent participated in the project.

The data shows that after participating in the project, a significant proportion of households reported positive changes in their income. Nearly 48.6 per cent of respondents reported a slight increase in their household income. In comparison, a smaller proportion, 3.1 per cent, reported a sharp rise in their income. Additionally, in Figure 1, the data shows that 42.7 per cent of respondents said their income remained the same even after participating in the project. This can be due to various reasons, such as the project not being directly related to income generation or economic conditions remaining stagnant in their local area.

To conclude, the percentage of households reporting an increase in income after participating in the project is a positive outcome highlighting the project's potential to improve livelihoods and economic conditions in the region.

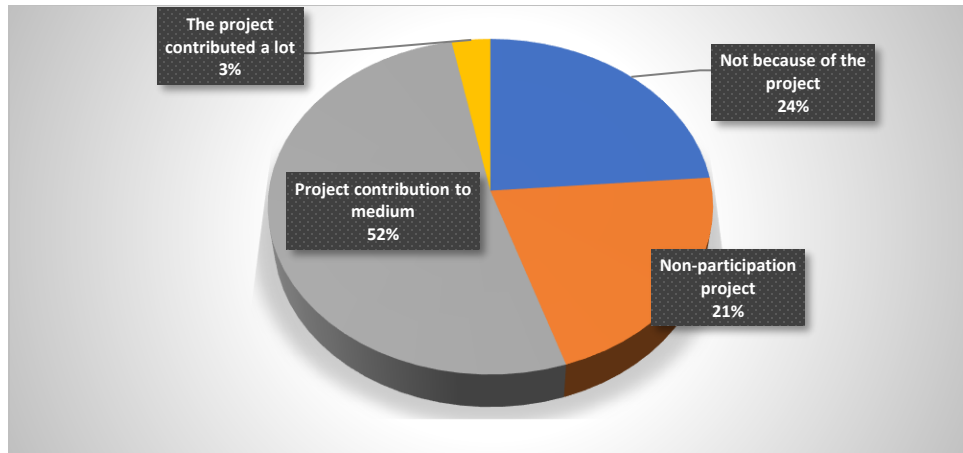


Figure 2 Project contributed to changes in household income.

Figure 2 illustrates how a project intervention has positively impacted the target population. The data shows that the majority of respondents, accounting for 52 per cent, reported that the project had made a significant contribution to their medium. This indicates that the project has brought about positive changes in the lives of beneficiaries and has been instrumental in improving their circumstances. Furthermore, a smaller proportion of respondents, accounting for 3.1 per cent, reported that the project had contributed significantly to their well-being. This finding highlights the significant impact that a well-designed and implemented project intervention can have on the lives of the target population.

On the other hand, a significant number of respondents, accounting for 44.9 per cent, reported that the project did not contribute or play any role in positively changing their lives. This includes non-participation in the project by some respondents and those who said their positive changes were independent of the project intervention.

Overall, the figure underscores the importance of robust project design, management, and implementation in achieving significant impact and transforming the lives and household income of the project participant.

*"Yes, the project has been a real game-changer for my family. Before, we barely made enough money to put food on the table. But now, with the project's support, we have increased our income and improved our living conditions. In addition, we have been able to invest in our small farm and diversify our crops, which has increased our income and improved our food security. We are so grateful for the opportunities the project has brought us. We are excited to continue building a better future for our family."* FGD with a female participant in Mlu Prey Village.

The data represents the proportion of project participants who reported saving money due to the project intervention. The data shows that almost half of the respondents, 49.7 per cent, said saving money. In contrast, the remaining 50.3 per cent reported not saving any money. The finding that almost half of the beneficiaries saved money suggests that the project may have contributed positively to their financial well-being. This may have been due to project activities such as financial education, access to credit, or livelihood support. The savings may have also resulted from changes in behaviour, such as increased frugality or improved financial planning. However, the fact that over

half of the project participants did not save money indicates that there may be room for improvement.

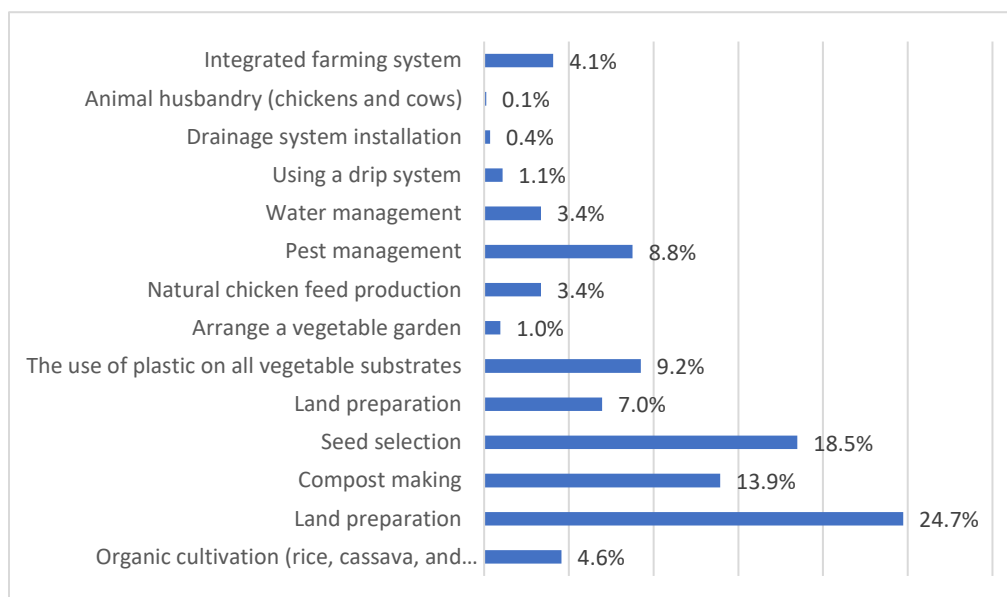


Figure 3. Types of agricultural training techniques received by the project.

Figure 3 shows the proportion of project participants who received agricultural training from the project, broken down by specific training topics.

The highest proportion of participants who received training on a specific topic was land preparation, with 24.7 per cent of participants reporting receiving this training. Seed selection (18.5 per cent ) came in second place as the next most commonly accepted training. On the other hand, the lowest proportion of participants receiving training on a specific topic was animal husbandry (chickens and cows), with only 0.1 per cent of participants reporting receiving this training. Drainage system installation (0.4 per cent ) and arranging a vegetable garden (1.0 per cent ) were also topics for which very few participants received training.

The data provide insights into the types of agricultural training interventions the project offers and which are reaching the most significant number of participants. For example, the large percentage of participants receiving training on land preparation suggests a strong focus on this area in the project's activities. Meanwhile, the low percentages for animal husbandry and drainage system installation indicates that these areas may be less of a priority for the project or require more outreach or support.

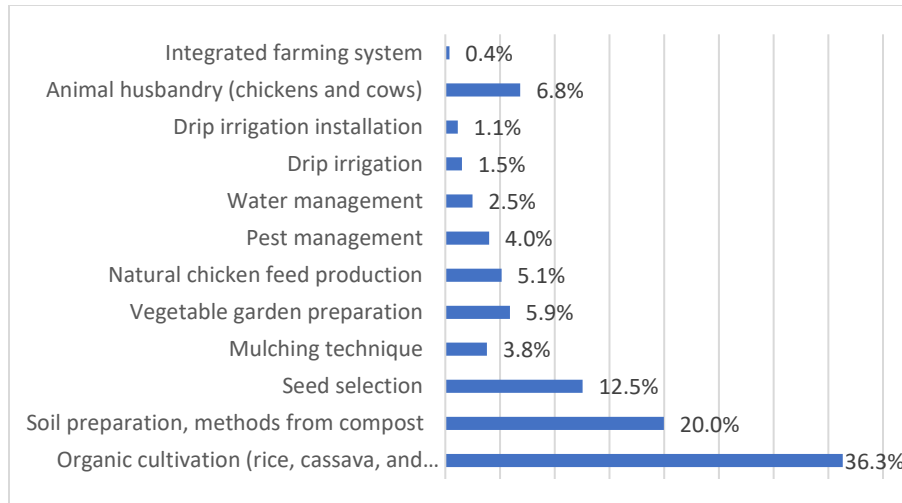


Figure 4. List of agricultural techniques applied in their daily livelihood.

Figure 4 illustrates the proportion of participants who applied the agricultural techniques they learned from the project in their daily livelihood.

The top proportion of participants who applied the techniques was organic cultivation, reported by 36.3 per cent of participants. Soil preparation through composting (20 per cent ) was the second most commonly applied technique. On the other hand, the lowest proportion of participants using the methods was the integrated farming system, with only 0.4 per cent of participants reporting its application. Drip irrigation installation (1.1 per cent ) and drip irrigation (1.5 per cent ) were also techniques that very few participants reported applying.

The data illustrates the extent to which participants apply the agricultural skills they have learned daily. The high proportion of participants using organic cultivation and soil preparation through composting indicates that these techniques are particularly relevant to their daily livelihoods. However, the low ratios of participants applying integrated farming systems and drip irrigation suggest that these techniques may not be as quickly applicable or integrated into their daily practices.

The proportion of farmers' confidence levels in applying the agricultural techniques they have learned in their daily livelihoods. Most farmers reported a medium level of confidence (39.1 per cent ) in using these techniques. Close to this proportion, 37.4 per cent of farmers reported a strong group of confidence in applying the techniques they learned. At the same time, only a small proportion of farmers (6.4 per cent) reported poor confidence in using the methods. This positive feedback suggests that farmers are relatively confident in applying these agricultural techniques in their daily livelihoods.

*"Certainly, the project has brought us a new era of economic opportunity in my village. With the training and support provided, we have improved our farming practices, increased our crop yields, and generated more income for our family. This has improved our financial situation and given us a sense of pride and ownership over our livelihoods. We are grateful for the project and its positive impact on our community."* FGD with a male participant in Thmea Village.

The data could indicate that the project's training program successfully provided farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills to apply these agricultural techniques. Additionally, the medium confidence level could tell that farmers may require additional support or resources to improve their knowledge and confidence in using these techniques.

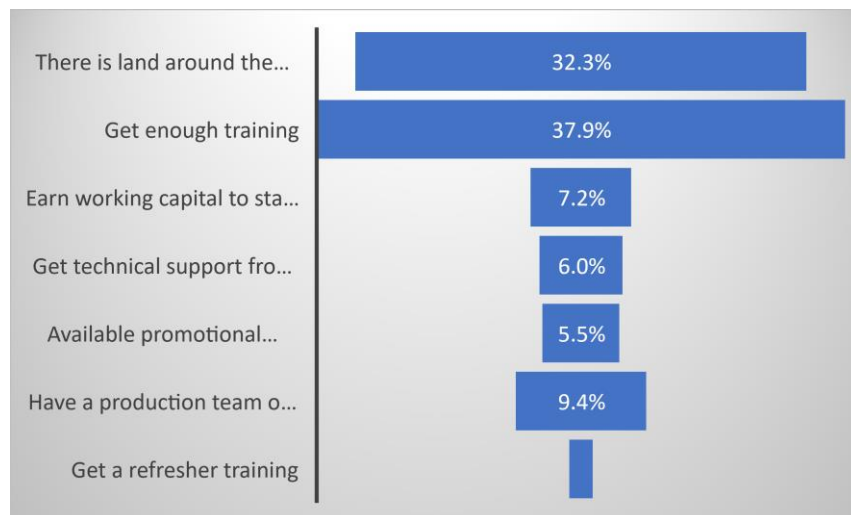


Figure 5. Factors of confidence that farmers had when applying the learned agricultural techniques.

The highest proportion of farmers, 37.9 per cent (as shown in figure 5), reported that getting enough training was crucial in building their confidence in applying the techniques. This suggests that providing comprehensive, high-quality training programs is key to successful agricultural development projects. At 32.3 per cent, having land around the house was also essential in making farmers confident in applying farming techniques. This could indicate that access to land is critical for farmers to integrate new techniques and technologies into their daily livelihoods.

A much smaller proportion of farmers, 7.2 per cent, reported that earning sufficient working capital was necessary to build their confidence in applying agricultural techniques. This may indicate that access to financial resources is a minor factor for farmers compared to the availability of training and land. Furthermore, only a tiny % of farmers, 6 per cent, cited technical support from the project as a factor in building their confidence in applying agricultural techniques. Similarly, only a slightly higher percentage of farmers, 5.5 per cent, felt that having access to promotional and lesson materials was paramount. Finally, only a small proportion of farmers, 1.7 per cent, reported that refresher training was essential in making them more confident in applying agricultural techniques.

The data shown in Figure 6 explains that the most common change reported by the respondents after receiving training and inputs from the project was the application of techniques learned, which was written by 42.7% of the respondents. This suggests that the training provided by the project was effective in imparting new knowledge and skills to the beneficiaries and that they could apply them to their work. The second most commonly reported change was the acquisition of quality varieties, written by 26.6% of the respondents.

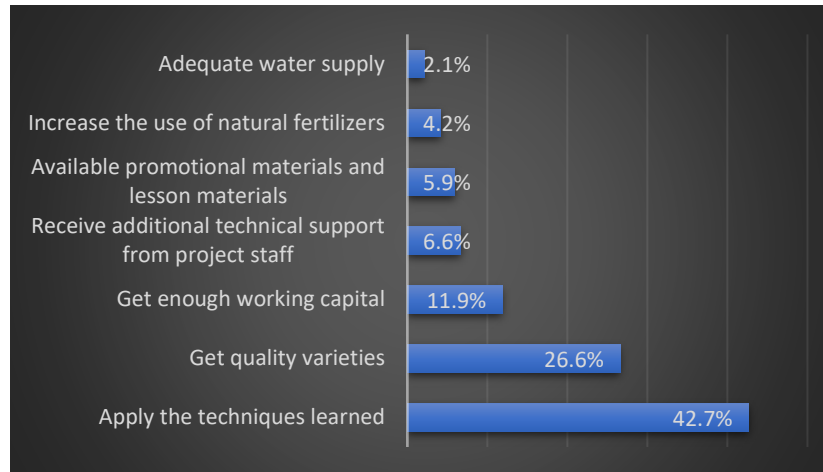


Figure 6. Changes in agriculture outputs resulting from project intervention.

This indicates that the project successfully provided the farmers with access to improved seeds or planting materials, which led to a better quality of crops or livestock. In contrast, the lowest proportion of change reported was the availability of adequate water supply, which was only reported by 2.1% of the respondents. This suggests that access and availability to water is a significant challenge for the beneficiaries and that more interventions need to be implemented to improve access to water resources.

*"Thanks to the project's intervention in our community, we have seen a significant improvement in our agricultural practices. We have learned new planting, harvesting, and pest management techniques that have allowed us to increase our crop yields and improve the quality of our produce. Not only has this helped to improve our income, but it has also made us more self-sufficient and less reliant on outside support. We are grateful for the support and guidance of the NGO, and we are excited to continue to learn and grow as farmers."* FGD with a male participant in Chhaeb Kaeut Village.

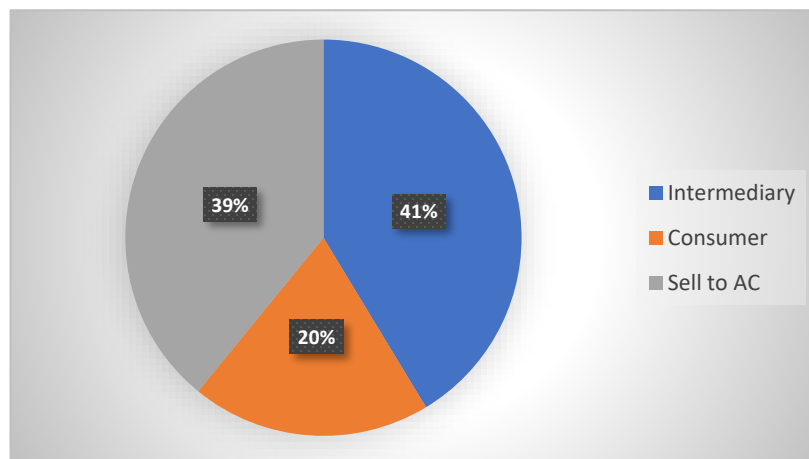


Figure 7. Different categories of buyers



The above data (Figure 7) shows the proportion of respondents who reported selling their agricultural products to different categories of buyers. The largest segment of the respondents, 41.3%, reported selling their products to intermediaries who operate in the farming input trade, such as wholesalers and traders. The intermediaries would then sell the products to other intermediaries, processing companies or consumers. Interestingly, a significant proportion of the respondents, 39.1%, indicated they sold their agricultural products to Agricultural Cooperatives (ACs). This suggests that these cooperatives play a crucial role in connecting small-scale farmers and markets, especially in areas where smallholder farmers operate. The AC would provide a platform for farmers to pool resources and sell their products collectively, which would help to improve their bargaining power in the market. A small percentage of the respondents, 19.6%, reported selling their products directly to consumers. This suggests a growing demand for locally produced agricultural products and that small-scale farmers are exploring different market channels to maximize profits.

The data in Table 8 represents the proportion of profit made by respondents who participated in a household survey on selling agricultural products. The survey data is categorized into four tiers based on the level of profitability. The outstanding tier, representing 9% of the survey respondents, indicates a high return on investment. The average profit category accounts for 53.6% of the survey respondents, meaning many farmers earned consistent profits. The neutral type, consisting of 33% of the survey respondents, indicates that income almost equals the total cost of producing agricultural products. Finally, the moderate profitability category, representing 4.5% of the survey respondents, suggests that the income earned was fair and adequate. Overall, the data provides valuable insights into the profitability of selling agricultural products based on the perspective of respondents participating in the household survey.

*Table 8. Profit gained from selling agricultural products to different buyer categories*

<b>No.</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
1	Very profitable	9
2	Average profit	53.6
3	Neutral	33
4	Moderate	4.5
	Total	100

Overall, understanding the different channels through which farmers sell their agricultural products provides insights into the functioning of the farm input market and how various stakeholders interact in the value chain.

A discussion with respondents further indicated that the diversification of selling agricultural products to different buyers in rural Cambodia had created a sense of empowerment and independence for local farmers. Farmers can explore new opportunities and tap into previously untapped revenue streams by expanding their customer base beyond traditional markets. This diversification has not only brought financial benefits. However, it has also encouraged innovation and creativity in production methods and marketing strategies. Furthermore, through the support of various organizations and initiatives, farmers are gaining the confidence and resources they need to take charge of their livelihoods and contribute to the development of their communities.

*"Thanks to the project, we have diversified our customer base and sold our agricultural products to different buyer categories, including AC members, private companies, neighbours and directly to local markets. This has increased our profits and given us more stability and security as producers."* FGD with a female participant in Chhaeb Lech Village.

Furthermore, the diversification of selling agricultural products to different buyers in the target communities has brought a new level of economic opportunity and stability for local farmers. By expanding their customer base to include agricultural cooperatives and private companies and selling directly to local markets, farmers can mitigate risk and tap into different markets, resulting in increased profits and improved livelihoods. This shift in agricultural practice has not only provided farmers with financial benefits. However, it has also allowed them to build relationships with a broader network of buyers, contributing to the growth and sustainability of local economies.

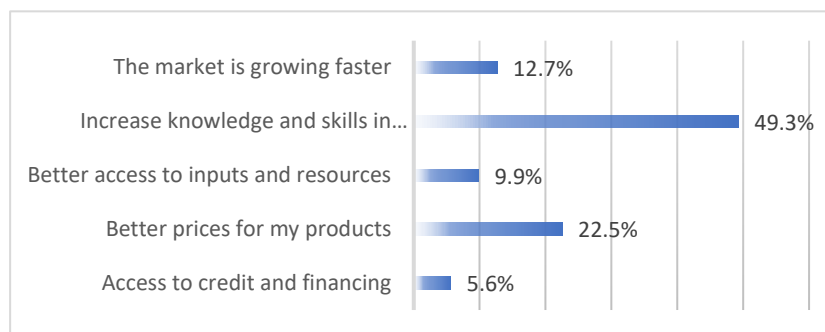


Figure 8. Benefits of Becoming Agriculture Cooperative members

The data (Figure 8) provided represents the proportion of farmers who became members of an Agricultural Cooperative based on their perceived reasons for joining. The highest ratio, 49.3%, shows that farmers believed joining the cooperative would increase their knowledge and skills in agricultural practice, making them better equipped to run their farms. The second highest proportion, 22.5%, indicates that farmers anticipated better product prices through the cooperative. These farmers likely joined the cooperative to negotiate more favourable prices for their produce, thus increasing their profitability. The lowest proportion, 5.6%, suggests that farmers joined the cooperative to gain better access to credit and financing. This small proportion of farmers may have already had access to sufficient credit or could access funding through other routes. Finally, the market growing faster is also a reason for joining the cooperative 12.7% of farmers, indicating that farmers seek new markets for their products through cooperative membership. The data provided shows thus that farmers join Agricultural Cooperatives for various reasons, with increasing knowledge of agricultural practices and getting better prices for their products being the two most important factors.

The survey result indicates the proportion of respondents who reported an increase in the number of consumers after they got supported by the AC. Of the respondents, 66.5% reported an increase in the number of consumers, while 33.5% did not report any increase. This suggests that participating in the survey positively impacted the respondents' income, increasing customers.

According to the interview with AC members, they emphasise that there were several benefits involved with ACs. Firstly, improved knowledge and skills. Joining the ACs can provide farmers with access to training and education on best agricultural practices. This can help farmers to improve their crop yields, reduce crop loss, and increase the quality of their produce. Additionally, cooperatives may offer training on financial management and marketing strategies, which can help farmers to manage their businesses better and increase their profits. By sharing knowledge and resources, agricultural cooperatives can help build their members' capacity, resulting in improved agricultural practices and increased success in the market.

*"Cultivating crops has always been the main source of income for our families, but it was not always easy to get good yields due to our limited knowledge and skills in agricultural practices. However, since becoming members of our local agricultural cooperative, we have gained access to training and education on the latest agricultural best practices. This has been a game-changer for us, as we have improved our farming techniques and increased our crop yields significantly. We have also learned how to manage our finances better, which has helped us invest more in our farms and families."* FGD with a male participant in Mluy Prey Village.

Secondly, better access to agriculture inputs: ACs in the target communities can also provide members with better access to information such as seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. By pooling resources and negotiating with suppliers, cooperatives can often secure better prices for inputs than individual farmers can on their own. This can lead to cost savings for farmers and increased access to high-quality inputs that can improve crop yields and quality. Furthermore, cooperatives may have agreements with input suppliers to ensure a steady information supply to their members, further improving farmers' access to the necessary resources.

Lastly, better prices for agriculture products. ACs can also help to ensure that their members receive better prices for their agricultural products. By pooling their production, cooperatives can negotiate with buyers to secure better prices and more favourable terms. This can be particularly important for small-scale farmers struggling to negotiate fair prices. Additionally, cooperatives can help to connect farmers with a broader range of buyers, increasing the diversity of their customer base and reducing their dependence on a single buyer. This can help to improve farmers' incomes and provide more excellent stability for their businesses.

Figure 9 shows the proportion of respondents who reported reasons for an increase in consumers after getting involved with an agricultural cooperative, as reported in a household survey. The top reason given by respondents was getting support from DPA on production lines and marketing strategies, with 40.5% saying this as a reason. Respondent's second most common reason was joining an AC membership or production team, with 24.3% reporting this as a reason for increased consumers.

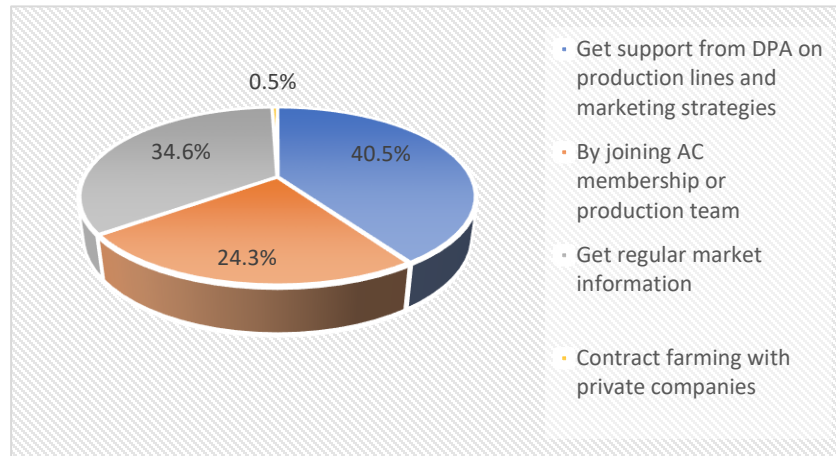


Figure 9. The reason consumers increased

It is noteworthy that getting regular market information was also reported by a significant proportion of respondents (34.6%) as being a factor that contributed to an increased consumer base. In contrast, contract farming with private companies was the least common reason given, with only 0.5% of respondents reporting it as a factor for increased consumers. Overall, the results suggest that working with an agricultural cooperative, receiving support on production and marketing strategies, and participating in the cooperative through membership or production teams are effective ways of increasing a business's consumer base in the agricultural sector.

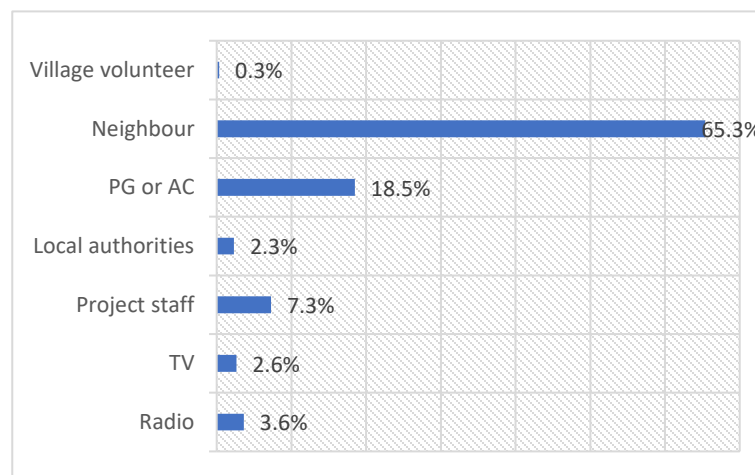


Figure 10. The ways that farmers have access to agriculture market information.

The data from the household survey provides a breakdown of the proportion of farmers who reported accessing market information through various sources. The two most prominent sources mentioned were neighbours and PG or AC, with 65.3% and 18.5%, respectively. Farmers rely significantly on information from their social networks and agricultural groups to make market decisions. In contrast, the lowest proportion of farmers who reported accessing market information through village volunteers, at only 0.3%, could suggest that these volunteers are not effectively reaching farmers or providing valuable information. Therefore, the survey results highlight the importance of community support networks in sharing market information among farmers. This

could have important implications for development programs looking to improve market outcomes for farmers, as they may need to consider leveraging local social networks to disseminate information effectively.

Based on the information received from group discussions with project participants and project staff, there are many ways that farmers in target communities can access agriculture market information with support from the project and agriculture cooperatives. By providing farmers with training, resources, and support, the project and cooperatives can help farmers to make informed decisions about their farming practices and to improve their income and livelihoods. Access to agriculture market information is crucial for small-scale farmers in target communities to make informed decisions about what crops to grow, when to sell, and to whom.

One way to access this information is through support from project staff. Project staff can provide farmers with training and resources to access market information. They can also facilitate meetings between farmers and buyers to discuss market trends and needs. Another way to access market information is through neighbours. Neighbours can also be a valuable source of market information. Farmers can exchange information with their neighbours on market trends, prices, and the challenges and opportunities of farming in the local area. The project and cooperatives facilitated meetings between farmers to discuss these issues and to build relationships that can lead to more effective collaboration and market access.

*"Before the project started working with our community, it was difficult for us to access information about market trends and prices. We often had to rely on intermediaries to sell our crops, and we didn't know how much our crops were worth or what other options we had. But with the support and facilitation from the project, we've been able to access much more information about the market. We've learned about different buyers and their needs, as well as about different crops and their value. This has given us much more confidence in negotiating with buyers and deciding what to plant and when to sell."* FGD with the female respondent in Chork Chey Village.

Finally, producer groups can be a powerful way for farmers to access market information. Producer groups can pool resources and knowledge to access market information and negotiate better prices with buyers. The project and cooperatives can support the formation and development of producer groups and provide training and resources to help them access market information and build effective marketing strategies.

*"I'm grateful for the project's support in building our knowledge and skills around market access. It's not something we could have done alone, and it's made a real difference in our lives. I feel much more confident negotiating with buyers and deciding about my crops. I know that my family's income is more stable and secure as a result."* FGD with the male respondent in Chork Chey Village.

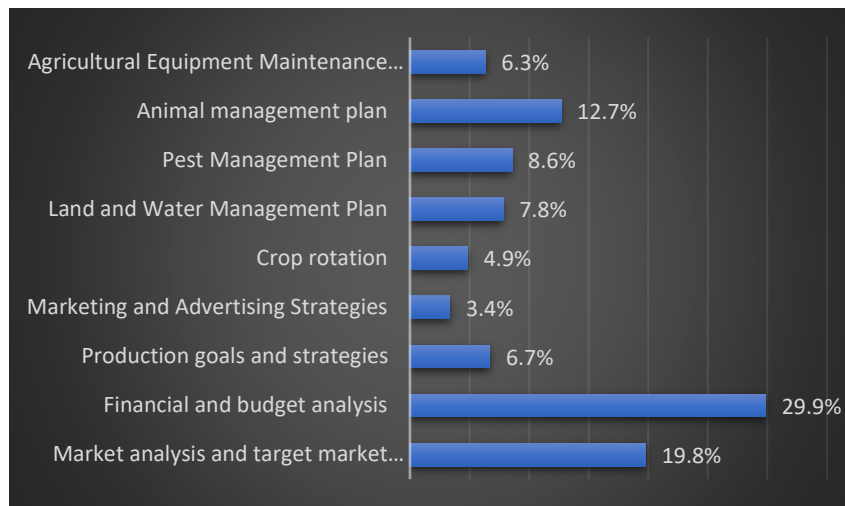


Figure 11. Importance of having an AC business plan

The household survey included questions about the importance of having an AC business or management plan. The two areas that respondents rated as most important were financial and budget analysis, with 29.9% rating this as highly important, and animal management plan, with 12.7% rating this as highly important. Conversely, production goals and strategies were rated as the least important area, with only 6.7% of respondents indicating that this was highly important. These results suggest farmers prioritize financial management and animal care in cooperative planning. This may reflect the challenges farmers face in ensuring the economic sustainability of their operations and managing their livestock's health and productivity. In conclusion, the data highlights the importance of financial planning and animal management in agriculture cooperative business or management plans, which could inform the design of training and support programs for farmers looking to establish or improve their cooperative operations.

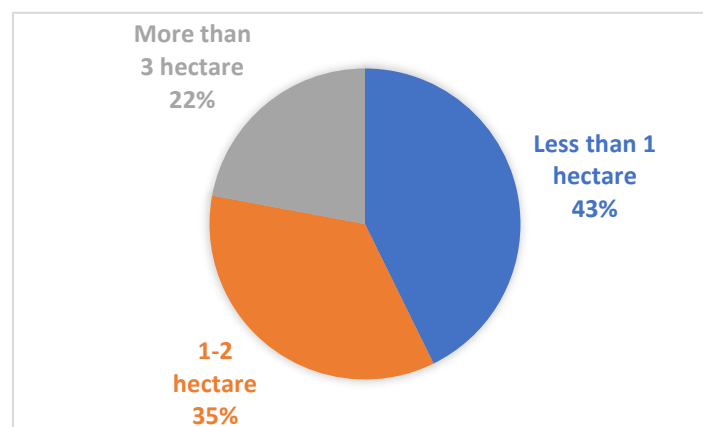


Figure 12. Agricultural land owned by project participants.

The data pertains to the proportion of agricultural land owned by project beneficiaries who participated in a household survey, as shown in figure 12. The results indicate that out of the total

respondents, 43% reported owning less than 1 hectare of agricultural land. Additionally, 35% of the respondents reported owning land between 1 and 2 hectares. In comparison, 22% responded that they owned more than 3 hectares of agricultural land.

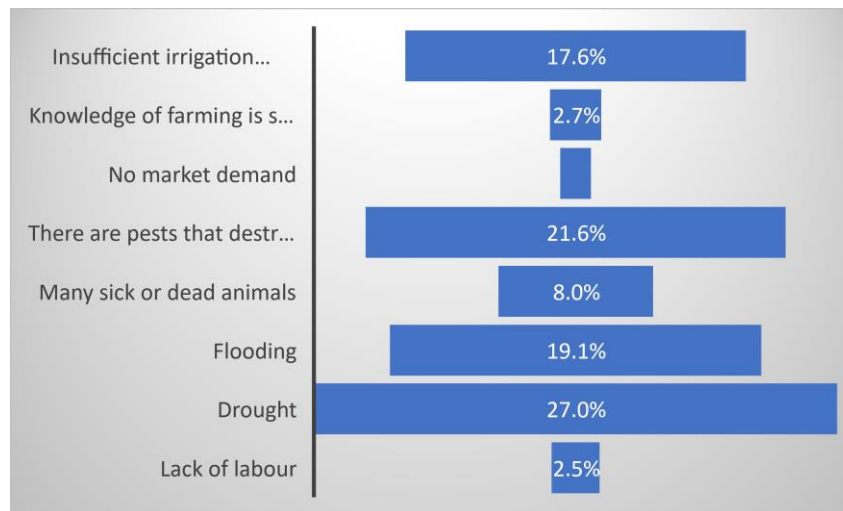


Figure 13. Challenges faced by project participants in doing agricultural work.

This data set provides information on farmers' challenges in their day-to-day activities, as reported by respondents who participated in a household survey (as shown in figure 13). The top two challenges farmers face are drought and pests that destroy crops, with 27% and 21.6% of respondents reporting these as significant challenges. Conversely, the lowest proportion of respondents reported a lack of labour as a challenge, with only 2.5% highlighting this issue. Other challenges reported in the data set include insufficient irrigation systems (17.6%), flooding (19.1%), limited knowledge of farming techniques (2.7%), and many sick or dead animals (8%).

Referring to the quality interview, project participants revealed that there were three potential challenges faced by farmers in doing agriculture in the visited villages as below:

**Insufficient Access to Irrigation:** One of the significant challenges project participants face in rural Cambodia is inadequate access to irrigation. Many farmers rely on rainfall to water their crops, which can be unreliable and insufficient, especially in times of drought. Without access to reliable sources of irrigation, such as pumps, canals, or wells, farmers may struggle to grow crops consistently and effectively, which can limit their productivity and income.

*"Without enough water, our crops just can't grow. We've always relied on rainwater, but the seasons have been so unpredictable lately that we can't count on it anymore. That's why access to irrigation is so important."* Quality interview with a male respondent in Sra'Aem Village.

**Pest Management:** Pest management was Another challenge project participants faced in target areas. Pests and disease can quickly devastate crops, especially when farmers lack access to effective pesticides or other pest management techniques. Farmers may sometimes use unsafe or not environmentally friendly pesticides, which can adversely affect soil health and biodiversity.

**Climate Change (Flooding and Droughts):** A third challenge faced by project participants in the project areas was the impact of climate change, specifically flooding and droughts. These extreme weather events can significantly impact crop yields, quality, and infrastructure, such as roads and irrigation systems. As a result, farmers may struggle to adapt to these changing weather patterns, which can lead to a cycle of debt and poverty. In addition, climate change can also lead to the spread of new pests and diseases, which can further limit productivity and income.

*"Overall, I think the biggest challenge we face as farmers in my village is climate change. We can deal with pests and irrigation issues, but preparing for something as unpredictable as the weather is hard. We need more information and resources to help us adapt and work together as a community to find solutions. We can't just keep doing things the way we always have because the world is changing, and we need to change with it."* FGD with a female respondent in Chork Chey Village.

Table 9 shows the data representing the sources of irrigation for agricultural activities, as reported by respondents who participated in a household survey. The data set includes five sources of irrigation, with wells being the most commonly reported source used by 42% of respondents. Community ponds were the second most frequently used source of irrigation, with 27% of respondents reporting using them for their agricultural activities. The lowest proportion of results was for newly constructed canals, used by only 1% of respondents. Finally, 11% and 18% of respondents used rehabilitated canals and natural reservoirs.

Table 9. Sources of irrigation in the visited villages

Sources of irrigations	Per cent
Rehabilitated canal	11%
Newly constructed canal	1%
Well	42%
Community ponds	27%
Natural Reservoir	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

This data represents the suggestions of respondents who participated in a household survey regarding improving farming activities, as shown in Table 10. The dataset includes four response categories, with the most commonly reported suggestion being improving irrigation, with 50.4% of respondents suggesting this. The second most frequently reported suggestion was to provide additional training on agricultural skills, with 24.1% of respondents indicating this. Finally, additional agricultural support was also suggested by 22.6% of respondents. The lowest proportion of results was for no comments, with only 3.0% of respondents reporting having no suggestions for improving farming activities. These findings provide insights into the areas that farming interventions can focus on, such as improving irrigation and providing training on agricultural skills to improve agricultural productivity.



Table 10. Suggested activities to improve agricultural activities in the visited villages.

<b>Suggest activities to improve farming activities</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Improving irrigation	50.4%
Provide additional training on agricultural skills	24.1%
Additional agricultural support	22.6%
No Comments	3.0%

During the conversations with farmers in the visited villages, they shared their suggestions for improving their agricultural activities. One of the leading suggestions was to improve the irrigation system. Many farmers mentioned that they face difficulties accessing water for their crops due to insufficient irrigation infrastructure. They suggested that constructing more canals, reservoirs, and wells would help provide them with a consistent water supply for their produce. They also recommended using efficient irrigation techniques, such as drip irrigation, to optimize water usage.

Another suggestion provided by farmers was to provide appropriate agriculture training techniques. Many farmers in the visited villages lack access to proper training on modern and effective agricultural practices. Therefore, they suggested giving training on various topics, such as crop rotation, soil management, pest control, and post-harvest handling. They also emphasized the need for training tailored to their specific needs and conditions in their villages, such as training on crops most suitable for their soil and climate conditions.

Lastly, farmers suggested the need for additional agriculture input support. Many farmers face challenges obtaining necessary inputs, such as high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. Farmers indicated that providing these inputs at affordable prices and on time would help improve their agricultural productivity. Additionally, farmers suggested providing credit or microfinance schemes to enable them to purchase these inputs and other necessary equipment. This would help improve their overall agricultural activities and enhance their income.

By implementing these suggested activities, the vast majority of the project participant strongly believe that it can help improve farmers' livelihoods in the visited villages, increase their agricultural productivity and income, and contribute to food security and rural development.

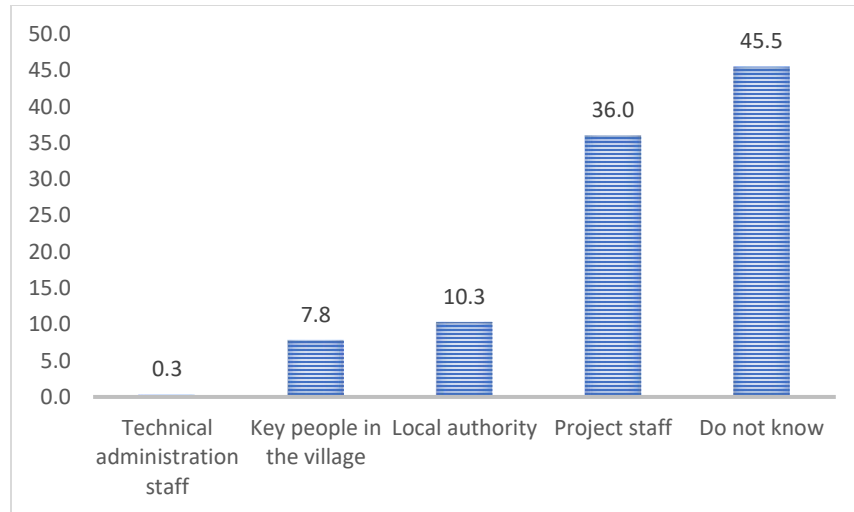


Figure 14. A proportion of how farmers seek support when they are faced with challenges in doing agricultural activities.

Figure 14 illustrates the data proportion of 'farmers sought support when they faced challenges in farming activities' obtained from a household survey of respondents. The responses were divided into five categories, ranging from seeking support from technical, administrative staff, key people in the village, local authority, project staff, and those who do not know where to seek consent.

The largest group of respondents, 45.5%, reported that they "do not know" where to seek support when faced with farming-related challenges. This highlights the need for more extraordinary awareness-raising efforts to ensure farmers are informed of available support services and resources. The second largest proportion of results was reported for seeking support from project staff, with 36% of farmers opting for this category. This indicates that farmers are more likely to seek support from external projects and organizations rather than relying on local resources. In contrast, the lowest proportion was reported for technical, administrative staff, with only 0.3% of farmers opting for this category. This indicates that farmers may not be aware of the technical and administrative staff or do not consider them a valuable resource for seeking support in farming activities. Overall, the data suggests that there is a need for more communication and education among farmers to improve their access to support services when faced with challenges in farming activities, mainly concerning technical, administrative staff and key people in the village.

Not-to-mention, the data proportion of "beneficiary satisfaction of support received" was obtained from a household survey of respondents. The responses ranged from strongly agreeing to strongly disagreeing.

The majority of respondents (73.2%) agreed with the statement, indicating that they were satisfied with the support they received. This suggests that the support provided to beneficiaries was effective, appropriate, and met their needs. A smaller proportion of respondents (17.3%) remained neutral on the satisfaction with the support received. This may indicate that some beneficiaries may require further approval or that their needs were partially met by the support provided. Only a small proportion of respondents disagreed (0.8%) or strongly disagreed (2.8%) with the statement,

indicating that most beneficiaries were satisfied with their support. This suggests that the support services were provided with a high degree of effectiveness and quality.

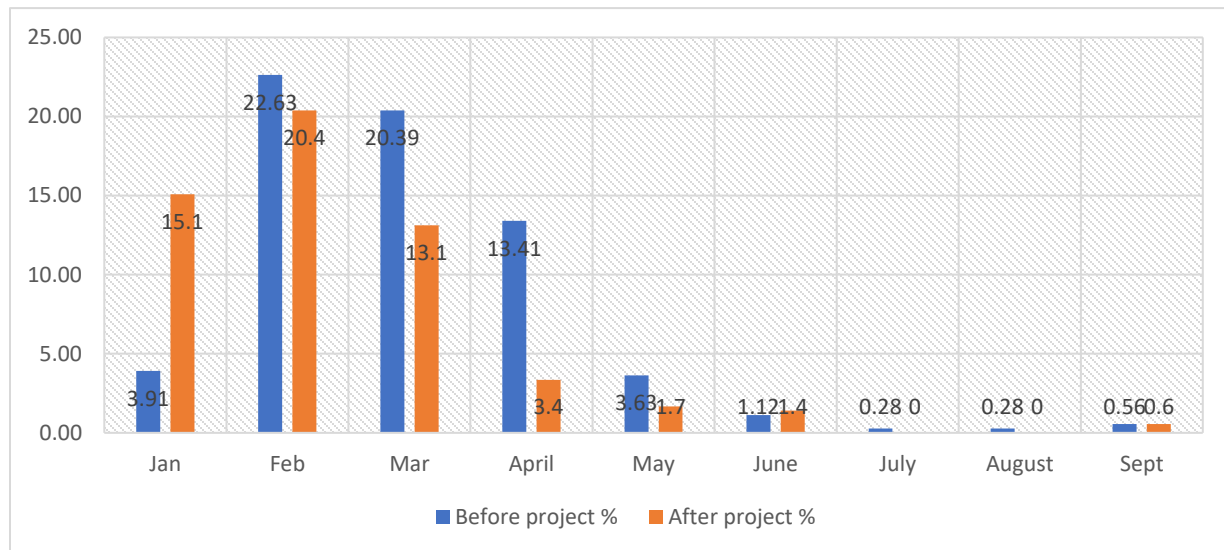


Figure 15. Comparison of the number of months of food insecurity faced by project participants before and after project intervention.

Table 15 above compares the percentage of months of food security faced by project participants before and after the project, presented month by month.

Before the project, the data indicates that participants faced varying food security challenges. For example, February had the highest percentage of months with food insecurity, at 22.63%, followed by March with 20.39%. Conversely, January had the lowest rate of months with food insecurity, at 3.91%.

After the project, there was a significant improvement in the percentage of months with food security challenges faced by participants. The highest rate of months with food insecurity was still in January, with 15.1%, but this is a significant improvement from before. All other months except September has a reduced percentage of months with food insecurity after the project compared to before. However, September witnessed a slight increase in the rate of months with food insecurity, from 0.56% to 0.6%.

Based on the discussion with respondents, most of the respondents stated that food security had significantly improved after the project intervention in the target communities. For example, before the project intervention, participants faced food insecurity for an average of eight months a year. This was due to several factors, including limited access to irrigation, knowledge of appropriate agricultural techniques, and access to quality agricultural inputs. However, after the project intervention, participants reported facing food insecurity for only four months a year. This significant improvement can be attributed to the different project interventions to improve food security.

One of the significant project interventions that contributed to improving food security was providing appropriate agricultural training techniques to project participants. The project provided training on improved irrigation techniques, proper crop rotation, and soil conservation practices. This has resulted in increased productivity, which has led to increased food production and

availability. Additionally, the project supported the adoption of high-yielding crop varieties resistant to pests and diseases, leading to higher yields and improved food security.

*"Besides the tangible benefits, the project has helped us build our confidence and resilience. We used to feel helpless and hopeless, but now we know we can overcome challenges and improve our situation. We have formed strong bonds with our fellow farmers and have become members of a supportive community. We feel proud of what we have achieved and are committed to continuing our progress in the future."* A discussion with a female respondent in Sra'Aem Village.

Another project intervention that contributed to improving food security was the provision of additional agricultural inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. Before the project intervention, project participants had limited access to quality inputs, significantly affecting their productivity. However, the project provided these inputs, enabling participants to increase their yields and produce surplus food, improving food security. Overall, the project interventions have significantly improved food security and reduced food insecurity in the target communities. In conclusion, the project has successfully enhanced food security for most months. However, further intervention is needed to reduce the percentage of months with food insecurity, especially in January, which still had a high food insecurity rate even after the project.

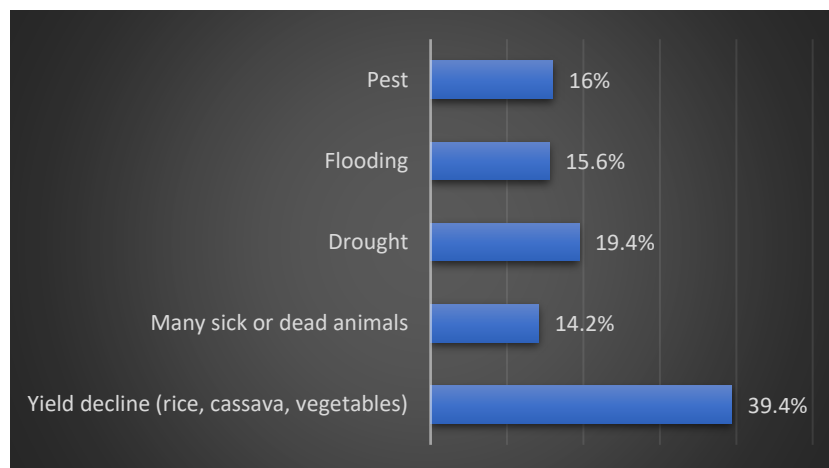


Figure 16. Reasons behind food insecurity faced by project participants.

Figure 16, the data shows the proportion of reasons why farmers faced food insecurity based on responses gathered from a household survey. The survey asked various questions about agricultural productivity, environmental conditions and other factors contributing to food security challenges. The results reveal that the most significant contributor to food insecurity reported by the respondents is Yield Decline, with 39.4% citing it as a critical issue. Yield decline could be attributed to a poor harvest, low-quality seeds or ineffective farming practices such as inadequate soil preparation.

The second most important factor reported by the participants is drought, at 19.4%. Drought is a common cause of food insecurity in many regions, and it can significantly impact agricultural productivity by restricting water availability for irrigation. On the contrary, the lowest % of respondents, 14.2%, attributed their food insecurity to many sick or dead animals. This observation

could be a cause of interest for animal health experts who can potentially address livestock health issues affecting agricultural productivity.

From the data presented, it is clear that multiple factors contributed to food insecurity for the participating households. These factors include environmental challenges like drought and flooding and agricultural challenges such as yield decline and pests. The results suggest that addressing agricultural challenges such as yield decline could significantly improve food security outcomes, representing almost 40% of the reported causes.

The data provided represent the proportion of coping mechanisms employed by farmers with food insecurity based on responses gathered from a household survey. The data helps us understand how farmers respond to the challenges they face regarding food insecurity. The most significant proportion of respondents, 35.7%, indicated they resort to borrowing money to mitigate the problem of food insecurity. This coping mechanism suggests that these households use loans to meet their food demands, implying that food insecurity may have a long-term impact on household finances.

Labour is the second most frequently reported coping mechanism used by the respondents. Labour accounts for 32.4% and could refer to the hours worked by the household members to produce food for their consumption. In such cases, households rely on family members' work to maximise food output and minimise food insecurity to circumvent crop loss or damage.

The lowest proportion of respondents, 0.5%, indicated that they use Migration as a coping mechanism. Migration implies that some households may move to other regions or countries to earn a livelihood and purchase food supplies. This may have economic, social and emotional implications for the household.

It is noteworthy to state that raising additional animals (9.1%) and growing more vegetables (7.3%) were also cited as strategies employed by respondents to mitigate food insecurity. These methods suggest that households may engage in income-generating activities to produce food to sell or trade to secure food supplies. The data highlights that families use diverse strategies to address the challenges of food insecurity, and these mechanisms have social and economic implications for the household.

### **5.3. Agriculture Cooperative**

ACs offer numerous advantages for farmers in Cambodia's target locations and remote areas. Firstly, access to Resources. ACs provide farmers access to essential resources that may be challenging to obtain individually. This includes access to agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and machinery. By pooling resources and collective purchasing, cooperatives can negotiate better prices and ensure a steady supply of information, enabling farmers in remote areas to enhance their productivity and efficiency—secondly, market access and bargaining power. Cooperatives help farmers overcome market challenges by collectively marketing their produce. This gives them increased bargaining power when negotiating with buyers and traders. By aggregating their products, cooperatives can achieve economies of scale, improve market visibility, and command better prices for their agricultural products. This access to broader markets helps farmers in remote areas expand their customer base and increase their income.

Thirdly, knowledge sharing and capacity building. ACs provide a platform for farmers to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices. Through training programs, workshops, and field

demonstrations, cooperatives enhance farmers' technical skills and capacity in remote areas. This knowledge-sharing enables farmers to adopt improved farming techniques, implement sustainable agricultural practices, and stay updated on market trends and opportunities.

Next is collective resilience. Farmers in remote areas often face various risks, including natural disasters, price fluctuations, and market uncertainties. Farmers can collectively address these risks and build resilience by joining a cooperative. Cooperatives can pool resources for insurance schemes, disaster preparedness measures, and risk management strategies. This collective approach helps remote farmers mitigate risks, recover from losses, and enhance their resilience to challenges.

Lastly, access to credit and financial services. AC can act as an intermediary between farmers and financial institutions, facilitating credit and financial services access. By establishing credibility and ensuring repayment through group guarantees, cooperatives enable farmers in remote areas to access affordable credit for investment in farming activities, expansion of their enterprises, or coping with financial emergencies.

The quality of AC leaders significantly impacts cooperatives' success and growth in various aspects, including agriculture market linkage, business plan development, financial management, and value-added agriculture products.

*Table 11. Frequency of AC organise a meeting per month*

<b>How often does AC organise meetings per month?</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
1-2 time	40
3-4 time	10
Do not know	35
Never have meeting	15

Table 11 provides insight into the frequency of meetings organized by AC in a month. Based on the data presented, 40% of the respondents reported that AC holds meetings 1-2 times per month, while only 10% said that AC organizes meetings 3-4 times a month. This implies that most respondents perceive that AC arranges meetings only occasionally and not regularly. Furthermore, 35% of respondents answered that they were unsure how frequently AC holds meetings, which suggests that AC may not effectively communicate with its stakeholders. This lack of transparency and communication could lead to misunderstandings and harm the company's reputation. Lastly, 15% of respondents reported that AC never organizes meetings, which raises concerns about the company's commitment to stakeholder engagement. This result is alarming, as stakeholders expect companies to seek their input and listen to their ideas to plan and execute better strategies.

Based on the analysis, AC may benefit from a more proactive approach to stakeholder engagement by implementing a regular meeting schedule that provides stakeholders with a platform to voice their concerns and share their ideas, which may improve their perception of the cooperatives.

AC's primary objective was to provide comprehensive coordination, marketing, and mentoring support to fortify farmers and strengthen market connections. With AC acting as the central marketing and business arm, immense optimism surged among its members and the entire community. This optimism stems from anticipating improved market opportunities for their agricultural products, leading to fair prices and increased household income.

Table 12 outlines the training areas received by AC from the project, along with the corresponding percentages. Financial Management (20%): This training area received the highest rate, indicating its significance in the project. It suggests that AC members were given substantial training on managing their finances effectively. This training likely covered budgeting, accounting, financial analysis, and financial decision-making. By strengthening their financial management skills, AC members can improve their cooperative's financial stability and make informed financial decisions.

Secondly, value chain and marketing strategies (26%): With a significant percentage, this training area highlights the project's emphasis on enhancing AC members' understanding of value chain management and implementing effective marketing strategies. The training likely covered market research, product development, branding, pricing, distribution, and customer relationship management. By equipping AC members with the value chain and marketing knowledge, the project aimed to improve their competitiveness, increase their market share, and maximize the value of their agricultural products.

Lastly, business plan development (16%): This training area received a notable percentage, indicating its importance in supporting the AC members' entrepreneurial endeavours. It suggests that AC leaders were trained to develop comprehensive business plans for their agricultural operations. This training likely covered aspects such as identifying business goals, conducting market analysis, formulating strategies, creating financial projections, and assessing risks. By honing their business planning skills, Acs can make informed decisions, attract investors or lenders, and set a clear direction for their cooperative's growth and success.

*Table 12. Training that AC received from the project*

No.	Training AC received from the project	Percentage
1	Financial management	20
2	Training on role and responsibilities and task	15
3	Value chain and marketing strategies	26
4	Training on good governance and transparency	8
5	Training on Cooperative Law	8
6	Fund mobilisation	7
7	Business plan development	16

These top three training areas collectively cover essential aspects of managing an agricultural cooperative successfully. The emphasis on financial management ensures sound financial practices. At the same time, value chain and marketing strategies enable AC members to capitalize on market opportunities. Additionally, business plan development equips them with a strategic framework for their cooperative's growth and sustainability. By addressing these key areas, the project aims to enhance the AC members' overall business acumen, foster their economic development, and promote the long-term success of their cooperative ventures.

According to the interview with ACs, influential AC leaders excel in establishing strong agriculture market linkages with trade partners for rice and cassava. They possess excellent communication and negotiation skills to foster relationships with potential buyers, processors, and exporters. Understanding market requirements, quality standards, and pricing mechanisms help cooperative

members meet market expectations and achieve fair trade agreements. The ability to facilitate connections and create win-win partnerships is a crucial quality of AC leaders in agriculture market linkage.

*"The AC leaders have been pivotal in ensuring good governance and transparency within our cooperative. Their adherence to Cooperative Law and their efforts to promote ethical practices have earned the trust and respect of members and external stakeholders." – Interviewed with an AC member in Chork Chey Village.*

AC leaders with solid capabilities in business plan development contribute to the cooperative's long-term success. They possess strategic thinking and analytical skills to assess the cooperative's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. These leaders engage cooperative members in a participatory approach, incorporating their input and aligning goals and objectives. A well-developed business plan includes total production, marketing, distribution, and risk management strategies. AC leaders ensure that the business plan is realistic, adaptable, and capable of driving the cooperative's growth and competitiveness.

AC leaders proficient in financial management are essential for the cooperative's economic sustainability and growth. They demonstrate expertise in budgeting and accounting. In addition, these leaders establish transparent financial systems, promote accountability, and ensure compliance with financial regulations.

Quality AC leaders recognize the potential of value-added agriculture products and work towards their development. They encourage cooperative members to explore value-additional processing, packaging, and branding opportunities. These leaders facilitate training programs and workshops to improve members' skills in product development, quality control, and marketing. They support innovation and the adoption of new technologies that enhance the value and marketability of agricultural products. AC leaders are crucial in identifying market niches and promoting value-added products that generate higher profits for cooperative members.

*"Thanks to the efficient leadership and management of our Agriculture Cooperative, we have witnessed a significant improvement in access to agriculture products. Their strategic partnerships and market linkages have expanded our distribution networks, ensuring a steady supply of high-quality products to meet the demands of our customers." Interview with AC members in Chork Chey Village.*

The leaders dramatically influence the success of agricultural cooperatives in various areas. Leaders who excel in agriculture market linkage foster strong relationships with trade partners, leading to improved market access and fair trade agreements. Those with expertise in business plan development ensure the cooperative's strategic growth and competitiveness. Proficiency in financial management ensures economic sustainability and efficient use of resources. AC leaders who prioritize value-added agriculture products help cooperative members capture the more significant market value and increase their income. Enhancing the quality of AC leaders in these areas is crucial for agricultural cooperatives' overall success and sustainability.

### **Rice Agriculture Cooperative Producer Group**

This surge in economic prosperity witnessed by the rice PG members has had a far-reaching impact, extending beyond mere financial gains. The implications of their success reverberate throughout the AC villages, permeating various aspects of community life. The increased household income per



member bolsters individual livelihoods and cultivates an environment conducive to overall growth and development.

By delving deeper into the details, it becomes evident that the remarkable income of approximately USD 1,300-1500 per member is a testament to the effectiveness of the AC rice PG's endeavours. This dedicated group has left no stone unturned in their pursuit of success. Through meticulous planning, unwavering determination, and the application of sustainable agricultural practices, they managed to yield a staggering quantity of 1,500 tonnes of organic rice. This exceptional output is a tangible outcome of their unwavering commitment to their craft.

However, the accomplishments of the rice PG members would not have been possible without the invaluable support and collaboration of three prominent companies: AMRU Rice, Signature of Asia, and Golden Rice. These reputable entities recognized the immense potential of the AC rice PG and willingly entered into contract farming agreements with its members. Such partnerships provide the necessary resources, infrastructure, and market access and instil trust and reliability within the community.

As a result of this synergistic collaboration, the AC rice PG members experienced a significant upturn in their economic circumstances. The injection of capital through successful sales and mutually beneficial contracts enabled them to expand their agricultural operations, improve their living standards, and invest in their future. The positive ripple effects of this economic boost can be felt across the AC villages, creating a virtuous cycle of progress and prosperity.

The collective efforts of the ACs, complemented by the support of these reputable companies, have undoubtedly transformed the rice PG members' lives. Beyond the tangible benefits, this success story is a testament to the power of collaboration, perseverance, and sustainable practices. Furthermore, it serves as an inspiration for other communities to embrace similar models of partnership, fostering economic growth and community development.

### **Cassava Agriculture Cooperative Producer Group**

The noteworthy financial achievements observed among the AC cassava PG members have far-reaching implications beyond mere income figures. The economic prosperity experienced by these individuals has a transformative impact on their households and the larger community.

Delving deeper into the details, it becomes apparent that the substantial income of USD 2,300 per household is a testament to the efficacy of the AC cassava PG's endeavours. Through diligent cultivation and astute marketing strategies, these dedicated members have successfully positioned themselves in the cassava market, reaping the rewards of their hard work.

The impressive output of approximately 1,500 tonnes of organic cassava is a tangible result of the AC cassava PG members' dedication and expertise. Their commitment to employing sustainable agricultural practices has yielded significant quantities of high-quality produce and fostered an environment of environmental stewardship and resource efficiency.

In contrast, achieving such remarkable results would not have been possible without the support and collaboration of the affiliated company, CACC (Cambodian Agriculture Cooperative Corporation Plc). Under the contractual framework of contract farming, the AC cassava PG members have forged a mutually beneficial partnership with CACC, enabling them to access broader markets and secure

stable prices for their organic cassava. Moreover, this collaboration has not only bolstered their economic prospects. However, it has also established trust and reliability within the cassava industry.

The collective efforts of the AC cassava PG members, in conjunction with the support and guidance of CACC, have ushered in an era of prosperity within the designated areas. The substantial income generated through cassava sales has empowered households to improve their living standards, invest in education and healthcare, and contribute to the overall development of their communities.

### **Non-Agriculture Cooperative Producer Group**

Through meticulous record-keeping, insightful interviews, and comprehensive staff monitoring visits, a thorough examination has yielded a wealth of significant observations regarding non-AC rice and conventional cassava PGs. Moreover, it becomes increasingly apparent that these endeavours have provided invaluable insights into the subject matter. Notably, the average rice yield per member within the non-AC rice PG has experienced a considerable upswing, demonstrating a remarkable increase of 1.5 tons per hectare.

Conversely, the average cassava yield has encountered a notable and substantial decline of approximately 2 tons per hectare, falling noticeably short of the initial project projections. The decrease in cassava yield can be directly attributed to the adverse repercussions of prolonged heavy rainy seasons, which have inflicted considerable damage upon the cassava plants, manifesting swollen cassava roots. These findings underscore the significance of monitoring and analyzing agricultural practices to enhance productivity and mitigate the effects of unfavourable weather conditions.

Through interviews with members of the non-AC conventional cassava PGs, a comprehensive understanding of their economic landscape has been attained. The data unequivocally indicates that each non-AC cassava member enjoys an average household income of approximately USD 2,700. This financial achievement reflects their industrious efforts and proficiency in cultivating and monetizing cassava crops.

Furthermore, this finding resonates beyond mere numbers and statistics. It signifies the empowerment of individuals within the non-AC cassava PGs, as they can secure a steady and substantial income for their households. This economic stability has a ripple effect, permeating various aspects of their lives, such as access to education, healthcare, and improved living standards.

The success of the non-AC cassava PGs is a testament to their collective efforts and ability to capitalize on the market demand for cassava products. In addition, their proficiency in cultivating and selling cassava crops has positioned them as key contributors to the local agricultural sector while simultaneously reaping the financial rewards.

The interview conducted with members of the non-AC rice PGs has provided valuable insights into the economic landscape and livelihoods of these individuals. One of the key findings from the interview is the average household income of each non-AC rice PG member, which has been determined to be USD 1,500. This observation sheds light on the financial stability and resilience of the members within the non-AC rice PGs. It indicates their ability to generate a consistent and substantial income, which is crucial in supporting their households. The average income of USD 1,500 reflects a level of financial security that enables these individuals to meet their basic needs, provide for their families, and contribute to the overall well-being of their households.

Moreover, this finding showcases the effectiveness of the non-AC rice PGs as an avenue for economic empowerment. By participating in the rice production activities of the PGs, members have gained access to opportunities that have translated into tangible financial benefits. The income generated contributes to their well-being and positively impacts the local economy, circling within the community through various expenditures and investments.

### **Non-AC Vegetable PG**

Following the interview with members of the non-AC vegetable PG, a significant observation has emerged about the average household income of each non-AC vegetable PG member, which amounts to approximately USD 320 per household. In addition, it is noteworthy that the group sells about 20 tons of vegetables, including cabbage, green vegetables, morning glory, string beans, cucumbers, gourds, chilli, and pumpkins, within the village and district markets. As a result of these sales, the group has achieved a total income of USD 15,000.

This finding underscores the non-AC vegetable PG members' economic productivity and financial well-being. The average household income of USD 320 highlights their ability to generate a steady and sustainable income to support their families and meet their daily needs. Furthermore, the successful sale of a diverse range of vegetables in significant quantities at local markets demonstrates their competence in agricultural production and effective market participation.

The total income of USD 15,000 reflects the overall profitability and economic success of the non-AC vegetable PG. It showcases their capacity to generate substantial revenue by capitalizing on the demand for various vegetables within their local community. This income contributes to the economic stability of individual households. It has a positive impact on the overall development and prosperity of the community at large.

In summary, the interview findings highlight the commendable economic performance and income-generating abilities of the non-AC vegetable PG. The average household income of USD 320 emphasizes their financial competence. In contrast, the total income of USD 15,000 signifies the group's proficiency in marketing and selling their vegetable produce. These achievements underscore the value and significance of the non-AC vegetable PG in fostering economic growth and improving the livelihoods of its members.

## **5.4. Disaster Risk Reduction and Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness**

According to project documents, Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) is a community-based approach to creating awareness and encouraging preparedness for natural disasters in rural areas. It involves community members in identifying their community's potential hazards, risks and vulnerabilities and developing practical, locally appropriate solutions. PASSA is often used with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities to help communities become more resilient to natural disasters.

In the target communities, PASSA was implemented as part of the project to improve disaster risk reduction and preparedness. The approach involved the active participation of community members in identifying and assessing the risks they face and developing strategies to mitigate them. This included identifying safe shelters and evacuation routes and establishing early warning systems. In

addition, the project provided training and support to community members to help them develop these strategies and ensure they are sustainable and can be implemented in the long term.

The PASSA approach has been successful in the target communities, with community members reporting increased awareness of their risks and improved preparedness for natural disasters. This has helped to reduce the impact of disasters on communities and to strengthen their resilience in the face of future disasters. Community members have expressed appreciation for the project's support. They are willing to continue working together to improve their preparedness and resilience further.

The data indicates the proportion of respondents who participated in the PASSA program in a household survey. Out of the total number of respondents surveyed, only 23% confirmed their participation in PASSA. In comparison, most respondents (67%) did not participate in the program.

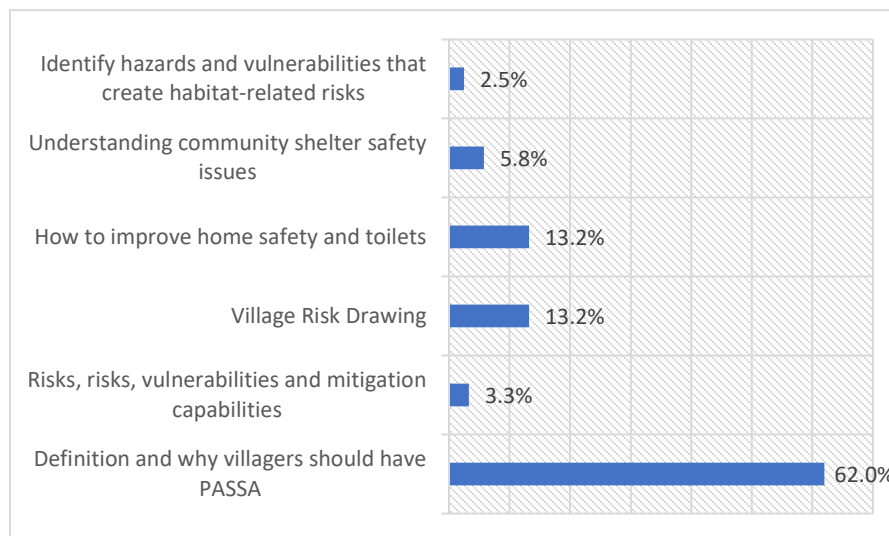


Figure 17. Training subject received from PASSA.

The data shows the proportions of respondents who received training from PASSA, as shown in Figure 17, with the highest proportion being on the definition and importance of having PASSA (62.0%). This indicates that respondents recognize the value of having a PASSA program in their community and are interested in understanding its purpose and benefits. The second highest proportion was the village risk drawing (13.2%) and how to improve home safety and toilets (13.2%). This suggests that respondents also value training on understanding their community's specific risks and vulnerabilities and learning practical skills to improve their living conditions.

*"Before the PASSA training, we didn't know much about the importance of having a disaster management plan in our village. But now we better understand how to identify and prioritize the risks in our community. We learned how to draw a village risk map and how to come up with solutions to reduce the risks. This knowledge will help us be more prepared and resilient in disasters or emergencies."* A group discussion with a male respondent in Sra'aem Village.

*"The PASSA training also taught us the importance of improving our home safety and hygiene practices. For example, we learned how to build a proper toilet and maintain household*

*sanitation. These practices can prevent the spread of diseases and improve the health of our families.” A group discussion with a female respondent in Sra’Aem Village.*

On the other hand, the lowest proportion of respondents who received training from PASSA was identifying hazards and vulnerabilities that create habitat-related risks (2.5%), meaning that respondents may need more education on this topic. Similarly, the percentage of respondents who received training on risks, vulnerabilities and mitigation capabilities was only 3.3%, indicating a need for more training on this important aspect of risk reduction.

While some areas of PASSA training are being prioritized, the data highlights the need for increased activity in critical areas, such as identifying risks, vulnerabilities, and mitigation strategies. In addition, this data underscores the importance of a comprehensive and well-rounded education program like PASSA that can empower communities to reduce their risks and vulnerabilities proactively.

The survey results reveal the proportions of respondents who received additional training from PASSA, with the highest proportion being leadership skills (45%). This indicates that respondents are interested in enhancing their leadership abilities to facilitate positive change within their community through the PASSA program. This may include conflict resolution, communication, and strategic planning skills. In addition, 30% of the respondents received training on report writing skills, demonstrating their interest in improving their ability to document and communicate their community's progress and achievements. Finally, 15% of respondents received training in management skills, indicating their interest in developing their abilities to oversee and manage projects effectively. The lowest proportion of respondents who received additional training from PASSA was on project proposal writing skills (10%). This suggests that there may be a need for more emphasis on training in this area to support communities in effectively securing funding and resources for their initiatives.

Overall, the data highlights the programs offered through PASSA to help individuals acquire various knowledge and skillsets that are imperative in managing development projects effectively. It emphasizes the importance of a well-rounded education program to provide communities with the diverse skill sets required to implement sustainable development projects.

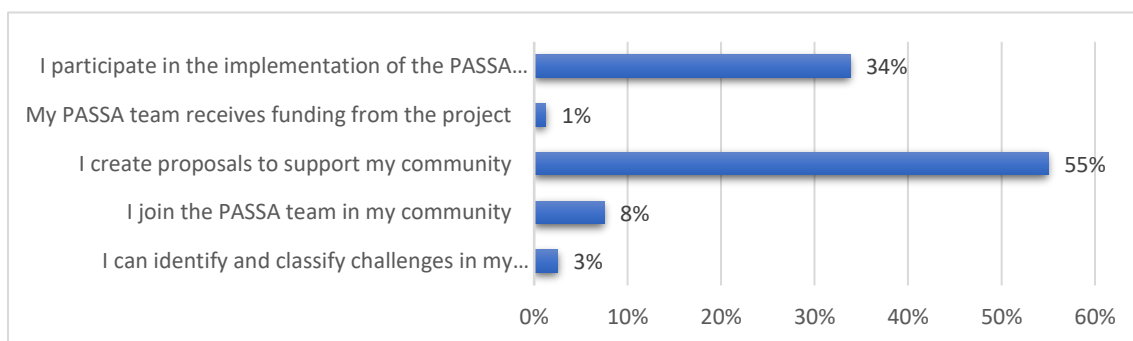


Figure 18. List of activities that PASSA training participants implemented after the training course was received.

The data illustrates the proportions of respondents who apply their training from PASSA in different ways (Figure 18). Of the options presented, the highest proportion (55%) is respondents who create

proposals to support their community. This indicates that a substantial number of participants who underwent PASSA training have developed relevant project proposals that can address community challenges and have a positive impact. Another notable proportion is those implementing the PASSA action plan (34%). This indicates that these respondents are applying the skills and knowledge obtained from the training to engage in community-focused activities, playing an active role in the overall project implementation.

In contrast, the lowest proportion (3%) is respondents who could identify and classify challenges in their community. This suggests that maybe participants require additional training in identifying and understanding their community's needs, which could be necessary for developing well-informed proposals that can lead to successful implementation.

Only 1% of respondents reported that their PASSA team received funding from the project. This may indicate that external funding opportunities may be more challenging to secure or access than anticipated, or participants may require additional training to maximize their chances of receiving external funding, potentially contributing to greater sustainability of their community intervention strategies.

Referring to the FGD, most respondents reported that since the implementation of PASSA training in the target communities, they had witnessed several positive changes that have improved our living conditions. The training has taught us how to create proposals that benefit our community and empowered us to lead the development process. They have formed committees that discuss community needs, and we develop recommendations to request support from DPA and government agencies. By creating proposals that address our community's most pressing needs, they have secured resources that have helped us improve our quality of life.

Another way that PASSA training has positively impacted our community is through implementing the PASSA action plan. With the project staff's guidance, we have identified and prioritised our community's most pressing needs, such as improving access to clean water and increasing food security. Project participants have created an action plan outlining the steps to address these needs, and we have begun implementing the plan. Through this process, we have seen improvements in our daily lives, including access to clean water and food security.

One of the most significant benefits of applying the techniques we learned in PASSA training is our ability to identify and classify the challenges we face in our community. For example, through the risk mapping exercise, we have identified potential hazards and vulnerabilities that we may face, such as flooding and drought. By identifying these challenges, they have developed strategies to mitigate their impacts and prepare themselves to respond to emergencies. The data indicate that PASSA training on proposal development is highly effective in equipping participants with the skills needed to develop successful community-focused projects. However, the results also imply that the program could benefit from increased training in identifying and classifying community challenges, possibly helping participants to create more focused and impactful proposals.

Furthermore, the top two proportions of training materials received are for the construction of toilets, with 21% of respondents receiving materials for this purpose and gaining techniques for building and repairing toilets, with 61.3% of respondents receiving these training materials. Notably, the proportion of respondents who received training materials for building and renovating houses is

relatively low, with only 8.1% of respondents receiving these materials. Similarly, the proportion of respondents who received a 2,000-liter water storage tank is also common, with only 9.7% of respondents receiving this type of training material. Most respondents received training materials on improving toilet facilities, indicating a significant need for better sanitation and hygiene practices in the surveyed households.

According to respondents who are a part of PASSA activities, 97% believe PASSA is beneficial.

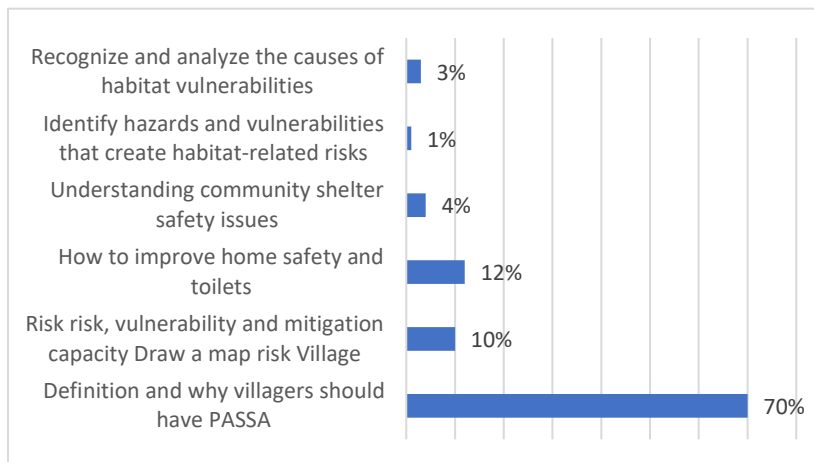


Figure 19. Reasons that PASSA is helpful.

As per the responses received in the household survey, the proportion of respondents who perceive the advantages of PASSA training to project beneficiaries is the highest for those who understand the definition and the importance of the training for the villagers (70%). The second-highest proportion of respondents believes that the training helps identify risks, vulnerabilities, and mitigation capacity, which are essential for mitigating risks through drawing a map of the village (10%).

However, a significantly lower proportion of respondents consider the other aspects of the training beneficial to the project beneficiaries, including improving home safety and toilets (12%), understanding community shelter safety issues (4%), recognizing and analyzing causes of habitat vulnerabilities (3%), and identifying hazards and vulnerabilities that create habitat-related risks (1%).

The findings indicate that the project beneficiaries perceive the most significant advantages of the PASSA training in understanding the concept and purpose of the training and in being able to identify and mitigate risks with the help of a risk map. Therefore, more focus should be given to these aspects of training to ensure maximum benefits for the project beneficiaries.

According to the household survey, based on the project participants' responses, only 11% have been involved in a Village Disaster Management Plan or Village Action Plan (DRR-CAP). Most respondents (71%) reported that they do not know about the plan or have not been involved. In addition, 19% of the respondents stated that they had not been involved in any plan.

This data implies that there could be a lack of awareness and understanding about the importance of disaster risk reduction and management strategies among the project participants. It further

suggests that there is a need for more efforts to educate and inform the community about disaster management. The low percentage of involvement also highlights the need to promote community participation in disaster planning and response efforts. By involving people in these initiatives, communities can become more resilient to the impacts of disasters, thereby reducing the potential loss of life and property.

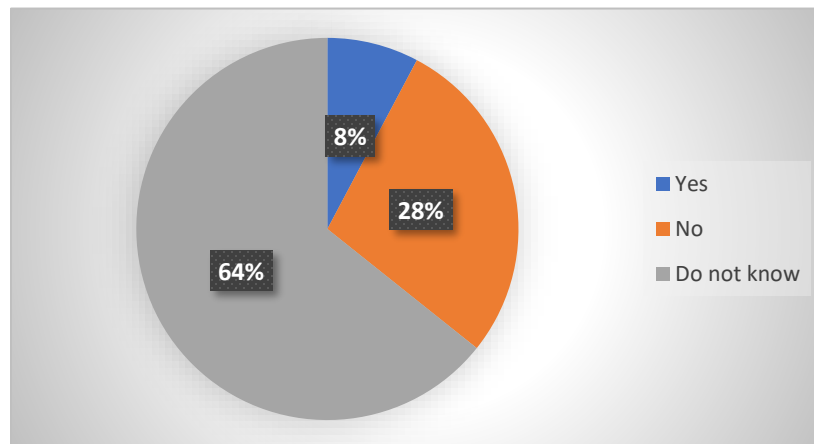


Figure 20. A proportion of project participant awareness that village disaster management activities were integrated into VDP.

According to Figure 20, the household survey result, only 8% of the respondents knew that the Village Disaster Management Team incorporated disaster management activities into the Village Development Plan for the following year. This suggests a lack of awareness among the respondents about integrating disaster management strategies into the development plan. Furthermore, a significant portion of the respondents (64%) reported not knowing about incorporating disaster management activities. In comparison, 28% of the respondents were not aware of it. This further highlights the need for more efforts to enhance community awareness about disaster management strategies and their integration into development plans.

Incorporating disaster management activities into development plans can help ensure that disaster risk reduction and management efforts are integrated into broader development goals. This can further enable communities to develop more sustainably and resiliently, preventing the loss of life and property in a disaster. Therefore, raising awareness and involving the community in such initiatives is essential to ensure their success.

Concerning the importance of VDMT, a desk review of relevant project documents emphasises that in the target communities, the project has established VDMT composed of community members trained to prepare for and respond to disasters. The VDMT members were selected based on their leadership skills, availability, and willingness to take on this crucial responsibility. They received disaster risk reduction and management training, including identifying and assessing hazards, developing contingency plans, and responding to disasters. Moreover, the VDMT serves as the first line of response during emergencies, such as floods and droughts. They monitor the weather and river levels, alert the community of potential risks, and evacuate people and livestock to safe locations.



Establishing VDMT has been crucial in strengthening the community's resilience to disasters. By having a dedicated team of trained individuals, the community can quickly respond to emergencies and minimize the impact of disasters. The VDMT also connects the community and external organizations, such as the government and NGOs, to ensure a coordinated response to disasters. Therefore, VDMT is a vital component of the project's disaster risk reduction strategy and has contributed to the positive changes in the community's ability to manage and respond to disasters.

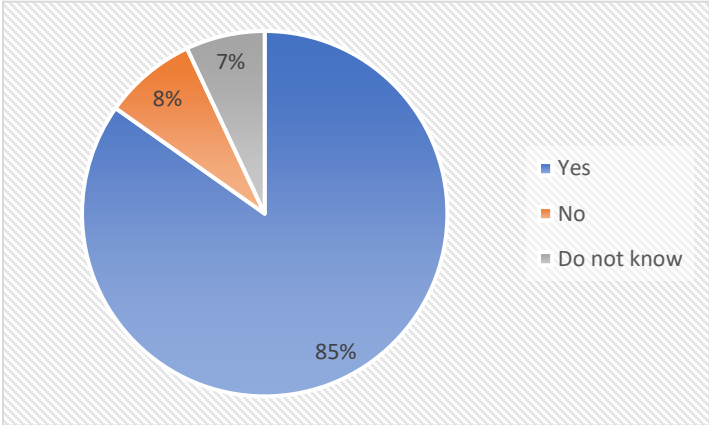


Figure 21. A proportion of project participants faced flood, drought, and pests.

According to the household survey (Figure 21), most respondents (85%) reported that some of their affluent families had experienced drought, floods or pests in the last three years. This suggests that such disasters are common occurrences in the locality and may impact the well-being and livelihoods of local communities. On the other hand, a small proportion of respondents (8%) reported no such experiences, indicating that they may belong to areas not affected by these natural disasters in the past few years. However, 7% of the respondents did not know or were unsure about such occurrences, highlighting the need for more awareness-raising efforts regarding disaster management and mitigation measures in the community.

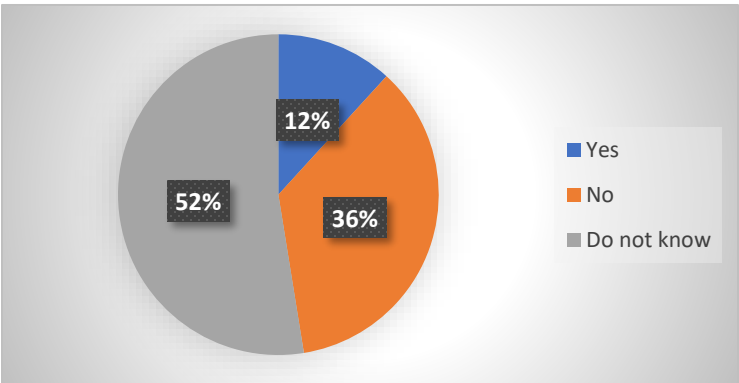


Figure 22. The proportion of project participants who have attended resilient agricultural techniques

Frequent occurrences of drought, floods or pests can have severe implications for agricultural production, livestock rearing, and other significant economic activities in the area. It can also impact the health and well-being of the community, leading to food insecurity, loss of property, and even loss of life in severe cases. Therefore, there is a pressing need to adopt appropriate measures to mitigate

the impacts of these disasters and build community resilience, such as developing early warning systems, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and enhancing community-based disaster preparedness measures.

The data shows the proportion of responses to a household survey regarding the climate resilience agriculture training technique (Figure 22). According to the results, only 12% of respondents answered "Yes" when asked if they participated in this type of training. On the other hand, 36% of respondents answered "No," indicating that they did not participate in the activity. More than half of the respondents, precisely 53%, responded, "Do not know," which could mean they are either unsure if they participated or unfamiliar with the training.

Table 13, the household survey data, presents the proportion of respondents participating in various climate resilience agriculture training techniques. The top two methods that generated the highest participation rates were organic cultivation and land preparation, with a proportion of 29.1%. This suggests that many households have applied these techniques to improve their agricultural productivity while adapting to the changing climate. Meanwhile, compost-making had a participation rate of 25.3%, indicating that many respondents recognize the benefits of organic material and composting in increasing soil fertility and improving yields.

Table 13. List of climate resilience agriculture training techniques received from the project.

No	Training technique learned	Per cent
1	Organic cultivation	29.1%
2	Land preparation	29.1%
3	Compost making	25.3%
4	Selection and use of climate change-resistant varieties	7.6%
5	Keeping rice and cassava moist, using plastic on all sub-vegetables, arranging vegetable gardens, pest control	2.5%
6	Water management	2.5%
7	Drip irrigation	2.5%
8	Integrated Farming System	1.3%

On the other hand, the lowest proportion of participation was only 1.3%, which belongs to the integrated farming system. This technique typically involves a more complex combination of farming practices, such as integrating crops, livestock, and fish farming. However, only a few households have applied this approach to increase their resilience to climate change. Furthermore, techniques such as using climate change-resistant varieties, water management, and drip irrigation have witnessed low participation rates, with only 7.6%, 2.5%, and 2.5%, respectively. Finally, keeping rice and cassava moist, using plastic on all sub-vegetables, arranging vegetable gardens, and practising pest control obtained a participation rate of only 2.5%, indicating that not many respondents have embraced this technique.

Most respondents stated that the climate resilience agriculture training provided by the project in the target communities has greatly benefited the farmers. Through the training, farmers have learned about organic cultivation techniques, which help them to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, leading to better health and environmental outcomes. Moreover, they learned about the importance of land preparation to ensure the soil is well-prepared for planting. This has led to increased yields and better crop quality.

*"Thanks to the climate resilience agriculture training we received from the project, we have learned new techniques to prepare our land and make compost that helps us to grow healthy crops. We are now using organic cultivation practices and selecting climate change-resistant varieties that have increased our crop yields and improved our income." FGD with a female respondent in Sra'Aem Village.*

In addition, farmers have been trained in compost making, which has been a significant improvement in soil fertility. They have learned the proper techniques for making compost using locally available materials such as crop residues and animal manure. This has helped farmers to produce organic fertilizers that improve soil health and productivity. Furthermore, they have learned about the selection and use of climate change-resistant varieties that can tolerate various stresses such as drought, flooding, and pests. Hence, the climate resilience agriculture training provided by the project has helped farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices that are more resilient to climate change. By reducing the reliance on chemical inputs and improving soil fertility, farmers can produce healthier crops and better manage the impacts of climate change. Through the training, farmers have better understood the importance of sustainable agriculture and the need to adapt to changing climate conditions.

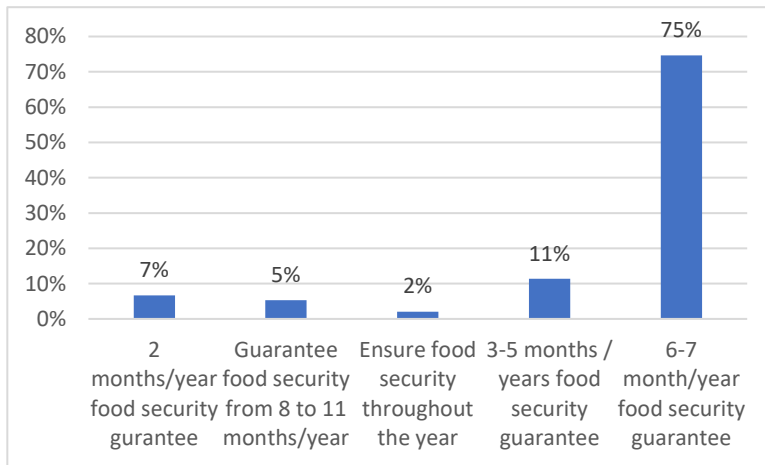


Figure 23. The proportion of food security guarantee.

Figure 23 illustrates the household survey data providing valuable insights into the proportion of respondents who could guarantee food security after receiving climate resilience agriculture training techniques. Among the respondents, 75% reported being able to secure their food supply for 6-7 months per year, which is the highest proportion among all categories. This is a significant improvement in food security compared to their previous situation, wherein they were likely only able to secure food for a shorter period. This increase in food security can be attributed to their training in climate resilience agriculture techniques which made their crops and livestock more resilient to the changing climate.

Moreover, 11% of respondents reported being able to guarantee their food security for 3-5 months per year, showing that their training has helped them better adapt to the changing climate conditions. However, this category still indicates room for improvement, and households in this group likely

require further training and support to guarantee their food security for extended periods. In contrast, only 2% of respondents reported being able to ensure year-round food security, which is the lowest proportion among all categories. This suggests that while climate resilience agriculture techniques have been helpful, further improvements are required to enable households to guarantee year-round food security. This result could be due to constrained access to resources, inadequate implementation of the techniques, or a lack of awareness and knowledge around climate resilience agriculture.

In conclusion, the data shows that the proportion of respondents able to guarantee their food security has increased after receiving climate resilience agriculture training techniques. Nonetheless, further improvements are required to enable households to provide year-round food security to all household members. It is, therefore, essential to implement strategies and programs that would aid in adopting and enforcing climate resilience agriculture techniques to ensure food security for households in vulnerable communities.

## **5.5. Natural Resource Management**

Natural resource management is an essential aspect of sustainable development, and the project has introduced the concept of community-protected areas and community forests in the target communities. Community-protected areas are designated areas within the community identified as necessary for their biodiversity and ecological values. The project has trained community members on the importance of conserving these areas and provided technical support to establish management plans. Establishing community-protected areas has helped conserve critical ecological habitats, which have provided ecosystem services to the communities.

The community forest is another natural resource management approach that the project has introduced in the target communities. Community forests are designated areas of forest that are owned and managed by the community. The project has provided training to community members on the importance of sustainable forest management practices, such as selective logging and reforestation. The establishment of community forests has not only helped to conserve forest resources. However, it has also provided additional livelihood opportunities for community members through the sustainable use of forest products.

Introducing community-protected areas and forests has helped promote the sustainable use of natural resources in the target communities. In addition, the project has helped to build the capacity of the community in natural resource management, which has led to the conservation of critical ecological habitats and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods. The community's involvement in natural resource management has also increased their sense of ownership and responsibility for the resources, which is crucial for the long-term sustainability of these initiatives.

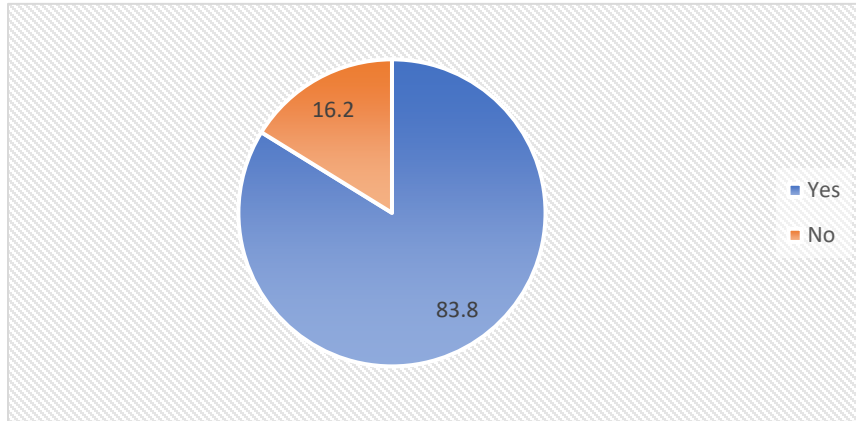


Figure 24. A proportion of respondents had never heard about community-protected areas

According to the household survey results in Figure 24, 83.8% of the respondents answered "Yes" when asked if they had ever heard about community-protected areas. This indicates a relatively high awareness among the surveyed population regarding the concept and existence of community-protected areas. However, 16.2% of the respondents answered "No," indicating that most of the population is unaware of community-protected areas. This highlights the need for further education and awareness-raising efforts to promote the importance of protecting and preserving natural habitats and ecosystems through community involvement and management. It is worth noting that the proportion of respondents who have heard about community-protected areas may vary depending on the demographics and location of the surveyed population. Therefore, more targeted surveys and outreach efforts may be necessary to ensure a more comprehensive understanding of the awareness and knowledge of community-protected areas among different groups and regions.

According to the household survey, a majority of 63.4% of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement that community-protected areas positively impact livelihood and socioeconomic status. This suggests a widespread belief among the surveyed population that community-protected sites can provide multiple benefits, including improving local livelihoods, generating income, and enhancing community well-being. This substantial agreement may be rooted in the fact that community-protected areas are often managed by local communities that rely on natural resources for their subsistence and income. Such measurements can provide opportunities for ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, and fishery practices, all of which can contribute to the local economy and create employment opportunities.

Additionally, 27.1% of the respondents agreed with the statement, indicating that they acknowledged the positive impacts of community-protected areas but perhaps did not view them as crucial for livelihoods and socioeconomic. 8.4% of the respondents were neutral, and 1.1% strongly disagreed, suggesting a lower level of awareness or scepticism about the benefits of community-protected areas on livelihood and socioeconomic. It is important to note that the perception of the importance of the community-protected regions on livelihood and socioeconomic may vary depending on the specific community, geographical location, and socioeconomic factors. Therefore, it may be necessary to tailor outreach and education efforts to suit different communities' particular needs and concerns.

Nonetheless, the survey results indicate a generally positive perception of community-protected areas and their potential to benefit local economies and livelihoods.

According to the household survey, an overwhelming majority of 92.5% of the respondents believed that community-protected areas could reduce illegal logging. This suggests a widespread belief among the surveyed population that community-protected regions can play a crucial role in preventing and addressing illegal logging, a significant threat to forest ecosystems.

This substantial agreement may be rooted in the fact that local communities typically manage community-protected areas with a vested interest in protecting natural resources from exploitation and degradation. By engaging in sustainable forest management practices and enforcing rules and regulations, community-protected areas can prevent illegal logging, often in areas with weak governance, poor law enforcement, and low levels of community engagement. Additionally, community-protected sites can provide alternative livelihood opportunities for local communities, reducing their dependence on illegal logging and other environmentally harmful activities. This can include ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, and NTFP harvesting.

Only 7.5% of the respondents believed that community-protected areas could not reduce illegal logging. This minority viewpoint may be due to a lack of awareness or mistrust in the effectiveness of community-based forest management.

It is important to note that reducing illegal logging requires a multi-faceted approach that involves strengthening governance, law enforcement, and community participation, among other strategies. Nonetheless, the survey results indicate a strong belief among the surveyed population that community-protected areas can be an integral part of efforts to combat illegal logging and promote sustainable forest management.

The bar graph in Figure 25 illustrates the percentage of materials needed for forest patrolling as identified by respondents in a household survey. The survey included a range of materials, from advanced technology to necessities for forest patrolling.

First aid kits and flashlights are at the top of the graph, which were perceived as crucial tools for forest patrolling. The chart shows that 17.4% of respondents considered first-aid kits essential, while 19.5% identified flashlights as necessary. Both tools help ensure preparedness for emergencies and work in low-light conditions that may be encountered during forest patrolling. Walkie-talkies and tents are placed in the middle of the graph with 16.1% and 14.7%, respectively. Walkie-talkies were identified as helpful communication technology, while tents were considered an essential shelter option for extended patrolling in rural areas. GPS is at the bottom of the graph, with only 0.7% of respondents identifying it as crucial. This may be due to a perceived lack of need for navigational tools or a preference for paper maps which are simpler to use and less dependent on a power source.

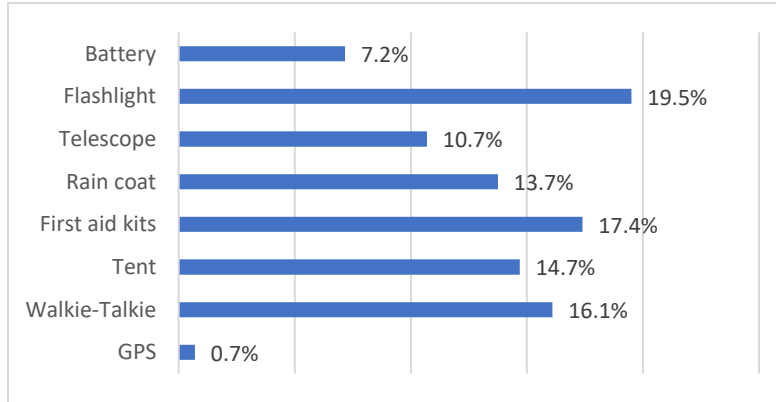


Figure 25. Materials needed for forest patrolling.

In conclusion, the graph demonstrates that different materials and equipment are necessary to conduct effective and safe forest patrolling activities. The precise requirements of such activities will vary. They can depend on the needs of the patroller or the circumstances in which they work.

## 5.6. Gender equality and domestic violence prevention

One of the project components was to promote gender equality and reduce/stop domestic violence in the target communities, particularly among married couples. The project has established a gender-focal person in the target communities to address gender-based violence and promote gender equality. The gender focal person is responsible for coordinating with community members to identify and respond to domestic violence cases and conducting training and awareness-raising activities on gender equality. Through these efforts, the project aims to reduce the prevalence of gender-based violence and promote women's empowerment in the target communities.

Domestic violence is a severe issue in the target communities, and the project has taken steps to address this problem. The gender-focal person works closely with community members to identify domestic violence cases and provide support and counselling to victims. In addition, the project conducts community-wide awareness-raising activities on the negative impacts of domestic violence and the importance of gender equality. Through these efforts, the project aims to create a culture of non-violence and respect for women in the target communities.

The gender-focal person and the project's efforts to address domestic violence have positively impacted the target communities. Women in these communities are more aware of their rights and are empowered to speak against gender-based violence. In addition, community members are more aware of the negative impacts of domestic violence on families and communities. As a result, they are more likely to intervene and support victims. The project contributes to a more just and equitable society in the target communities through these efforts.

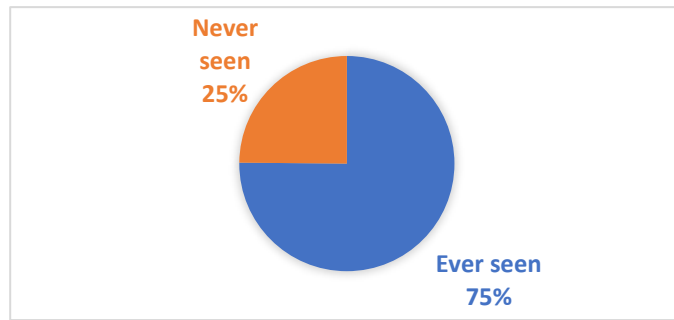


Figure 26. The proportion of respondents has ever seen domestic violence in their communities.

The data presented in this graph (Figure 26) represents the results of a household survey in which respondents were asked whether they had ever seen domestic violence. The chart shows that the majority of those surveyed, 75.1%, had witnessed domestic violence at some point. The remaining 24.9% of respondents reported never having seen domestic violence. This is a significant finding as it highlights the pervasive nature of domestic violence and the fact that it is often witnessed by individuals within a community. In addition, the high percentage of respondents who had seen domestic violence suggests that this is not an isolated issue and regularly affects a significant proportion of society.

It is important to note that witnessing domestic violence can profoundly impact individuals, even if they are not directly involved. It can cause psychological trauma, affect mental health, and perpetuate the cycle of violence. The graph, therefore, underscores the importance of domestic violence prevention and support services and the need for communities to come together to create safe spaces and support networks for survivors. By recognizing the scale of the issue and working to address it, we can create a society where everyone can feel safe and secure in their homes and relationships.

The data from a survey revealed that participants were asked if they had ever reported cases of violence. The graph shows that 31% of respondents reported never having reported violence cases. While 30% of the respondents had reported cases of violence sometimes, indicating some degree of participation in reporting instances of violence. The most significant proportion, 39% of respondents, reported violence cases regularly.

This data highlights the complexity of reporting violence. While a large proportion of respondents reported being active in writing violence, a significant number of individuals still do not report violence. This may be due to a lack of understanding of the reporting process, fear of the consequences or stigma attached to reporting violence. The respondents who reported never having reported violence may require further information about available resources or need support and guidance to navigate the reporting process.

The respondents reporting violence regularly are a positive indication of a population who feel empowered and supported to report violence. This data is encouraging as it suggests that there is a community of people who are actively working to combat violence. The importance of reporting violence cannot be overstated. Reporting violence can help survivors receive the support and resources they need, prevent further violence and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions. It is critical to provide education and support to individuals who have not yet reported violence so they



can be empowered to do so. Working together as a community can create a safe and supportive society for violence victims.

The result indicates that 70% of respondents confirm that their community has a gender-focal person. In comparison, 30% of respondents indicate that their community does not have such a person. This highlights the existence of efforts to address gender issues in the community with the appointment of a gender-focal person but also suggests that there may still be a significant proportion of communities that have yet to establish such a role.

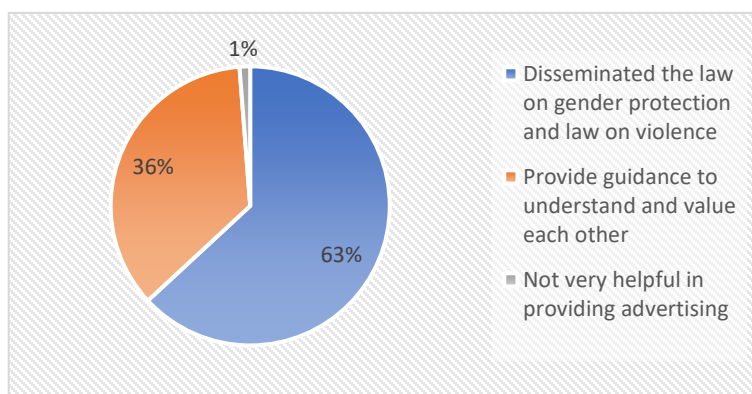


Figure 27. Gender Focal Persons contributed to reduced domestic violence in the target communities.

The graph in Figure 27 represents the role of a gender-focal person in reducing domestic violence based on the responses of participants in a household survey. The data shows that the majority of respondents, accounting for 63%, acknowledged the effectiveness of a gender-focal person in disseminating laws on gender protection and violence. This indicates that the gender-focal person's knowledge and expertise in such legal matters are vital in addressing domestic violence through informed advocacy.

Furthermore, the data also indicates that the gender-focal person's role in guiding to understand and value each other is appreciated by 36% of the respondents. This suggests that the gender-focal person's efforts to promote mutual respect and understanding between individuals can positively reduce domestic violence incidents. However, the data also indicates that a tiny percentage, only 1% of the respondents, found that the gender-focal person was not very helpful in providing advertising. This may signify those specific aspects of the gender-focal person's role, such as awareness-raising, may require improvement or greater emphasis in tackling domestic violence. To sum up, the data highlights the significant role that gender-focal persons can play in reducing domestic violence through their knowledge, guidance, and advocacy efforts.

When asked, 'What is the positive impact of the gender focal person in the target communities?', most respondents stated that the appointment of a gender focal person in the target communities had had a significant positive impact on gender protection and violence issues. The gender-focal person has been instrumental in disseminating laws on gender protection and violence to the community members. As a result, community members, especially women, have better understood their rights and the laws that protect them. This knowledge has empowered them to speak out against gender-based violence and discrimination, and they are now more likely to report such incidents to the authorities.

Not-to-mention, the gender-focal person has also been actively involved in providing guidance and training to community members to understand and value each other regardless of gender. The focal person has worked to change traditional gender roles and stereotypes and promote gender equality. As a result, more women are now participating in decision-making processes and taking up leadership roles in the community. Women's empowerment is seen as a vital factor in the community's overall development, and the gender-focal person has played a crucial role in ensuring that women's voices are heard.

*"The gender training has helped us recognise women's valuable contributions in our community. We now understand that women are responsible for household chores and play an important role in agriculture and decision-making. This has led to greater participation of women in our cooperative and increased their access to resources and opportunities."*—a discussion with a female respondent in Chhaeb Kuert Village.

Likewise, the gender-focal person has also been a valuable resource for victims of domestic violence. They have provided counselling and support to women who have experienced domestic violence and have helped them to access legal assistance and other support services. In addition, the focal person has also worked to raise awareness of domestic violence in the community and encouraged community members to speak out against it. As a result, victims of domestic violence are now more likely to seek help and report incidents to the authorities. As a result, there has been a significant reduction in domestic violence cases in the target communities.

Table 14 shows the proportion of respondents who received various topics related to gender training from the project. According to the data, the highest proportion of respondents who received training was on women's rights, representing 31.3% of the total. This result indicates the importance of raising awareness on women's rights issues, such as access to education, health care services, and financial opportunities, to empower women and reduce gender inequalities.

*"The gender training was an eye-opener for me. It made me realize that domestic violence is a serious issue that affects many women in our community. It gave me the courage to speak out against violence and encourage others to do the same. As a result, more women are reporting violence cases and seeking help from the authorities. The training has empowered us to take action to stop domestic violence and to create a safer community for women and girls."* A discussion with a female respondent in Chhaeb Kuert Village.

The second highest proportion of respondents who received training, at 18.5%, was in conflict resolution. This highlights the significance of resolving conflict and disputes in a non-violent manner to promote peace and security within communities. Finally, within the top five results, the proportion of respondents who received training on women's leadership and the role of gender-focal person was the same at 15.1%. This indicates an equal priority placed on providing training that promotes gender-focused leadership and raises awareness about gender-focal persons' roles in addressing gender-based violence.

Table 14. List of gender training topics received by the project participants.

No.	Training Topics	Per cent
1	Gender equality and equity	14.2%
2	Women leadership	15.1%
3	Women's rights	31.3%
4	Role of the gender-focal person	15.1%
5	Conflict resolution	18.5%
6	Gender road map	4.3%
7	Advocacy	1.6%

However, the training topic with the lowest proportion of respondents is advocacy, with only 1.6% of the total. This shows that the number of respondents who received training on this aspect is relatively small, suggesting a need to increase awareness of the significance of advocacy and its potential impact on promoting gender equality and reducing gender-based discrimination. The data in the table indicates that the project has successfully provided gender-focused training to respondents on various important topics. However, the results suggest that certain areas require greater attention and exercise.

*"Before the gender training, I didn't know domestic violence was a crime. But now, I understand that violence against women is unacceptable, and we need to take action to stop it. The training helped me to recognize signs of violence and how to intervene to prevent it. As a result, I have seen a reduction in domestic violence cases in our community."* FGD with a male respondent in Chhaeb Lech Village.

The table provides a breakdown of the proportion of respondents who were supported with various materials after receiving training through the project (as shown in Table 15). According to the data, the highest % of respondents who received support were for chicks, representing 51.6%. This result indicates the importance of supporting poultry farming as a means of promoting food security and improving the livelihoods of households. The support offered in this case could include the provision of chicks, feed, and other inputs necessary for successful chicken rearing.

The second highest proportion of respondents who received support, at 22.3%, was for vegetable seeds. This result indicates the importance of promoting agriculture and improving food security by providing households with the necessary materials to grow their vegetables. This support could include the provision of seeds, tools, and training on vegetable growing techniques.

Table 15. List of inputs supported after receiving gender training

No.	List of support received	Per cent
1	Vegetable seed	22.3%
2	Chick	51.6%
3	Chicken raising inputs	12.7%
4	Vegetable growing inputs	12.1%
5	Financial support	1.3%

Among the top five items, the two materials with the lowest proportion of support were financial support at 1.3% and vegetable growing inputs at 12.1%. The standard balance of financial support

suggests that few respondents received financial assistance, which could mean a need to increase support for income-generating activities that will strengthen households' finances. The low proportion of vegetable-growing inputs support indicates that a few respondents received materials such as fertilizers, pesticides, and other information to help them grow vegetables. This could mean a gap in supporting vegetable farmers who need the necessary inputs to improve their yields.

After receiving gender training, the project provided various inputs to the target communities to support their agricultural activities. One of the inputs provided was vegetable seeds. Project participants received different vegetable seeds, enabling them to diversify their crops and increase their income. Furthermore, by having a more comprehensive range of crops, they can sell their produce in the market at different times of the year, thereby increasing their profits. Another input provided after the gender training was a chick, which helped to promote poultry raising as a sustainable source of income. Project participants were given chicks to increase, which allowed them to have a consistent source of protein for their families and sell the surplus for extra income. This not only improves food security but also helps build a more sustainable livelihood.

In addition, the project also provided chicken-raising inputs, which helped to promote poultry raising further. With the input support, project participants can raise more chickens and increase their production capacity, enabling them to sell more chickens in the market. These inputs support also helps project participants to improve their poultry-raising techniques and better manage their resources, leading to more sustainable and profitable practices. Therefore, the input support provided after the gender training helps project participants to improve their agricultural practices and promote sustainable livelihoods.

The data in the table suggests that the project has successfully supported households in various ways, particularly in improving food security and livelihoods. However, the results also highlight the need for more excellent provision of financial support and vegetable-growing inputs, which would significantly impact the livelihoods of respondents. The data suggests that the project could benefit from further investment in these areas to maximize the impact of the support.

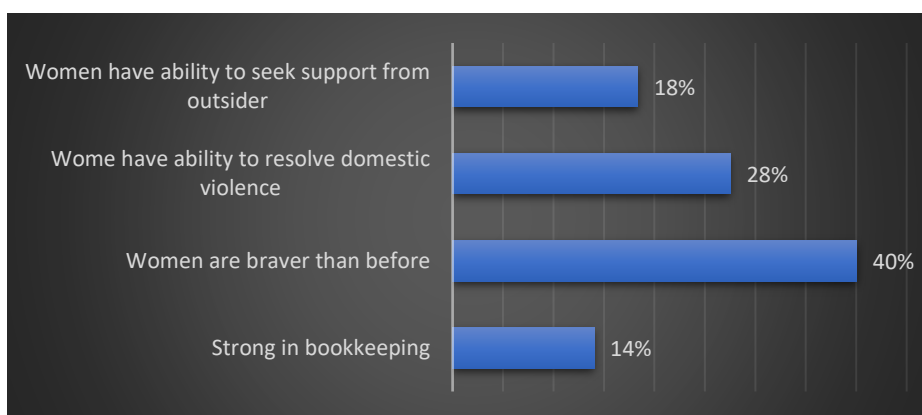


Figure 28. Changed in women's leadership in the target communities.

Figure 28 shows the proportion of respondents who reported changes in women's leadership within their households after participating in the project. According to the data, the highest proportion of respondents who reported change was "women are braver than before", representing 40% of the total. This result indicates that the project has successfully empowered women to take on more

leadership roles within their households, including decision-making and taking on greater responsibilities.

The second highest proportion of respondents who reported change, at 28%, was for "women can resolve domestic violence". This result indicates the project's success in raising awareness and supporting domestic violence survivors. Furthermore, it suggests that the project has empowered women to address and resolve violent incidents within their households, a crucial step towards creating safe and healthy environments for women and their families.

Among the four categories, the lowest proportion of change reported, at 14%, was for "strong in bookkeeping". This result suggests that the project may need to offer more targeted support for women to improve their financial management skills, including training in bookkeeping and other financial management techniques. It is essential to ensure that women have the necessary skills and knowledge to manage household finances, as this can significantly impact household well-being and women's empowerment.

The data in the table suggests that the project has successfully empowered women and promoted women's leadership within households. In addition, the results indicate that the project has encouraged women to take on greater responsibilities and address issues such as domestic violence. However, the data also suggests that there is still room for improvement in supporting women's financial management skills. The project could benefit from offering more targeted support to empower women to take control of their household finances and improve their overall well-being.

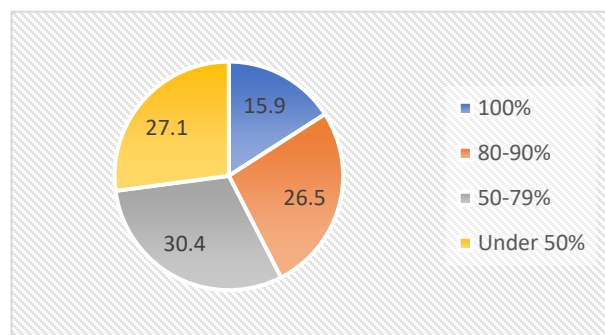


Figure 29. The proportion of women participation in the decision-making process.

Figure 29 shows the proportion of respondents who reported the extent of women's participation in the decision-making process within their households following their involvement in the project. According to the data, the highest proportion of respondents reported full participation of women in decision-making, representing 100% of the total. This positive result suggests that the project has promoted an environment where women's opinions and input are valued, and decisions are made through inclusive processes.

The second-highest proportion of respondents who reported women's participation in decision-making was 80-90%, representing 26.5%. This means that women have played a significant role in the decision-making process in these households, even if not necessarily in all cases. This level of participation suggests that the project has been somewhat successful in promoting women's empowerment and increasing their role in household decision-making processes. However, there is room for improvement to include all women fully. Among the four categories, the lowest proportion of women's participation in decision-making was under 50%, representing 27.1%. This result

suggests that there are still households where women are not fully involved in decision-making. It is important to address this issue, as it can have significant implications for the well-being of women and their families.

In conclusion, the data in the table shows that the project has successfully promoted women's participation in decision-making processes within households, with full participation reported by 100% of the respondents. However, there is still a significant proportion of households where women's participation in decision-making is limited, indicating the need for continued efforts towards promoting women's empowerment and gender equality. Ensuring women have a say in household decisions is crucial in boosting their overall well-being and charge. In addition, it can positively impact their families and communities.

## 6. Challenges

One of the key challenges faced by the project was the heavy workload of the project field staff. With only two staff members overseeing 17 villages, ensuring the project was implemented effectively in all target communities was daunting. This meant that the field staff had to cover a large geographical area, which was often challenging, especially during the rainy season when the roads were in poor condition. The workload of the project staff had a significant impact on the quality of the project implementation. With limited human resources, it was difficult for the team to provide each village with the required support and attention. This often resulted in delays in the delivery of inputs, limited capacity-building activities and reduced monitoring and evaluation efforts. In addition, the workload of the field staff also affected their ability to build strong relationships with community members. The field staff had to cover a large area, so they could not spend enough time in each community to build trust and establish effective communication channels. This often led to misunderstandings and miscommunication between the project staff and the community members, which harmed the project's implementation.

The security of field staff, especially women staff, when travelling to project sites is a significant challenge for the project. The project area is located in a remote and underdeveloped region with poor infrastructure, making it difficult and unsafe for the field staff to travel to the project sites. The field sites are often far from the town, and the roads leading to these sites are often rough and poorly maintained, making travel dangerous and difficult. Furthermore, the security risks are particularly concerning for female staff members, who may face additional risks due to gender. Women may be targeted for harassment or violence, making it even more essential to ensure their safety when travelling to project sites. The lack of proper security measures puts the safety of the field staff at risk.

The lack of security can also negatively impact the project's effectiveness. For example, suppose staff members feel unsafe when travelling to project sites. In that case, they may be less likely to visit these sites or spend less time at them, reducing their ability to implement the project's activities effectively. This can result in delays or incomplete implementation of the project's activities, leading to a lower impact on the target communities.

A significant limitation of the project was the low participation rate in the household survey and group discussion, where only 10% of the sample size participated. As a result, the project may not have received sufficient feedback from the communities to address their specific needs adequately. Additionally, those who did not participate in these activities may not have received input support

from the project. This could have led to a lack of equity and fairness in the project outcomes. A few beneficiaries did not receive the same level of input compared to other beneficiaries, which created an imbalance in the benefits received by the community. This unequal distribution may have been due to logistical difficulties, limited resources, or a lack of proper monitoring and evaluation of the distribution process. As a result, some households may not have been able to fully benefit from the project's interventions, which could have negatively impacted their livelihoods and overall perception of the project.

The unequal distribution of inputs could have also created social tensions and conflicts within the community. Those who received fewer inputs may have felt left out or disadvantaged. In contrast, those who received more may have been perceived as receiving special treatment. This could have led to a breakdown in community cohesion and trust, which is essential for the success of any development project. The project team could have addressed this challenge by ensuring that inputs were distributed fairly and transparently and by providing clear information to the community on the criteria for distribution.

Furthermore, the unequal distribution of inputs may have affected the project's sustainability in the long term. For example, suppose some households did not receive enough support to improve their livelihoods. In that case, they may have been less likely to continue participating in project activities or adopt new practices. This could have reduced the project's overall impact and hindered its sustainability beyond the project period.

Limited source of irrigation systems or agriculture activities in the target communities. The project aimed to improve food security and income generation by promoting agricultural activities, but the limited access to irrigation systems hindered the success of the intervention. Without adequate irrigation systems, farmers in the target communities could not cultivate crops year-round and relied on rain-fed agriculture, which was highly susceptible to weather changes. This challenge significantly impacted the project's goal of increasing agricultural productivity and improving the livelihoods of the beneficiaries.

Limited budget to support forest patrolling activities in the target community-protected areas. With a limited budget, the project team may be unable to provide sufficient resources for forest patrolling activities, such as hiring additional staff, purchasing equipment, or providing training. This can result in inadequate forest patrolling and monitoring, increasing illegal activities such as logging, hunting, and encroachment. Additionally, a lack of funds may result in insufficient compensation for patrolling staff, making it difficult to recruit and retain qualified personnel. Another challenge is the lack of materials for forest patrolling activities. Without proper equipment, the patrolling team may be unable to effectively monitor the protected areas, leaving the forests vulnerable to illegal activities. Materials such as GPS devices, binoculars, and communication tools are essential for forest patrolling activities, and their absence can hinder the effectiveness of patrolling efforts. Furthermore, a lack of adequate equipment can put the safety of patrolling staff at risk, mainly when dealing with potential threats such as poachers or illegal loggers.

The chicken disease outbreak led to the death of most of the chickens in the target communities. This has significantly impacted the livelihoods of the local people, as chicken is an essential source of protein and income for them. In addition, poor hygiene practices, inadequate vaccination coverage, or contaminated feed may have caused the disease outbreak.

Another challenge facing the project is the destruction of crops by pests. This has significantly impacted food security and the livelihoods of the local people, especially farmers who rely on agriculture as their primary source of income. The pests may have been attracted to the crops due to poor soil quality, inadequate pest control measures, or other factors such as climate change.

Climate change is another major challenge facing the project. The target communities are experiencing increasingly frequent and severe droughts and floods, affecting their livelihoods and food security. The shortages have led to crop failures, water scarcity, and livestock deaths. At the same time, the floods have caused soil erosion, crop damage, and infrastructure destruction.

The project faces several challenges related to agriculture and livelihoods, including the outbreak of chicken disease, crop damage by pests, and the impacts of climate change. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive and integrated approach that includes conducting assessments, developing targeted interventions, and strengthening the capacity of local communities to manage these issues. By addressing these challenges, the project can help improve the resilience and livelihoods of the target communities and contribute to achieving the project's goals and objectives.

## **7. Conclusion**

### **7.1. Relevance**

The improved agricultural practices component of the project intervention aimed to increase income by adding value to agricultural products and markets. This was achieved through training in modern farming techniques and improved seeds and fertilizers. The project also helped farmers to access markets and create linkages with buyers. The relevance of this intervention can be seen in the project evaluation findings, which showed that the incomes of participating farmers had increased significantly. The project succeeded in adding value to agricultural products, and farmers could command higher prices in the market. The project also helped farmers create linkages with buyers, increasing their bargaining power and resulting in better product prices.

The project intervention aimed to improve food security through increased vegetable and livestock production. This was achieved through training on improved farming techniques and providing seeds, fertilizers, and livestock. The relevance of this intervention can be seen in the project evaluation findings, which showed that participating households had achieved food security. In addition, the project succeeded in increasing the production of vegetables and livestock, which resulted in increased food availability for participating families. The project also helped to diversify the food sources for participating households, which improved their nutritional status.

One of the project interventions was aimed at enhancing access to best practices in DRR and PASSA and increasing the ability and resources of participating communities to reduce the risks of natural disasters. This was achieved through the provision of training on disaster risk reduction and the establishment of community-based disaster preparedness plans. The relevance of this intervention can be seen in the project evaluation findings, which showed that participating communities had enhanced their ability to cope with natural disasters. In addition, the project successfully provided disaster risk reduction training and helped communities establish disaster preparedness plans. As a result, participating communities were better prepared to cope with natural disasters, and the impact of natural disasters on their livelihoods was reduced.



Improved natural resource management and secured forest and forestland for the sustainable use of resources to improve livelihoods. This was achieved by establishing community-based natural resource management plans, providing training on sustainable forest management, and establishing community forests and protected areas—the project evaluation findings showed that participating communities had improved their natural resource management practices. In addition, the project succeeded in providing training on sustainable forest management. It has helped communities to establish community forests and protected areas.

Natural resource management has been highly relevant in enhancing the conservation and management of community-protected areas and forests. The project's support for income generation through NTFPs harvesting has helped reduce the community's dependence on the forest and has contributed to its sustainable management. The project's forest patrolling activities have also helped prevent illegal logging and encroachment, conserving natural resources. In addition, the project's efforts in conducting awareness-raising activities on forest conservation and management have contributed to increased community participation in protection and sustainable management practices. As a result, participating communities could better manage their natural resources sustainably, and the resources were being used for livelihood improvement.

The project's interventions in promoting gender equality and addressing domestic violence have fostered social cohesion and contributed to women's empowerment. The project's focus on reducing domestic violence among married couples and creating awareness of gender and domestic violence has contributed to reducing gender-based violence cases in the target community. The project's support for gender-focal persons has also been relevant in promoting gender equality, as they have conducted awareness-raising activities on gender and domestic violence. The project's support for women's participation in decision-making processes and the provision of agricultural inputs have also contributed to the economic empowerment of women, which has positively impacted their households' livelihoods.

Given the high levels of poverty and malnutrition in the target areas, the project's emphasis on increased food security through vegetable and livestock production has been highly relevant. As a result, the project has improved access to nutritious food. However, it has also created sustainable sources of income for communities. In addition to economic and food security, the project has been highly relevant in enhancing access to best practices in PASSA facilities and DRR techniques. This has equipped communities with the necessary skills and resources to reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters and adapt to changing climate conditions.

Furthermore, the project's emphasis on natural resource management has been highly relevant, focusing on securing forest and forestland and sustainably using those resources to improve livelihoods. This has helped preserve the local environment and created new opportunities for economic development, such as through eco-tourism and sustainable forest management. Lastly, the project has been highly relevant in promoting gender equality and empowering women to participate fully and effectively in decision-making processes related to the economy, social development, and domestic violence. By providing women with leadership opportunities and training, the project has helped to challenge social norms and promote a more inclusive and equitable society.

In conclusion, the project intervention has been highly relevant in addressing the needs and priorities of the target communities, with a strong emphasis on improving economic security, food security, natural resource management, and gender equality. The project has enabled communities to build sustainable livelihoods and adapt to changing environmental conditions while promoting inclusive and equitable social development. The relevance of the project's activities is reflected in the tangible improvements in livelihoods, food security, and economic development, as well as the enhanced capacity of communities to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters and adapt to changing environmental conditions.

## **7.2. Effectiveness**

The project intervention aimed to improve the livelihoods of communities by addressing various socio-economic and environmental issues. The effectiveness of the intervention can be evaluated based on the outcomes achieved in five key areas: increased income, increased food security, enhanced access to best practices, natural resource management, and women's empowerment and domestic violence.

The first area of effectiveness is the increased income from improved agricultural practices to add value to farm products and markets. The intervention provided training and support to farmers to improve their agricultural practices, which resulted in increased productivity and improved quality of crops and livestock. The project also facilitated access to markets and value chains, allowing farmers to sell their products at higher prices. As a result, the communities' income increased, improving their economic status and reducing poverty. This outcome demonstrates the effectiveness of the project in achieving its objective of improving household financial security.

The second area of effectiveness is the increased food security from vegetable and livestock production. The intervention focused on enhancing the productivity of vegetable and livestock production to increase food availability for communities. By improving agricultural practices, the project was able to increase the yield of crops and livestock, resulting in increased food production. The intervention also facilitated access to markets and value chains, allowing farmers to sell their products at higher prices, generating income that can be used to purchase food. This outcome demonstrates the effectiveness of the project in addressing food security issues in the community.

The third area of effectiveness is the enhanced access to best practices in the PASSA facilities and DRR, which also increased the ability and resources to reduce natural disaster risks. The intervention provided training and support to communities to enhance their capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters. This includes training on DRR and PASSA and its facilities. By improving their knowledge and skills, communities could reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters, enhancing resilience and reducing risks. This outcome demonstrates the effectiveness of the project in addressing environmental and disaster-related issues in the community.

The fourth area of effectiveness is natural resource management, securing their forest and forestland, and sustainably using those resources to improve livelihoods. The intervention focused on promoting sustainable resource management practices in the community. This includes the establishment of community-protected areas and community forestry practices. In addition, the project provided training and support to communities on sustainable resource management

practices, including agroforestry, sustainable forest management, and community-based conservation. By implementing these practices, communities could sustainably use their natural resources, improving livelihoods and reducing environmental degradation. This outcome demonstrates the effectiveness of the project in promoting sustainable environmental management practices.

The fifth area of effectiveness is women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership and decision-making on the economy, social and development work, and domestic violence. The intervention focused on promoting gender equality in the community by providing training and support to women to enhance their knowledge and skills. This includes training in leadership, decision-making, and income-generating activities. By promoting women's participation in economic, social, and development work, the project enhanced their status and reduced gender-based inequalities. The project also supported addressing domestic violence, creating a safe environment for women in the community. This outcome demonstrates the effectiveness of the project in promoting gender equality and reducing gender-based violence in the community.

### Assessment of project desire outcomes

Table 16. The overall level of achievement of outcome and output indicators

VERIFIABLE OBJECTIVE INDICATOR (OVI)	PLANNED	ACTUAL	EXPLANATION
VOI1: 1,661 (1,048 females) AC and non-AC rice, cassava, and vegetable producer groups (PGs) members earned more income from the sale of agricultural products (surplus rice and cassava) from increased yields and capacity on value chains and market strategies.	1,661	1,809	Overachieved  The project participants, including AC and non-AC rice farmers, cassava growers, and vegetable producer group members, have successfully generated income primarily through selling agricultural products, specifically surplus rice and cassava. This achievement can be attributed to the project's focus on enhancing yields, improving value chains, and implementing effective market strategies. As a result, the indicator of income generation from agricultural sales has been successfully achieved.
OVI 2: 677 (470 females) poor and poorest households, female-headed households (FHH), and people living with disability (PLWD) in 17 villages have increased food and additional income from vegetables and livestock production.	677	519	Mostly Achieved  Food security and income generation have seen a noticeable improvement through the project interventions, including

			<p>capacity building and support provided to the target beneficiaries. In addition, the project has successfully empowered vulnerable groups, enabling them to engage in agricultural activities and generate additional income actively.</p> <p>The project has made significant progress in increasing food and income among the target beneficiaries, with further potential for improvement through targeted interventions and continuous evaluation.</p>
<p>VOI 3.1: 724 households, including 220 poor FHHs, 64 poorest HHs and 40 PLWD in four target villages benefited from and were satisfied with PASSA project implementation.</p>	724	736	<p>Overachieved</p> <p>The project has effectively reached and positively impacted the target beneficiaries, resulting in their overall satisfaction with the project activities. The beneficiaries have benefited from the project interventions, contributing to their improved livelihoods, resilience, and well-being. The successful implementation of the PASSA approach has addressed the specific needs and challenges these vulnerable groups face, fostering their active participation and empowerment.</p>
<p>OVI 4: 2,747 (1,227 females) CPA and CF members in 8 villages protected, secured their forests and forestland 13,588 hectares and sustainably used those resources as a resource for improving livelihoods.</p>	2747	2747	<p>Fully Achieved</p> <p>The project has successfully created awareness among community members about the importance of forest conservation and sustainable resource management. In addition, the establishment of CPA and CF has provided a platform for local communities to participate in</p>

			protecting and managing their forest resources actively.
OVI 5: 337 women in 17 villages took leadership positions and influenced on decision-making process on economic, social and development work at village and commune levels.	337	239	Substantially Achieved  The project has successfully empowered women and created opportunities for them to engage in economic, social, and development activities actively. The increase in the number of women taking on leadership roles indicates the project's positive impact in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. In addition, the participation of women in decision-making processes ensures that their perspectives and interests are taken into account, leading to more inclusive and equitable development outcomes.

In conclusion, the project intervention has effectively achieved its objectives of improving agricultural practices, increasing food security, enhancing access to best practices for DRR, promoting natural resource management, and promoting gender equality. In addition, the intervention has increased income for the community by adopting improved agricultural practices that add value to agricultural products and markets. This has increased food security from vegetable and livestock production, reducing the risk of malnutrition and hunger.

The intervention has also successfully enhanced access to best practices in the PASSA facilities and DRR and provided the community with the resources and ability to reduce natural disaster risks. This has contributed to building the community's resilience to the adverse effects of natural disasters, reducing the potential loss of life, and promoting sustainable development. Furthermore, the project has successfully promoted natural resource management and secured the community's forest and forestland. This has enabled the community to use these resources to improve their livelihoods sustainably. Finally, the intervention has promoted gender equality by giving women full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership and decision-making in economic, social, and development work. The project has also contributed to reducing domestic violence by empowering women to take on leadership roles and promoting gender equality in the community.

Overall, the intervention has effectively achieved its objectives of promoting sustainable development, reducing poverty, and improving the community's quality of life. The project's success is attributed to the community's active participation, the use of best practices, and the promotion of gender equality. In addition, the lessons learned from this intervention can serve as a model for future projects in similar contexts.

### 7.3. Efficiency

Efficiency measures how well the project intervention achieved its goals within the allocated time, money, and effort resources. In the case of the project intervention described, the efficiency can be evaluated by considering the outcomes achieved relative to the resources invested.

The increased income from improved agricultural practices and the enhanced access to best practices in the PASSA facilities and DRR have been achieved through training and capacity building. This has been done through the effective use of resources such as training manuals, trainers, and support staff, which has resulted in the farmers being able to adopt new practices that have improved their income and reduced their vulnerability to natural disasters. Similarly, increased food security from vegetable and livestock production has been achieved by effectively implementing sustainable farming practices. The project intervention has provided the farmers with the necessary inputs, such as seeds, fertilizers, and livestock, which has resulted in increased crop yields and livestock production. The efficient use of resources such as inputs, extension workers, and support staff has been instrumental in achieving these outcomes.

Natural resource management, securing forest and forestland and sustainably using those resources for improving livelihoods, has also been achieved through the efficient use of resources. In addition, the project intervention has trained the local communities in sustainable resource management practices, which has resulted in the protection of the forestland from deforestation and the sustainable use of the resources for improving livelihoods. Efficiently using resources such as training manuals, trainers, and support staff has been instrumental in achieving these outcomes.

Women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership and decision-making on the economy, social and development work and addressing domestic violence have also been achieved through the efficient use of resources. The project intervention has provided women with training and capacity-building programs, resulting in their full and effective participation in decision-making processes and addressing domestic violence through awareness-raising programs. Efficiently using resources such as trainers, support staff, and awareness-raising materials has been instrumental in achieving these outcomes.

In conclusion, the project intervention has demonstrated high efficiency, with limited resources achieving significant and sustainable results in improving the livelihoods of the target communities. Implementing improved agricultural practices has increased the income of the households, added value to agricultural products, and expanded market opportunities. Increased food security from vegetable and livestock production has improved the community's nutrition and reduced the dependence on external aid. The access to best practices in the PASSA facilities and DRR, coupled with an increased ability and resources to mitigate natural disaster risks, has resulted in a more resilient community. Additionally, natural resource management initiatives have secured the forest and forestland and sustainably used those resources to improve livelihoods. Finally, the participation of women in decision-making processes and their equal leadership opportunities have ensured the sustainability of the project outcomes. The project has efficiently utilized resources to achieve the set objectives, and the sustainability of the achieved results is a testament to its effectiveness.

## 7.4. Impact

The impact of the project intervention was significant in several areas. The beneficiaries were trained in appropriate farming techniques, which resulted in increased productivity and yield. They were also taught how to add value to their products, which made them more marketable and increased their income. This improved their livelihoods and increased their confidence and ability to invest in their future.

DRR and PASSA training and practices were also part of the project results. The beneficiaries were trained in DRR and PASSA. The training covered risk assessment, early warning systems, emergency preparedness, and response planning. This knowledge enhanced their resilience to natural disasters and other shocks, enabling them to better cope with and recover from them. The beneficiaries also developed a sense of responsibility towards their communities and the environment, which led to improved decision-making and collective action.

The beneficiaries were taught sustainable natural resource management practices to help them preserve their forests and forestlands. They learned how to use forest resources sustainably, improving their livelihoods without degrading the environment. The beneficiaries' knowledge and behaviour changed as they became aware of the importance of protecting natural resources for future generations. They also realized the potential economic value of these resources, which motivated them to engage in sustainable management practices.

The project participants were trained in gender awareness and leadership, which enabled them to participate fully and effectively in decision-making processes. As a result, women were empowered to take on leadership roles in community development projects and actively engage in economic and social development in their communities. This led to a more inclusive and participatory approach to development, which benefited everyone. The project also aimed to reduce domestic violence through awareness-raising campaigns and training programs. As a result, the beneficiaries' knowledge and attitudes towards domestic violence changed as they became aware of its harmful effects on individuals and communities. In addition, they learned how to identify and report domestic violence cases, leading to improved protection for women and girls.

In conclusion, the project significantly impacted beneficiary knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour in several areas. The beneficiaries' economic security was improved through increased income from improved agricultural practices and value addition. Their resilience to natural disasters and other shocks was enhanced through DRR and PASSA training and practices. The project also promoted sustainable natural resource management and gender equality while reducing domestic violence. The beneficiaries' changed knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour in these areas have the potential to lead to lasting positive impacts on their communities and the environment.

## 7.5. Sustainability

The project intervention in rural Cambodia aimed to improve the living standards of rural communities and enhance their resilience to the impacts of climate change. The project had multiple objectives, including increased income and food security, improved access to sanitation facilities, enhanced strength to the impact of climate change, and more sustainable management and protection of natural resources. This section aims to analyse the sustainability of the project intervention.

Community ownership is a critical aspect of project sustainability, as it ensures that the community takes ownership of the project and is willing to sustain its benefits in the long term. The project intervention in rural Cambodia fostered community ownership, as community members actively participated in project activities, including establishing protected areas and forestry. The community also received training on natural resource management and participated in forest patrolling activities to prevent illegal logging. The project also launched a gender-focal person in each village to raise awareness of gender and domestic violence, and these focal persons played an essential role in reducing domestic violence among married couples. The involvement of community members in project activities and decision-making processes ensured that the project's benefits were sustained in the long term.

The project intervention in the target areas aimed to increase income and food security for rural communities. One of the strategies to achieve this goal was to support the development of value-added agriculture, which involved providing appropriate agriculture training techniques, improving agriculture outputs, and increasing access to agriculture market information. The project also supported the development of saving groups to ensure community members could access credit and invest in their agriculture businesses. In addition, the project supported the establishment of alternative livelihoods, such as income generation from NTFP harvesting. These strategies have increased rural communities' income and benefitted the project intervention.

Establishing saving groups is another critical aspect of project sustainability, as it ensures that community members can access credit and invest in their agriculture businesses. The project intervention in rural Cambodia successfully established saving groups in each village, providing community members access to credit and financial resources. The saving groups were also instrumental in promoting gender equality and empowering women to participate in decision-making. The establishment of saving groups has ensured that the project's benefits are sustained in the long term, as community members have access to financial resources to invest in their agriculture businesses.

The project intervention in rural Cambodia aimed to improve natural resource management and protect the environment by establishing community-protected areas and community forestry. The project also supported forest patrolling activities to prevent illegal logging and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources. These strategies have successfully protected the environment and ensured the sustainability of natural resources. The project also conducted awareness-raising activities on forest conservation to provide community members understanding of the importance of protecting the environment and natural resources.

One of the project's focuses was on natural resource management, which included supporting the Community Protected Areas and Community Forestry. The CPAs and CFs members conducted regular forest patrolling activities to prevent illegal logging in the forested areas. The forest patrolling activities involved identifying and reporting any illegal logging activities, checking for any damaged or destroyed parts of the forest, and ensuring that no one was hunting illegally in the area. The CPAs and CFs members assisted community members in conducting forest patrolling activities and equipped them with the necessary tools and equipment for project support.



Through these forest patrolling activities, the project team and community members were able to prevent illegal logging activities and protect the forests from further damage. This helped conserve the area's natural resources and biodiversity and provided income opportunities for the community through NTFP harvesting. In addition, the income generated from selling these products provided an alternative livelihood for the community members who may have otherwise engaged in illegal activities such as logging. Further, the forest patrolling activities helped to raise awareness among the community members about the importance of forest conservation and the negative impact of illegal logging activities. This increased awareness and sense of responsibility towards the forest may lead to more sustainable forest management practices, thereby ensuring the long-term sustainability of the project's impact.

The project intervention in target locations aimed to increase income and food security for rural communities by developing value-added agriculture. The project provided appropriate agriculture training techniques, improved agriculture outputs, and increased access to agriculture market information. The project also supported the development of alternative livelihoods, such as income generation from NTFPs harvesting. These strategies have successfully increased the income of rural communities and ensured the sustainability of the project's benefits. One of the project objectives also focused on value-added agriculture, which refers to increasing the economic value of agricultural products by transforming them into higher-value products. This approach can help farmers generate more income from their crops, contributing to household food security and overall economic well-being.

To support value-added agriculture, the project provided training and technical assistance to farmers on techniques such as post-harvest handling, processing, and packaging. The project also facilitated the establishment of farmer groups and cooperatives, which allowed farmers to pool their resources and collectively access markets for their value-added products. The project's focus on value-added agriculture contributed to the sustainability of the intervention by providing farmers with new opportunities to generate income and improve their economic security. By promoting the use of local resources and knowledge, the project also helped to build the capacity of rural communities to develop their solutions to financial challenges.

In conclusion, the sustainability of the project intervention in the target areas has been positive in various areas, including community ownership, income generation, forest patrolling activities, value-added agriculture, and gender equality. The project has increased food security and improved agriculture outputs, contributing to household security. Additionally, the project has supported the implementation of DRR/CCA activities, which have improved the preparedness of the communities for natural disasters and climate change. The project has also promoted natural resource management by supporting the CPAs and CFs, leading to increased income generation from NTFP harvesting and preventing illegal logging through forest patrolling activities. Raising awareness of forest conservation among villagers has also contributed to the sustainable management of natural resources.

Furthermore, the project has reduced domestic violence among married couples and increased women's participation in decision-making. Gender training and the role of gender-focal persons have been instrumental in this success. Additionally, married couples have supported agriculture inputs, contributing to gender equality and household economic improvement.

The sustainability of the project intervention in rural Cambodia has been successful, and the project has positively impacted the communities. The community's ownership and participation in the project activities have contributed to its sustainability. The income generation activities, such as value-added agriculture and NTFPs harvesting, have also contributed to the project's sustainability by creating a reliable source of income for the community. The project's impact on natural resource management, disaster risk reduction, and gender equality has also contributed to its sustainability by addressing critical issues facing the community.

## 8. Recommendations

The following is a summary of recommendations gathered from the respondents' feedback and observations directly made by the reviewer.

- ***CBDMTs hinder the efficiency of developing and implementing micro-grant project proposals in PASSA.*** Therefore, to address the challenges related to developing micro-grant project proposals in PASSA and limited experience with CBDMTs, the following recommendations can be considered:
  - Continue to provide Capacity Building: Comprehensive capacity building and training programs for project participants on micro-grant project proposal development and CBDMTs. These training sessions should focus on building skills in project planning, proposal writing, and utilizing CBDMTs effectively. By enhancing the knowledge and capacity of project participants, they will be better equipped to develop proposals efficiently and use CBDMTs appropriately.
  - Continue to provide Technical Assistance: Offer technical assistance and mentorship to project participants during the micro-grant project proposal development process. Experienced professionals or consultants can guide and support project participants in creating practical proposals, providing templates, examples, and feedback to streamline the proposal development process.
  - Peer-to-Peer Learning: Encourage peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing among project participants. Facilitate platforms where participants can exchange experiences, lessons learned, and best practices in micro-grant project proposal development. This collaborative approach can foster a supportive learning environment and help participants gain insights from each other's experiences.
- ***Limited source of irrigation systems:*** Since there were no primary water sources and natural water reservoirs such as canals, ponds, or lakes. The project can explore alternative irrigation methods, such as rainwater harvesting or utilizing groundwater sources.
  - Raise Awareness and Training: Conduct awareness campaigns and training programs to educate farmers about the benefits and techniques of rainwater harvesting. This should include information on collecting, storing, and effectively utilizing rainwater for irrigation. In addition, emphasise the importance of rainwater as a valuable resource during water scarcity.
  - Provide Technical Support: Offer technical assistance and guidance to farmers implementing rainwater harvesting systems. This can involve training sessions on installing and maintaining rainwater collection infrastructure, such as roof gutters, storage tanks, and filtration systems. In addition, ensure that farmers have access to the necessary tools and materials to construct these systems.

- Adaptation to Local Conditions: Tailor the design and implementation of rainwater harvesting systems to suit the local climate, topography, and agricultural practices. Consider factors such as rainfall patterns, land availability, and crop water requirements to optimize the effectiveness of the systems. Collaborate with local experts and agricultural extension services to ensure context-specific solutions.
- Financial Support: Provide financial assistance or subsidies to farmers to help cover the costs associated with implementing rainwater harvesting systems. This can incentivize adoption and make the technology more accessible to farmers with limited financial resources. Explore partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, or microfinance institutions to facilitate funding options.
- Knowledge Sharing and Networking: Establish platforms for knowledge sharing and networking among farmers who have successfully implemented rainwater harvesting systems. Please encourage them to share their experiences, challenges, and best practices with their peers. This can foster peer-to-peer learning and inspire more farmers to adopt rainwater harvesting technology.
- **Chicken disease:** The project can train community members on proper chicken husbandry practices to reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. The project can also consider providing vaccinations or other preventative measures to protect the chicken population.
  - Conduct a comprehensive disease surveillance and prevention program: Implement regular health checks and vaccinations for chickens to prevent common diseases. Collaborate with local veterinary professionals or organizations to train project participants on identifying early signs of diseases and taking appropriate preventive measures.
  - Improve biosecurity measures: Educate project participants on the importance of maintaining proper biosecurity practices to prevent the spread of diseases. This includes implementing measures such as keeping the chicken coops clean, limiting access to outsiders and quarantining new birds before introducing them to the flock.
  - Enhance poultry management practices: Provide training and resources to project participants on best practices for poultry management, including proper nutrition, housing, and hygiene. Educate them on the importance of good ventilation, clean water, and balanced feed to maintain the health and well-being of the chickens.
  - Strengthen local veterinary support: Collaborate with local veterinary clinics or organizations to provide regular veterinary services and advice to project participants. This can include organizing veterinary visits to the project area, establishing a helpline for veterinary consultations, or conducting training sessions on primary poultry healthcare.
  - Establish a farmer support network: Facilitate forming farmer groups or cooperatives where participants can share knowledge and experiences related to poultry farming. This platform can serve as a valuable resource for exchanging information on disease prevention, treatments, and general poultry management techniques.
  - Provide access to improved chicken breeds: Introduce or promote improved chicken breeds known for their resistance to common diseases or better overall productivity. Collaborate with local agricultural agencies or organizations to ensure the availability and accessibility of these breeds to project participants.
  - Monitor and evaluate poultry health: Implement a regular monitoring and evaluation system to track the health and mortality rates of the chickens. This will help identify

recurring issues or emerging diseases, allowing for timely intervention and adjustments to the project strategies.

- Foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing: Facilitate platforms for project participants to share their poultry farming experiences, challenges, and successes. Encourage peer learning and support networks where farmers can exchange information, tips, and strategies to address common issues related to poultry health.
- ***Climate change (floods and droughts):*** The project can promote climate-resilient farming practices, such as agroforestry and rainwater harvesting. The project can also encourage using drought-resistant crop varieties and provide training on water-efficient farming techniques. In addition, the project can provide support for community members to develop early warning systems and emergency response plans for extreme weather events.
  - Continued to provide climate-resilient farming practices: Promote and train project participants on climate-smart agricultural practices that can help mitigate the impacts of climate change. This includes techniques such as crop diversification, intercropping, agroforestry, and conservation agriculture. These practices can enhance soil health, water conservation, and resilience to extreme weather conditions.
  - Weather monitoring and early warning systems: Establish or strengthen local weather monitoring systems to provide timely information on weather patterns, including rainfall, temperature, and potential pest outbreaks. Train project participants to interpret and utilize this information to make informed decisions about planting, irrigation, and pest management.
  - Continued to provide pest management training: Provide training on integrated pest management techniques to control pests while effectively minimising chemical pesticides use. Emphasize the importance of early pest detection, crop rotation, biological control methods, and cultural practices that discourage pest infestations.
  - Access to pest-resistant crop varieties: Promote using pest-resistant types suitable for local conditions. Collaborate with agricultural research institutions or organizations to identify and distribute improved varieties that have demonstrated resistance to prevalent pests in the region.
  - Access to climate information and advisory services: Facilitate access to climate information and advisory services for project participants. Collaborate with local meteorological agencies or NGOs to provide regular updates on weather forecasts, climate change trends, and recommended farming practices. Ensure that the information is accessible and tailored to the local context.

### **Project Management Level**

- ***The workload of project field staff:*** The workload of project field staff can be reduced by hiring more staff or volunteers. The project can consider recruiting and training local individuals to assist in fieldwork, which could reduce the burden on the existing team. In addition, the project staff can prioritize their efforts by focusing on the most vulnerable communities within the target area.
- ***Security of field staff:*** To ensure the safety of field staff, especially women staff, it is recommended that at least two staff members travel together to monitor a project site. This will help to increase the safety of the field staff, especially women staff, and reduce the risk of harm or violence during travel. Additionally, regular communication with the project team

and other stakeholders should be established to ensure that the field staff's movements are known and that they have a support network in an emergency. In addition, the project team should consider providing the field staff with appropriate training on personal safety and self-defence. Moreover, the project can also explore partnering with local security personnel or community members to provide additional security support during fieldwork.

In light of the project documents and evaluation study findings, it is recommended that DPA gradually phase out certain activities in future project designs. One such activity is forest patrolling. Discussions with CPA and CF members have revealed that they possess the capacity to sustainably carry out patrolling operations without relying on funding support from DPA. The management committee members of CPA have emphasized their ability to seek alternative funding sources to sustain their activities. For example, both CPA and CF management committees can receive financial assistance from saving and producer groups. These groups are willing to allocate approximately 10% of their income to support the patrolling activity. With this support, CPA and CF will be equipped to continue their operations effectively in the target areas.

### **Project Activities Consider Phasing Out**

The project has made significant strides in promoting sustainability and self-sufficiency among the AC PGs and CPAMC members through various activities. As the project progresses, it is crucial to evaluate the ongoing relevance and effectiveness of these activities and consider phasing them out in the next planning phase. The following points support the decision to phase out these activities:

#### **AC and PG**

- **Access to resources:** The project has successfully facilitated access to resources for the AC PGs, enabling them to improve their agricultural practices and productivity. Once the participants have established reliable networks and sources of resources, the project can gradually phase out its direct involvement in resource provision.
- **Market access and bargaining power:** The project has worked towards enhancing market access and strengthening the bargaining power of the AC and PGs. As these groups gain experience and establish their presence in the market, the project can transition towards providing guidance and support in developing independent market linkages, allowing them to thrive without ongoing project assistance.
- **Collaboration with the private sector:** The project has fostered cooperation between the AC PGs and the private sector. This has provided valuable opportunities for knowledge sharing and market engagement. With the foundation established, the project can focus on empowering the groups to independently engage with the private sector, building on the relationships and partnerships already developed.
- **Refresher training on financial management:** The project has provided initial training on financial management to the ACs. Once the participants have acquired the necessary skills and knowledge, the project can gradually phase out the provision of refresher training, allowing the groups to implement and refine their financial management practices independently.
- **Review on AC business plan:** ACs have developed their business plans with project support. As these plans become more established and aligned with market dynamics, the project can shift its focus to periodic review and mentoring, allowing the groups to take ownership of their business plan updates.

- Encourage AC to attend the AC forum at the national level: While initial support in attending the AC forum at the national level has provided valuable networking and learning opportunities, the project can now encourage the AC PGs and Non-AC PGs to establish their networks and collaborations at the local and regional levels, reducing the need for ongoing support at the national level.
- Training on good governance and transparency: The project has equipped the AC PGs and Non-AC PGs with the necessary knowledge on good governance and transparency. As these principles become ingrained in their operations, the project can transition towards monitoring and mentoring to ensure continued adherence rather than conducting regular training sessions on the same topic.
- Capacity assessment and capacity building plan for AC leaders and PG members: The capacity assessment has identified areas where AC leaders and PG members require support. Once the capacity-building plan is implemented and individuals receive the necessary training, the project can focus on ongoing mentoring and peer learning, reducing the need for continuous capacity assessments and structured training programs.
- Encourage AC leaders to work closely with AC PG leaders to provide farmer-to-farmer (AC PG member-to-member learning of those areas such as organic rice and cassava and agriculture growing techniques: The project has provided training on organic rice and cassava production and other agricultural methods. As the AC PGs continue to apply these techniques and gain experience, the need for additional training sessions on the same topics may diminish.
- Training on business management: Once the AC PGs have acquired sufficient knowledge and skills in business management, the project can gradually phase out this training component. Instead, it can provide support and mentorship to help the groups apply their knowledge and develop their business management skills independently.

### **CPAMC and CFMC<sup>1</sup>**

- Training on tree seedlings and fruit tree nurseries: The project has provided training on tree seedlings and established fruit tree nurseries within the CPAMC. Once the members have acquired the necessary skills and knowledge, the project can gradually phase out direct involvement and encourage the CPAMC to manage these activities independently.
- Forest patrolling: The project has trained the CPA members in forest patrolling techniques. As the members gain experience and become proficient in safeguarding the forest, the project can shift towards periodic monitoring and mentoring, allowing the CPAMC to take ownership of the forest patrolling activities.
- Training on sustainable extraction of woods: The project has provided training on sustainable extraction of woods to the CPAMC members. Once they have acquired the necessary knowledge and skills, the project can focus on monitoring and mentoring to ensure continued adherence to sustainable practices, reducing the need for continuous training sessions.

Phasing out these activities in the next planning phase is a strategic approach to ensure the sustainability and long-term independence of the AC PGs, CPAMC. It allows the project to redirect

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<sup>1</sup> DPA provided financial and technical support to CFMC for almost ten years. Since then, CFMC has been gradually developed their capacity and skills concerning natural resource management. Additionally, The attainment of those three CFs is mostly achieved during the final stages of submitting the CF Management Plans to the MAFF. Therefore, the project is considering discontinuing support to the three CFMCs in Chaeb District district.

resources and efforts towards areas that require ongoing support and intervention. By gradually transitioning the groups to self-sufficiency and empowering them to manage their operations independently, the project can maximize its impact and foster sustainable development among the project participants. Continued monitoring, mentoring, and periodic support can be provided to facilitate a smooth transition and ensure the lasting success of these initiatives.

## **Appendix A: Compilations of Impact Stories from the Field**

### **TRANSFORMING LIVELIHOODS THROUGH POULTRY FARMING**

#### **Introduction to Self**

Sopheap is a farmer residing in a remote village in the Chhaeb District of Preah Vihear Province. Sopheap's family has been relying on subsistence farming for their livelihood, struggling to make ends meet. However, an opportunity arose when Sopheap learned about a project to improve agricultural practices and increase income for small-scale farmers like herself. Intrigued by the potential for change, Sopheap eagerly participated in the project.

#### **Motivation**

Her family's dire economic situation drove Sopheap to join the project. Limited market access and lack of knowledge of appropriate farming techniques had restricted their income generation. Sopheap saw the project as a lifeline that could provide her with the necessary skills and resources to transform her family's future.

#### **Most Significant Change**

Through the project, Sopheap received training on poultry farming, including proper chicken care, disease prevention, and feeding techniques. Then, armed with new knowledge and skills, she established a small-scale chicken farm on her land. With the project's support, Sopheap acquired a starter flock of healthy chickens and built a simple yet functional coop to house them.

The impact on Sopheap's livelihood was remarkable. Her poultry farm began thriving, resulting in a consistent supply of eggs and meat for household consumption and commercial sale. The increase in production and income brought stability to her family, enabling them to afford better healthcare, education for their children, and improved living conditions.

#### **Contribution from the project**

The project intervention played a vital role in Sopheap's success story. The training provided her with essential knowledge of poultry management and disease control, ensuring the health and productivity of her flock. Moreover, the project's assistance in procuring initial stock and establishing infrastructure significantly reduced the financial burden on Sopheap, allowing her to focus on the farm's daily operations.



## Learning and Recommendation

Based on Sopheap's experience, it is evident that similar interventions can create significant positive change in the lives of rural farmers. To enhance the impact of future projects, she proposed to strengthen Training: Expand and diversify training programs to cover a broader range of agricultural practices and entrepreneurial skills, empowering farmers with a holistic understanding of sustainable farming methods and income generation.

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*Storyteller:* Sopheap, farmer beneficiary  
*Location:* Mlu Prey Village, Mlu Prey Muoy Commune, Chhaeb District, Preah Vihear Province  
*Recording the story:* Ith Dalen, the enumerator  
*Date of recording:* April 21, 2023  
*Translator (Khmer to English)* Pou Sokvisal

## **EMPOWERING FARMERS THROUGH CONTRACTED FARMING**

### **Introduction to Self**

Sokha is a member of an agriculture cooperative in Chouk Chey Village, Chhaeb District, Sangkae Pir Commune, Preah Vihear Province. Prior to the project intervention, Sokha and fellow farmers faced numerous challenges in cultivating and selling their cassava crops. However, their lives took a remarkable turn when they became involved in a project that aimed to improve their livelihoods through contracted farming. This is Sokha's story of transformation and newfound prosperity.

### **Situation**

Before the project, Sokha and the cooperative members struggled to sustain income from cassava cultivation. They faced difficulties accessing markets, lacked modern farming techniques, and had limited knowledge of value chain management. These obstacles hindered their ability to secure fair prices for their produce, leaving them vulnerable to exploitative intermediaries and uncertain market conditions.

### **Motivation**

Sokha and the farmers were motivated to participate in the project as they saw it as an opportunity to address their challenges. In addition, the promise of gaining new knowledge, skills, and support in marketing their cassava through contracted farming arrangements ignited hope. It encouraged their active involvement in the project.

### **Most Significant Change**

With the project's guidance and support, Sokha and the cooperative underwent training on modern farming techniques, including improved planting methods, pest and disease management, and post-harvest handling. They also received assistance securing contracts with buyers, providing them with a guaranteed market for their cassava.

The impact on Sokha's livelihood and income was significant. Adopting improved farming practices resulted in higher cassava yields and enhanced crop quality. In addition, through contracted farming, Sokha and the cooperative members enjoyed stable prices for their produce, eliminating the uncertainties of the open market. This newfound stability allowed them to increase their income, improve their living conditions, and invest in their families' education and well-being.

### **Contribution from the Project**

The project played a vital role in facilitating Sokha's success story. It provided technical training, market linkages, and contract negotiation support. Additionally, the project enabled access to improved seed varieties, fertilizers, and other agricultural inputs, ensuring the farmers had the necessary resources to maximize their yields and quality.

The project's intervention significantly changed Sokha's life and the cooperative's overall well-being. The training and knowledge transfer enabled them to implement appropriate farming techniques, resulting in higher cassava yields and improved crop quality. In addition, the contracted farming arrangements provided a stable and fair income, reducing the farmers' vulnerability to market fluctuations. This enhanced economic security empowered Sokha and the cooperative members to plan for the future and expand their farming operations.

## Learning and Recommendations

Market Diversification: Encourage the exploration of additional market opportunities beyond contracted farming. This can include value-added cassava processing into products such as starch or biofuels, enabling farmers to capture more value from their crops and expand their income streams.

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*Storyteller:* Sokha, farmer beneficiary  
*Location:* Chouk Chey Village, Chhaeb District, Sangkae Pir Commune, Preah Vihear Province  
*Recording the story:* Ith Dalen, the enumerator  
*Date of recording:* April 21, 2023  
*Translator (Khmer to English)* Pou Sokvisal

## **EMPOWERING CHANGE AGENTS: PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND REDUCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN RURAL CAMBODIA**

### **Introduction to Self**

Meet Srey (Given name), a dedicated member serving as the gender focal person in Chhaeb Lech Village, Chhaeb Mouy Commune, Chhaeb District, Preah Vihear province. This is the story of her journey towards promoting gender equality and reducing domestic violence through a transformative project. From facing gender-based discrimination and witnessing the pervasive issue of domestic violence, Srey's determination and active participation in the project have brought about remarkable changes in her community.

### **Situation**

Before the project, Srey and her community grappled with deeply rooted gender inequalities and prevalent domestic violence. As a result, women faced limited opportunities for leadership, decision-making, and economic empowerment. The district lacked the awareness and resources to address these pressing issues effectively, perpetuating a cycle of violence and gender-based discrimination.

### **Motivation**

Motivated by her own experiences and witnessing other women's struggles in her community, Srey eagerly embraced the project as an opportunity to challenge the status quo. She recognized the need for change and became determined to create a safe and equitable environment where women could thrive, participate actively, and enjoy their rights.

### **Most Significant Change**

Through the project's interventions, Srey received comprehensive training on gender equality, women's rights, and strategies to address domestic violence. As a result, she acquired the necessary knowledge, skills, and confidence to lead awareness campaigns, facilitate community dialogues, and advocate for policy changes. As a result, she successfully mobilized her community to challenge harmful gender norms, promote women's empowerment, and reduce domestic violence incidents.

Srey's efforts and the project's support led to a significant transformation in the community. Women gained greater access to economic opportunities, including vocational training and income-generation activities. In addition, they became active participants in decision-making processes, leading to more inclusive and gender-responsive community initiatives. Consequently, domestic violence decreased, creating a safer and more harmonious environment for women and their families.

### **Contribution from the Project:**

The project was crucial in empowering Srey and supporting her efforts to promote gender equality and reduce domestic violence. It provided training, capacity-building workshops, and resources to equip her with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective advocacy and community engagement. The project also facilitated the establishment of support networks and partnerships with local organizations, enhancing Srey's ability to implement sustainable change.

The project's interventions and Srey's unwavering dedication sparked a series of transformative changes in the community. By raising awareness and challenging gender norms, Srey successfully empowered women to assert their rights, participate in decision-making, and access economic opportunities. As a result, women experienced increased self-esteem, improved financial independence, and reduced vulnerability to domestic violence.

The community, influenced by Srey's initiatives, shifted attitudes and behaviours. Men became active allies in promoting gender equality, recognizing the value of women's contributions, and fostering a culture of respect and non-violence. Through community dialogues and awareness campaigns, the project effectively challenged deeply ingrained patriarchal norms. It replaced them with a more egalitarian and inclusive mindset.

### **Learning and Recommendations**

Engage Men and Boys: Foster active engagement and involvement of men and boys in promoting gender equality and addressing domestic violence. By challenging harmful social norms and promoting positive masculinity, the project can create a more inclusive and supportive environment for gender equality initiatives.

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*Storyteller:* Srey, farmer beneficiary  
*Location:* Chhaeb Lech Village, Chhaeb Mouy Commune, Chhaeb District, Preah Vihear province  
*Recording the story:* Pichr Sopheanyta, the enumerator  
*Date of recording:* April 19, 2023  
*Translator (Khmer to English):* Pou Sokvisal

## **TRANSFORMING COMMUNITY PROTECTED AREAS: A JOURNEY OF CONSERVATION AND LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT IN CHAEB DISTRICT**

### **Introduction**

Meet Sey, a Chhaeb Lech Village resident near a community-protected area (CPA). Sey's life has been deeply influenced by the project intervention to enhance the management and utilization of natural resources within the CPA. This is Sey's story of how his involvement in forest patrolling and harvesting non-timber forest products (NTFPs) has brought about positive changes in his livelihood and the conservation efforts of his community.

### **Situation**

Before the project, Sey and the community faced challenges in protecting and sustainably utilizing the natural resources within the CPA. Illegal logging, poaching, and unregulated collection of NTFPs threatened the ecosystem's integrity. Additionally, limited knowledge and skills in forest patrolling techniques and value-added processing of NTFPs hindered the community's ability to derive a sustainable income from the forest resources.

### **Motivation to Participate:**

Sey and his fellow community members were motivated to participate in the project due to their deep connection to the CPA and their aspirations for a better future. They recognized the importance of conserving the forest for their livelihoods and future generations. The project offered training, equipment, and support, empowering them to engage in forest patrolling and sustainable harvesting of NTFPs actively.

### **Most Significant Change**

Through the project intervention, Sey and the community gained valuable skills and knowledge in forest patrolling techniques, wildlife conservation, and sustainable harvesting practices for NTFPs. In addition, they learned to identify and document illegal activities, protect wildlife habitats, and promote sustainable resource utilization.

These newfound skills and the project's support in establishing market linkages and value-addition activities resulted in a significant change in Sey's livelihood. In addition, forest patrolling contributed to conserving the CPA and generated income through partnerships with eco-tourism initiatives and the sale of legally harvested NTFPs. This additional income improved Sey's quality of life, enabling him to support his family's needs and invest in education and healthcare.

### **Contribution from the Project**

The project played a pivotal role in facilitating Sey's success story. It provided training on forest patrolling techniques, equipment for monitoring and documentation, and support in establishing market connections for sustainably harvested NTFPs. Furthermore, the project fostered collaboration with relevant authorities and stakeholders, strengthening the community's capacity to protect and manage the CPA effectively.

The project's intervention has brought about tangible changes in Sey's life and the overall conservation efforts within the CPA. For example, the training in forest patrolling techniques has enhanced Sey's ability to identify and deter illegal activities, contributing to reducing deforestation.

In addition, the sustainable harvesting of NTFPs has improved the community's income and promoted the sustainable use of forest resources, ensuring long-term ecological balance.

### **Learning and Recommendations**

**Value-Added Processing and Marketing:** Explore opportunities to add value to harvested NTFPs through processing and packaging, allowing community members to capture higher market prices. Facilitate market linkages and provide training on value-addition techniques to enhance income generation and promote sustainable resource utilization.

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*Storyteller:* Sey, farmer beneficiary  
*Location:* Chhaeb Kaeut Village, Chhaeb Mouy Commune, Chhaeb District, Preah Vihear province  
*Recording the story:* Pichr Sopheanyta, the enumerator  
*Date of recording:* April 19, 2023  
*Translator (Khmer to English):* Pou Sokvisal

## Appendix B: List of respondents

### Household Survey

No.	Location	Frequency
1	Chhaeb Kuert	31
2	Chhaeb Lech	57
3	Chork Chey	47
4	Mlou Prey	45
5	Phneak Roleuk	40
6	Preus Kha'Ork	47
7	Sra'Aem	42
8	Thmea	49
<b>Total</b>		<b>358</b>

### Focus Group Discussion

No	Target group	Location	Number of respondents
1	Community Forest	Chhaeb Lech Village, Chhaeb Mouy Commune, Chhaeb District, Preah Vihear Province	11
2	Village Disaster Management Team	Sra'aem Village, Sangkae Muoy Commune, Chhaeb District, Preah Vihear Province	13
3	Agriculture Cooperative governing board and supervisory committee members	Chouk Chey Village, Chhaeb District, Sangkae Pir Commune, Preah Vihear Province	8
4	Chicken Producer Group	Mlu Prey Village, Mlu Prey Muoy Commune, Chhaeb District, Preah Vihear Province	9
5	Community Protected Areas members	Thmea Village, Thmea Commune, Chey Saen District, Preah Vihear Province	11

### Key Informant Interview

No	Institution	Location
1	Village clerk	Chhaeb Kaeut village, Chhaeb Mouy commune, Chhaeb district, Preah Vihear province
2	Village chief	Chhaeb Kaeut village, Chhaeb Mouy commune, Chhaeb district, Preah Vihear province
3	DPA Project staff	Krong Preah Vihear, Preah Vihear Province



4	Community Forest	Chhaeb Lech Village, Chhaeb Mouy Commune, Chhaeb District, Preah Vihear Province
5	Gender Focal Person	Chhaeb Kaeut Village, Chhaeb Mouy Commune, Chhaeb District, Preah Vihear Province

**Appendix C: Household Survey Questionnaire**

**Appendix D: FGD Guiding Questions**

**Appendix E: KII Guiding Questions**

**Appendix F: MSC Guiding Questions**

**Appendix G: Data Collection Schedule**