

Intervention:	Rural Development Program in the Districts of Kampot and Kampong Thom
Country:	Cambodia
Date:	1998 – 2005 (intended prolongation until 2008)
Challenge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rural poverty because of low productivity in the agricultural sector, <input type="checkbox"/> inadequate infrastructure and degradation of the natural resources by discriminating women socially and economically, <input type="checkbox"/> lack of access to rural services
Approach of the Intervention:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Development of competences and testing innovative production techniques in agriculture and fish production <input type="checkbox"/> Training and consultation of farmers and creation of approx. 850 demonstration plots <input type="checkbox"/> Execution of market analysis and provision of market information <input type="checkbox"/> Sectoral analysis and facilitation in policy making on the national level <input type="checkbox"/> Qualification of public and private service staff in key areas of rural development such as agricultural consulting, veterinary, marketing, processing, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting the self-help organisation in their legalisation through organisational and legal consulting <input type="checkbox"/> Consulting in communal sustainable resource management (formulation, discussion and adoption of management plans)
Benefits and Impacts:	<p>Impacts that can be directly related to the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Demand-driven, market-oriented services for agricultural extension, veterinary services and marketing are available <input type="checkbox"/> Farmers use new sorts of rice and implement recommendations of the consulting groups to increase the production. <input type="checkbox"/> Farmers utilise innovative technologies and production processes, which secure higher profit for small farmers. <input type="checkbox"/> Rice production of 40.000 farmers has increased from 350 kg to 1450 kg per ha. Using 0.5 ha pro family for production of new sorts of rise leads to an increase of overall production by 7000 t. <input type="checkbox"/> Village infrastructure has been considerably improved. Major road construction and approx. 550 drinking water installations have been undertaken. <input type="checkbox"/> The communities develop their own development plans, mobilise the local participation, and subsequently implement the resource management plans. <input type="checkbox"/> Local communities, especially women enjoy improved access to markets and social services. <input type="checkbox"/> The communities undertake environmentally sound and sustainable utilization of natural resources. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff of the responsible technical authorities, village communities, private economic sector (local merchants, small businesses, service staff) use in practice the knowledge, new technologies, and information, they gained. <input type="checkbox"/> The producers get affiliated, use common marketing strategies and market information for agricultural products. <p>Impacts in numbers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> All 173 communities in the project region have prepared village development plans. <input type="checkbox"/> Over 300 water springs and street construction activities have been planned and by 2004 about half of them have been implemented. <input type="checkbox"/> In 56 villages land management plans are developed and rules for sustainable utilization of common resources have been set up.

Lessons learned:	<input type="checkbox"/> Donor coordination has led to synergy effects <input type="checkbox"/> By relocating responsibilities for planning and implementing to the local level, self-help potentials have been mobilized <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty reduction can only be reached by measures in the productive sector <input type="checkbox"/> It is a longsome and difficult task, to create awareness for quality and sustainability within skilled employees and executives on the local level, rather than aiming only at quantitative targets.
Wider application:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing agency & partners:	GTZ, IFAD, provincial and regional authorities, service organizations, private service providers, NGO
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