

Annex 7.2.6 – FF4F Field Stories (Hatchery/VMF/Household)

FIELD STORY: HATCHERY

Soung Kunthy, age 63, lives with his wife, Sou Kim Yoy, and their son Soung Tola in Vealry Kit Village, Chamkar Leu District, Kampong Cham Province. Soung Kunthy and his wife have had seven children; six have married and moved to other provinces, leaving only his youngest son, age 20, to help them with their hatchery. Prior to joining Family Farms for the Future, Mr. Kunthy primarily sold mature fish raised on his land, making little to no profit.



Through Family Farms for the Future Mr. Kunthy was able to receive training on how to breed fish and raise fingerlings. With the support of Family Farms for the Future Mr. Kunthy installed enhanced breeding tanks that allowed him to improve his fry yield, as well address various threats to fry survival. He was taught how to cultivate his own fish feed from rice bran at home, decreasing the need to purchase feed for use on the farm. Family Farms for the Future also helped Mr. Kunthy strengthen his partnerships with local businesses, which lets him control the operation of his business independently of third party support.



Mr. Kunthy and his family now make an average of \$1500 per year from the sales of their fingerlings. For Mr. Kunthy, who faces some medical issues with his eyesight and his legs as he ages, this improved income allows him to seek medical treatment he would not have been able to afford in the past. It also gives him the ability to invest in his children, who are beginning to make their way into the world and start

families of their own. His family is able to regularly eat animal-sourced foods, and are now able to buy anything they would like to eat from the market without worry for financial restraints.

Family Farms for the Future has given Mr. Kunthy and Ms. Kim Yoy a greater sense of security and alleviated the heavy burden of poverty in their day to day lives. Most importantly, they have steered Mr. Kunthy and his family into a position to control their business and lives independently into the future. The advantages they have gained through participating in Family Farms for the Future will be passed on to their children, leaving a multi-generational impact that will hopefully foster greater social mobility for their family.

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VILLAGE MODEL FARMS

Mr. Ly Sinuon, age 58, lives with his wife, Keo Saveun, in Prey Char Krao Village, Cheung Prey District, Kampong Cham Province. Their only child has married and moved to another province, so the older couple presently lives on their own, without familial support. Prior to their participation in Family Farms for the Future, Mr. Sinuon and his wife relied on subsistence farming. They sold the excess produce from their home garden to maintain a household income of approximately US \$25 per month. Now Mr. Sinuon and Ms. Saveun manage a village model farm. Through the program they have learned agricultural techniques, received nutritional education, expanded the variety of vegetables they cultivate, improved their production, and increased the amount of poultry raised on their farm. By selling their heightened yields of produce and livestock, Mr. Sinuon and his wife have increased their household income to an average of US \$100 per month, and their expanded farm and extra income have helped them consume a larger array of vegetables and animal-sourced foods in their daily life.

The couple visit an average of ten local households per month, providing seedlings and offering guidance on establishing and maintaining a home garden. In this way, they are able to pass on the education and techniques they learned through FF4F. Households are also able to come to their village model farm to observe and learn, adopting techniques on raising dirt beds for vegetables depending on the season, and cultivating fertilizer to help nourish home gardens. Mr. Sinuon now actively sells his produce in the local marketplace as well as having other local farmers come to his farm to purchase fertilizer.



When asked about how participating in the program has impacted their lives, Ms. Saveun and Mr. Sinuon say they are very happy to have joined the program. Their increased income has afforded them small but vital securities that have helped lessen their stress, as well as

allowed them the financial leeway to participate in their community in a way they previously felt precluded from. Mr. Sinuon explains that now, if his wife falls sick, he's able to buy medicine or take her to see a health provider without worrying about being unable to meet the expense. They are able to set aside money for lean months, and it brings them joy to now be able to give gifts to the young couples that have weddings in their village. Ms. Saveun feels that their quality of life has improved since they began working on their village model farm.

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HOUSEHOLD GARDEN

Po Chantha, age 52, lives with her husband, Po Sreyvi, in Vealry Lech Village, Chamkar Leu District, Kampong Cham Province. They have seven children, three of which have married. Ms. Chantha and her husband currently support of household of six, including a four year old granddaughter. Like many families living in rural Cambodia, the Po family has historically relied on subsistence farming to get by, growing one or two different types of vegetables from home to produce inconsistent yields, and selling the excess when possible. They lived largely on rice and the limited variety of vegetables produced in their garden, consuming animal-sourced foods only when they were able to purchase them at the market.



The Po family has only participated in FF4F for seven months, but their home garden is lush, and they now sell their excess produce out of their home on a daily basis. They've now diversified their garden to include six types of vegetables, and they have started raising chickens at their home. Learning agricultural techniques from FF4F has taught them about addressing bacterial and fungal threats to their produce, composting and the use of fertilizer, and how to plan the cultivation of different vegetables with the season. Since they joined FF4F, the Po family's garden has given them much greater yields, and they are able to eat a wide array of vegetables that they have grown themselves, and procure animal-source foods from their home, rather than spending money purchasing things from the market. Ms. Chantha says her family is now more aware of the need to have a diverse, well-rounded diet, as well as the health consequences of produce that has been grown or preserved with the use of chemicals.

Mr. Sreyvi often goes to other homes in his village to help other families improve their home gardens, and shares the agricultural knowledge he has received through FF4F. Through participants like Ms. Chantha and Mr. Sreyvi, the education FF4F has seeded in the community is able to spread outwards. Ms. Sreyvi recounts that the household income has increased 50% since the family has joined FF4F, from \$20 to \$30 per month. The Po family is still at the early stages of their participation in FF4F, and they are eager to expand the scale of their farm as well as begin raising a large flock of poultry. Ms. Chantha feels optimistic about the potential she sees in the household garden, and is pleased to continue working with Family Farms for the Future.