



SRER KHMER

ANNUAL REPORT

2003

Contact Address:

SRER KHMER

#11B, Street: 101, Sangkat: Beung Trabek, Chamcarmon

Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia

Tel/Fax: (855-23) 210-217

(C/o P.O. Box: 53, Phnom Penh)

E-mail: srerkhmer@online.com.kh

SUMMARY

Srer Khmer is a Cambodian non-governmental organization, non-profit and non-partisan dedicated to sustainable community-based development by promoting of farmer-led activities, farmers networking, farmer organization, and farmer knowledge on ecological agriculture. Srer Khmer is implementing in seven (7) key target provinces: Kg. Cham, Kandal, Battambang, Takeo, Kg. Speu, Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey.

The Vegetable IPM Project assisted the National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program in conducting a baseline survey on vegetable production and also organized participatory monitoring and evaluation for district trainers. There were 4 Farmer Field Schools on vegetables organized in Siem Reap and Kandal provinces during the wet season with 91 participants (25 were women). Farmer trainers played a key role as facilitators in running and managing these activities. Moreover, this project is also working with and giving training support to thirteen organic vegetable farmers (9 were women) in Kandal and Siem Reap provinces. Fifty six (56) field experiments were also conducted by the farmers themselves during 2003. Farmer clubs, there were 28 farmer clubs run in Kandal, Battambang, Kampong Cham and Siem Reap provinces. Training on living soil was given to 74 farmers and four farmer-to-farmer studies related to health and pesticides were conducted with farmer club members.

The Insect Ecological Identification and Training Project carried out insect collection, identification and classification in the conventional plot, IPM plots and grassy areas around vegetable fields. Throughout the year, hundreds of specimens were collected and documented. Farmers were involved in insect collection and classification.

The Participatory Plant Breeding Project conducted two farmer field schools on rice with 53 participants (21 were women) in Takeo and Battambang provinces. And there were also two Farmer Field Schools on vegetables organized in Kg. Speu and Kandal provinces with 60 participants. Moreover, there were baseline surveys on vegetables completed in Takeo and Battambang provinces and one marketing baseline survey was conducted in the Takeo district.

The On-farm trials of low net tunnel technology conducted two field trials, early wet season and late wet season. The field trials were conducted on short cycle leafy vegetables and an average of five farmers participated in each field trial, a total of 25 farmers participated in these field trials.

The Farmer Life School, conducted 12 Farmer Life Schools in three different Districts of Siem Reap province. The training ran for a period of 18 weeks. There were 18-20 participants involved in each Farmer Life School with a total of 296 participants, of which 216 were women. Farmers met regularly twice a week with 3 Farmer Trainers facilitating the schools.

In Partnership with NPA, Srer Khmer conducted an assessment study of agriculture activities in the Malai district. Apart from this, three Farmer Field Schools were completed on rice and one on mung beans with 69 participants (26 were women). Three Farmer Life School (FLS) were also completed with 60 participants (23 were women). Ten Field Experiments/Trials were organized in the three villages with 70 participants (20 were

women). The trials were mostly rice varietal trials and seed purification trials. Three Living Soil Training Courses were conducted with 60 participants (39 were women). Three training courses on Health Study were completed with 57 participants (35 were women). Five training courses on Home Gardens were organized in Malai district with the involvement of 107 participants (40 were women). Five exchange visits were organized in Battambang and Siem Reap provinces with 125 farmers participating in the visits (50 were women). One farmer Congress was organized in Koh Snoul village with 74 participants (40 were women) to discuss the possibility of cultivating new crops and the lack of access water resources. Two refresher courses/meetings were held in Malai district with 8 farmer trainers to review implemented activities and set up qualitative indicators for Farmer Field School Monitoring and Evaluation and to refresh farmer trainers on vegetable plant breeding. Lastly, a Farmer Trainer Orientation Course (FTOC) was conducted with 10 participants (4 were women)

In Cooperation with CARE Cambodia, Srer Khmer completed 2 Farmer Life Schools and 2 Farmer Field Schools, 102 farmers participated in the schools from 6 different villages in Battambang province. Five (5) farmer clubs were formed with 147 farmer members. Each farmer club has 20-25 farmers involved in conducting field experiments and attending home garden and living soil training.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary	2
Table of Contents	4
Acknowledgements	5
Acronyms and Abbreviations	6
About Srer Khmer	7
A. Project Accomplishments	8
I. Vegetable Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	8
II. Farmer-to-farmer Insect Ecological Identification and Training Project	10
III. Participatory Plant Breeding	11
IV. On-farm trial of Low Net Tunnel Technology	11
V. Farmer Life School	12
VII. IPM Farmer Field School	14
B. National and International Study Tour Visitors to Srer Khmer	14
C. National and International Meeting/Workshops/Study Tours Attended by Srer Khmer Staff Members	14
D. Staff Capacity Building	15
Financial Highlights	18
Srer Khmer Staff Members in 2003	19

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with great pleasure that we look back on the achievements of Srer Khmer during the year 2003. Firstly, we would like to note that these achievements would not have been possible without the great commitment of the staff, the Board of Advisors and our funding agencies.

The accomplishments have been made possible with the active support of the following donors: FAO Vegetable IPM Programme in Asia, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Center for Genetic Resources/The Netherlands (CGN), and The Dietrick Institute for Applied Insect Ecology based in USA, SUSPER and Care Cambodia. On behalf of the Board of Advisors of Srer Khmer, we would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for their supports.

For bringing together the information in the fields, we wish to thank all Srer Khmer staff members for their paramount hard work. Victor ONIONS of Australian Volunteer International (AVI) helped edit the final version of this annual report.

To end with, we would also like to thank our partners and all the other government and non-governmental organizations, farmer trainers, government district trainers, local authorities and people's organizations for their good collaboration and with great hope that it will continue.

Srer Khmer
July 2004

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADDA	Agricultural Development Denmark Asia
AESA	Agro Ecological System Analysis
CARE	Care Cambodia
CGN	Center for Genetic Resources/The Netherlands
DT	District Trainer
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFS	Farmer Field School
FLS	Farmer Life School
FT	Farmer Trainer
FTOC	Farmer Trainer Orientation Course
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
PEDIGREA	Participatory Enhancement of Diversity of Genetic Resources in Asia
PPB	Participatory Plant Breeding
SUSPER	Sustainable Development of Peri-Urban Agriculture in South East Asia Project

ABOUT SRER KHMER

Srer Khmer means Field of Cambodia, a Cambodian non-governmental organization, non-profit and non-partisan dedicated to sustainable community-based development by promoting farmer-led activities, farmers networking, farmer organization, and farmer knowledge on ecological agriculture.

Srer Khmer was established on January 9, 2002 by a group of former staff of FAO Community IPM Programme, the founders of Srer Khmer. The FAO project ended in late 2001 after operation in Cambodia since 1996, therefore, to continue the activity of community based integrated pest management (IPM) Farmer Field Schools (FFS), a proven approach to successful ecological learning and farmer networking, Srer Khmer was the response to the need to further build on the work of FAO and facilitate the work of farmers-led activities.

Srer Khmer management structure consists of a Management Committee, which oversees and provides day-to-day management of the organization, A Board of Advisor provides support and advice to the Director and the Management Committee who provide leadership and liaison vis-à-vis other institutions and organizations.

Our Vision

Farming communities must have the capacity, rights and ownership in making decisions to any issues that are relevant to sustain their living.

Our Mission

In recognition of farmers' rights to learn, use and manage their own community resources and participate in any decision related to their livelihood, is committed to provide farmers opportunities to gain knowledge and strengthen their capacity to lead and manage their lives through participatory learning approaches which build on understanding the fundamental relationship between agriculture, environment and rural societies.

Srer Khmer works to complement the government and NGO initiatives in community-based Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Farmer Field Schools (FFS). IPM FFS was used as an entry point to a wide range of farmer-led activities and community development. Farmer Trainers, who were selected and trained from the graduated FFS farmers, have been actively involved in developing action plans based on the needs of communities to strengthen their knowledge in ecological agriculture and to improve their networking.

Srer Khmer works with Farmer Trainers as their main partners in developing broad farmer-to-farmer training activities in the areas of ecological agriculture and livelihood related issues. Farmer Trainers have played an important role in organizing farmer meetings and follow-up training activities. Key government district IPM trainers supported these activities as technical advisors to Farmer Trainers.

A. PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I. VEGETABLE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

The main objectives of Vegetable IPM project are (i) to support Farmer Field Schools and farmer action research organized by farmer trainers with technical support from government district IPM trainers, (ii) to provide training and support to Farmer Trainers on topics related to Farmer Field School and post-FFS activities by farmers, (iii) to support the strengthening of farmer and farmer trainer networks by means of training, cross visits and meetings, (iv) development of farmer-based pesticide free vegetable production and marketing associations, and (v) to support government National IPM program by training of District Trainers.

(i). Support for Government Training Activities

Srer Khmer assisted the vegetable IPM team of the National IPM Program in conducting baseline survey on vegetable production. The training curriculum of FFS was developed to include a pesticide and health study component to be incorporated in FFS and field guide on tomato and yard long bean. The AESA form and diary was developed from a baseline survey and adapted for the vegetable FFS, it also assisted the vegetable IPM team to develop the program for a workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation. This work involved the:

- Preparation of a training manual for Farmer Trainer Orientation Course (FTOC) in collaboration with the National IPM team.
- Organized Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation for District IPM trainers. The purpose of the training was to strengthen the trainers' skills on how to monitor and evaluate the IPM Farmer Field Schools as well as to make the training more effective and efficient. Thirty district trainers (DT) were invited from different provinces to participate in the training conducted in Battambang Province.
- Training of the National IPM team and DT on Post-FFS activities. There were 3 National IPM staff and 43 DTs (17 were women) from Kandal, Kampong Cham, Battambang and Siem Reap Provinces.

(ii). Support for Farmer Vegetable Associations and Marketing

There are 13 farmers growing organic vegetable in Kandal and Siem Reap provinces and two shops continue to operate selling organic vegetables in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.

Technical staff regularly provide back-up support to all organic farm sites both in Siem Reap and Kandal provinces on crop rotation, sowing techniques, crop calendar, soil preparation, seed selection, seed testing, wooden seedling bed making, crop diversity planting and botanical insecticides.

A one-week training course on Internal Control System (ICS) was conducted at Srer Khmer office in Phnom Penh in September 2003. The training was technically assisted by Mr. Koen Den Braber, a consultant from Hanoi Organic, Vietnam, assisted with technical input for the course. The purpose of the course was to upgrade the participants skills in all aspects of organic vegetable production. Fifteen (15) participants undertook the course, included were 2 farmer trainers from Kandal, 4 district trainers from Siem Reap and Kandal, 1 provincial coordinator from Kandal, 2 national IPM staff, 1 from CEDAC and 5 Srer Khmer staff.

(iii). Support for Farmer Action Research

- Four Farmer Field Schools were successful completed during the wet season in Kandal and Siem Reap provinces on Chinese kale, cauliflower, cucumber and yard long bean. Ninety-one (91) farmers (25 were women) participated in the FFS with 3 Farmer Trainers and 1 District Trainer responsible in each FFS.
- Farmer Clubs were formed to empower farmers in leadership, to organize field activities and to deal with the problems by themselves. These clubs provided farmers with opportunities to meet, share information together and to learn how to solve problems in the community. There were 28 farmer clubs formed in Kandal, Battambang, Kg. Cham and Siem Reap provinces. The total farmer membership of the 24 clubs that continue to operate were 414 (224 were women).
- The field experiments were an important tool for farmers to learn, discover and search for new appropriate technology to manage and improve their crop production. Fifty-six (56) field experiments were conducted with the technical assistance from the District Trainers and Farmer Trainers. Twelve (12) field trials were completed by four farmer clubs in Siem Reap province, with 79 farmers (29 were women) involved in these farmer clubs.
- A refresher course on living soil was organized for farmer clubs with 74 (31 were women) participant club members. All the participants were very interested in soil ecology and to understand how to improve or manage their soil structure.
- Four farmer health studies related to pesticides were included in the curriculum of the FFS. Through this exercise, IPM farmers both in Kandal and Siem Reap provinces volunteered to grow organic vegetables because of concerns about their health.



II. FARMER-TO-FARMER INSECT ECOLOGICAL IDENTIFICATION AND TRAINING PROJECT

The project aims to build the capacity of core staff in the technical related aspects to insect collection, identification and taxonomy, and materials arrangement including dissections and storage of the specimens. The project needs to focus more on summarizing the results of this study and to organize ecological insect training, field experiments will be prepared after training for key farmers (Farmer Trainers), the aim of which is to build the capacity of farmer trainers' understanding of the concept and field practices of insect ecology and identification.



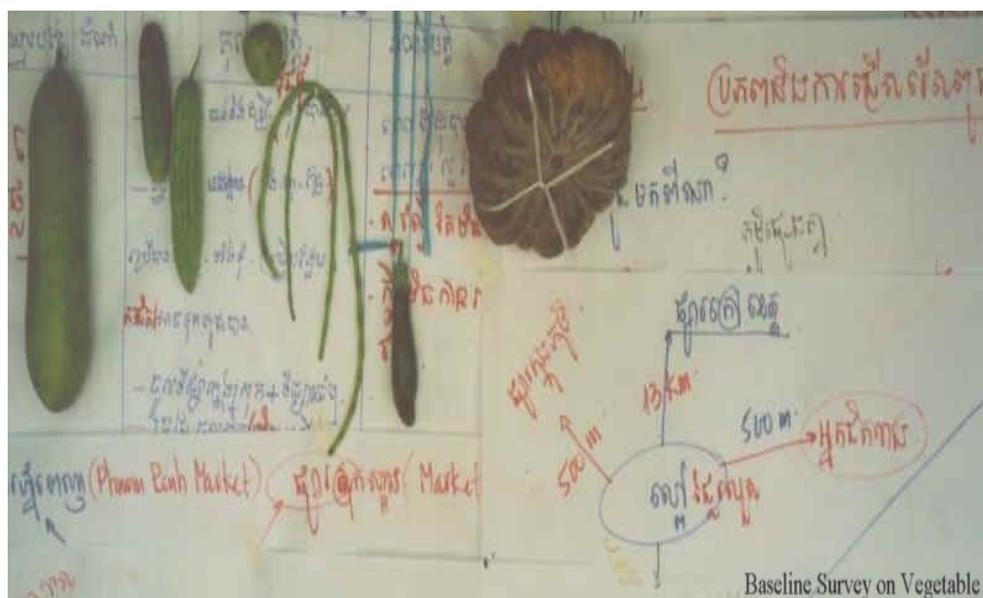
- Specimens collection: hundreds of insect specimens have been collected from different vegetable field crops. These collections have taken place in 27 villages in Kandal and Kampong Speu provinces. The collection was undertaken to learn about insect diversity in sprayed fields and non-sprayed fields.
- Taxonomy: All specimens have been separated and classified into different orders. More than 17 insect orders have been identified. The process of insect identification was done through electronic microscope with several technical references.
- Labeling and Storages: After the process of identification, different specimens are placed in Petri-dishes or glass-tubes with strong alcohol (99%) and labeled when the specimens are preserved and then stored for follow up study and research.
- Prepare materials and develop action plan: materials and action plan has been developed weekly to allow appropriate time for insects collection and taxonomy.
- Insect ecological training: Four different villages were selected for training: Svay Tany Village (Saang District), Sdau Village (Kien Svay District), Roboh Angkanh (Kien Svay District) and Baren Krom Village (Saang District). An average of 10-15 farmers participated in each training course to compare the insect populations over the whole crop season with the participants.
- Field Experiments: Field experiments at selected locations were conducted by farmers, to learn about insect ecology, in related to aspects of crop protection. Farmers met to observe the field trials on a regular basis with technical backup from the project staff. Two such field experiments were conducted in Svay Tany and Roboh Angkanh villages.

III. PARTICIPATORY PLANT BREEDING

The aim of this project is to strengthen traditional crop diversity in local communities, especially to improve rice and vegetables and the diversity of traditional indigenous vegetables.

Two (2) Farmer Field Schools on rice were organized with 53 participants (21 were women) conducted in Takeo and Battambang provinces and two (2) Farmer Field Schools on vegetables organized in Kg. Speu and Kandal provinces with 60 participants. All participant farmers learned to do crossing breeding by themselves, especially on rice and vegetables and can now lead their group for further discussion.

Moreover, one baseline survey on vegetables was conducted in Takeo and Battambang provinces. The survey helped in developing a training curriculum for on-farm conservation and development of indigenous vegetable crops. Apart from this, a marketing baseline survey was conducted in Takeo province in order to prepare the guidelines for developing market strategies with Farmer Field School.



IV. ON-FARM TRIAL OF LOW NET TUNNEL TECHNOLOGY

This is a pilot project on the dissemination of safe vegetable production technology for short cycle leafy vegetables. The trial helped farmers understand different aspects of crop protection to better manage their crop production.

Two trials were conducted, early wet season and late wet season. Starting early wet season, five field trials were conducted on short cycle leafy vegetables, an average of five farmers participated in each field trial, giving a total of 25 participants in the field trials.

V. FARMER LIFE SCHOOL

The aims of the FLS were (i) to allow farmers to identify and analyze problems by studying farmers' real life situations in order to improve their future living conditions (ii) to provide a forum for farmers working together to share ideas, experiences and to better understand how to alleviate risky behavior in relation to HIV/AIDS and other threats. The project was successful in running these activities and adapting them to a rural livelihood situation. It also encouraged farmers to analyze problems and share experiences with each other as a basis for them to plan to improve their future. Farmer Trainers are the local resource persons for the FLS as they play an important role in the community.

Twelve (12) Farmer Life Schools were conducted in three different Districts: Sonikum, Bakong and Pouk of Siem Reap province in 2003. The FLS training ran for a period of 18 weeks with farmers meeting regularly twice a week. There were 18-20 participants involved in each FLS with a total of 296 participants, of which 216 were women. Three Farmer Trainers ran two of the Farmer Life Schools. All Farmer Life Schools were finished in February 2004.

FLS was able to build capacities in facilitation skills, organizing and managing the school, FLS had good cooperation team work and a close relationship with local authorities, enabling participants to help/support the poorest families in their own village, building their skills in facilitating the participants to analyze the causes of problems and find out the solutions by themselves, especially, it improves the villagers' critical thinking before taking action and making appropriate decisions.

After training in FLS, the farmers have greater knowledge and skills to manage their lives and change their behavior and as such: farmers become key trainer/ facilitators in his/her own community. FLS is a part of community development; farmers become aware of possible risk-taking behaviour related to HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, alcohol abuse and chronic diseases that makes them to be the poorest and most vulnerable group in the community. In addition, farmers learn how to make a better plan for income generation and financial management. Farmer trainers play a vital role in FLS and working with farmers on an ongoing basis leads to the sustainable community development.



VI. FARMER-LED TRAINING ACTIVITIES SUPPORT

The aims are to increase farmers' knowledge of the interactions and inter-dependence of human (social), agricultural and ecological systems: (i) through action research groups in problem solving and critical analysis skills (ii) to build the capacity of farmers to independently initiate, plan, manage, and evaluate activities (iii) to strengthen farmer networking through farmer meetings, group development, discussions and the sharing of experiences. This project is ongoing and is being implemented in Banteay Meanchey province and involved the following activities:

- An agriculture assessment study was conducted (i) to collect information on the present agricultural situation in Malai district, (ii) to more fully understand the needs and essential requirements of farmers and (iii) to develop strategies to help resolve the existing problems. The study report was compiled by Srer Khmer and NPA, and it is available upon request.
- Three Farmer Field Schools (FFS) were completed in Malai district, 2 were completed on rice and the third was on mung beans. There were total of 69 participants (26 were women). The impact assessment conducted by trainers on each farmer field school found that most of participants brought back the technical skills learnt to test on their own plots of land.
- Three Farmer Life School (FLS) were completed in Dambok Vil, Banteay Timuoy and Koh Snuoul villages with 60 participants (23 were women). A range of problems were raised by the participants of the FFS, the 3 most common problems raised for further study was HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and landlessness.
- Ten Field Experiments/Trials were organized in three villages with totally 70 participants (20 were women). The trials were mostly variety and seed purification trials conducted on rice. Farmers showed their willingness to accept the new variety, Senpidor, which was proved suitably for their areas. The Senpidor variety is aromatic, having a nice smell and keeps its elongated rice grain shape when cooked.
- Three training courses on Living Soil were conducted with 60 participants (39 were women). This training gave farmers an understanding of nutrient leaching from the soil and how to maintain soil fertility. Three training courses on health study were completed in three villages with 57 participants (35 were women). Moreover, five training courses on home gardens were organized in Malai district with the involvement of 107 participants (40 were women). Participants came from 5 villages, Lovea, Dambok Vil, Koh Snoul, Banteay Tymouy and Sentepheap. A positive outcome from this training was that most farmers not only reduced the expense of buying daily food from outside but also learned how to generate more income from their gardens.
- Five exchange visits were organized, with 125 farmers participating in the visits (50 were women). The visits enabled farmers could learn more about the organic production/cultivation techniques.

- One farmer Congress was organized in Koh Snuol village with 74 participants (40 were women) to discuss the possibilities in cultivating new crops and the lack of access to water resources. The farmers' main constraint on increased production was a shortage of water, and they suggested ways of making more irrigation systems. The farmers also put their proposed plans to the commune council to consider assisting them based on the decentralization policy plan.
- Two refresher courses/meetings were held (i) to review the implemented activities and to set up qualitative indicators for FFS Monitoring and Evaluation forms and (ii) to revise the implemented activities and to refresh farmers on vegetable plant breeding.
- Farmer Trainer Orientation Course (FTOC) was conducted for 10 farmer trainers. The FTOC training gave them the capability to provide effective training to other farmers in their own villages. In addition they will become the key IPM trainers in the community and also an onsite consultant for farmers in addressing problems relevant to agricultural techniques.

VII. IPM FARMER FIELD SCHOOL

A partnership contract with CARE Cambodia was signed to carry out the IPM FFS training in the target area of Bavel district in Battambang province. The training was assigned to support the community development activities of the CARE project, a post project in support of the de-mining project (IDDP).

Two (2) Farmer Life Schools and two (2) Farmer Field Schools were completed with 102 farmers participating in the schools from 6 different villages. Farmer clubs were formed with 147 farmers; each farmer club had 20-25 farmer members involved. The clubs conducted field experiments, attended home garden and living soil training.

B. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDY TOUR VISITORS TO SRER KHMER

In August 2003, an international group of 2 people from FAO-Rome (Participatory Approaches and Methods Officer) visited the FFS activities run by 3 Farmer Trainers on yard long beans in Trabek village, Sonikum District, Siem Reap Province.

In September 2003, ADDA (Agricultural Development Denmark Asia) group of 3 people visited to see the FFS activities ran by 3 FFS on yard long beans in Trabek village, Sonikum District, Siem Reap Province.

C. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETING/WORKSHOPS/STUDY TOURS ATTENDED BY SRER KHMER STAFF MEMBERS

Staff Members	What	When	Where
Yech Polo Yim Vuthang	Inception Workshop of the Phase 2 FAO Regional Vegetable IPM Programme	Feb. 12 to 14, 2003	Siem Reap, Cambodia
Yech Polo Yim Vuthang	Bi-Annual Meeting FAO Regional Vegetable IPM Programme	Oct. 30 to 31 2003	ChaAm, Thailand

Yech Polo Yim Vuthang	IFOAM International Organic Conference and Organic Trade	Nov 3 to 8, 2003	Menam Hotel, Thailand
Koung Sokunthea	Study Tour on Effect of Chemical Fertilizer and Pesticides on Farming System and the Accessibility to Organic Farming	Oct. 27 to Nov 3, 2003	Sophanborey, Yasothun and Roeid Provinces, Thailand
Sean Poly	International Symposium on Use and Effect of Pesticides in Southeast Asia, Ecological, Biological and Economic	Dec. 11 to 13, 2003	Thailand
Suors Sokha Yech Polo	Regional Workshop on Participatory Plant Breeding	July 10 – 12, 2003	Kula Lumpur, Malaysia

D. STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building is an important on going process and takes time. Srer Khmer encouraged staff to build their own capacity in many ways including in-country training and outside-country trainings/workshops as mentioned in the table below:

Staff Members	What	When	Where
Taing Volakh	Bachelor of English	2002-2003	Norton University
	Developing Quality Management	Dec. 8 to 11, 2003	NPA Office in Phnom Penh
Phoung Dara	Computer Repairing	June – Sept. 2003	International Institute of Cambodia (IIC)
Koung Sokunthea	Bachelor of Agriculture	2002-2003	Royal University of Agriculture
Sean Poly	Computer Skills (MsWord and Excel)	Oct. to Dec. 2003	Cambodian Institute of Specialties (CIS)
	English Writing Skills	Sept. to Dec. 2003	Kang Pengly School of English
Suors Sokha	TOT on Vegetable	July 2003	In-Service training at Srer Khmer facilitated by CGN
	Marketing Baseline Survey Internal and External Analysis	November 2003	In-Service training at Srer Khmer facilitated by LEI

Or Hak	Bachelor of Agriculture	2002-2003	Institute of Management and Technology, BTB
Say Treukphalline	General English Computer skills		University of Cambodia, Phnom Penh
Yim Vuthang	Proposal Writing		Cambodia Researcher for Development (CRD)

E. CONCLUSIONS

Srer Khmer puts all its efforts towards the goals and objectives of providing farmers' opportunities to gain knowledge and strengthen their capacity to lead and manage their lives through participatory learning approaches which build on understanding the fundamental relationship between agriculture, environment and rural societies. With sophisticated planning, good performance and sound management, Srer Khmer completed almost all the activities planned

The Vegetable IPM project played a crucial role in providing training to address farmers' needs. The result was that participating farmers and farmer trainers gained experience and gained more technical knowledge in IPM and organic vegetable production. For the organic vegetable production initiative in particular, farmers understood better and started to produce according to a better planned cropping calendar so as to understand the need for a market supply of produce.

The Insect Identification and Training project collected and documented hundreds of specimens with farmers also involved in insect collection and classification.

The Participatory Plant Breeding plays a very important role in the rural communities to understand and broaden genetic resources based management and farmer empowerment in participating and contributing to improving the production and marketing in a sustainable way. Furthermore, it also increases the capacity of farmers to conserve their plant genetic resources.

The On-farm trial of low net tunnel technology (LNTT) provides a very interesting method in managing the insect pests. The LNTT used the net to cover their crops in order to protect it from insects. Farmers input records are also important for farmers to learn about the cost and return they get from the cultivating crops. Raised bed preparation for planting is essential for growing vegetables in rainy season to avoid water logging that causes the crops loss due to root rot.

The Farmer Life School (FFS) is a most effective approach for educating farmers and for awareness of their risky behaviour which keeps them poor. Through the HESA process, farmers gain knowledge and skills to analyse and to think critically how to control/manage their risky behaviour and to plan for poverty reduction in their community.

Based on the implemented activities over the year and with close cooperation between NPA and Srer Khmer, a total of 180 farmers completed training through farmer-led training or farmer to farmer training. In addition, 10 farmer trainers were trained through FTOC. Moreover, farmer networks through farmer exchange visits both inside and outside their districts have enhanced the relationship between farmers in the regions and this trend should encourage farmer cooperatives or associations to be formed in the near future.

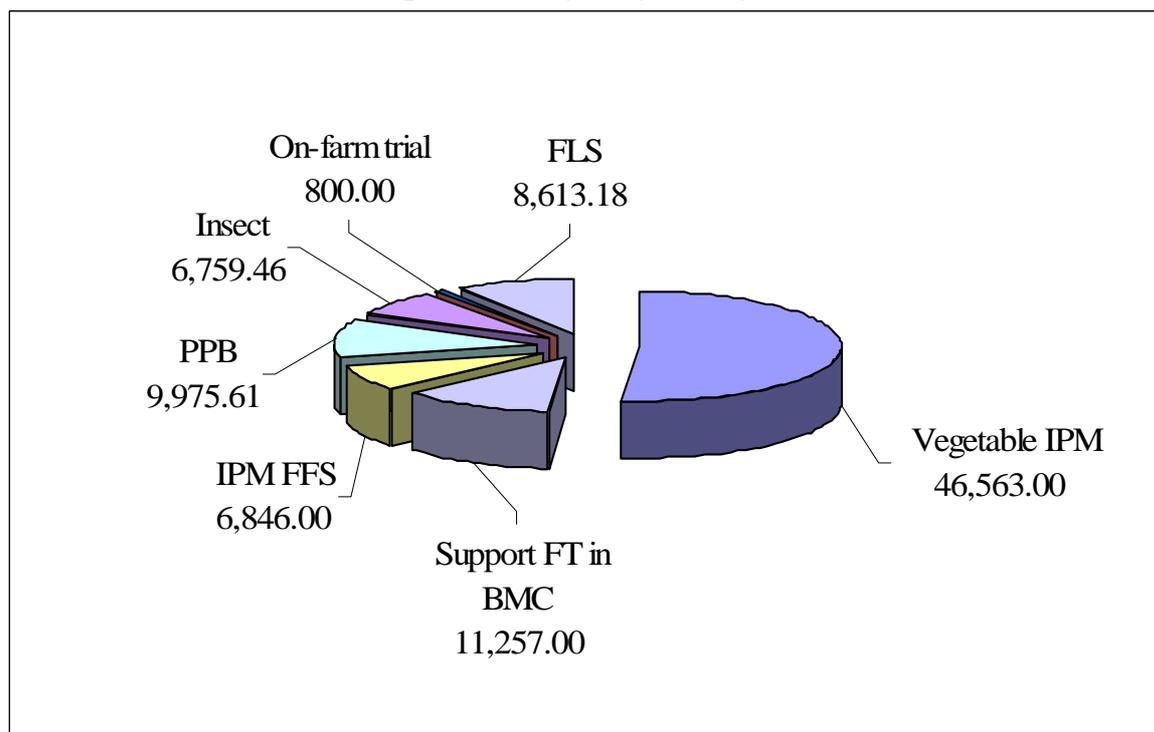
The year 2003 was a challenging one for Srer Khmer and its objectives, which many people view as an important contributor to the work of agricultural development, especially for farmers-led activities in the areas of field experimentation, ecological learning and farmer group formation in Cambodia. However, Srer Khmer will face other great challenges in the coming years, work on the frontline of sustainable agriculture and rural development; therefore, the support both technical and financial will continue to be needed from national and international communities. The broad acknowledgements of their fruitful support are a sign of the successful work of Srer Khmer in facing these challenges.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The total income in the year 2003 was US\$ 90,814.25 from the following funding agencies/donors:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation through Letter of Agreement, Project FNPP/GLO/002/NET (Vegetable IPM Project)
- Norwegian People's Aid (Banteay Meanchey Farmer-led Training Activities Support Project)
- Center for Genetic Resources, The Netherlands and FAO (Participatory Plant Breeding Project)
- Dietrick Institute for Applied Insect Ecology, USA (Farmer-to-Farmer Insect Ecological Identification and Training Project)
- SUSPER Project (On-farm Trial of Low Net Tunnel Technology)
- FAO PRNo. 27428 through Letter of Agreement (Farmer Life School Project)

Expenditure by Project Objectives



SRER KHMER STAFF MEMBERS IN 2003

Supported staff members

Mr. Yech Polo*	Director
Ms. Taing Volakh*	Admin/Finance Officer
Mr. Chun Bunchhoeun	Driver
Mr. Mean Sopheap	Driver
Mr. Mey Kalyan	Office guard
Mr. Srey Vongsothearith	Office guard
Ms. Chea Lina	Cleaner/Office Assistant

Project staff members

Ms. Yim Vuthang*	Project Coordinator (Vegetable IPM)
Ms. Koung Sokunthea	Project Assistant (Vegetable IPM)
Ms. Say Treakphalline	Trainer (Vegetable IPM)
Mr. Sean Poly	Trainer (Vegetable IPM)
Ms. Yun Sinang	Trainer (Vegetable IPM, Siem Reap)
Mr. Sin Chhitna	Provincial Field Assistant (Care Project, Battambang)
Mr. Sours Sokha	Project Officer (PEDIGREA)
Mr. Oum Mo	Team Leader (Insect)
Mr. Phuong Dara	Trainer (Insect)
Mr. Or Hak	Provincial Field Assistant (NPA Banteay Meanchey)
Mr. Pich Phally	Project Coordinator (FLS)
Mr. Puth Loeum	Provincial Field Assistant (FLS) (Siem Reap)
Mr. Ouk Sophorn	Farmer Trainer/Consultant (FLS) (Siem Reap)
Ms. Ang Sao Yan	Farmer Trainer/Consultant (FLS) (Siem Reap)

*: Members of Management Committee of Srer Khmer