

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Cambodian Institute for Research and Rural Development
<b>Project Title:</b>	Upgrading the Value Chains of Eco-labeled and Organic Products for Biodiversity Conservation in Stung Treng Ramsar Site, Cambodia
<b>Grant Number:</b>	65907
<b>CEPF Region:</b>	Indo-Burma II
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	6 Engage key actors in mainstreaming biodiversity, communities and livelihoods into development planning in the priority corridors
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$60,000.00
<b>Project Dates:</b>	April 01, 2016 - May 31, 2018
<b>Date of Report:</b>	July 31, 2018

### Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

**Signature of Asia (SoA):** Is an exporter. This company buy organic paddy from SRAC (Stung Treng Ramsar Rice Agricultural Cooperative) through a contract farming that link to conservation commitment of SRAC members. SoA also supports for the implementation and managment of organic rice quality control and certification as they need to export organic milled rice to EU and USA..

**Provincial Department of Agriculture (PDA-ST) of Stung Treng:** PDA-ST closely collaorate with the project on capacity building of SRAC's board on AC managment. PDA-ST facilitates and acts as a witness of contract farming between SRAC and SoA.

### Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

**1. The organic rice production system following EU and NOP organic standard, developed and being applied by 365 organic rice producers who are members of Community Fisheries (CFi) and Community Forestry (CF) living in 17 villages, 6 communes in the protected area of Stung Treng Ramsar site. The organic rice production system has contributed to increase income of farmers**

and also contributed to biodiversity protection through a contract farming that is linked to conservation commitment.

2. In 2016, there were 247 organic rice producers produced and sold 155 MT of their organic rice to SoA with an incentive price of 400 Riel/kg higher than market price. In average, each organic rice producer increased their income around 60 USD from selling their organic rice. In 2017, there were 365 organic rice producers (members of CFi and CF) signed contract to produce and supply 500 MT of their organic rice to SoA. Unfortunately, due to irregular rainfall (during flowering period) followed by flood disaster there was only 120 MT of organic rice could be collected and sold to SoA with an incentive price of 250 Riel/kg (= 30%) higher than the market price (850 Riel/kg).

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
The livelihood of people living in the protected area of Stung Treng Ramsar site improved while their pressure and dependency on natural forest decreased, contributing to the Species conservation	Organic production and market system developed and applied by people living in the protected area of Stung Treng Ramsar site. This new market system allowed local people who are members of CFi and CF to have access to a better market with higher selling price (+30%) provided them an incentive to fulfill their tasks on conservation of natural resources.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
1: Organic and eco-friendly rice production systems developed in 15 villages, 4 communes in the protected area of Stung Treng Ramsar site, contributing to maintain natural rice-ecosystem biodiversity Short-term Impacts	The organic rice production systems following EU and NOP organic standards developed and being applied by 365 organic rice producers who are members of Community Fisheries (CFi) and Community Forestry (CF) living in 17 villages, 7 communes in the protected area of Stung Treng Ramsar site. This system is managed by farmers cooperative SRAC (Stung Treng Ramsar Rice Agricultural Cooperative) with back-stopping support from CIRD.
2: At least 250 organic and eco-friendly rice producers in the protected area of Stung Treng Ramsar site increased their income 15% through access to higher value-added markets with an incentive for biodiversity conservation engagement	In 2016, there were 247 organic rice producers produced and sold 155 MT of their organic rice to SoA with an incentive price of 400 Riel/kg higher than market price. In average, each organic rice producer increased their income around 60 USD from selling their organic rice. In 2017, there were 365 organic rice producers (members of CFi and CF) signed contract to produce and supply 500 MT of their organic rice to SoA. Unfortunately, due to irregular rainfall (during flowering period) followed by flood disaster there was only 120 MT of organic rice could be collected and sold to SoA with an incentive price of 250 Riel/kg (= 30%) higher than the market price (850 Riel/kg).

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives

**Success:**

- During these 2 years project implementation, CFi and CF members (who are also member of SRAC cooperative) have gained knowledge, practice and experience on organic rice production, following EU and NOP organic standards. A better market access with higher selling price (+30%) provided them an incentive to fulfill their commitments on conservation of natural resources.
- Through project intervention, the official contract between the farmers cooperative SRAC and export company SoA, were developed and signed. This is a good market linkage ensuring longer continuation of the action after the end of the project. This market system developed by the project, will help to promote Ramsar Organic rice for a longer run that can be benefited by local community as incentive for their conservation works.

**Challenge:**

- Limited by local (used to be a remote/isolated area) and historical (security) constraints, the capacity of CFi, CF and SRAC board on organizational and business management is still not yet satisfied as these tasks require people with acceptable educational level while the boards' members of these local organisations have very limited educational background. A further coaching support is needed to enable them to implement their tasks properly. Otherwise, organic rice production, quality control and marketing systems will not be properly managed.
- The number of organic rice producers is big (365 families) and located in a large geographical area (17 villages in 7 communes of 2 districts) and the total organic rice production area is also relatively large (406 ha). Since the capacity of SRAC board members, is still limited, so they have much difficulty in supporting and controlling the organic rice of all members in an effective way.
- SoA could make profit only if SRAC could supply minimum 500 MT of organic rice, this means that the majority of the 365 contracted farmers need to implement their family organic rice production plan successfully. If any natural disaster occurs like the case of 2017, SoA could get a supply much lower than 500 MT, they will not be able to make business with SRAC any more.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

N/A

## Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Organic and eco-friendly rice production techniques developed and adopted by farmers	1.1	A set of training tools on organic and eco-friendly rice production techniques	A set of training tools on organic and eco-friendly rice production techniques were developed and trained to organic rice producers. These training tools are still being used in the project.
1	Organic and eco-friendly rice production techniques developed and adopted by farmers	1.2	Report on the training provided by the project on organic and eco-friendly rice production techniques	<p>After the training tool on organic and eco-friendly rice production techniques were developed, there were 3 different topics were provided to cooperated farmers. They are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Production and use of compost: There were 16 training sessions conducted in May 2016 for 316 participants (254 are women). In Feb and March 2017, there were 12 training organized with participation of 193 participant, including 143 women.</li> <li>2. Organic rice cultivation techniques: There were 16 training sessions conducted in June 2016 with participation of 263 farmers including 193 women. In May 2017, there were 12 training organized with participation of 246 participants, including 195 women.</li> <li>3. Soil fertility management (crop rotation, green manure, soil bio-diversity conservation,...): There were 6 training sessions conducted in July 2016 with participation of 103 participants (45 are women).</li> </ol> <p>In June 2017, there were 335 rice producers, including 261 women, participated in the training on organic and eco-friendly rice production techniques. There were 30 farmers did not participate in the training but they were directly coached by the project staffs at their house and their rice field to enable them to apply organic rice te</p> <p>After each training series were completed, the report of each topic were pr</p>
1	Organic and eco-friendly rice production techniques	1.3	A report on numbers of farmers (100 Men and 150	There is a list of farmers who applied techniques introduced by the project developed. In 2016, there were 247 rice farmers, including 142 women applied. In 2017, there will be 365 rice producers, including 237 women,

	developed and adopted by farmers		women) applied the techniques introduced by the project	applied organic rice production techniques that introduced by the project.
2	The organic and eco-friendly rice harvest, post-harvest and processing techniques are developed and adopted by farmers	2.1	A set of training tools on improved harvest, post-harvest and processing techniques	A set of training tools on improved harvest, post-harvest and processing techniques were developed and already trained to organic rice producers. These training tools are still being used in the project.
2	The organic and eco-friendly rice harvest, post-harvest and processing techniques are developed and adopted by farmers	2.2	Report on the training on harvest, post-harvest and processing techniques provided by the project	<p>After the training tools on harvest, post harvest and processing technique were developed. There were 2 topics trained to cooperated farmers. They are:</p> <p>1. Improved rice harvest and post-harvest techniques: There were 12 training sessions conducted in October 2016 with participation of 149 participants (133 are women).</p> <p>2. Improved rice processing/milling techniques: There were 2 trainings conducted in Aug and Sep 2016 with participation of all board members of SRAC (05 persons). After each training series were conducted, the report of each training was prepared.</p> <p>In Oct 2017, there were 345 rice producers, including 219 women, participated in the training on harvest, post-harvest and processing techniques. There were 20 farmers did not participate in the training, but they were directly coached by the project staffs at their house.</p> <p>In Nov 2017, there were 6 Board SRAC, participated in the training on quality check of rice paddy.</p>
2	The organic and eco-friendly rice harvest, post-harvest and processing techniques are developed and adopted by farmers	2.3	A report on numbers of farmers (100 Men and 150 women) applied the techniques introduced by the project	There is a list of farmers who applied techniques introduced by the project developed. In 2016, there were 247 farmers, including 142 women applied. In 2017, there were 365 rice producers, including 237 women, applied improved harvest and post-harvest techniques.
3	Organic and eco-friendly rice	3.1	Book of specification	The Book of Specification (BoS) of organic rice following EU and USA standard were developed. In 2016, the

	production and product quality standards developed and adopted by buyers and farmers		(BoS) of organic and eco-friendly rice produced in the Stung Treng Ramsar site	project trained to 247 organic rice producers, including 142 women about this standard. In 2017, the number of organic rice producers trained by the project increase up to 365 producers, including 237 women. This standard is still being used by the project.
3	Organic and eco-friendly rice production and product quality standards developed and adopted by buyers and farmers	3.2	Report on the BoS training conducted for all target farmers	After the BoS was developed, there were 12 trainings organized in August 2016 with participation of 253 participants, including 158 women. In May-June 2017, there were 17 trainings organized with participation of 356 participants, including 261 women. The report of these trainings was prepared after the training finished.
3	Organic and eco-friendly rice production and product quality standards developed and adopted by buyers and farmers	3.3	Report on number of rice farmers (100 Men and 150 women) adopted the BoS developed	There is a list of farmers who adopted BoS was developed. In 2016, there were 247 farmers, including 142 women complied with BoS. In 2017, there were 365 rice producers, including 237 women, complied with the standard.
4	Quality control systems developed and applied by farmers and market operators to ensure the quality standard reached by consumers	4.1	Report of establishment of internal control group with list of all members	The internal control groups with clear structure were established and implemented their activities since 2016. These group are: - Internal inspector group: 23 members (05 are women). This group play important roles in checking the compliance of organic rice producer with the BoS. - Internal inspection committee: 05 members ( including 1 woman). This group play important role in checking the quality of internal inspector group's work.  Until now, these 2 groups still continued working and fulfilling their task assigned with slightly support from the CIRD staffs.
4	Quality control systems developed and applied by farmers and market operators to	4.2	Internal control tools developed	The internal control tools were developed, trained to internal control group and used by internal control group since 2016. These tool are: farmer recording book, confirmation letter, inspection plan, inspection check list, producer code, sanction recording book and list of deviation and relevance sanction. Until now, those tools are still being used by SRAC.

	ensure the quality standard reached by consumers			
4	Quality control systems developed and applied by farmers and market operators to ensure the quality standard reached by consumers	4.3	Internal inspection report	In the process of organic rice production standard. It is required to have at least 2 time inspection per production cycle; and it must be a 100% internal control. - In 2016, there were 2 times of internal control done. First control done in Sept 2016 and second control done in Nov 2016. - In 2017, there were 2 times of internal control done. First control done in Oct 2017 and second control done in early December 2017. After each inspection completed, the report was prepared.
4	Quality control systems developed and applied by farmers and market operators to ensure the quality standard reached by consumers	4.4	External inspection report and certification	Through good cooperation with SoA (an export company), the project assisted SRAC's board member to identify and select international certification body. - In 2016: SRAC select and entrusted BioAgriCert (Italian one) for external inspection and certification in Nov 2016. As the result, all organic rice producers were certified (247 farmers) as organic rice in compliance with EU and US organic standard. - In 2017: SRAC select and entrusted Control Union (Germany one) for external inspection and certification in Dec 2017. As the result, all organic rice producers were certified (365 farmers) as organic rice in compliance with EU and US organic standard.
5	The agriculture cooperative (SRAC)'s capacity in collective business management is strengthened and become a key business partner of organic and eco-friendly rice market operators	5.1	Training report on business management and business plan development	The training on business development and business plan development was organized for board member of SRAC and the report about this training was prepared. - in ..... 2016: There was a training on business management and business plan development to SRAC board with participation of 7 people, including 1 woman. - In June 2017: There was 1 refresher training on business management and business plan development to SRAC board with participation of 7 people, including 1 woman.
5	The agriculture cooperative (SRAC)'s capacity	5.2	Business plan of SRAC	After the training on business development and business plan development was provided to board of SRAC, the project staffs assist them to develop the business plan for

	in collective business management is strengthened and become a key business partner of organic and eco-friendly rice market operators			SRAC, especially on producing and selling organic rice to SoA. In 2017, SRAC plan to produce and sell 500 MT of organic rice to SoA.
5	The agriculture cooperative (SRAC)'s capacity in collective business management is strengthened and become a key business partner of organic and eco-friendly rice market operators	5.3	Report on progressing of business activities of SRAC	The business activities of SRAC in 2016 was reported. There were 155 MT of organic pepper that produced by SRAC's members and sold to Signature of Asia (SoA), by which 27 MT were organic white rice and 128 MT was organic fragrant rice. As planned, in 2017, SRAC has to supply 500 MT to SoA but there were only 120 MT of organic rice were supplied from SRAC due to climate change and the changing of rice variety ordering from SoA.
5	The agriculture cooperative (SRAC)'s capacity in collective business management is strengthened and become a key business partner of organic and eco-friendly rice market operators	5.4	Strengthened organizational capacity of Cambodian Institute for Research and Rural Development to plan and implement conservation projects, as demonstrated by increased civil society tracking tool scores over the project period	
6	A brand of	6.1	Collective	Since most of the surplus organic rice produced by

	organic and eco-friendly rice developed, promoted and acknowledged by competent authority, market operators and consumers		Trademark/Brand of organic and eco-friendly rice produced in Ramsar Area is developed, promoted and acknowledged by competent authority, market operators and consumers	cooperated farmers were sold to SoA for export markets, so there were very little amount of organic rice remain for selling in local markets. Due to this problem, the project decided to keep using the existing brand "Stung Treng Ramsar Rice". Recently, the project still assist SRAC to promote their organic rice by using the existing brand name " Stung Treng Ramsar Rice"
6	A brand of organic and eco-friendly rice developed, promoted and acknowledged by competent authority, market operators and consumers	6.2	Promotional tools (Leaflet, banner and T-shirt) of organic and eco-friendly rice are developed for promotional activities	
6	A brand of organic and eco-friendly rice developed, promoted and acknowledged by competent authority, market operators and consumers	6.3	Certificate of brand recognition	
7	Markets for organic and eco-friendly rice identified and incentive price is provided to producers with conservation engagement	7.1	Report of meeting between buyer and rice farmers	Many meetings between SoA and SRAC was organized to discuss about business cooperation. In 2016, there were 4 meeting organized between SoA and SRAC representative to discuss about organic rice business. In 2017, there were 3 meetings organized between SoA and SRAC representative to discuss about organic rice.

7	Markets for organic and eco-friendly rice identified and incentive price is provided to producers with conservation engagement	7.2	Contract farming between buyers and SRAC developed for	The contract farming between SRAC and SoA about producing and selling of organic paddy rice was developed and being used by both parties with the witness from Stung Treng PDA. In 2016, the contract between SoA and SRAC was developed and signed with the total amount of 200 MT. In 2017, the same contract was reviewed, corrected, validated and signed in July 2017 with total amount of 500 MT.
7	Markets for organic and eco-friendly rice identified and incentive price is provided to producers with conservation engagement	7.3	Contract farming between SRAC rice producers developed	The contract farming between SRAC and its member was developed and being used by SRAC and its members. In this contract farming, there are some points mentioned about biodiversity conservation. It means that all SRAC members who signed contract with SRAC must participate in conservation activities. In 2016, there were 247 organic rice producers signed this contract. In 2017, there were 365 organic rice producers signed the contract.
7	Markets for organic and eco-friendly rice identified and incentive price is provided to producers with conservation engagement	7.4	Report on amount of rice sold and purchased by rice farmers and buyers	In 2016, there were 155 MT of organic rice, by which 27 MT was white rice and 128 MT was fragrant rice, sold by SRAC members to SoA with incentive price for biodiversity protection. In 2017, there were 120 MT sold by SRAC's members to SoA.
8	The biodiversity conservation is ensured	8.1	Conservation agreement between beneficiaries, SRAC, community fisheries and community forestry is developed with witness from CIRD and Stung Treng section of fisheries administration	There are few articles about biodiversity protection mentioned in the contract farming between SRAC and its members. All organic rice producers who did signed the contract, meaning that they agreed in biodiversity protection. They can refer to the regulation of community fisheries or community forestry where they live nearby. Since the number of organic rice producer who signed the farming contract increased to from 247 in 2016 to 365 in 2017, it means the number of people who agreed on biodiversity protection increased accordingly.
8	The biodiversity	8.2	Action plan to	The action plan to monitor the compliant of conservation

	conservation is ensured		monitor the compliant of conservation agreement is developed.	agreement was developed in line with the control plan of organic rice production. In 2016, there were 2 times which were implemented first time in August and second control in October-November. In 2017, 2 time control was applied, first control done in Oct and second control done in Dec.
8	The biodiversity conservation is ensured	8.3	Monitoring report on the conservation engagement implemented.	After each time of control finished, the report of the control were prepared. Any producers who did not complied with the organic rice standard and violate the contract will be dismissed from the group and they could not sell their rice to SRAC in incentive price. In 2016, there was no any member violated the contract. In 2017, there was a member of SRAC illegal bombed in fisheries community; and he was dismissed from Cooperative.

Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/o4rdse2ig95vduy/AAAFZIO7lq-5gevL\\_wVTscQaa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/o4rdse2ig95vduy/AAAFZIO7lq-5gevL_wVTscQaa?dl=0)

## Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

Consider lessons that would inform:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

**Mobilize the management committes of CFi and CF (who's main tasks are about conservation) to be the internal controllers/inspectors of the organic rice production system is very useful for ensuring both quality of organic rice and also conservation work becuae those persons know the people their villages very well, thus if someone do illegal fishing, they can apply the rule and commitments stated in the contract farming for organice rice.**

## Sustainability / Replication

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.



Limited by local (used to be a remote/isolated area) and historical (security) constraints, the capacity of CFi, CF and SRAC board on organizational and business management is still not yet satisfied as these tasks require people with acceptable educational level while the boards' members of these local organisations have very limited educational background. A further coaching support is needed to enable them to implement their tasks properly. Otherwise, organic rice production, quality control and marketing systems will not be properly managed. To address this challenge, CIRD extends the target area of its current UPSCALE project (funded by Belgium government DG-D through a Belgium NGO, ADG) to SRAC coverage area to support mainly on quality rice seed multiplication and SRAC organisational and business management.

## Safeguards

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

In early 2017, a contracted organic rice producer member of CFi living in Koh Pnov village used illegal fishing gear to catch fish in Mekong River. Organic rice internal inspector who is also a committed member of CFi controlled the action and quickly reported to authorities who promptly responded by arresting this man who used illegal fishing gear. Based on farming and conservation contract made for organic rice purchasing, SRAC had suspended his membership from organic rice supply group.

## Additional Comments/Recommendations

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

## Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

**Total additional funding (US\$)**  
\$10,500.00

### Type of funding

*Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:*

- A *Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*

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- B Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
  - C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

**SoA contributed 10,500 USD to the project implementation, focusing on organic rice production management. In 2016, SoA contributed 1,500 USD on internal control cost and 3,500 USD on external control and certification fee. In 2017, SoA contributed 5,500 USD on external control and certification fee.**

### **Information Sharing and CEPF Policy**

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

**Name: Mr. Mao Vannak. Organization: CIRDC (Cambodian Institute for Research and Rural Development). Mailing address:# 35 street 410, Boeung Trabek, Chamkar Morn, Phnom Penh. Telephone: +(855) 17 26 86 13. Email: maovannak@cirdc.org.kh / cirdc@cirdc.org.kh**