

# Civil Society and Pro-Poor Markets Case Study

## *Participating in the CIP Process through Collective Social Action*

***Samakum Akpiwat Prochea Chun Phoum Talang***, a farmers association (FA) in Talang Village in the Kampot province, was founded on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Six groups participate in this Community Based Organization (CBO) which has a total of 1128 members, half of whom are women. CBO members work to achieve the following:

- Consolidation of small groups under the farmers association in order to save community funds for assistance in the community
- Improvement and promotion of agricultural techniques to increase food security in the village
- Promotion and application of good community business practices
- Successful management of the community's natural resources

Although the CBO was recognized by the Commune Council (CC) in 2004, communication and cooperation was still weak. In addition many CBO members did not understand how to become involved in the CIP process. They were not aware that they could attend meetings and the CC had not invited them to join the CIP process.

### Working with CEDAC and CSPPM

CEDAC worked with the CBO to facilitate its entrance into the CSPPM project and in November of 2008, the CBO was officially registered. Once a member of CSPPM, CEDAC worked closely with the CBO executive members to provide coaching and mentoring in the following areas:

- Strengthening CBO management and leadership
- Proposal writing
- Development of small grant projects on community management for submission to CRS

The CBO also received training on the CIP development process and how to increase its voice and advocate to stakeholders on natural resource management and community business issues.

### Overcoming Challenges and Achieving Results

Since participating in CSPPM, communication and cooperation between the *Samakum Akpiwat Prochea Chun Phoum Talang* and the commune council has increased significantly. The two entities now work together more closely and CBO members actively participate in the CIP development process.

For the 2009 CIP development process, executive members of the CBO attended the step one meetings at the Commune/Sangkat (C/S) level. During these meetings, they raised several issues on behalf of villagers including decreasing amounts of fish, outbreaks of animal diseases, and lack of capital for agricultural investments. Once these issues were presented to the Council, they were incorporated into CIP table 1.1, which outlines the community's priorities for future action. However, members did not just mention problems; they also suggested activities which could potentially alleviate some of these

problems, such as forming an NRM group, organizing a tree planting day, increasing and forming saving groups, and promoting laws relating to the living conditions of villagers. At the end of the meeting these points were also included in CIP table 1.1.

Besides the successful participation in the CIP development process, CBO members also cooperated with local authorities to rehabilitate the road and to construct a watergate. The CBO and the CC each contributed capital and labor. The total contribution of capital reached 1,720,000 riel. Due to these efforts, over 30 households now have enough water for irrigation.

### **Moving Forward**

Since cooperating with CSPPM, CBO members have improved their knowledge and understanding on proposal development, creating a work plan, and the importance of participation in the CIP process. CBO members also have increased their awareness on advantages of improved natural resource management. Communication and cooperation between the CBO and the CC has progressed steadily and the CC is showing its support for CBO initiatives. The CBO has grown stronger as an organization and have mobilized and currently manage 24 million riel in savings to provide loans to its members.