

STORIES FROM A CLIMATE CHANGE HERO

Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Cambodia

Mr. Say Rith has been an engaged member and treasurer of the Stengslakou Agricultural Cooperative since its inception in 2012. Mr. Say is an advocate for early adoption of drought resistant agricultural practices in his home village of Dokpor, Takeo.



Mr. Say Rith at one of his farms; a crop recently planted on Mr. Say's farm using the end product from the rice husk kiln process.

Despite the upcoming dry season, father-of-three Mr. Say Rith was excited about the future of agriculture in his home village of Dokpor, Takeo province.

Mr. Say's enthusiasm stems from participation in training provided under a [partnership](#) between the [United Nations Development Programme](#) and [DanChurchAid](#). As a result of the training, conducted in March 2019, Mr. Say has been one of the first Cambodians to implement drought resistant agricultural techniques into his farming practices across his four farm plots. "The thing that I appreciated most was learning about irrigation systems that can save water", said Mr. Say. "These can help, as our biggest issues related to climate change are water issues, diseases in crops and animal health."

Mr. Say has been heavily involved in his community for many years. As a key contributor to the establishment of

a community savings group in 2004, Mr. Say then took on the role of treasurer and member of the management team, as the group transitioned to the Stengslakou Agricultural Cooperative in 2012. Mr. Say was re-elected in his role as treasurer in 2019.

Mr. Say introduces one of his plots where he has practiced some of the techniques learned at the training, including first use of the cooperative's new rice husk kiln. In doing so, Mr. Say has made sufficient charcoal to allow him to experiment with crop planting at a time when others are concerned about their agricultural livelihoods. Mr. Say found that these techniques are "very easy to use." Mr. Say's contribution to continual growth in his community's agriculture industry is clear: "I would like to learn more about contract farming so that prices can become stable and bring income to our communities."

Working together to build the country's forecasting capacities

Project Brief

Duration: 2016-2020

Project Budget: USD \$4,910,285

Implementing Partner:

Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology

Funding: GEF-Least Developed Country Fund

Location: Cambodia, nation-wide

Population to Benefit: Over 15 million (est.)

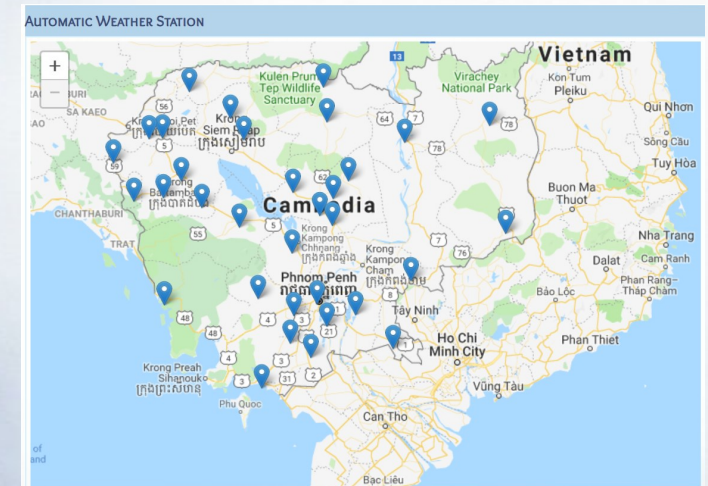
Cambodia's geographical exposure and the lack of adaptive capacity make it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. With over 80% of the population dependent on subsistence farming, rural populations are particularly exposed.

Floods in 2013 affected 1.7 million people, with an estimated loss of US\$ 356 million. In 2016, floods affected 2.5 million people. These events are precursors of the impacts of the changing climate. Climate information is essential to prepare farmers.

With support from UNDP and funding from the GEF-Least Developed Countries Fund, the project '[Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems](#)' is supporting the [Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology \(MoWRAM\)](#) to increase Cambodia's institutional capacity, to assimilate and forecast weather, hydrological and climate information, and to improve communities' access to reliable information and early warning systems.

Under the project, 24 automatic weather stations and 29 hydrological stations for surface and ground water have been installed across the country, integrating technology and placing communities at the heart of a people-centred early warning system.

Information from the stations will be key to generating early warning messages, both for planning and for disaster preparedness and emergency response.



Globally, 45 countries are developing and strengthening early warning systems, with 189 new end-to-end early warning systems established in 26 countries. With UNDP support, nearly 21 million people have improved access to reliable climate information and early warning systems.

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