

CAVAC Irrigation Schemes Make Farming Easier For Women – Year Thon Story





Cambodia-Australia Agricultural Value Chain Program

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Agenda

1. Agriculture sector in Cambodia
2. Cambodian women
3. COVID-19 in Cambodia
4. CAVAC's goal & objectives
5. CAVAC key investments & women engagement
6. Key achievements, good practices & lessons learned
7. CAVAC's responses to COVID-19

1. Agriculture sector in Cambodia

- Agriculture provides about one quarter of Cambodia's GDP
- Rice farming provides a livelihood for many people
- Agriculture represents over a third of the workforce



2. Cambodian women

- Total population: around 16 million (50 % women)
- Women are key actors in many value chain
- Women represent about 60% of AC members
- The majority of women's businesses are micro enterprises
- Women and girls face inequalities in many areas
- Gender based violence is common and widely accepted



3. COVID-19 in Cambodia

- ❑ Cambodian women are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19
- ❑ Women are more likely to undertake unpaid caring responsibilities due to ongoing school closures
- ❑ Many sectors, esp. tourism and hospitality, are seriously hit by COVID-19.
- ❑ During this pandemic crisis, agriculture remains an important sector for livelihood for many people

4. CAVAC's goal and objectives

CAVAC's overarching goal is to **promote a commercially viable, resilient agriculture sector**

CAVAC focuses on two objectives:

1. Establishing sustainable irrigation services for profitable irrigated agriculture.
2. Promoting an increasingly competitive agriculture industry.

5. CAVAC key investments & women engagement

At policy level

- Support MAFF to update and implement their GMPSFAS
- Support MOWRAM and MRD to update and implement their GMAP
- Build the capacity of these three ministries



Australian Government/CAVAC

5. CAVAC key investments & women engagement

In its first phase, CAVAC rehabilitated and constructed 20 irrigation schemes.

In its second phase, CAVAC has constructed and rehabilitated 10 Irrigation schemes.



5. CAVAC investment & women engagement

Promoting agricultural mechanisation

Supporting WE to improve their product

Promoting contract farming

Promoting women in FWUC, ASM

Network of agriculture cooperatives

Promote women's empowerment in mango and cashew value chains

6. Key achievements, good practices & lessons learned

A. Effects of CAVAC's sustainable irrigation schemes on women farmers

1. Changes related to infrastructure
2. Practical benefits/Economic gains
3. Strategic changes with particular benefit to women

Challenge: the number of women in Farmer Water User Committee remains low

6. Key achievements, good practices & lessons learned

B. Gender analysis of seed planter

- ✓ Opportunity to articulate demand and respect ideas
- ✓ Access to information/training/meeting on agri machinery
- ✓ Access to agri machinery
- ✓ Advantages of seed planter and other agri machinery for women

- ❖ Involving men/husbands from earlier stage in order to have more women engaging in CAVAC's activities, getting their support and avoiding conflict
- ❖ Considering machinery that will specifically meet women's labour-saving needs

7. CAVAC responses to COVID-19

- a. CAVAC will scale up efforts to boost agricultural production
- b. We will also promote e-commerce through working with MISTI
- c. Last year: a study conducted to identify gender constraints. Key findings:
 - Women's contribution is essential to both dealing with health and economic threats; and to long-term recovery;
 - Women's contribution is constrained by gender inequality that is both long-standing and exacerbated by the crisis.
 - The crisis is disproportionately impacting on women in multiple ways.
 - ¹²The COVID crisis presents a huge disruption.

CAVAC resources

1. CAVAC website: <https://cavackh.org/>
2. WEE video: <https://cavackh.org/post/cavac-irrigation-schemes-make-farming-easier-for-women-year-thon-story>
3. Study report on Effects of Sustainable Irrigation Services on Women and Men: <https://cavackh.org/post/the-effects-of-sustainable-irrigation-services-on-women-and-men>

Any Questions?

Thank you

