

## The Benefits ReCoERDO Brought to Personnel of CamboDHRRRA

By: Him Noeun, Cambodia –October 07<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Him Noeun (Mr.), CamboDHRRRA Secretary-General. He engaged with ReCoERDO project since early 2019 as national project coordinator under Farmer and Nature Net Association (FNN). In holding this position, he was responsible for overall projection implementation and management support included project proposal development, project progress review, reporting and communication with donors, BOD, consultants and relevant stakeholders. In addition, he worked closely with CamboDHRRRA members and partners in preparing work plan, program development and organizing the events.

It's noted that FNN became ReCoERDO project implementer on May 2018. Since then, FNN that had Mr. Him Noeun as focal point, he mobilized agriculture-related institutions and people work together to improve agriculture production and market linkages by creating CamboDHRRRA platform. As result, on 28 May 2020, CamboDHRRRA official registered at Ministry of Interior with 21 multi-sector institutions including 4 National Farmer Organizations, 12 National/International Non-Government Organizations and 5 private companies. Since that time, Mr. Him Noeun was recruited by Board of Directors of CamboDHRRRA as Secretary-General.

Mr. Him Noeun said that "before ReCoERDO project, I was not too much involved in terms of carrying out my role in the organization development and management, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and Knowledge Management (KM), policy advocacy and research especially, how to engage with the government agencies, private sectors and stakeholders. When I involved ReCoERDO project, I had opportunities to participate in several capacity development and learning visits that organized by AsiaDHRRRA and CamboDHRRRA in the framework of ReCoERDO project. The main topics that I learned such as value chain and market empowerment, business plan, resource mobilization, constructive engagement, successor generation, gender development and mainstreaming, gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation, MEAL and responsible agriculture investment (RAI). Since involved in the project until now, my knowledge and skills improved, I'm able to manage my roles in CamboDHRRRA more effectively by building good partnership and relationship with members of CamboDHRRRA, government official and also academia. In addition, some visibility materials were developed and widely disseminated, active involved in policy dialogues and research and I have confident in leading to organize workshops, fora and meetings. Furthermore, I have long-term vision and committed in leading to meet the goal of my organization.

Regarding to CamboDHRRRA as organization, Noeun said that before ReCoERDO, CamboDHRRRA did not exist the official structure and platform and very difficult to work with its members. Presently, because of ReCoERDO, CamboDHRRRA was able to register officially and set up secretariat and staff, CamboDHRRRA has set clear structure; functions and institutional policies; 5-year (2021-2025) strategic plan of CamboDHRRRA developed; totally, 21 entities includes NFOs, NGOs and private companies who active involving in value chains and coops development became members of



CamboDHRRRA; Capacity of staff of camboDHRRRA members improved in terms of project cycle management, gender-sensitive M&E, agri-value chains and agricultural cooperative development; members of CamboDHRRRA being involved in promoting the participation of youth in Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI); through AsiaDHRRRA platform/ReCoERDO, CamboDHRRRA was able engaged and advocacy on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication at the regional level; CamboDHRRRA has linked and strengthened relations with FAO country office; CamboDHRRRA initiated to lead advocacy on “Responsible Agriculture Investment” especially for the youth at the national level through RAI mapping, case study, set up RAI core group and national workshop; Increasing of agri-business and contract farming partnership between FOs, NGOs and private companies; FOs/agricultural cooperative leaders are able to develop business plans, able to access loan from public bank (ARDB)/MFI, adopt new techniques on farm production, and improve market channels.

However, ReCoERDO should focus more on policy advocacy (national and region/ASEAN), market linkage (cross-country value chain), awareness on ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), access to finance for small scale farmers, promoting youth and women participation in agriculture investment, knowledge management and communication in agriculture and rural development, establishing of pool of experts and so forth.

Overall, all outcomes intended to achieve under ReCoERDO project were completely accomplished. The project also creates a historical legacy for us by establishing of CamboDHRRRA as officially entity. CamboDHRRRA has being continued the initiatives of ReCoERDO even though the project phase-out.

Last but not least, in the framework of its 5-year strategic plan (2021-2025), CamboDHRRRA aims to achieve four strategic goals including: (i) Improved capacity of farmer organizations in technical, business, and organizational development, (ii) Increased market access and capital investment for farmer organizations, (iii) Improved enabling environment for effective and profitable farmers’ businesses and (iv) Increased capacity of CamboDHRRRA to effectively serve its members, especially farmer organizations.

