

## CASE STUDY 02



### HIGH QUALITY NET HOUSE IS OUR NEXT DESTINATION

Being a vegetable grower since 2000, Mrs. Sor Sophy's family has now discovered that vegetable production is their lives and their future. Not only the vegetable grower, Mrs. Sor is also a committee member of Svay Rieng Agricultural Cooperative (SAC) as well. She is an active and leading farmer in the community where success is known to her for long time already.

Building on this production in 2017, she and her husband has agreed to start involving with net house construction under the Project entitled "Economic, Health and Ecological Benefits of Organic Vegetable Production through Introduction of Net House and Organic Fertilizer" implemented by Svay Reing University in cooperation with Royal University of Agriculture under financial support of Agro-Ecological Alliances for South East Asia (ALiSEA). From the new exciting technique, she shared a number of things she has learned.



### Net House – The Things We Got

Being a successful farmer, the Sor's family keeps on expanding production. They have learned a lot from the production and net house as their wonderful and joyful experiences. A few points that they have found to be their benefits for having net house are:

- **Time:** With net house she indicated that time has been added-up as they can grow vegetable at any time. After coming back from her work at SAC, she and her husband can start working within the net house without disturbance from mosquitos which is not possible under conventional growing condition.
- **No Direct Rainfall.** With plastic house on top of the net of the house, her family has found that they can protect the soil from getting direct rainfall. When the rain is not directly falling on the crops, it is good for crop to grow.
- **Less Water More Production.** The soil will get less water during raining season they don't need them too much. Thus, the saturation of the soil is not reaching so easily. This means that they are able to grow more times (more circles).
- **Higher Productivity.** Of course, net house protects crops from pests and they are effective at some level. Less pests mean higher productivity is what the family gets from the net house.
- **Higher Income.** Finally, what they get from the net house is their better income. They claimed that the income has increased of at least 30% higher than without net house. Currently, her net income

from vegetable production is about 1,500,000 riels per month which is only about 800,000 riels at the time she had not grown in the net house.



## Net House – The Things We Missed

Nothing perfect as it is the first time that her family produces vegetable under net house. It is also the first time for SRU in implementing such kind of project as well. She found her net house lacks a number of points:

- **Investment Cost.** At the beginning of the construction, capital investment is a must. Her family has to invest initial cost in combination to the support of the project. Sometimes, it is too much for her family to afford.
- **Poor Quality Net.** As the net is part of the family investment, an affordable net had bought. Finally, it is realized that the quality of the net is very poor – lasted for only one year. This makes the family wasted a lot of money due to the arrival of another time of investment.
- **Not Appropriate for Fruit Vegies.** Because of the net, fruit type vegetables cannot grow as they need pollination. Such issue must be well-aware to avoid the waste of time in production.
- **Watering Needed.** Even during rainy season, watering is needed as the plastic roof protects the soil from rainfall.
- **Carefulness.** The carefulness is needed at anytime but even more with net house. During farming activities, farmers have to be careful with their entering otherwise pests will get into the house. Continuous maintenance is also required to ensure that the net is in good condition of protection all the time.

## What's Next?

As per her experiences, higher quality net house is her next and prioritize activity!

The case is identified and written under the Project “Economic, Health and Ecological Benefits of Organic Vegetable Production through Introduction of Net House and Organic Fertilizer”.

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