**Background**

Since 1998, World Education has been working in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and the Cambodian National IPM Programme in developing, implementing, and evaluating interactive educational programs for rural school children with a focus on sustainable agriculture, environmental protection and food security. The Green Health Project takes the Environmental and Life Skills Education Program into the fields of vegetable production and nutrition education for children in upper primary schools. Project activities are replicated in villages surrounding the school with participation from farmers and their families.

The Green Health Project is funded by the Young Green Foundation and by the Food Security Initiatives Fund, a joint Canadian International Development Agency/Royal Government of Cambodia fund managed by the Canadian Cooperation Office.

**Project Goal**

The goal of the Green Health Project pilot is to achieve sustainable improvements in the quality of life of children and their families in poor rural areas through better diets and children participating more effectively in education.

**Project Methodology - Improving the Quality of Education while Improving Food Security**

*Integrated Pest Management - Healthy Crops*

The project revolves around Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Field Schools. IPM is a farming method used by farmers to minimize the impact of pests and diseases on their crops, it emphasizes sustainable organic production through the conservation of natural biodiversity. IPM Field Schools help students, teachers and farmers learn about good agronomic practices and non-hazardous crop protection methods as they plant, monitor, and manage a crop while it grows to maturity. In the hands-on, activity-based Field School programs, the field and its biological resources become the participants' "learning book." The learning methodology promoted in IPM Field Schools helps learners develop important life skills such as team work, problem solving and analysis, critical thinking and public speaking.

*Nutrition Education - Healthy Diets*

The Green Health Project field school includes a component of nutrition education covering basic nutrition and the important role of vegetables in a healthy diet. This knowledge in nutrition and the benefits of a balanced diet encourages participants to devote the necessary time and energy when tending to a crop of vegetables. Nutrition training also informs participants on how to make better choices about the composition of a meal and to ensure that nutritional benefits are not lost during preparation.

*Local Life Skills Program - Better Education*

In-school learning is centered around a school experimental vegetable garden. These in-school activities represent an example of a local life skills program (LLSP) in accordance with the MOEYS Policy for Curriculum Development 2005-2009. In this Policy, schools, in partnership with parents, their local community, community organizations and NGOs, develop and administer a program using local...
resources in a time slot made available in the National Curriculum of two to five lessons per week. Teachers, technical teaching staff, school and school cluster managers, and district education officials participate in training workshops to learn about the LLSP, how to implement it using the Green Health Project activities, and how to make better use of resources available in the school and the community to enhance the quality and relevance of rural education.

Community Demonstration Gardens
Through demonstration gardens and a cascade training, members of the community within the school catchment area will have access to similar nutrition and vegetable production training to the children in school, reinforcing these essential components to help build food security and a healthy community.

Home Gardens
In a new addition to the IPM in Schools program activities, participants in both school and community gardens will implement their learning at home in a scale version of the demonstration vegetable garden. Teachers, trainers and project staff will use these as one of the measurements of success for the learning activity.

Community - School Linkages
Consistent with WE Projects throughout Cambodia, activities built into the Green Health Project promote the benefits of a strong school community. Integrated school-community trainings and cross visits are two of the ways that students and farmers alike will share experiences and knowledge to build mutual understanding in the community and move towards a stronger school system and community.

Focus on Teacher and Farmer Training
To help teachers and trainers develop the knowledge and skills required to organize their own student or farmer field schools, the project organizes a master training of trainers with follow-up experiences tailored specifically for the trained teachers or farmers. Farmers and teachers alike learn how to use the natural environment as a resource in teaching and training.

Target Areas
The Green Health Project is being implemented in three districts in Prey Veng Province during this two-year pilot phase. Six communities will see nutrition and vegetable IPM local life skills programs and community demonstration gardens in year 1. Year 2 will focus on up scaling the Green Health project activities with the number of targeted communities increasing to 15.

Green Health Stakeholders:
Students and their families
Community volunteers and their families
MAFF officials:
- Provincial level
- District Level
- IPM Trainer
- Farmer Trainer
MoEYS officials:
- Provincial level
- District level
- Cluster School Managers
- School Principals
- School Teachers

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