

Union of agricultural cooperatives is successful in Cambodia

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ADDA Cambodia

Photo: ADDA Cambodia

"Siem Reap Meanchey Union of Agricultural Cooperative", SMUAC, was established on November 20, 2017 and officially received a certificate from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, January 15, 2018 with the support of ADDA / READA and the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Siem Reap (PDAFF). SMUAC has 3,000 members, 2572 women from 10 Agricultural Cooperative (AC) from 6 villages in Siem Reap Province, Chikreng, Sotre Nikum, Prasat Bakong, Banteay Srey, Puok and Angkor Thom. SMUAC has a total of 101 shares and each share costs 1,000,000 Riel, and the membership fee is 100,000 Riel per. Year.



The first general Assembly in SMUAC

SMUAC's tasks

SMUAC acquires and distributes agricultural products for the farmers, thereby offering them a more affordable price.

It is also the task of SMUAC to facilitate the sale of the agricultural products of the villages at better prices than they would otherwise be able to achieve if they were outside the Union. SMUAC advises country leaders in electronic accounting, business management and advocacy, such as product prices, loan rates and control of imports of products. In addition, the SMUAC maintains its government policy on the promotion of cooperative associations and guidance on business management.

Since the formation, SMUAC has participated in various courses, such as business planning, bookkeeping, marketing, communication and negotiation on sales of products (rice), management and monitoring and evaluation.

SMUAC is able to:

- Buy animal feed from production companies and sell to AC at a lower price. It is USD 0.5 per. sack cheaper than what ACs usually give when buying from depots.
- Communicate with PDAFF on the purchase of rice seed and sales to AC. The price is 50% cheaper than the market price.
- Build relationships with buyers, so they have paid 4% per. kg more than the market price for raw rice.
- Provide loans from microfinance institutions to 8 ACs, so that they collectively have obtained 270.250 USD loans (by coordination and negotiation to reduce interest rates by 15% by comparing with interest rates in recent years).

- Participate regularly in meetings with great commitment to help SMUAC.
- Show solidarity and dedication to helping each other.
- Manage the finances and bookkeeping correctly.
- SMUAC business activities are running smoothly.
- Keep effective meetings.
- Have a good relationship with the private sector.
- Transfer their knowledge to the ACs, especially they can prepare lesson plans themselves.



AC leader train self-help group in marketing management.



CACU deliver trainings in business development to AC leaders.

It is clear that cooperative associations have benefited from SMUAC training, as follows:

- Great solidarity and work for the common goal.
- Major responsibility for responsibilities identified in the structure.
- Ability to transfer knowledge to self-help groups (SHG) in accordance with the individual needs of the groups.
- Security in advocacy tactics to handle both the private sector and government authorities for the benefit of communities.
- Be able to apply alternative dispute resolution within their daily tasks and for society as a whole.
- Manage AC expenses properly.
- Run the profitable business efficiently.
- AC executives can keep the correct accounts.
- AC leaders are willing and committed to helping their communities.
- Organization of effective monthly meetings.



AC- leader teach self-help group in book keeping.