**THE CIVIL SOCIETY FUND**

**development intervention**

**Climate Smart Agriculture roll-out**

**(CSA)**

**Implemented by**

Rural Economic and Agricultural Development Agent (READA)

Community Based Integrated Development Organisation (CIDO)

&

Siem Reap Meanchey Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (SMUAC)

**Under the overall guidance and responsibility of**

Agricultural Development Denmark Asia (ADDA)

Implementation from January 2021 to December 2023

CISU Development Intervention Proposal: 20200905 | KVN



1. **Objective and relevance (the world around us)**

*The long-term purpose of the intervention is to support* *small farmers by increasing their resilience to climate change and environmental shocks. The “Climate Smart Agriculture roll-out” (CSA) will introduce (i) innovations on farms aimed at enhancing the resilience of small producers and demonstrate simple adaptation technologies (Best Climate Smart Farming Practice), which improve the productivity and reduce farmers vulnerability to climate change risks, (ii) improve linkage to markets for Climate Smart Agricultural Products and (iii) advocate for institutional support to climate smart agriculture in Cambodia. This includes the implementation and adoption of climate resilient technologies and crop diversification practices. Climate smart farming will be established on locations in Siem Reap (SR) and Oddar Meanchey (ODM) on areas of semi-intensive farming, having experienced severe climatic impacts over the last decade.*

Key challenges addressed: (i) Increased impact of natural hazards, such as droughts and floods; (ii) Reduced water resources; (iii) Reduced growth and productivity; (iv) Increased level of diseases, and (v) COVID-19.

Cambodia is severely affected by COVID-19. Unemployment has increased rapidly within all sectors, e.g. garment and tourism. Resources are not sufficient to sustain livelihood in general and resources are especially insufficient to support extended poor families without income from other sectors. The CSA roll-out Action is designed to increase crop productivity, income and create jobs for rural poor, through a green and sustainable development of the agricultural sector in the recovery post COVID-19.

Farmers adoption of well proven CSA production systems, which (i) are more productive (ii) use inputs more efficiently (iii) have less variability and more stability in outputs and (iv) are more resilient to crisis, shocks and long-term climate variability may provide immediate economic benefits for smallholders [25].

The majority of smallholder farmers in Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey are not equipped with sufficient agricultural crop production skills and climate change adaptation strategies. The lack of access to adaptation strategies has made smallholders very vulnerable to present and future climate-related risks [14]. During extreme weather events, such as severe droughts, extreme rainfall and floods, and stronger typhoons, the limited resources and capabilities have resulted in significant loss of livelihood and properties among smallholders. During these times, they are severely affected by higher food prices, as they buy more food than they sell agricultural produce [24]. To cope with the economic challenges brought by these disasters, they look for off-farm employment opportunities and reduce food consumption [24]. Climate Smart Farming, selection of most suited crop species and varieties, adaptation of crops to climate change and linkage of small holders to regional markets is of outmost importance for future development.

Despite the rapid social and economic development in the Southeast Asian region, smallholders remain the largest group dominating the regional agricultural sector. With this dominance, the focus should be given to smallholders as they are in the front lines of the battle against climate change. To minimize significant losses in production and ensure the food security in the region, the impacts of climate change should be addressed by focusing on productivity improvement and adaptation of the agriculture sector [14]. As they also contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and environmental degradation, smallholders have strong potential to implement mitigation activities, maintain ecosystem services, and protect biodiversity and natural resources [18]. By investing in adaptation measures, together with mitigation initiatives, the resilience of smallholder farmers to various climate shocks can be strengthened.

The Action intends to demonstrate Best Climate Smart Agricultural practices on farmers’ fields under the responsibility of their own democratic CSOs: Agricultural Cooperatives (ACs). This is to secure (i) CSA ownership by the poor farming community, (ii) hands-on approaches, (iii) linkage to CSA input supply and markets, (iv) AC facilitated microcredit schemes and last - but not least – (v) a voice mainstreaming appropriate CSA practices into programs and investments plans of duty bearers.

**The Theory of Change can be outlined as follows:**

**IF**

* Provincial Agricultural Cooperative Unions (PACUs) and Agricultural Cooperatives (ACs) deliver appropriate Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) services to their members in terms of CSA input supply, CSA market linkage, CSA agricultural and technical training (CSA knowledge)
* Profitable CSA is convincingly demonstrated for farmers in a practical manner by participatory learning sessions on-farms (Learning from field demonstration sites, because "seeing is believing")
* Farmers improve linkage to markets for their Climate Smart Agricultural products
* CSA inputs and credit facilities are made available for smallholders at acceptable terms
* Committees and members of the LNGOs, the newly formed Cambodian Agricultural Cooperative Alliance (CACA formed Dec. 2019), PACUs and ACs strengthen knowledge on Climate Smart Agriculture and related development policies and they subsequently use this knowledge in their direct dialog with relevant authorities to address Climate Change & the needs of the poor farmers

**THEN**

* Farmers improve access to (i) CSA credit facilities at acceptable terms, (ii) comparatively lower input costs and (iii) better markets for their production
* Farmers adopt Climate Smart Agricultural methods and technologies, improving productivity, output/input ratios and reducing their vulnerability to environmental risks
* AC members/farmers produces bigger volumes, adapt species, quality of products and production methods to match Climate Smart Agriculture, market demand, which increases food security, earnings and sustainability of farmers
* Local NGOs, ACs, PACUs and CACA – representing voices of the poor may positively influence CSA mainstreaming into programs and investment plans at regional, national, provincial and local levels
* Farmers – especially women - enhance adaptative capacity to climate risks and are empowered to participate as economic actors, reducing inequality and increasing their income, which positively affect living standards of households.

**Key assumptions for change:**

* Evidence of CSA methods that works on-farms are well-proven and available. In other words; mitigation and adaptation strategies identified by research and lessons learned during previous projects are relevant and pays-off at small farmer level in SR and ODM
* ACs acquire sufficient capacity to build CSA knowledge of their members, promote CSA input supply, improve farmer market linkage for CSA products and their subsequent adoption of CSA
* Farmers utilise CSA knowledge from demonstrations on their own fields
* Leaders of SMUAC and ACs are committed to overcome challenges pursuing CSA goals
* Authorities at all levels tolerate the “soft advocacy approach”, where dialog is favoured.

**Results from previous intervention | Climate change remains a major challenge | New strategic approach**

Previous ADDA/READA projects have significantly improved livelihood of rural poor and strengthened civil society organising to advance social justice. Key points recorded by the external evaluation team of previous projects developing Agricultural Cooperatives and Civil Society in ODM (CISOM) [6]: *“The impact of the project has led to a higher level of food security among group members, rapid social development, lower financial risks and ability to expand business, improved negotiation and conflict resolution at both a group and household level, higher levels of communication between community members and government authorities. Advocacy skills have meant that groups have analysed their problems, prioritized their needs, and approached local authorities to successfully gain a variety of resources, introducing electricity, schools, water ponds/wells, and mine clearing”.*

However, climate change adaptation has been identified as a major risk not sufficiently addressed previously [6 & 7]. The Steering Committees, AC committees and beneficiaries have also requested new interventions building capacity of the farming community in response to climate change, which was not specifically addressed by previous, nor ongoing interventions. It has been recommended to address climate smart crop cultivation and variety selection, including adaptation of crops to increased droughts and floods.

The proposed CSA roll-out is based on Agricultural Cooperatives established during previous ADDA/LNGO interventions in SR and ODM e.g. COCIS, EASY, CISOM, ACSO and the on-going project “Empowering Agricultural Cooperative movement” (EAC), which is covering both provinces. Project interventions are highly relevant and appreciated – according to the target group. Consequently; a very high number of ACs - formed by external interventions - have applied for membership of the PACUs: SMUAC in SR and OMUAC in ODM during the last year (table 4). The PACUs have approved 16 new AC members and total AC members have increased from 21 to 37 ACs since 2019; representing totally 8.774 small holder members (table 4).

The “CSA roll-out” represent a new strategic approach. The CSA roll-out is based on a competitive approach, where ACs are invited to apply for support to implement demonstrations on “Best Climate Smart Agricultural practices” on farmer fields interlinked with a series of training sessions during the growing season, CSA input and markets linkage and advocacy for CSA. Any AC in SR and ODM is invited to apply for CSA support; that is, ACs under the umbrella of EAC, as well as external ACs. A total of 150 AC proposals will be selected for support, which in itself will generate CSA capacity within the value chain. However, most importantly 12-14.000 farmers will build capacity on CSA suitable for their own farms. The Action is primarily targeting ACs in SR; where the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic is detrimental to the touristic sector and employment. The CSA roll-out is also targeting ACs in ODM, however only a limited number, because the Democratic Rural Organisations (DROs) – incl. ACs - are less developed with a lower number of members and the detrimental effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are less pronounced in ODM.

**The context of the intervention**

**Poverty** rate of Cambodia has dropped from more than 50% in 2004 to about 14% in 2016 due to rapid economic growth during last decade. However, Cambodia’s economic success is largely an urban phenomenon. Rural poverty has declined at a much slower rate and remains a major concern. 17,1 % of the households in rural areas of ODM and 13,9 % in SR belong to ID Poor[[1]](#footnote-1) 1 or 2 before COVID-19. 90 percent of the poor and those who have just risen above the poverty line live in rural areas, like SR and ODM provinces in Cambodia. Most people make their earnings from cultivation of rice, cash crops and small-scale production of vegetables and livestock. Many rural poor do not even earn USD 2 a day, which means that they live below the poverty line, and struggle every day to provide an income for their families.

**COVID-19** has hit the Cambodian society and the world at large. Vulnerable people especially women and youths are among those most severely affected by the profound socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 in Cambodia. The declines in tourism has forced the closure and suspension of numerous restaurants and other businesses. Cambodia’s Angkor Archaeological Park in Siem Reap has seen a decline in revenue from April 2020 ticket sales by app. 99.5 percent drop in monthly revenue. The park welcomed nearly 2.6 million international visitors, generating more than USD 100 million annually in revenue during previous years.

Unemployment has increased rapidly within all sectors, including the Garment, Textile & Footwear sector, which directly generates employment for around one million workers (ILO Cambodia, 2018). Many family members – including hundred thousands of migrants workers in Thailand - have returned to their relatives in the rural areas of Cambodia for survival. However, resources are not sufficient to sustain livelihood in general and especially insufficient to support extended poor families without income from other sectors. Average ID Poor 1 & 2 has increased from app. 13 to 17 % during the COVID-19 pandemic[[2]](#footnote-2) and the ability to repay microloans is severely affected. Cambodia has only limited financial resources to support their citizens and to maintain the socio-economic status. However, some economic stimulus measures are established e.g. a task force has been established to control supply and prices of strategic goods deemed essential for daily consumption e.g. rice, salt, fish, vegetables. Furthermore, the Cambodian government launched a Cash Transfer Scheme in June 2020 to assist ID Poor families during the COVID-19 pandemic with app. 20 USD per month for families living in rural areas. The Prime Minister Hun Sen said during launch of the transfer scheme that vulnerable and poor households would not be allowed to starve by his government; and added that such support would continue if economic distress from the COVID-19 pandemic persisted, but he also asked people to find jobs to support themselves. Agriculture is considered the main sector with potential to mitigate effects of COVID-19; consequently, MAFF has launched a campaign to produce sufficient food and create jobs. The CSA interventions taps neatly into this context.

**Agricultural productivity, farm inputs and market linkage**

Agricultural production is challenged by low productivity, costly and poorly regulated farm inputs as well as poor farmer market linkage. Case studies found that ineffective regulation has resulted in low entry barriers, which has led to the distribution of poor-quality agricultural inputs, e.g. up to 10 % of fertilisers were counterfeit. Future actions should focus on removing constraints on CSA agricultural input supply and market linkage - which is in line with recommendation from the final evaluation of the ADDA project: Climate Change and Ethnic Minorities in Vietnam (CEMI): CEMI “successfully”…“*introduces the climate friendly and sustainable production methods in agriculture, but without focus on input and output connec-tions for Farmers Interest Groups,…* *this may negatively affects the efficiency of the model and the potential for replication* [26]. Farmers in SR and ODM expresses a need for (1) CSA knowledge – “practical training on CSA crop production methods is needed” (2) high quality seed - those widely available from the market are of poor quality and the supply is inconsistent and (3) improved CSA market information and linkage.

The aim of CSA roll-out Action is alleviating effects of Climate Change by **inducing an increase in crop productivity, income and create jobs for rural poor, through a ‘green’ and sustainable development of the agricultural sector** – which also alleviates omnipresent negative effects of COVID-19.

Rice is the dominant crop cultivated in SR and ODM; however, yield levels on small-farmers’ fields are very low (Table 1); reflecting a significant potential for yield increase from improved utilisation of farm inputs and natural resources, as well as reducing post-harvest losses - in line with ADDA results in Vietnam [26].

Table 1. Main crops cultivated in SR and ODM and yield levels



**Inefficient agricultural extension service and agricultural knowledge of the farming community**

The agricultural extension service can be characterized by two main challenges: (1) The extension service is short in staff and (2) methodologies are heavily top-down approaches. PDAFF has only 3-4 Extension Staff (ES) at district level and none at commune level. These few staff at district level can impossibly serve thousands of farmers living in a district. For that reason, it is also impossible to conduct participatory training of farmers on CSA. Training is often short, insufficient and activities are usually narrowed down to distribution of various agricultural inputs during the lifespan of a specific project.

The Action intends to demonstrate and train farmers on climate smart agricultural practices on their own fields - under the responsibility of their own democratically led Agricultural Cooperative. **CSA knowledge is available** at research, policy and similarly high levels, but **very scarce at smallholder level**. It is assessed that research-based evidence - combined with lessons learned during previous interventions - may significantly increase yield and output/input ratios. Potentially **rice yield may double from CSA interventions;** however, a 30 % increase on farmers fields is realistic [13]. Current best CSA practice for rice compared to farmers practice; corresponding yield levels and sources of knowledge are outlined in table 2.

Table 2. Best CSA practice elements compared to farmers practice for rice cultivation are outlined below.



Detailed best CSA practice is also available for vegetables and cassava cultivation. Details include raised seed beds, mulching, biocontrol, fence and trap crops, etc. based on research evidence and lessons learned from pilot interventions, e.g. Women in Agriculture Network (WAgN), Cambodia: Gender - and Ecologically-Sensitive Agriculture. Penn State University and partners (including ADDA) implemented the WAgN project to empower women and improve nutrition by promoting women’s participation in the value chains for horticultural crops produced using sustainable intensification practices. Final report March 2020 - in press.

The following mitigation and adaptation measures are taken into consideration for each CSA demon-stration: (1) Land & soil management, (2) Conservation agriculture, (3) Crop diversification, (4) Appropriate crop selection (drought/flood tolerant), (5) Adjustment of cropping calendars, (6) Local seed multiplication systems, (7) Rainwater harvesting, conservation & storage, and (8) Water reserves to buffer droughts.

CSA lessons learned have provided a number of recommendations, which are incorporated in the strategic approach of the CSA roll out - particularly for the implementation and adoption of CSA at the local level:

* CSA practices need to be tailored to the specific characteristics of local farming systems, the particular socio-economic conditions, agro-ecological context and farmers’ requirements
* Farmers need to receive immediate as well as long-term benefits from the CSA practices in terms of improved food security, food production and net income
* Adoption of CSA practices is largely determined by the relevance of the training sessions and farmer-to-farmer learning; it is important to deliver and support sustainable approaches
* It is essential to promote gender-sensitive incentives (e.g. combine CSA capacity building with secure land tenure and the availability of credit, farm tools & inputs), support scaling up by demonstration of proven benefits of CSA practices & use a participatory approach to overcome barriers to CSA adoption
* Engagement of local AC leadership increases community ownership over the new CSA practices and supports the establishment and enforcement of organisational capacity, which is extremely important as the adoption of CSA practices across landscape requires collective actions.

**Civil society organisations and political conditions**

An independent and more influential civil society obtained favourable conditions in 2005 – at least in principle. By that time, the Cambodian government adopted the strategic framework on decentralisation and de-concentration reform (D&D), with the goal to create a governance system at the sub-national level to strengthen local democracy, promoting community development, and reducing poverty.

Cambodia conducts periodic elections at subnational and national level. In two different staggered ballots, voters elect commune councillors and members of the National Assembly (the second legislative chamber) every five years. The last electoral period coincided with new legal restrictions, Supreme Court repression against the opposition, and increased distrust towards CSOs, especially those addressing human and land rights [17]. It is not straightforward to convince stakeholders and beneficiaries to undertake an advocacy approach, because progress may be slow, time consuming and advocacy goals are often misunderstood. The initial perception by duty bearers often include suspicion that the opposition may be involved. However, ACs and PACUs benefit from a clear legal framework and have proven that they are able to benefit from a “soft” advocacy approach – where dialogs and solutions are favoured against confrontation.

**Projects and activities in the area supplementing the CSA intervention**

READA and LNGOs in ODM are members of the **NGO Forum in Cambodia**, which is organising activities to influence national and international climate change policies among other matters. The NGO forum will be extensively involved during CSA implementation in order to reach further institutional support to CSA. Partners of the CSA intend to build on any previous training, inputs and lessons learned to achieve synergy with ongoing projects. Preliminary agreements have been made with IRRI, ASPIRE, iDE, CARDI and CHAIN on cooperation and coordination of activities to include and use lessons learned to secure synergy

The **Asian Development Bank, in partnership with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)**, has piloted two different climate-smart rice cultivation methods using different rice cultivars in order to demonstrate the benefits of climate-smart production practices. Results show that the climate-smart practices increased the income of the farmer compared to traditional cultivation methods. Mechanization increased the cost–benefit ratio compared to traditional methods of cultivation. New rice cultivars also exhibited lower greenhouse gas emissions. In Cambodia and Nepal, the direct-seeded rice (DSR) technology was applied to compare with the traditional transplanted puddled system. In Cambodia, high yield of stress-tolerant rice varieties was reached with mechanized dry DSR in the Dry Zones of Kampong Thom & Takeo [3]. Research based CSA evidence by IRRI and lessons learned from project interventions are core entry points of the CSA.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is implementing the **Agriculture Services Programme for Innovation, Resilience and Extension (ASPIRE)**. The Programme has four main components: (i) Evidence-based Policy Development, (ii) Capacity Development for Extension Services, (iii) Improved Extension Services, and (iv) Infrastructure Supporting Climate Resilient Agriculture. ASPIRE currently cover 20 provinces of Cambodia. Siem Reap was included in the programme from June 2019. Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Kep and Oddar Meanchey will be included in 2020. ASPIRE commenced in June 2015 and terminates on 31 March 2021. Direct results are still sparse in SR; however, the CSA roll-out actions will support and leverage with the program components to the extent possible.

**iDE** Cambodia researches farming strategies increasing rural people’s resilience to climate variability and extreme weather. iDE helps farmers to spread their risk by growing more diverse crops in shorter cycles with water-saving technologies and climate-smart agricultural practices. iDE is implementing the program CSmart through the Cambodia Agribusiness Development Facility to address climate change vulnerability of small-scale producers to adopt climate-resilient, multi-seasonal horticultural technologies and practices. CSmart has introduced, validated and disseminated a wide variety of climate-smart horticultural practices; unsafe use of agrochemicals and assisted farmers in pest and disease identification and control, as well as weak farmer and market system organization. CSmart has increased income on semi- & commercial farm in SR, Bantey Meanchey and ODM. The CSA roll-out will utilise knowledge and implement interventions in synergy with CSmart; however, with a deliberate focus on ACs & their smallholder members.

The CSA roll-out also intend to utilise knowledge and lessons learned by the **Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)** on climate adaptation. CARDI has experience on improved mechanical drum seeding, water management and has developed numerous varieties tolerant to climate change, e.g. Rice, var. “Senkraob 01”; an aromatic rice variety, well adapted to all season cultivation.

The **Cambodia Horticulture Advancing Income and Nutrition (CHAIN-II)** seeks to establish an inclusive extension services and to promote safe production of horticultural products with the aim to increase income and food security of the rural poor. The project uses a results-driven market development approach and establishes Public Private Partnerships to strengthen capacities and inclusive governance. CHAIN-II will run until end 2020. CHAIN is well-known by the CSA partnership, because interventions are implementing in partnership with PDAFF, PDoWA and **KBA** in ODM. **CHAIN** and the Cambodia Quality Horticulture Project (CQH) experts have provided master training to the partners’ technicians on the concepts of “CamGAP” application (Cambodia - Good Agricultural Practice), particularly focusing on site and farm risks assessments. CamGAP is integrated into CHAIN echo-training of lead farmers.

The Action supported by CISU: **Empowering Agricultural Cooperatives** **and Civil Society in SR and ODM** (EAC), implemented by ADDA, READA, SMUAC, CIDO, RCEDO and KBA from June 2020 to May 2022, has a deliberate focus on empowering Democratic Rural Organisations (DROs) – Provincial Agricultural Cooperative Unions (PACUs), ACs (and secondarily SHGs) in order to boost the evolvement of an independent “agricultural cooperative movement” in Cambodia. Numerous ACs established by external project initiatives have applied for PACU membership and support during recent years, because EAC interventions significantly improve organisational capacity, accountability, democracy and sustainability of ACs. 16 AC (Totally 37 ACs are enrolled) have been adopted during recent 18 months - which is way above predictions. The CSA roll-out Action supplement and takes advantage of the organisational and advocacy capacity building interventions by EAC – and the contact to numerous external ACs seeking for EAC as well as CSA interventions.

**The intervention will strengthen civil society organising to advance social justice**

The Action is specifically designed to build capacity of Local Non-Governmental Organisations (LNGOs), CACA, SMUAC and ACs on Climate Smart Agriculture and related development policies. The CSOs will use this knowledge in their direct dialog with relevant authorities at all levels addressing Climate Change and the needs of the poor farmers. The voices of CSOs are expected to influence CSA mainstreaming into programs and investment plans at regional, national, provincial and local levels in Cambodia.

ACs, SMUAC and CACA take part in policy dialogs. They will advocate on behalf of farmers/members on issues especially related to Climate Smart business activities e.g. secure better credit schemes, well adapted, lower priced and better-quality CSA agricultural inputs, better sales channels and higher selling prices on CSA produce. ACs have built a fine reputation on management of micro credit schemes. The ACs will lobby for CSA support, better income and livelihood for their members. ACs have earned a profit from business activities, which is necessary for self-reliance and future expansion of CSA cooperative services.

ADDA/LNGOs staff will create outputs and outcomes relevant to the rural population, authorities at all levels and other concerned stakeholders in line with previous interventions, which have established and developed well-functioning SHGs, ACs and PACUs influencing problem solving in communities. ACs and poor rural communities invite and consult with LNGOs and their staff, who are (i) invited to attend - and they are able to influence “agendas” at provincial levels, (ii) consulted for advice and help, (iii) catalysing successful Commune annual Investment Program (CIP) processes, (iv) assisting during implementation of “soft” advocacy strategies – they are able to reach concrete results, and they (v) encourage rights based processes – even court cases. LNGO staff have become “teachers”. The approach by smallholder ACs and LNGOs is enforced and will continue to strengthen CSOs to advance social justice during the CSA Action.

**Climate and environmental starting point of CSA-roll out - and how have the partners responded**

Farmers in Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey are not equipped with sufficient climate change adaptation strategies. The lack of access to adaptation strategies has made smallholders very vulnerable to present and future climate-related risks [14]. Adoption of low-emissions agriculture provides an opportunity for more efficient use of agricultural inputs, which in turn, may provide immediate economic benefits for smallholders [25].

The Royal Government of Cambodia officially launched the first, **Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) 2014-2023 in November 2013**. The CCCSP captures the main strategic objectives and directions for a climate-smart development of Cambodia during 10 years. The CCCSP intends to build synergies with existing government policies to ensure a strategic cohesion to address a wide range of climate change issues linked to adaptation, GHG mitigation, and low-carbon development. The CCCSP covers 8 strategic objectives, as follows:

* Promote climate resilience through improving food, water and energy security,
* Reduce vulnerability of sectors, regions, gender and health to climate change impacts,
* Ensure climate resilience of critical ecosystems (Tonle Sap Lake, Mekong River, coastal ecosystems, highlands etc.), biodiversity, protected areas and cultural heritage sites,
* Promote low-carbon planning and technologies to support sustainable development of the country,
* Improve capacities, knowledge and awareness for climate change responses,
* Promote adaptive social protection and participatory approaches in reducing loss and damage,
* Strengthen institutions and coordination frameworks for national climate change responses and
* Strengthen collaboration and active participation in regional and global climate change processes

However, climate change is poorly integrated into government policies in Cambodia, e.g. environmental impact legislation does not consider climate change issues, meaning that large infrastructure projects are built without considering either the risks from climate change related disasters, or the global risks resulting from greater greenhouse gas emissions. The financial and human resources available to tackle climate change are also limited. There is a shortage of decentralised funds at sub-national levels for adaptation, so even when communities are recognised as vulnerable to climate change, and possible coping & adaptation mechanisms are known, these cannot be implemented due to a lack of financial resources. Similarly, NGOs and CSOs have not sufficiently mainstreamed adaptation into their programmes, or projects. NGO and CSO engagement in monitoring national climate change policy and international campaign efforts is also weak. Climate change policy is drafted in Cambodia with little consultation with civil society organisations and communities due to limited capacity within NGOs, CSOs as well as government bodies at all levels.

The NGO Forum on Cambodia has organised a number of activities to influence national and international climate change policies and practices of particular relevance to the most vulnerable Cambodian communities: (i) Consultation meetings with CSOs to provide comments/inputs on draft laws, regulations and policy papers on climate change, (ii) a green growth strategy and policy dialogue and (iii) Research on climate change financing in Cambodia (Ung Soeun, NGO Forum and Nop Polin, DanChurch-/Christian Aid).

1. The partnership/collaborators - experiences, capacities and resources of partners and other actors

**ADDA** has worked extensively with agricultural development, empowering women and strengthening of civil society organisations in Cambodia since 1996. ADDA has (i) transferred knowledge to rural poor on best agricultural practices, (ii) marketing, (iii) improved business opportunities and (iv) established independent and democratic SHGs, ACs and PACUs. These initiatives have created awareness of the rights of rural poor and they have advocated for their interests. ADDA has built effective partnership institutions at all levels (e.g. MAFF, PDAFF, Departments of Women Affairs, Public vocational training centres) local partner organizations (e.g. READA, RCEDO, CIDO and KBA) and numerous external local and international NGOs during the implementation of projects in Cambodia. ADDA is also a member of various networks in Denmark and Cambodia: The Danish NGO education network, NGO Forum in Cambodia, the Danish Vietnamese Association, Civil Society in Development (CISU), the Cambodian gender and development network, the National climate change network, Council for Agricultural and Rural Development. The ADDA board, senior advisors and the Country Coordinator have long term experience and a strong professional approach regarding rural and agricultural development, including CSA and Good Agricultural Practice.

**Partner LNGO in SR**: **READA** – located in SR - is the lead implementing LNGO, registered by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) in January 2005 (N.090). READA was established to support the vulnerable rural communities, conserve natural resources, empower the community’s voice, favour gender issues and ensure equality between woman and men. READA has great experience and skills in project implementation; embracing improved food security, income generation, development of DROs, supporting infrastructural development, Community Development Projects, gender and equality, marketing, water and sanitation. READA has built strong relationship and network with local authorities as well as networks and numerous other NGOs working in SR and ODM – incl. CIDO, RCEDO and KBA in ODM.

**Union of Agricultural Cooperatives: Siem Reap Meanchey Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (SMUAC)**

SMUAC has developed into a comparatively strong Democratic Rural Organisation since establishment in January 2018. The constitutional aim of SMUAC is contributing to agricultural production development, increased productivity, agricultural diversification and agricultural commercialization ensuring food security, promoting rural economic development and national economic growth. SMUAC is efficiently supporting 21 AC members (table 4). SMUAC has primarily addressed democratic, organisational and cooperative business development during the first years of operation. Climate Smart Agriculture has not been a prioritised subject so far, but the SMUAC Committee has decided to promote CSA in the coming years, in response to their members, who have requested actions and adaptation measures addressing climate change. SMUAC engagement in CSA - which require capacity building - has potential to significantly upgrade member services, expand operations, membership base, CSA market linkage, commercial sustainability as well as enhance advocacy and influence on CSA mainstreaming into national programmes and investment plans.

External evaluation found that SMUAC has potential to increase AC member base, capacitate ACs according to training needs assessments (e.g. CSA), and legitimacy to represent members [7]: *“The SMUAC platform is designed to absorb as many ACs as possible, and SMUAC don't foresee this as a constraint, as it is part of the strategic plan”. “Training given directly by SMUAC to ACs is dependent on the specific needs of each AC.”* Training given so far has *“included more complex accounting, providing orientation and training on loan negotiation with formal MFIs, working with officials, training on how to deal with big companies, strategic planning, logistics, product re-selling, business advocacy, and market access understanding”. “The SMUAC is a well-accepted institution to advocate and raise issues”.*

Over the last 14 years, ADDA and partners have supported poor communities in SR and have developed a comprehensive and scalable approach improving livelihoods, reducing poverty and hunger, developing social networks, addressing prioritised needs of rural poor using a right based approach to increase representation of the poor in policy dialogs. 155 SHGs, 12 ACs, and SMUAC have been established in SR. These CSOs have significantly contributed to reduce poverty of direct beneficiaries and empowered communities to enter into constructive policy dialogs and better public services at local levels.

The same approach is in principle implemented by the “new” LNGO partners: CIDO, RCEDO and KBA in ODM under the overall guidance of READA – since 2013. Significant positive changes are reached by previous projects: EASY, CISOM and ACSO interventions in ODM according to final evaluations.

**Partner LNGO in ODM**: CIDO has been operating app. 20 years on a number of projects related to agriculture, food security, community development & community-based organizations, good governance, water and sanitation. CIDO is very familiar with local conditions; having outstanding sector specific expertise and long-standing relationships with project stakeholder’s e.g. strong relationship with local authorities, target groups & final beneficiaries, NGOs, networks and projects in ODM. CIDO has experience, technical and management expertise very suitable for implementation of the CSA roll-out in ODM.

**Previous cooperation between the partners - have fed constructively into the development of CSA.**

ADDA and READA have cooperated since 2009 on the implementation of IWEP, COCIS, CWM, EASY and EAC in SR; CISOM, ACSO and EAC in ODM Province. READA is implementing project activities, which have included strategic services, capacity building, formation of SHGs, Agricultural Cooperatives (ACs) and PACUs as well as advocacy at all levels on behalf of poor people.

A well-functioning partnership between ADDA, READA and the three LNGOs in ODM was initiated in May 2010. The partnership – now also including SMUAC - has analysed problems and opportunities alleviating problems of poor people using a participatory Theory of Change (ToC) methodology interlinked with a Logical Framework approach. Local implementation, ownership, LNGO and SMUAC training needs and division of roles within the partnership has been intensively discussed and is clearly defined.

**Describe the contributions, roles and responsibilities of the partners and other actors (table 3)**

READA is lead implementing LNGO. READA is capacitating/assisting SMUAC in Siem Reap (SR), whereas CSA is implemented in close collaboration between READA and CIDO in ODM to capacitate the PACU and ACs in ODM on Climate Smart Farming. READA is assisting SMUAC in Siem Reap to capacitate ACs, build further capacity of SMUAC itself and transferring knowledge from SR to CIDO as well as associated LNGOs in ODM (RCEDO and KBA) building CSA capacity and advocacy skills of the LNGOs, ACs and the PACU based in ODM.

**The intervention will contribute to develop the relationship and collaboration between the partners**

The organizational structure of the proposed project, roles and responsibilities assigned to each of the partners favours collaboration, exchange of CSA ideas and utilisation of lessons learned between ADDA, LNGOs, ACs and the SMUAC. A Project Coordination Unit (PCU) is designed to facilitate a fruitful and learning partnership between the ADDA, LNGOs and SMUAC during monthly project coordination meetings, regular steering committee meetings and frequent meetings involving all project staff, including occasional exchange visits.

**The intervention will contribute to strengthening the partners’ relations to other actors**

The Climate Chance challenges, mitigation and adaptation and the concept of CSA in the North, are intensively shared and frequently discussed between ADDA, READA, CIDO and SMUAC and other stakeholders at regional and national level in Cambodia, e.g. CACA – officially formed by December 2019, MAFF and the Provincial Departments for Promotion of Agricultural Cooperatives (PDPAC) in SR and ODM. Sharing of lessons learned in the North and South will catalyse deployment of appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures interlinked with national programs and investments.

CACA has requested ADDA and READA for support (i) to improve consultations between CSOs and representatives from the Royal Government on climate change policy and (ii) to develop a strategic advocacy plan, addressing shortage of decentralised funds available at sub-national levels for implementation of climate change adaptation methodology.

**Table 3: Key roles and responsibilities of SMUAC and LNGO partners**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Partners** | **Responsibilities** |
| **ADDA**  | * Carry out specific CSA training activities and capacity development of LNGOs and PACUs
* Backstopping the overall project implementation according to Theory of Change approach
* Overall financial management and responsibility towards donor
* Guide learning, planning and approve quarterly and annual activity plans linked to budgets
* Ensure CSA accountability and all fiduciary management of the project
* Conduct Steering Committee Meetings and project learning workshops involving all partners and other relevant actors
* M & E and project dialog in accordance with guidelines and agreements
* Facilitate Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Cambodia & partners
 |
| **READA** is implementing activities in SR & transferring lessons learned to ODM | **READA** is lead LNGO implement-ing in SRand transfer-ring best practice from SR to ODM | * Responsible for day-to-day coordination, implementation and overall management of the project in accordance with project policies, procedures, approved work plans and budgets.
* Carry out training/capacity building of project staff, district and local facilitators on project concepts, procedures, and CSA project objectives in close cooperation with ADDA.
* Chairing the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) comprising representatives from all partners
* CSA financial management, procurement, and administrative procedures and ensure compliance by all project staff and consultants.
* Monthly, quarterly and annual reporting systems, incl. monitoring and learning systems
* Contracts/norms for NGOs, service providers, organizations and individuals
* Maintain a reliable two-way information flow from - and to - final beneficiaries
* Ensure information sharing, dissemination and learning platforms
* Monitor project implementation progress against plans and provide regular reports
* Coordination with the Cambodian Ministry of Interior and MAFF
 |
| **SMUAC**Apex DRO Union of 21 ACs in SRFormed 15.01.2018 | * Expand internal capacity and build further capacity of ACs to: (i) Demonstrate profitable CSA at farmers field, (ii) Improve linkage to markets for CSA production, and (iii) Facilitate CSA farm inputs and credit facilities
* Support ACs in preparing CSA plans, sourcing finance and implementation
* Technical CSA training of ACs, who - in turn - train SHGs
* Facilitate linkages with stakeholders at local, district, provincial and national levels
* Participate in PSC meetings, the CSA Project Coordination Unit (PCU) & other meetings
* Coordinate with provincial line departments, district governments, and commune councils
* Participating in policy dialogs at provincial and national levels to promote CSA.
 |
| **CIDO implementing in Banteay Ampil, ODM** | *RCEDO associated in Chong Kal & Samrong, ODM* | *KBA – associated in Anlong Veng & Trapang Prae, ODM* | * Build further capacity of SMUAC in SR and ODMUAC in ODM, ACs (and subsequently SHGs) in order to reach higher resilience to climate change
* Provide training on best CSA practice, norms, guidelines and skills to PACUs and ACs
* Support ACs and PACUs in preparing CSA plans, sourcing finance, and implementation
* Coordinate activities at AC and SHG levels within LNGO geographical area of operation Facilitate linkages with relevant stakeholders at local, district and provincial levels and manage the interface between provincial and local authorities, e.g. commune councils etc.
* Track and follow up on CSA policy dialog in SR and ODM. LNGOs are responsible for liaison with duty bearers at all levels; securing that prioritised requests for CSA support are brought to the attention of duty bearers at local, provincial and/or at national level
* Advocate on behalf of the poor community and facilitate advocacy by representatives of the target group to relevant authorities and duty bearers at all levels.
* Monitor project implementation progress at local level and provide regular reports
 |
|  | * CIDO is responsible for day-to-day management and coordination in ODM with reference to READA in the respective geographical area of operation according to project procedures, work plans and budgets. Associated partners - KBA & RCEDO – assist/refer the expected few ACs, which may apply for CSA demos in their geographical area of operation
* CIDO participate in M&E, PSC, the CSA project coordination unit and similar forums.
 |

Target groups, objectives, strategy, and expected results

Primary target groups: The people whose living conditions the intervention aims to improve

The Action addresses ACs in SR, as well as ACs from selected areas in ODM and their members representing 12-14.000 small-scale farmers, who are expected to directly participate in activities of the intervention. AC selection criteria are described in the sections “New strategic approach” (p. 6) and “Methodology” (p. 19).

21 ACs are under the umbrella of SMUAC in SR & 16 ACs are members of ODMUAC in ODM (table 4). App. 25 ACs formed during other interventions are expected to apply for enrolment in the CSA interventions. 15 external/additional ACs are expected to be enrolled and host CSA demonstrations during implementation. External ACs applying for - and subsequently approved to host CSA demos are not shown in table 4.

**Table 4. Characterisation of SMUAC, ODMUAC and Agricultural Cooperatives in SR as well as ODM**



Members of ACs are small-holder farmers, i.e. app. 17 % are ID poor 1 and 2. At present ACs represent 8.774 households/members. 83 % are female in SR and 62 % in ODM. Existing ACs covers app. 400 villages and they are linked to app. 240 Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The total number of beneficiaries engaged in CSA activities is expected to reach 12.000-14.000 by December 2023. The CSA roll-out is based on target groups involved in previous (EASY, ACSO a.m.o.), or ongoing projects, which is expected to reach 10.000 members (EAC) – and additionally 15 new coming AC and their 2.000-4.000 farmer members.

**Secondary target groups.** All main stakeholders along the “cropping value chains” – private and public - will be involved in order to update best CSA cultivation technologies/practices, facilitate CSA input and market linkage as well as implementation. Networks of cooperation will promote smallholder’s adoption of CSA.

The project indirectly targets authorities: Commune and provincial councils, provincial governorate as well as staff from line departments at district and provincial levels (app. 50 persons) are engaged during trainings; they are expected to promote an enabling environment for CSA dialogs.

**Duty bearers –** Governments and line departments. The CSA project contribute to the obligations of local, provincial and national government authorities fulfilling major missions of these institutions e.g. building CSA capacity of the poor community, improving livelihood of poor people and taking “voices of poor people” into account during governmental investment planning processes, e.g. Commune Annual Investment Program (CIP). Local investment plans are subsequently aggregating prioritised CIP needs into annual national investment planning regarding climate change issues. PDAFF and other authorities in the province (E.g. PDoWA, DPAC, Department for International Development (DFID)) as well as national level Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry (MAFF) are key duty bearers for better integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures into government policies and they are targets for advocacy by LNGOs, SMUAC and CACA. A very close collaboration, communication and involvement of governmental authorities/staff at all levels is planned in order to share experience – successes as well as challenges - of CSA at field level in order to improve farmers resilience to crisis, shocks and climate change.

PDA, DPAC and PDoWA are presently members of the EAC steering Committee and they are expected to accept membership of the CSA steering committee. CSA interventions are requested by these institutions and positive interactions are anticipated. Local authorities - including village chiefs, commune councils, district governors and provincial authorities - strongly support ADDA/LNGO/SMUAC interventions. Authorities at all levels have credited LNGOs and ADDA for deliberately working with the poor target groups and the positive impact of ongoing projects on poverty reduction and empowerment of women. PDA, PDWA, and DPAC strongly support the CSA project and they will actively participate in the implementation of interventions.

The Action is **addressing CACA,** which is the supreme representative of ACs in Cambodia. Policy analysis and advanced advocacy strategy is elaborated in conjunction between project partners and CACA – preparing for a continuous dialog with duty bearers on the climate change context and prioritised CSA actions. CACA and LNGOs are expected to lobby for better integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures into national government policies. This include (i) allocation of decentralised funds at sub-national levels for coping and adaptation mechanisms suitable for small farmers e.g. resources for renovation of irrigation schemes, drainage channels etc. and (ii) engagement in monitoring of national climate change policy and international campaign efforts.

**The private sector** is an important stakeholder in the project, benefitting in terms of a more professional business cooperation resulting from better organisation of farmers and increased productivity and roll-out of CSA in the provinces. Key stakeholders include financial institutions, exporters of agricultural produce and importers of farm inputs since they provide services and are linked to ACs, and SMUAC.

**Describe how the target groups will participate in - and benefit from the intervention**

With the goal of making smallholder farmers’ productive and resilient, the CSA Action demonstrates and offer a wide array of options of technologies, farm inputs and practices that can be applied at the farm and field levels. From improved seed varieties to ecological engineering and water-saving technologies, farmers can transform their farms into more sustainable and climate-resilient micro business units with improved farmer-market linkage. Collective actions of their DROs will address issues of climate change, food security and they will lobby for institutional support and CSA investments in appropriate infrastructure etc. A widespread adoption of CSA is expected to result in higher agricultural productivity, increased income and reduction of Green House Gasses from agricultural activities. Significant impact is foreseen, because scaling up and roll out of well proven CSA will be supported by main stakeholders along the value chain, and most importantly adopted by farmers, because it improves net income and resilience to climate change.

**Involvement of the target groups & partners’ legitimacy to act as champions of the target groups’ cause**

All analysis for the current project proposal is based on results and interactions with beneficiaries of previous and related project. The design and concept of the CSA Action is based on (i) smallholders requesting hands-on CSA training, (ii) findings and recommendations from ACs, PACUs and SHGs during previous project implementation, (iii) discussions during final evaluation and internal assessment of the EASY, CISOM and ACSO projects as well as (iv) recommendations from the EASY and ACSO Steering Committees. SMUAC, ACs, MAFF, PDAFF, Provincial Departments og Women’s Affairs (PDWA) and LNGOs, were all deeply involved during project preparation. Results and recommendations along with interviews and dialogs with final beneficiaries, as well as village, commune and provincial governing bodies are built into this project proposal. Leaders from SMUACs, ACs and SHGs express that the CSA project is responding to their requests - the concept is highly demanded by smallholders to reach higher productivity and resilience to climate change.

ADDA, LNGOs and SMUAC are highly recognised by the target groups, which was reported in the final evaluation report of previous projects [6, 7] e.g. impact: *“Project staff, beneficiaries, and stakeholders see the overall impacts of the project including more rapid social development, higher levels of food security, lower financial risks and ability to expand business, improved negotiation and conflict resolution at both a group and household level, and a much-improved level of communication between community members and government authorities”, “High level of cooperation with authorities, including commune, district, provincial and national level”, “10 cases of land conflict raised and settled affecting over 1900 people; over 26 000 people involved in prioritizing issues for CIP during CISOM II”. “Beneficiaries feel more empowered, are aware of ‘bigger picture’ issues they can engage in, and can successfully write proposals for village and group needs. Water and health issues are also mainstreamed into the CIP, in addition to agriculture needs. For rights, in the case of domestic violence, 82% of groups with violence and raised the issue with commune councils were given advice to reduce it. 90% of groups are aware of their land rights, with 83% of those reporting issues receiving a commune intervention/solution”. “SMUAC is increasingly recognized among farmers, which has given the union increased recognition and legitimacy. External stakeholders including MFIs recognise the SMUAC is a stable organisation to lend to. The cumulative effect is the ability to forge stronger business and advocacy ties, increase member confidence, and ultimately the ability to grow”* [7].

CSO members believe in their Democratic Rural Organisations and the target group have expressed and acknowledged legitimacy of ‘the partners’ as champions of the target groups’ cause throughout previous interventions - and they have requested as well as expressed their support to the CSA roll-out Action.

**Strategy of the intervention – methods, incl. balances between elements of the Development Triangle**

In many areas of research - as well as policy - there is a major gap between science/political intentions and practical actions. The CSA roll-out Action will use an overall implementation strategy where beneficiaries and stakeholders in the value chain utilise best CSA practice, adapt and co-develop CSA knowledge. Following CSA implementation at field level; primary beneficiaries, and all other stakeholders along the value chain may demand further scientifically credible recommendations and evidence as well as request support by their CSOs (LNGOs, ACs, SMUAC and CACA) to mainstream CSA into governmental programs and investment plans. Practical utilisation of climate change adaptation strategies recommended by research can significantly accelerate progress toward global goals for climate actions and food security [8].

**Methodology**

Starting point of the first objective: ***small producers have adopted Climate Change adaptation technologies (Climate Smart Agriculture),*** is designed to summarise and utilise research-based evidence and lessons learned regarding climate change adaptation strategies. Evidence of CSA methods that works on-farms is available for SR and ODM (table 2). However, it is planned to conduct a workshop on best CSA methods and practices based on research evidence and lessons learned during initial stages of the Action, with representation from research institutions (IRRI, SRI) and ongoing CSA projects (ASPIRE, iDE, CHAIN) to update “best CSA practices” for production of rice, main vegetables and cassava in SR and ODM.

Best Climate Smart Agricultural practices will be demonstrated on farmers’ fields under the responsibility of their own democratic rural organisation: The Agricultural Cooperatives. This is to secure (i) CSA ownership by the poor farming community and sustainability, (ii) a hands-on approach, (iii) linkage to CSA input supply and markets, (iv) microcredit schemes and last - but not least – (v) a voice mainstreaming appropriate CSA practices into programs and investments plans of duty bearers (e.g. Annual National and Commune Investment Programs). ACs are responsible for all practical implementation aspects & training elements at field level under overall supervision of LNGO Subject Matter Specialists and other resource persons of the Action. ACs are expected to employ part-time local CSA resource persons for demonstration and training purposes – to supplement capacity of the ACs (AC committees etc.). Capacity building and availability of qualified CSA resource persons is secured/a responsibility of the project partners. The CSA partners will capacitate Community Professionals (CPs), Extension Staff (ES) & District Facilitators (DFs) on CSA methods.

An initial one-week intensive Training of Trainers (ToT) course and subsequent follow-up training sessions on best CSA practice will be conducted for AC committee members, CPs, ES, DFs and representatives from District and Provincial departments of Agriculture. Training curriculums will be designed to support planned outputs of the Action, reach ToC preconditions, assumptions, as well as implement activities of the Action.

A total of 150 demonstrations on farmers’ fields are planned to promote farmers adoption of well proven CSA production systems which (i) are more productive (ii) use inputs more efficiently (iii) have less variability and more stability in outputs and (iv) are more resilient to crisis, shocks and long-term climate variability. The CSA demonstrations are used for learning and transfer of knowledge, whereby groups of farmers come together and engage in hands-on field-based learning process over a season/production cycle. It is expected that CSA demonstrations on rice, vegetables and cassava will attract a total of 12-14.000 farmers and it is foreseen that at least 30 % of participants adopt demonstrated practices and scale up CSA on their own fields, which is equivalent 3.600- 4.200 direct beneficiaries.

The ACs are requested to conduct hands-on training sessions for farmers at least five times during the cropping cycle for paddy rice and vegetables: (1) Dialog on best CSA practice and market-linkage, combined with hands-on land preparation, planting/seeding, water management planning, best CSA inputs and efficient use of natural resources, (2) Cultivation techniques for the specific crop, including weeding, pest and disease management, fertilization, water management etc., (3) Cultivation techniques for the specific crop (session 3 follow-up on the topics of session 2), (4) Harvest, post-harvest and market linkage, and (5) Post harvest follow-up: CSA lessons learned, including economic analysis, environmental assessment and summarising prioritised CSA needs of the participants to be communicated. Each demonstration compares best CSA practice to farmers practice. The size of each demonstrations is app. 500 m2.

A competitive approach is used to select CSA demonstration hosts (ACs); i.e. a selection process evaluating and choosing CSA demonstration proposals, which are in line with CSA objectives, well planned and convincingly described in terms of field execution as well as expected CSA adoption by participating farmers. Experience from previous interventions have revealed significant spin-off in terms of AC learning and alignment on expectations (SMART re CSA outputs, indicators, inputs & activities) during the evaluation process. The methodology is as follows: (1) CSA calls are announced, including objectives and evaluation criteria’s issued by the CSA roll-out project; (2) AC committees develop detailed CSA demonstration proposals under guidance of trained DFs, CFs and/or other Extension Staff; (3) Each AC committees present their proposal (written as well as verbal presentations during a “workshop”) for an Evaluation Committee with representatives from the project partners; (4) the Evaluation Committee discuss and elaborate detailed evaluation scores as well as an overall evaluation score for the proposal and elaborate “Good Advices” for the implementation and/or improvement of the proposal; (5) CSA proposals over a threshold evaluation score are granted support – under the precondition that “Good Advices” are taken into account and continuous monitoring and evaluation by the CSA Action is acknowledged and supported by the AC; (6) Relevant – but rejected CSA demonstration proposals are invited to redesign and resubmit their proposal for a second evaluation round taking the “Good Advice” into account. AC demonstration proposals evaluated below the threshold - after the second evaluation round - are not granted support.

Calls for CSA applications are announced in February (wet season demonstrations) and September (dry season demonstrations) each year. The calls will include detailed descriptions of the best CSA demonstration concepts for rice, main vegetables species and cassava. ACs in SR (and ACs from prioritised areas of ODM) are invited to apply for hosting of a CSA demonstration. The Call is not restricted to ACs from previous ADDA/READA/SMUAC projects, but any AC in the provinces can qualify to host a CSA demonstration. However, selection criteria’s are demanding and will include: location(s), methodology, description of the CSA actions and effectiveness - including number of participants and expected CSA adoption by farmers, linkage to CSA inputs and markets, micro-credit facilities, planned CSA advocacy, synergy and/or potential overlap with other interventions, cost of the action and amount requested from the CSA roll-out project, experience/capacity of the AC to manage and implement CSA actions. The total number of **rice** demonstrations during the lifespan of Action is 120 (SR: 114 SR, ODM:6); **vegetables** 30 (SR: 27 SR, ODM: 3). In ODM, where cassava is cultivated at large; this crop may substitute rice demonstrations.

Being implemented in Siem Reap and ODM, the interventions also aims to refine evidence at local scales of what CSA options work best, where, why, and how. Such lessons learned/evidence is subsequently used to draw out lessons for the design of next round of CSA-call, and to widespread lessons learned for CSOs, agricultural development practitioners, investors, research and politicians.

Regular monitoring, evaluation, coaching and on-the-job training of AC committees and members by LNGO coordinators and facilitators are organised in order to keep leaders accountable and actively contributing to CSA activities of their organization. Training by project business and advocacy advisors is designed to reach “economy of scale” for CSA and subsequently to support representation of the poor (AC members) in CSA policy dialogs with public and private duty bearers.

Employment of a full-time CSA project leader is envisaged to (i) coordinate project schedules, resources, inputs and information and to (ii) liaise with ACs to define, review and report CSA requirements, scope, objectives & timelines. Training sessions and coaching of the SMUAC committees by business advisors and subject matter specialists is planned to improve methods and SMUAC capacity on CSA. Frequent sharing of ideas, experience and lessons learned are planned between SMUAC in SR and CACA committees in Phnom Penh - as well as sharing with other successful DROs in order to refine and reach best CSA practice.

Total activity costs related to objective 1 is app. 1,14 million DKK. Main contributions to SMUAC and AC capacity building include training and guidance by LNGO Subject Matter Specialists and ADDA international staff on CSA concept and farmer adoption, as well as CSA farm input supply chains and market linkage. LNGO district coordinators, district facilitators and CPs will coach and follow up on AC and SMUAC strategic plans, actions and progress. Reference to annex 2 “Budget Notes”.

The second objective is to ***improve linkage to markets for Climate Smart Agricultural products****.* AC and SMUAC members are trained and coached throughout the Action to improve functioning of rural and urban markets, transparency and market efficiency for CSA products. A training sequence is designed to (i) discuss the theory behind the different principles and components of farmer-to-market linkages and draw on lessons and best marketing approach for SMUAC, ACs and similar small farmer organisations in South East Asia, (ii) improve capacity to analyse farmer-to-market linkages within the specific context and farmers input and output markets, (iii) develop CSA marketing proposals, which incorporate best available principles to facilitate effective farmer-to-market linkages, (iv) demonstrate how to improve CSA market linkages and (v) create a national network to facilitate exchanges of lessons learned on CSA market challenges, farmer market linkage and mainstreaming of best CSA market approach into programs and investments by duty bearers. Policy dialogs on infrastructure, institutional and capacity-building support enabling authorities to assist farmers will become an integral part of the Action.

Market opportunities and farmer-linkage, services and the role of SMUAC and ACs as well as best approach will be integrated in all CSA demonstration and training activities at field level for small farmers and other stakeholders (Activities of Objective 1). It is an ambition to significantly strengthen the ability of all small-farmers to adopt a stronger open market orientation. Market related interventions addresses all elements of the CSA value chain in order to improve functioning of rural and urban markets, including greater transparency and market efficiency for CSA products.

ACs develop specific CSA market knowledge. Planning and learning loops are basic methodologies used by committees and LNGO staff to support efficient CSA planning and follow-up on ACs and their ability to operate viable climate smart cooperative businesses. Lessons learned and reflections are used to revise CSA input supply, micro credit and marketing initiatives of each AC. Part of basic AC services include microfinance, which will be directed to increase local resilience and further to integrate climate actions in AC services e.g. use AC loan to finance for green production and adaption of activities, including for water harvesting, soil conservation etc.

Total activity cost of objective 2 is app. 275 kDKK. Main contributions to AC and SMUAC capacity building is training and guidance by LNGO Subject Matter Specialists and ADDA international staff on improved linkage to marked for CSA production and AC management and socio-economic performance regarding CSA. LNGO district coordinators, district facilitators and CPs will coach and follow up on farmer-market linkage - plans and progress. Reference to “Budget Notes”.

Advocacy and voice provide opportunities for existing DROs to promote mainstreaming of CSA into programs and investment plans at national, provincial and local levels in Cambodia – in line with the third objective**: *local NGO partners, ACs, SMUAC and the Cambodian Agricultural Cooperative Alliance have summarised lessons learned and influenced Climate Smart Agriculture roll out and market access****.*

ACs are engaged in policy dialogs at local and provincial levels and they have developed advocacy roadmaps. Their engagement in village development planning, participation in annual commune investment program processes, public forums as well as implementation of community development projects will continue during the Action – now with insight and focus on CSA roll-out and climate change. ACs & SMUAC leaders will be trained by ADDA/LNGOs to represent their members during policy dialogs at higher levels addressing CSA issues and challenges met by farmers - which require adaptation/changes in national agricultural and rural development policy framework and/or investment strategies.

SMUAC and most ACs in SR and ODM are members of CACA (formed Dec. 2019), which is the supreme organ of Agricultural Cooperatives. CACA may – and intends to develop capacity to - undertake policy dialogs with duty bearers at national level on prioritised needs/issues of their members. Representatives from READA, CIDO, SMUAC and ACs will prepare documentation and argumentation for a better earmarking of funds for CSA in Cambodia using policy briefs and stories from the field - in close cooperation with LNGOs network and CACA. LNGOs will utilise the national alliances/networks to participate in national policy dialogs representing hands-on lessons learned during CSA roll-out, arguments and priorities of small farmers. This requires a deep knowledge and understanding of basic CSA principles, legal frameworks and policy processes, agricultural and rural development issues. SMUAC and AC committee members as well as LNGO executive staff will be trained by local CSA specialists as well as ADDA international staff.

A strong position paper for climate smart agriculture in Cambodia will be developed for policy dialogs with high ranking officials and influencers. Views and priorities of the farming community will be summarised during (i) District workshops on managing natural resources in agricultural production and farmer responses to climate change and CSA (ii) Thematic workshops on practices and methods of CSA/climate responsive agriculture for leaders of ACs and relevant provincial and district officials.

LNGO executive staff are strongly encouraged to utilise provincial and national networks for policy dialogs at provincial and national levels to influence decisions regarding CSA. By December 2023, three policy briefs and testimonies by smallholder farmers and their CSO alliances have prepared and publicized.

Total activity cost of objective 3 is app. 810 kDKK. ADDA international staff, directors of LNGOs, project coordinators and the legal advisor will support field staff of READA and CIDO on methodology, analysis and elaboration of prioritised issues and specific roadmaps for CSA advocacy at provincial and national levels. Training sessions are planned to secure that roadmaps and advocacy skills are elaborated/-updated in close cooperation with AC and SMAUC committees. Skills, knowledge and strategy is used to gain influence on Climate Change adaptation, CSA and rural development.

**Women’s and men’s equal participation**

All trainings will be suitable for both female, youth and male participants. However, the strategy of CSA is explicitly and deliberately gender biased, due to the existing target group from previous projects, where women have been in focus. Women represent 62 - 84 % of AC members. Lessons learned during previous projects reveals that women who gain technical knowledge and leadership experience within CSOs often go on to become influential members of village committees and local DROs. It is the aim of CSA to further strengthen involvement of poor woman, men and youth in CSA and their active participation in policy dialogs.

**Interlinkage and balance between capacity development, advocacy and strategic deliveries**

**Strategic services** include inputs (climate tolerant seed etc.) for 150 CSA demonstrations at farmers’ fields implemented by ACs, replacement of computers for partner staff, studies (internal impact assessments), training inputs during ToT, focus trainings sessions for ACs and the SMUAC, costs of provincial and national workshops, meetings and communication (media) and technical training sessions for farmers. Third parties are expected to support minor CSA investments e.g. ponds, renovate water infrastructure.

The competitive grants for “CSA demonstrations” by ACs represent strategic services of the project building capacity of ACs. Each AC applying to become a CSA demonstration host have to elaborate a detailed plan to further develop management, transparency, accountability and sound business activities of their organisation and they have to explain how the proposed management plans/activities can continue after termination of the CSA project. The grants are between 1.000 – 1.500 USD for each demonstration. The packages are expected to cover costs of part-time hired staff (DFs, CPs and/or other qualified CSA service providers). The well-functioning COCIS, INFOSE and ACSO competitive grants will inspire the awarding procedure of the competitive grant. A rather demanding - but fair - evaluation grid, including criteria’s regarding CSA plans of the AC committees, verbal and written presentations regarding CSA implementation strategy, CSA services, management, ambitions and business plans is used for constructive dialogs/workshops with the AC committees before a grant is released. CSA integration into AC strategy and expected future performance of the ACs is also evaluated.

External technical assistance is necessary (local and international) for specialised CSA inputs. Terms of reference of the ADDA Country Coordinator, the ADDA Deputy Country Coordinator, Senior Advisor and External Technical Assistance are elaborated.

**Capacity building.** Farmers, ACs, SMUAC, CACA and LNGOs receive capacity building on numerous CSA aspects. The strategy is in line with CISUs development triangle where capacity, advocacy and strategic delivery are linked and implemented in conjunction. Main strategy components of the Action are technical CSA capacity building and strengthening of CSA advocacy competences of app. 50 ACs, SMUAC, CACA and LNGOs. Subsequently, the interventions build CSA capacity of 12-14.000 smallholder farmers.

Partners will build capacity on best CSA methods and practices based on research evidence and CSA lessons learned, market linkage for CSA production and how to establish national networks and alliances to take part in CSA policy dialogs at all levels. LNGO staff and DRO committees have requested capacity building on CSA in order to help demonstrate CSA and advocate for prioritised requests/needs of the target groups and beneficiaries. Skills will be used by all stakeholders in their future work – i.e. representation of farmers at all levels, incl. higher-level CSA policy dialogs. LNGO support and technical assistance necessary (local as well as international assistance) is requested by the target groups in order to reach CSA roll-out ambitions.

Community Professionals (CPs), District Facilitators (DFs), Extension Staff (ES) from PDAFF, AC and CACU committee members and leaders will be trained during Training of Trainers, follow-up training, workshops, on-the-job training and a sequence of meetings and “homework” related to CSA roll-out, Climate Smart Agricultural practices and demonstrations on farmers’ fields, monitoring, evaluation and coaching.

DFs, CPs and ESs are hired by ACs for direct training and coaching of the target group, including AC and SMUAC committees. AC and SMUAC committees & leaders will attend workshops on government policies, characteristics of the rural context and they will improve their soft skills, how to conduct participatory assessments, how to deliver appropriate CSA trainings and services to members etc. CSA capacity building of committees is planned according to Trainings Needs Assessment (TNA). Their capacity is built to serve their members in an appropriate manner, CSA management issues/soft skills, market analysis, CSA business planning, analysis of government policies and regulations as well as advocacy and technical trainings.

The SMUAC committee members are updated and trained on the CSA context (Agricultural national policies, CSA plans and challenges and training needs assessments), they are coached on how to select and execute CSA demonstrations, training and services according to needs of their members and market, and how to mobilise and develop skills and put in place cost-recovery models for delivery of CSA demonstrations, trainings and services.

DROs will develop capacity to analyse development issues related to climate change and understand their role and how to address CSA issues within the legal framework of Cambodia. ADDA/READA will assist the CACA, SMUAC and ACs to develop specific advocacy roadmaps in line with priorities of farmers – roadmaps that will guide them in their dialogs with local, provincial and national stakeholders - during conferences, workshops, network meetings, technical working groups etc. Additionally, mechanisms will be developed in the community/organisations to monitor and evaluate the impact of advocacy at local, provincial and national levels – pushing for climate smart changes to happen.

**Advocacy**

The CSA Action is aiming to encourage the Cambodian authorities to include the voice of smallholder farmers in the decision-making processes related to climate change; strengthening climate adaptation and mainstreaming Climate Smart Agriculture into programmes and investments at national and local levels.

ACs and SMUAC undertake dialogs with authorities and express prioritized CSA needs at village, commune, district and provincial levels. The policy dialog processes - which are rather well developed during previous projects - have built valuable capacity and experience of DROs, which in turn has shown to local authorities that ACs and SMUAC are very useful community development actors. This will continue during the CSA roll-out with AC committees leading the advocacy processes with support from DFs and CPs (CIP, CDP, public forums, advocacy roadmaps). This approach is very much in line with the intended strategy of the government - bringing development to the rural areas and letting rural people take active part in decision-making. The methodology is acknowledged and accepted by all main stakeholders e.g. private sector as well as local authorities and provincial departments as an appropriate way to ensure sure that voices/priorities of smallholder farmers are heard.

The CSA roll-out is aiming to create linkage and synergy between existing CSOs – ACs, SMUAC, CACA, LNGOs - and national networks in order to join policy dialogs at higher levels of planning, decision and policy making (Climate Change conferences, workshops etc.). The LNGOs, SMUAC and the CACA are planning to summarise priorities of smallholder farmers and influence duty bearers on CSA mainstreaming into national programmes, increase budget allocations for investment plans on direct CSA measures and issues covering larger geographical implications (e.g. irrigation schemes), involving provincial/national stakeholders (e.g. importers and exporters); relating to national climate policy (e.g. importation standards etc.), regulations and/or laws.

Democratic representation of rural poor, accountability and sound business activities is fundamental to reach long-term sustainability and a solid foundation under ACs, SMUAC and CACA activities and necessary for further climate adaptation progress. However, with this solid foundation DROs are legitimate representatives of rural poor with ballast to exert significant pressure on “duty bearers” regarding CSA framework conditions.

**Global objective:**

Resilience of poor farmers to climate change strengthened by adoption of - and institutional support to - Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) production.

**Immediate objectives:**

1. Dec. 2023; at least 3.600 small producers have adopted Climate Change adaptation technologies (CSA Farming), which has improved productivity and reduced their vulnerability to climate change risks.

**Indicators:**

* + December 2021; At least 20 ACs have applied to become CSA demonstration host; 75% have successfully outlined and defended their proposal and were approved for support.
	+ December 2023; 120 CSA best practice on rice production (or cassava in ODM) and 30 CSA best practice demonstrations on vegetable have been conducted on farmers’ field by ACs
	+ December 2023, at least 3600 Farmers have adopted main Climate Smart Agricultural practices, which has improved productivity by 30 %
1. Dec. 2023, small producers have improved linkage to markets for CSA products and 30 % of at least 12.000 targeted beneficiaries have increased their income by 30 % from CSA production.

**Indicators:**

* + By May 2022, 100 tons of cereals and 50 tons of vegetables is produced according to best CSA practice and sold at a higher price
	+ December 2023, 30 % of at least 12.000 targeted beneficiaries have increased their income by 30 % from Climate Smart Agricultural production
1. Dec. 2023, LNGOs, ACs, SMUAC and the Cambodian Agricultural Cooperative Alliance have summarised lessons learned and influenced CSA roll-out and market access, which has resulted in mainstreaming of CSA into programs and investment plans at national, provincial and local levels in Cambodia.

**Indicators:**

* + December 2022, documents and arguments for a better earmarking of national funds for Climate-Smart Agriculture in Cambodia is developed
	+ A strong position paper for climate smart agriculture in Cambodia developed
	+ December 2023, 200 CSA priorities of farmers have been integrated into CIP and 50% have been addressed.

**Table 4. Objectives, main expected outputs and main activities** (A ToC linked with LFA is elaborated).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **O** | **Main expected outputs** | **Main activities** |
| **In pursuit of objective 1** | Dec 2023, 150 Best Climate Smart Farming methods demonstrated on farmers’ fields by ACs from 2021 to 2024 | * Baseline study of the project area
* Summarise and update descriptions of most relevant CSA cultivation technologies and practices for SR and ODM by regional Experts and SMS
* Outline official CSA guidelines into a training program and practical implementation guidelines, incl. cultivation and post-harvest guidelines
* Conduct a workshop to outline best CSA methods and practices based on research evidence and lessons learned
* Training of Trainers on project interventions and especially on CSA methods
* Representatives from ACs in SR & selected ACs in ODM trained during ToT
* Trained ACs invited to submit an application to host CSA demonstrations.
* Selected ACs establish CSA demonstrations, conduct farmers field days and learning sessions under close supervision/coaching by trained DFs and CPs.
 |
| AC alumni in 200 target villages have acquired capacity to take actions and apply Climate Smart Agricultural methods in response to climate change | * READA staff, DFs and CPs, ES are trained on CSA methodology and coaching
* Procurement and cultivation of appropriate cultivars of rice, vegetable and cassava seeds for CSA production on the demonstration model plots
* Establishment of 150 model plots with e.g. commissioned rainwater harvesting systems, soil conservation and most relevant CSA measures
* Farmer training and education: (i) vegetable production, (ii) climate change & farming systems adaptation to climate change, (iii) management of small-scale irrigation systems and (iv) climate smart agribusiness development
* Coordinate with MAFF/ PDAFF and agree on processes and cooperation
 |
| Dec. 2023, At least 30% of 12-14.000 farmers who attended CSA demonstrations apply climate smart technologies on their own farm. | * ACs identify & facilitate supply of appropriate CSA inputs to their members
* ACs identify and facilitate CSA market linkage for their members
* AC organise farmer fields days and workshops for their members promoting relevant aspects of CSA on farmers own fields
* Monitoring, Evaluation and coaching by LNGO SMS at CSO and farmer levels.
 |
| **In pursuit of objective 2** | Improved functioning of rural and urban markets as well as greater market transparency and efficiency for CSA products | * Training of relevant PACU and AC staff/members in SR and ODM on marketing and market information systems promoting a functioning market information system, covering major CSA commodities and markets
* AC committee members are trained on data collection and analysis of CSA market information in SR and ODM
* Providing timely market information to stakeholders (producers, consumers, traders, policy-makers, donors, NGO/CBOs, etc.)
* Undertaking market analysis for early warning and response planning to mitigate and avert catastrophes.
 |
| Improved business decision-making by market participants (ACs, producers, traders, consumers, etc.) and better access to market for small holders | * Market assessment/analysis of CSA products in SR and ODM
* Develop training manuals/guidelines for AC capacity building, improving value-chain linkages and promotion of CSA products.
* Identification and mobilization of CSA collectors and wholesalers
* ToT for AC market linkage facilitators and selected PDA/DOA staff
* Capacity building of AC committee members, collectors and traders related to: CSA, post-harvest treatments, market analysis/use of market information, planning, communication and negotiation skills
* 6 capacity building and motivational workshops for inputs suppliers (and local dealers), producers, collectors/traders, extension services providers.
 |
| December 2023, climate smarter cereals and vegetable products from 1.000 hectares in SR and ODM is efficiently marketed  | * Market assessment/-analysis in SR and ODM
* Identification and mobilization of collectors and wholesalers
* 150 participatory farmer schools and field days for rice, cassava, vegetable farmers linked to agricultural demonstrations by ACs
* Contract farming facilitated
 |
| **In pursuit of objective 3** | By June 2022, partners have a strengthened their profile to exert influence during provincial and national negotiations relating to CSA programs and funding schemes | * Strategic and professional development of partner CSA capacity through north/south collaboration, policy analysis and advanced advocacy strategy
* Partners and CSOs develop their national network and participate during national/regional climate conferences and possible climate alliances
* Select and prepare representatives of READA, CIDO, SMUAC and CACA to join national and regional climate delegations.
 |
| Experiences and lessons learnt from CSA is transferred to local authorities for up-scaling and sharing at national levels | * Organise thematic workshops on practices/methods of assessment of climate responsive agriculture for leaders of ACs; provincial and district officials
* Implement district workshops on CSA; natural resource management in agricultural production & farmer participation in response to climate change
* Produce reports on CSA markets, lessons learned, CSA adoption for policy dialogs with Government representatives, donors, and NGOs/DROs on appropriate CSA funding and market development policies and programmes
* Dissemination workshop for sharing experiences & successful lessons on CSA
* Communicate lessons learned about CSA using mass media.
* Reflection and evaluation workshop, advocating for CSA in Cambodia
 |
| By June 2024, READA, SMUAC, LNGOs and the CACA use their position as climate change actors to exert influence on regional and international policy dialogues in partnership with climate change networks, line ministries, research institutes, universities and similar to improve the representation of the target groups. | * 10 Representatives from READA, SMUAC and ACs prepare documentation and argumentation for a better earmarking of funds for CSA using policy briefs and stories from the field - in cooperation with LNGOs and CACA
* Attend regional climate conferences: Advocate on behalf of Cambodian poor farmers for a better financing of Climate Smart Agriculture initiatives.
* Elaborate Climate Smart learnings report including identification of new relevant regional and international networks and alliances
* Host a national conference to build on Climate Smart experience with national and regional stakeholders and assemble a strong position paper for climate smart agriculture in Cambodia
* Produce, publicize and send position paper to high ranking officials and influencers - and follow up. Three policy briefs and testimonies by smallholder farmers and alliances are prepared and publicized by Dec. 2023.
 |

**Sustainable and lasting improvements for the poor target groups - partners’ capacities strengthened**

A deliberate focus on skill-building training sequence (Hands-on CSA demonstrations) will result in concrete long-term benefits for the participating farmers. Relevance of training activities and farmers’ genuine interest in participation will be ensured through participatory involvement and contributions by farmers. Farmers trained during the Action will benefit from advanced CSA production techniques adapted to the local conditions. This will ensure an increased income benefitting farmers and members of ACs during - and after - the Action. The fact that the ACs are registered CSOs will increase formal as well as informal contact with village and commune councils contributing to infrastructural investments and improved long term economic perspectives. Capacity building on CSA will provide sustainable knowledge for the ACs and will be an integrated part of their working habits long after project termination.

SMUAC and ACs are organised in a self-reliant and sustainable manner – e.g. projected income 2021 is app. 200.000 USD. LNGOs continues to offer assistance to the SMUAC on CSA management & advocacy issues.

An even stronger linkage is established between the SMUAC and ACs, which will minimise need for direct support to ACs from LNGO staff. Required support to AC services in terms of CSA roll-out management and market linkage guidance will increasingly be delivered by - or channelled through - the SMUAC. PDAFF, LNGO staff and CPs will build capacity to organise connections using only limited resources. All LNGOs have income from other sources, and are not dependent on Danish contributions. They could sustain before the project and will also be able to do so after the project period. CSA promotes self-sufficiency and increase net income generation through promotion of sustainable agriculture practices at small holder, AC and SMUAC levels.

**CSA is envisaged to lead to lasting improvements for the target groups**

DROs are based on cooperation among rural poor, democratic principles and self-help. ACs and the PACUs are based on this foundation – democratic civil society organisations where rural poor develop knowledge and skills. They will be able to realise higher goals in terms of CSA income generation, improve livelihood and social security of families (a rights-based approach improving social security, networks and better economy).

ACs, SMUAC and CACA will build further organisational capacity, improve business activities, income generation and significantly strengthen their position as civil society actors. They will not be economically dependent of the project during implementation, but rely on their own income and resources. Improved CSA capacity of CSOs will **improve resilience of poor farmers to climate change** by adoption of - and institutional support to - Climate Smart Agricultural production and **give rural poor “an even stronger voice”**.

SMUAC and ACs are further supported and strengthened during the project. CSA business activities will improve LNGO, SMUAC and AC interactions and support in the future. This will increase income of rural poor during and after the project. Well-established and lasting linkages between DROs, knowledge and continuous self-propelled development of CSA competences will continue as working habits after termination of the CSA project. READA and CIDO will further improve CSA training competences, management and advocacy skills for their future work. LNGOs will represent beneficiaries/members in dialogs regarding agricultural and rural CSA development policies and they will become more influential during provincial and national dialogs, which will continue to benefit rural communities. LNGOs master’s advocacy on behalf of vulnerable farmers without putting their own organisation and members/beneficiaries at risk. Constructive utilisation of the well-proven “soft advocacy approach” from previous interventions in Cambodia will continue during the CSA roll-out.

**Strengthening of partners’ and other actors’ capacity continues after CSA expires**

ACs and the PACUs are legal entities, registered by MAFF who are entitled to institutional support. The existence of a reasonably well developed national legal framework defines the objectives of the ACs, PACUs and CACA and guarantee rights and obligations of the members and their organisations. Rights encompasses institutional support, e.g. it is the obligation of the MAFF & PDAFF to promote and support the development of ACs, PACUs and CACA. Rich institutional support was experienced during previous projects, because all Cooperative organisations/structures established ADDA and implementing LNGO partners are highly recognised by PDAFF, MAFF and local authorities – recognised as ‘young’; however, well-functioning DROs.

If the PACUs or ACs or SHGs should encounter new opportunities, or problems after the project period, LNGO staff, DFs and CPs are available to assist reaching out for new opportunities and to overcome challenges. CPs are local change agents operating at village level and they will continue activities and facilitation of change in their local communities after project completion on a fee-basis. They are charging a fee directly to well-functioning PACUs, ACs and SHGs for their services – in line with the principles of CSA and the ongoing EAC.

Experience has revealed that best performing ACs and SMUAC increasingly demand services of more specialised staff e.g. SMSs, DFs; and they are willing to pay for these services (app. 15 % of annual AC profit is reserved for training, and hiring of external staff for administration and business development). SMAUC propose and offer their services, (services of qualified staff/-consultants) for a fee, and thus structure and professionalise the systems initiated in previous projects: e.g. users of CPs, DFs e.g. SHGs and ACs, were encouraged to compensate CPs for their time spent on services rendered to their customers.

**Relations with other actors, advocacy, and long-term sustainability will be strengthened**

The CSA strategy is refined to (i) develop SMUAC, existing ACs as wells as numerous “external” ACs into stronger self-reliant DROs with a focus on CSA to (ii) improve climate adaptation, agricultural productivity of small-holders, cooperative business services and income of poor people, (iii) actively influence CSA during local planning process and (iv) strengthen networking and CSA advocacy at provincial and national levels. CSA further build LNGO capacity and networks and an in-depth experience on the roll out of CSA. The Action addresses prioritised needs of AC members with capacity to influence decision making and national agricultural policies:

* Capacity of SMUAC & ACs is significantly strengthened i.e.: (1) CSA ownership by ACs members is encou-raged; (2) self-reliance & sustainability improved; and (3) CSA accountability mechanisms strengthened
* SMUAC upgrade the capacity of “external” ACs and expect to adopt further AC members, which will catalyse further cooperative development – in turn catalysing a climate smart movement in Cambodia
* Close collaboration between more ACs and cooperative interventions increases total number of DRO members, volumes, bargaining power, exchange of knowledge and influence. It is expected that 10 new ACs become member of the SMUAC (exp. 2– 4.000 members) and existing 37 ACs will attract additionally 2.000 members.

**Possible conditions (risks) that can hinder or delay fulfilment of the objectives and mitigation measures**

**Table 5. Risk factors, assumptions and mitigation measures**

| **Risk** | **Type** | **Assumptions** | **Mitigation** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Climate change impact rainfall patterns disastrously with drought or flooding | Environ-mental | Rainfall variability and flooding will not increase over the life of the Action and beyond | The Action is designed to improve adaptation and mitigation as well as increase diversity of food sources improving people's coping strategies |
| Advocacy for CSA mainstreaming is not tolerated | Political | Authorities tolerate “soft advocacy approach” where dialog is favoured against confrontation. Dialogs on sensible CSA issues continue at all levels | Appropriate planning and timing of sensible NGO; AC and PACU advocacy. SHGs, ACs, Unions and LNGOs use a “soft advocacy approach” where dialog is key and not confrontation |
| CSA adaptation and mitigation strategies identified by research and lessons learned by previous projects does not pay-off for farmer | Econo-mic | Evidence of CSA methods that works on-farms are well-proven and available | Liaise with value chain stakeholders on mitigation and adaptation strategies to secure that Best CSA practices are relevant and pays-off at small farmer level in SR and ODM |
| CSA production does not correspond to market demands and selling is impossible, or prices are very low | Econo-mic | There is a continuous CSA market and it is possible to establish acceptable market linkage | Before entering into CSA contract farming an assessment will be made to ensure a feasible market for the products |
| COVID-19 limits resources and activities at all levels  | Health  | Project activities and meetings are implemented as planned following proper mitigation activities | Social distance and hygiene |
| Lack of CSA leadership support in ACs and SMUAC | Social | Leaders of ACs and SMUACs are motivated and committed to overcome CSA challenges and pursue mitigation measures and climate change adaptation | Committee leaders are compensated by small member payments and high “esteem” in the community |
| Farmers does not adopt CSA methods and strategies | Social | Farmers utilise CSA knowledge from demonstrations on their own fields | CSA production systems are (i) more productive (ii) use inputs more efficiently (iii) have less variability and more stability in outputs and (iv) are more resilient to climate change |

**Monitoring, collecting and using experiences along the way and at the end of the intervention**

Detailed monthly, quarterly and annual activity plans interlinked with expenditures and overall project plans are elaborated, discussed and implemented following approval by the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) with representation from all partners. Progress against plans are updated and reported monthly, quarterly and annually. Dissemination of experiences will be done systematically throughout the project period. Continuous M & E will document positive and negative experiences. A mid-term internal impact assessment will be prepared. Findings will be available for all stakeholders and the final report.

A workshop will be conducted as one of the final activities, where Cambodian stakeholders will be invited for the purpose of sharing the results of the project. It is anticipated that the positive results will engage stakeholders to work with the same issues: CSA, input and market linkage, community development and investments related to CSA. Dissemination of success stories will be one of the main sources of information showing to a wide audience that the CSA interventions are making a positive difference in people’s lives. Dissemination of success stories will be designed to address and activate poor people, local authorities and key stakeholders. It is our expectation that the experience on best CSA practice is going to be intensively used and shared among direct beneficiaries, other poor villagers and authorities.

The experience of the ACs and SMUAC will feed back into CSA network of stakeholders thus also contributing to dissemination of best practices, new approaches and methods. The ADDA expatriate project coordinator will be the overall responsible for systematising the experiences. In practice this will be executed in close cooperation with the LNGO partners.

A final evaluation will be carried out 6 months before termination of CSA project. The results of the evaluation will be compared to the findings of the baseline study. The aim is to obtain an impartial analysis of the CSA in terms of its relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. This is to learn from the results and to incorporate the learning as feedback into future planning processes and the exit strategy of CSA. An external consultant residing in Cambodia will be assigned for this task. The evaluation will be organized by ADDA; findings and recommendations will include results related to project and results related to the partnership. An evaluation seminar with the implementing partner and ACs will be established. An evaluation report will be prepared. All reports will be available to ADDA, READA, CIDO, RCEDO, KBA, SMUAC, CACA, PDAFF and other interested stakeholders. Project partners of ADDA will definitely use the experiences in present and future projects addressing CSA.

1. Intervention-related information work in Denmark

*Climate change, which negatively impact livelihood and food security of smallholder farmers can be mitigated through targeted Climate Smart Agriculture, involvement, learning and subsequent adoption by farmers.* This message is conveyed to the wider public in Denmark members of ADDA and other

people using the ADDA website and newsletters. Project-related information work is planned in Denmark to create Climate Change awareness and attract private donors for Community Development Projects mitigating effects e.g. donations supporting small irrigation systems, ponds etc.

Two films about the CSA interventions will be produced for training and advocacy purposes in Cambodia and secondly for the information work in Denmark. The films will be used on the ADDA webpage and furthermore used for presentation of partnership achievements, when ADDA members in Denmark conduct small lectures for the Danish public. Articles will be published in ADDA’s newsletter and ADDA’s member magazine (News & Views) to continuously update on the progress and status of the project. These articles will also be published on ADDA’s website (www.adda.dk), and on ADDA’s Facebook page (ADDA currently have approximately 11.000 followers). A Danish conference on Climate Change and CSA lessons learned is planned by the end of the Action.

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2. Figures from Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Planning [↑](#footnote-ref-2)