1\textsuperscript{st} Meeting of Climate Change Adaptation Demonstration Projects in the Lower Mekong Basin, Rex Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, 21-22 July 2011

Group 3: Enhancing Adaptive Capacity of Local Communities

“Building Disaster Resilient Communities in Cambodia”

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Life With Dignity (LWD)
Outlines

» Background of LWD
» Rational of Project Demonstration
» Methodologies in Implementation
» Project Interventions
» Results
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Background of LWD

• For over 30 years since 1979, LWF Cambodia strongly focused on building capacities of its local staff.

• 2002 – decision making on initiative for localization

• 2005 – localization strategic plan was developed and approved by the management team

• Jan 2009 – the new name, LWD was approved

• Jan 2011 – launch of LWD.
Rational of Project Implementation

• The climate hazard is known as uncertainty of rainfall in the country

• Drought and flood are two main extreme climate events and occur almost every year in a number of provinces

• The poor and poorest communities are very vulnerable and their crops can be destroyed by lack of water or rainwater flash flood

• Water shortages in the target areas of LWD are having impact on the poorest; both on their own water needs and agriculture practices.
Drought Location in 2002

Population Affected By Drought 2002

National Committee For Disaster Management
Methodologies in Implementation

• To sustain project activities, LWD complies with following approaches:
  – Participatory approach
  – Empowerement approach
  – Right-based approach
  – Integrated approach

• To network with government and non-government agencies.
Project Interventions

- The project is called “Building Disaster Resilient Communities in Cambodia”
- Target provinces: Battambang, Kampong Speu and Kampong Chhnang
- Operational focus: mitigation and adaptation measures have been implemented through structural and non-structural mitigation activities
- Project intervenes at three levels: community level, commune level, and sub-national level.
Increasing Coping Capacities

• Strengthening structures of disaster management at sub-national and local levels
• Improving knowledge and skills to DM structures on disaster risks, risk management, climate change adaptation, and planning
• Innovation on drought resilient agriculture techniques to farmer field school members
• Demonstrate mitigation measures in community
• Supporting and strengthening Inter-agency coordination for national advocacy and awareness raising on DRR and CC.
Integrating DRR and CCA into Development Plan at Community Level

• Commune council and CCDM are trained on disaster risks and climate change impacts analysis as well as planning on the development of commune disaster risk reduction plan to integrate into the CDP/CIP

• Encourage technical support officers, planning development group and commune council to integrate concepts, DRR and CCA activities into the CDP/CIP process

• Promoting and supporting commune initiatives on activities that are able to reduce disaster risk and adapt to the changing climate.
5 Steps in CIP Process

1. Reviewing the Problem or Needs with Citizens

2. The Preparation of C/S Investment Projects

3. District Integration Workshop

4. The Approval of C/S Investment Program

5. Monitoring and Evaluation on Implementation of CIP

Cycle of C/S Investment Program
Results

• 2,462 households and 885 school teachers and students benefit from the project

• The concepts of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation are shown in the local planning process and integrated into commune development plan and/or commune investment program

• The practices of drought resilient agriculture techniques have improved food security for household consumption and generated income from selling surplus on crops and animals production
Keeping soil moisture by covering mulch

Saving water by using drip system
Counseling Card on Drought Resilient Agriculture Techniques
Results (Cont’)

• Water supply and irrigation systems result in:
  – improved access to water for families and their animals all year round;
  – better access to water and sanitation in schools and communities;
  – improved water storage to keep water during the rainy season to allow for water reserves during the dry-season and drought;
  – extended drainage for household consumption and relieving rice paddy fields.
Challenges

• Drought occurs more frequently, presumably affected by climate change

• Difficult to retain water due to small scale irrigation scheme

• Dry periods in the wet season affecting crop growth

• Communities and local leaders have limited capacities to cope

• Difficult to organize communities and provide them with sustainable income

• It’s a tough challenge to advocate duty bearers to assist vulnerable communities in disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change.
Lessons Learnt

• If we build strong grassroots organizations and networks, we are able to mobilize and strengthen mutual help when the community members face physical and financial crisis;

• Application of participatory action research approaches build the confidence of farmers to apply innovations;

• High potential of drought resilience agriculture techniques in supporting disaster mitigation and adapting to climate change in the country.
Conclusion

• Cambodia is a country vulnerable to climate variability and climate change.

• Flood and drought are two major climate hazards commonly experienced in Cambodia while the adaptive capacity to these hazards is poorly developed in the country.

• With the support of international donors, the Royal Government of Cambodia has formulated long-term strategic sectoral plans and programs.
Thank You