

**The Internal Mid-Term Evaluation Report**  
**on**  
**the Women's Participation**  
**in Rural Development**  
**through Sustainable Agriculture Project**

**International Volunteer Center of Yamagata**

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## List of Acronyms

ASG	Agriculture Study Group
DAFF	Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
EC	Election Committee
FGI/D	Focus Group Interview/Discussion
IVY	International Volunteers of Yamagata
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PDM	Project Design Matrix
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
VWA	Village Women's Association
VWAC	Village Women's Association Council
VDC	Village Development Committee
WSHG	Women's Self Help Group

## List of Abbreviations of Village Names

BK	Boeng Kek
CH	Chek
CS	Chhuok Sar
CT	Chhoeu Teal
NT	Nearea Tean
PC	Prey Chambok
PP	Prey Po
PR	Prey Roka
PK	Pon Kok
RD	Rum Denh
SK	Sang Ke
SR	Sam Rong
TR	Ta Reak
TO	Troak

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the research findings of the internal mid-term evaluation of the “Women’s Participation in Rural Development through Sustainable Agriculture” project. The scope of the evaluation research was qualitative, employing methods such as focus group interviews with village people. The research was carried out in February and March 2005 by the IVY staff members (see Annex I for the list of evaluation team members).

### **Evaluation Goals and Objectives**

The goal of the mid-term evaluation was for the IVY staff members to review the project activities carried out in the first 18 months, thereby offering an opportunity for them to find out whether and to what extent actual implementation is achieving the project goals and objectives.

The objectives of the mid-term evaluation were;

- 1) to assess the project’s relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, expected impact and sustainability;
- 2) to analyze the reasons for the gap between expected and actual outcome, if any;
- 3) to present recommendations and adjustments for the second 18 months of the project implementation; and
- 4) to a lesser extent, to provide opportunities for the project personnel to familiarize themselves with the evaluation process.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

### **1. Project Overview**

The International Volunteers of Yamagata (IVY) launched a three-year project titled “Sustainable Agriculture by Female Participatory Approach” in July 2003 in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) under the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)’s JICA-NGO Partnership Program. The project aimed at organizing farmers’ groups with a view to improving farmers’ living standards. From January 2004 the design and scope of the project went under a rigorous internal review in light of the lessons learned from the initial six months of project implementation. The review resulted in a full-fledged project revision, engendering a revised project plan and project design matrix in April 2004 (see Annex II for the revised PDM).

The newly emerged project, “Women’s Participation in Rural Development through

Sustainable Agriculture”, aims at increasing the level of knowledge and techniques of beneficiaries about sustainable agriculture and helping villagers establish and operate Village Women’s Associations (VWAs), thereby assisting villagers to promote sustainable agricultural practices to other villagers and to engage in community development. The project covers 14 villages in two communes in Svay Rieng Province and primarily targets at adult women.

## **2. General Situation of the Project Area**

Svay Rieng Province is one of the smallest provinces in the country. According to the data of the Seila Programme and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in 2003<sup>1</sup>, the population density at 178 persons/ km<sup>2</sup> is three times the national average and places Svay Rieng one of the most densely populated provinces. The province consists of seven districts, which is divided into eighty communes, then further into 690 villages. The majority of villagers are engaged in agriculture, mostly in small-scale subsistent farming. Depending on districts, the average size of a farmland is between 0.95 hectares to 2.00 hectares with the average rice yield of 1.33 tons per hectare.

The project area, of which 12 villages are in Chhoeu Teal Commune and two villages are in Dan Sar Commune, is located in Svay Chrum District, which is in the south-west of the province bordering Prey Veng Province to the west and Vietnam to the south. All 14 villages are unirrigated and prone to drought. Farmers in Svay Chrum District possess, on average, 1.15 hectares of farmland and the majority of the farmers cultivate rice once a year during the wet season. Besides rice production, villagers in the project area raise livestock and grow vegetables and fruits. In addition, village men, and to a lesser extent women, often work as agricultural laborers or construction workers on a seasonal basis.

## **III. OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

### **1. Foundation Building**

In 2003 prior to the start of the project activities IVY conducted a baseline survey. The IVY staff members visited randomly selected households in the project area to research the status of their living conditions. While in four villages 30% of the total households were interviewed, just 10% of households were researched in six other villages, making the total number of households surveyed 286. A separate survey was carried out between May and August 2004 to research the status of agricultural activities in the project area. 30% of

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Svay Rieng Seila Work Plan and Budget 2004

households in 12 villages, or 572 households, were interviewed by the IVY staff members.

A village-wide workshop was organized in eight villages between August and October 2003 in cooperation with the village chiefs (in six other villages the village workshops were organized prior to the inception of the project). The workshop targeted at both men and women and presented the purpose of the project. A total of 622 villagers attended the workshops.

Targeting all women in the village, a five-module PLA workshop was organized after the Village Workshops. With the facilitation of the IVY staff members, village women reviewed their living environment using such methods as “village mapping”, “village history”, “problem identification”, “problem solving”, and “village dreams”.

## **2. Women’s Self Help Groups**

Subsequent to the PLA workshops, a workshop for village women to brainstorm what “helping each other” means and to discuss the possibility of forming Women’s Self Help Groups (WSHGs) was organized in each target village. 548 women attended the workshops in ten villages. 46 WSHGs were formed in 10 villages by the end of March 2004 and by December 2004 the number of WSHGs had grown to 58 with a total membership of 578.

With the facilitation of the IVY staff members, WSHG members selected a leader and sub-leader and decided group rules. They meet once a month to exchange information and deposit monthly savings (either 500R or 1,000R per person). The leaders keep the money in a safe place and record the balance.

A series of six leadership training courses for the leaders and sub-leaders of WSHGs were conducted in each village between December 2003 and April 2004. The leaders started to apply the know-how learned through the workshops (e.g. setting a meeting agenda or facilitating monthly meetings) into the management of WSHGs.

Starting in May, four basic training courses, namely, nutrition, home gardening, chicken raising and pig raising, were offered to all WSHG members (Table 1). Immediately after the completion of the training courses, all WSHGs purchased and distributed one hen per member utilizing the WSHG savings with additional financial support from IVY.

Table 1: Attendance Rate of the Basic Training Courses

Course	Number of Attendants	Attendance Rate
Nutrition	405	80.8%
Home gardening	467	93.4%
Chicken raising	365	72.9%
Pig raising	367	73.3%

In October and November 2004 three WSHG field trips were organized. In total 106 WSHG members participated in the field trips as visitors, while many others took part as a hostess. The participants from Dan Sar Commune visited Chhoeu Teal Commune, and vice versa, and not only observed a household in a hosting village, but also shared their views and ideas about WSHG activities and their living conditions with other participants and hosting WSHG members.

### 3. Village Women's Associations and Agriculture Study Groups

By the end of October 2004 VWA formation workshops were organized in ten villages, to which 968 people, including 78 men, attended. Subsequently VWAC elections were held in these ten villages between October and December 2004 under the auspices of the Election Committees, comprised of village authorities such as teachers, *achar* and VDC members. The voting rate of all but one elections went over the 60% threshold. Besides the two villages (SR and PK) where VWAC had been elected in December 2003 and January 2004, and with another two villages (PC and CT) where VWAC had been elected prior to 2003, a VWA was established in all the target villages.

In two villages (SR and PK) where VWAs were established earlier Agriculture Study Groups were formed in July 2004, consist of 54 members. In both villages three thematic groups were formed to study about rice cultivation, home gardening and livestock raising, and between October and January training courses were delivered with a particular emphasis on sustainability. In addition to the training, an ASG field trip was organized for selected members. The participants visited Care Cambodia's project site in Romaes Haek District, Svay Rieng Province.

Meanwhile VWAs in the in two villages (SR and PK) also launched a chicken bank, in which 37 members and 47 members are participating respectively.

The flow chart of project activities is presented in Annex III.

## **IV. EVALUATION RESEARCH**

### **1. Scope of the Mid-term Evaluation Research**

The mid-term evaluation primarily focused on *qualitative* assessment, rather than quantitative assessment. In order to shed a light on the project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, expected impact and sustainability from the villager's perspective, a concerted field research was conducted with a view to gaining insight into the motives and expectations of project beneficiaries that underlie their decisions to participate in or stay out of the project activities. Given that the project is ongoing and many activities, particularly those of VWA and ASG, have just started, the scope of the evaluation was narrowed down to the following key questions.

- 1) Are village women positively engaged in WSHG activities?
- 2) Was the process through which ASGs were formed appropriate?
- 3) How are the IVY activities perceived by village people?

In addition to the qualitative research, some quantitative data were compiled from existing resources to assess the degree of achievement of the following indicators listed in the PDM was reviewed during the research.

- 1) Women representing at least 30% of households in a village participated in PLA and WSHG workshops.
- 2) Women representing at least 60% of households in a village join WSHGs.
- 3) At least 50% of WSHGs succeed in generating income for members.
- 4) At least 50% of WSHG continue activities for four months.
- 5) Replication of successful practices observed in all villages in the target area.
- 6) Women representing at least 60% of households in a village participate in the VWAC elections.

### **2. Research Methods**

The evaluation research took place in February and March 2005. The Research was carried out in the following methodologies.

- 1) Focus group interview/ discussion  
14 focus groups were organized to discuss key research questions by the facilitation of the IVY staff members.
- 2) Review of existing documents



Data were collected from existing resources such as WSHG progress status records, VWAC election records and ASG training reports.

3) Literature review

Relevant publications were reviewed where appropriate.

### 3. Focus Group Interview/ Discussion

10 people were selected and invited by the research team to join in each of the following 14 groups to be interviewed by a moderator as well as to have discussion among the group members. The 10 people who made up a focus group were from the same village. The FGI/D workshops were held in nine villages in the project area. The research team, in consultation with the village chiefs and VWACs, ensured to the extent practically possible that the members of a focus group are of similar age and economic status to one another.

Table 2: Focus Groups

	Profile	Main questions
Group A	Non-WSHG members	Why not participate in WSHG?
Group B		Why participate in VWA election? What do they think about IVY?
Group C	WSHG members	Why participate in WSHG?
Group D		Why participate in VWA election? What do they think about IVY?
Group E	ASG members	How were they selected as ASG members?
Group F		Why participate in ASG?
Group G	Non-ASG but VWA members	Why not participate in ASG_
Group H		How do they think the ASG members were selected?
Group I	Village men	What do they think about IVY?
Group J		Why don't their family members participate in VWA?
Group K	WSHG members who practice	Why practice knowledge learned from basic training?
Group L		
Group M	WSHG members who don't practice	Why not practice knowledge learned from basic training?
Group N		

As presented in Table 2, two focus groups were formed in each profile of group. The two FGI/Ds were organized in two separate villages. The same set of questions was asked in the two villages during the FGI/D workshops.

Group A and B consist of the women who do not take part in WSHG activities, but who have participated in the VWAC elections. The members of Group C and D are those who take part in WSHG activities and have participated in the VWAC elections. Group E and F are selected from the six ASGs in two villages. Group G and H are VWA members but are not ASG members. Group I and J are village men whose family members are not participating in WSHG or VWA activities. Group K and L are WSHG members who were practicing the skills and techniques that they had learned in IVY's training courses. Group M and N are those who were not practicing the skills and techniques even though they had attended the training courses offered by IVY.

At the FGI/D workshops, a moderator asked key questions and encouraged discussion among focus group members, while at least two organizers observed and energized the discussion and a recorder took notes of people's comments and other physical reactions.

The full record of the FGI/D is presented in Annex V.

## **V. RESEARCH FINDINGS**

### **1. Relevance**

Enhancement of the agriculture sector is one of the four key areas that the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) set forward in its rectangular strategy. Within the area, enhancing agricultural productivity and diversification is emphasized. The project's one of the core activities, that is to offer opportunities for villagers to acquire skills and knowledge about agricultural practices, is thus strongly in line with the RGC policy.

In addition, it is often argued that although women comprise a major work force in the agriculture sector in Cambodia, they receive a fraction of what limited extension services offered to farmers.<sup>2</sup> While men take the lion's share of extension services available, there is only inadequate access to such services for women, who are also restricted by household responsibilities such as caring for children and feeding the family, as well as physical and social pressures. Women are thus deprived of opportunities to develop their skills and techniques. The project's focus on women directly fills the gap between women's roles as farmers and their needs to attain more information, skills and techniques. This claim is also endorsed by those who were interviewed. For instance, a village man commented that IVY

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<sup>2</sup> A Joint Document of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank; "Enhancing Service Delivery through Improved Resource Allocation and Institutional Reform".

has “opened opportunities for women to exchange ideas and experiences and to have discussion among farmers”.

## 2. Effectiveness

### 2.1. Effectiveness in Engaging Village Women to WSHG Activities

The extent of the engagement of village women in WSHG activities is assessed according to the following criteria set forth in the PDM.

- 1) Women representing at least 30% of households in a village participated in PLA and WSHG workshops.

Assuming that a participant of Village Workshop represented a household, a total of 622 participants in eight villages where there are 1,176 households represented 52.9% of the total households.

As for the PLA workshops, an aggregated total of 1,656 persons attended the workshops in 12 villages (Table 3). On average, 456.8 persons attended a module of the workshop. On the village-basis, the highest participation rate was observed in BK where 51.4% of households were represented per module, while in CS only 11.8% of households attended a module of the PLA workshop. In total, 27.6% of households participated in a module of the PLA workshop, which was slightly below the target.

Table 3: PLA Workshop: Number of Attendants

	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Avr.	# HH	%
BK	68	83	70	77	75	373	74.6	145	51.4
CH	56	62	65	46	57	286	57.2	132	43.3
CS	35	28	25	23	37	148	29.6	250	11.8
NT	42	47	35	52	57	233	46.6	230	20.3
PP	35	46	42	52	39	214	42.8	160	26.8
PR	37	32	35	25	27	156	31.2	130	24.0
RD	59	61	57	46	56	279	55.8	135	41.3
SK	40	39	36	28	43	186	37.2	115	32.3
TO	20	30	47	43	41	181	36.2	225	16.1
TR	60	42	38	41	47	228	45.6	134	34.0
Total	452	470	450	433	479	2,284	456.8	1,656	27.6

2) Women representing at least 60% of households in a village join WSHGs.

As of the end of December 2004, 578 women participated in WSHGs. Assuming each member represents a household, the membership represents just 30.4% of the total households in 12 villages where WSHG activities are taking place. When broken down by villages, the representation rate varies from 95.2% in BK to just 12.3% in SR (Table 4).

Table 4: WSHG membership

	No. of members	No. of households	% representation
BK	138	145	95.2
CH	67	132	50.8
CS	41	250	16.4
NT	57	230	24.8
PK	15	115	13.0
PP	59	160	36.9
PR	53	130	40.8
RD	40	135	29.6
SK	41	115	35.7
SR	16	130	12.3
TO	30	225	13.3
TR	21	134	15.7
Total	578	1,901	30.4

Many reasons for participation in WSHG activities were stated by its members during the FGI/D. Some said that they wanted to gain more skills and knowledge. Others stated that “sympathy to help each other,” or in other words, mutual help within the community, was the motivation for participation. Another woman said that she expected “to get benefit from the organization,” though she did not specify what kinds of benefit she expected.

On the other hand, those who have not joined in WSHGs said in the interviews that they had little children to look after, that they had no time, that they could not save money, and that they had not been invited to meetings or workshops or received information about them. A few others claimed that they joined a WSHG initially, but finding that they did not immediately receive material supports from IVY, left it since. Nonetheless, many of those interviewed including the men whose family members are not participating in the project activities demonstrated good grasp of the project activities.

3) At least 50% of WSHGs succeed in generating income for members.

As of the end of December 2004, no WSHGs have succeeded in generating noticeable income for their members. This is partly due that the offspring reproduced by hens that had been purchased from the WSHG monthly savings in September were yet too small for marketing. The offspring and hens, however, are dying in flock as this report is written, thus jeopardizing the possibility of generating incomes for their owners.

A few WSHG members, however, have succeeded in earning money from home-garden vegetables, utilizing the skills and knowledge obtained from the basic training courses. Nonetheless the amount of income is modest and the extent of the effectiveness of the training course is hard to measure, as those who generate income from vegetable production tend to have done so even before the project intervention. It is therefore impossible to discern whether they would have generated income had it not for the basic training.

4) At least 50% of WSHG continue activities for four months.

All 58 WSHGs have been continuing activities since the inception, many of them for over one year since December 2003. Other newer groups have also been maintaining activities for more than half a year.

On the other hand, since July 2004 saving activity of some groups has become somewhat intermittent, i.e. not all groups keep on saving every month. This coincides with the seasonal cycle of rice production. When farmers start preparing rice production at the start of the wet season in June and July, demand for agricultural input such as chemical fertilizer is higher. The small amount of money otherwise saved in WSHGs is thus used to purchase agricultural materials. It should also be noted that the groups that skip monthly savings tend to concentrate in two to three villages. This may imply that in those villages the interests in WSHG activities are waning among members.

In addition it is observed that some groups are not having monthly meetings in the recent months. Reportedly there is some disappointment among a few WSHG members that they had failed to generate income from chicken raising in spite of saving money for some months to purchase one hen. The failure may have led some WSHG members to judge that the output (benefit generated out of WSHG activities) does not match the input (monthly meetings and savings) required for WSHGs.

That said, it should be noted that some members state that it is good to have group savings because it can function as petty-cash banking for the members, although they have not originally been intended by IVY to serve in that way. Some members, particularly those who

are relatively poorer among the members, are able to borrow a small amount of money from the group savings. They are expected to return the money within two to four weeks without interests. This appeared to have been particularly appreciated by those who are cash-stricken.

5) Replication of successful practices observed in all villages in the target area.

Replication of skills and techniques promoted by IVY through the basic training and ASG training courses have shown mixed results. When interviewed, many women remembered correctly the training contents disseminated by IVY. When it comes to practice, the observed results varied from active replication to no replication at all.

When interviewed, those who did not practice the know-how said that they lacked water resources or manpower (for home garden techniques), or there was sicknesses among livestock that there was nothing they could do to stop it (for animal raising techniques). There were also some interviewees who mentioned the needy living conditions and low income, implying, whether it be true or not, that they need certain resources in order to utilize the knowledge in actual practices.

Many of those who practiced the skills promoted by IVY said that they were visited by the IVY staff members at their homesteads and received additional advice. One woman said that having the staff's presence at home to explain know-how helps avoid forgetting techniques she learned in training courses and that it is "like having a knife sharpened".

Those who did not practice skills and techniques said that after participating in the training courses they never received additional information or advice from the IVY staff members. One woman said "please come often, explain us [the skills and techniques] and provide us more seed". Another pleaded IVY to "come often and be an incentive," indicating that they need encouragement.

6) Women representing at least 60% of households in a village participate in the VWAC elections.

As discussed above, in the ten villages where VWAC elections were held, for all but one elections more than 60% of eligible voters in the village turned up. The only exception was NT, where the elections were held at the earliest date among the ten villages. The lessons learned from the experiences in NT were that a targeted and intense information dissemination effort was essential in raising the voting rate.

Table 5: VWA Elections

Name of the village	Election Date	No. of Adult Women	No. of Absentees (works/lives outside village)	No. of actual voters	Voting rate	No. of Candidates	No. of Elected VWAC
NT	29 Sep	325	44	140	49.8%	11	7
BK	16 Nov	200	49	132	87%	14	7
PP	14 Nov	250	71	121	67.6%	9	5
CS	7 Dec	414	69	239	69.6%	14	9
TR	19 Nov	151	26	99	79%	14	7
PR	9 Dec	189	36	147	96%	12	7
CH	2 Dec	200	54	141	96.6%	13	7
SK	8 Dec	163	40	106	86%	8	5
TO	14 Dec	351	115	222	94.6%	15	7
RD	16 Dec	175	67	108	100%	10	5

In CS and PR, Election Committee members prepared an election invitation note for every eligible voter and delivered it personally. This helped boost awareness about the elections among the village women, leading to a higher-than-expected voting rate.

The high voting rates at the VWA elections showed that a wider outreach can be achieved quite effectively. Many of the interviewee received information about the elections not only from IVY, but also from the Election Committees, village chiefs and WSHG members. This experience illustrates that villager-to-villager communication channels have potential to be a viable and effective means to disseminate information.

## 2.2. Appropriateness of the ASG Formation Process

Agriculture Study Groups (ASGs) are the only groups formulated and supported within the project framework that undergo a selection process. Following an ASG Formation Workshop, in which an outline of ASG activities is presented and in which the participants prioritize certain areas of agricultural activities, village women are invited to sign up for one or more thematic groups. The registration list is reviewed by the IVY staff members as well as VWAC members based on a set of criteria to select the members who have potentials in terms of skills development and extension. The selected ASG members are invited to an ASG meeting, followed by a series of training courses.

There was a clearly visible gap between those who participate in ASG and those who do not in the level of awareness about the ASG formation process. The ASG members stated in the

interviews that those who have adequate time, potential, knowledge, interest and experience, as well as money to spare (so that they can invest in their farm as needed) were selected as the ASG members. They received the information about ASG formation at a meeting or from VWAC members.

In contrast, non-ASG members claimed that they didn't receive "any clear information" about ASG, and they knew nothing about the selection process of ASG members, though one woman acknowledged that the village chief made an advance notice about an ASG formation meeting. When asked what the criteria for the selection of group members were, one woman said that she didn't know, while another said "nepotism," indicating that she did not believe the members were selected on the merit basis. Some non-ASG members responded that they would like to join in ASG if another chance was given, and recommended IVY to disseminate more information through village chiefs and VWAC and by using loud speakers and leaflets.

The process aside, those who were selected as ASG members appeared to have more focused attitude and more specific expectations than the non-ASG members. For instance, one woman said that she wanted to "fill the gap of knowledge of animal treatment". Another example can be seen in a woman's response that she "wanted to compare [her] old routine practices with up-to-date techniques".

### **3. Efficiency**

#### **3.1. Beneficiary Outreach**

The activities conducted from the inception of the project through the end of December 2004 were prepared and carried out primarily by the IVY staff members: that is to say, the dissemination of information as well as capacity building efforts took place between IVY and project beneficiaries. Each national staff responsible of community development activities were in charge of three to four villages and spent considerable amount of time in the field, not only coordinating activities with village authorities but also visiting individual households and building friendly and trusting relationships with village women. On one hand this effort is believed to have resulted in good working relations between the IVY staff and project beneficiaries, thus increasing the effectiveness of the project. On the other hand, the efficiency in terms of the extent of outreach, i.e. the number of people participating in the project activities, has been somewhat limited, as shown in the WSHG membership. Similarly, the outreach in the area of agriculture is also limited; by the end of 2004, three full time and one part-time national staff members conducted training courses for a total of just sixty people in two villages.



Having said that, it can be argued that the efficiency of the project as a whole cannot be fully assessed as yet. In fact, the efficiency is expected to increase significantly in the latter half of the project duration. The reason is twofold. Firstly, the project has yet gained confidence of some women, who are observing what activities and benefits IVY has to offer before deciding to take a full part in a WSHG or VWA. Whilst a few eager village women have taken an active part in the start-up of WSHGs and VWAs, majority of villagers are more cautious about embracing new initiatives. Given IVY's approach to avoid offering a lavish material support but instead to gradually build capacity of village people, villagers' confidence can be won only slowly.

The second reason is that more villager-to-villager information dissemination and capacity building activities are planned in the latter half of the project. It is often observed that village people are more likely to join in certain activities when they are persuaded by their neighbors or relatives than by NGO staff. Similarly, villagers are more strongly motivated to replicate the practices carried out by their peer villagers than the ones promoted by NGOs. Compared to the IVY-to-villager approach, the villager-to-villager approach is likely to expand the number of people reached as well as the level of their participation in the project activities.

Whether the villager-to-villager approach should have been applied from the beginning of the project is a difficult question at the time of writing this report. On one hand it might have boosted the beneficiary outreach. On the other hand an initial investment of project's human resources was probably a necessity in order 1) to build trusting relationships between project's field workers and village women, 2) to enhance the capacity of a few village women who are willing to invest their time and efforts and who can evolve into a "core group" within a community-based organization, and 3) to support the core groups so that they will have full ownership over the management of a community-based organization such as VWA. The intense investment, both in terms of time and human resources, at the beginning thus renders the project's efficiency somewhat lower at the mid-term than at the time of the completion of the project.

### **3.2. Efficiency of Material Incentives**

The following input had been made in the project since the project inception till the end of December 2004.

Table 6: List of Input

Groups	Items	Remarks
Human Resources	2 expatriate project personnel	
	9 national project personnel	2 personnel since April 04
	1 expatriate paid volunteer	
	1 part-time national personnel	
Material incentives to WSHGs	Snacks	
	Notebooks and pens	For leaders and sub-leaders
	Vegetable seeds	To attendants of basic training
	Hens	To supplement monthly saving
Material incentives to VWAs	Snacks	
	T-shirts	For EC members
	T-shirts	For VWAC members
	Stationery	For VWAC members
	Workshop supplies	For VWA meetings
	Vinyl sheets	For VWA meetings
	Bamboo tables and benches	For VWAC meetings
Material incentives to ASGs	Snacks	
	Vegetable seeds	
	Compost pits	
	Rice seeds/vegetable seeds/ hens	
	Other tools and materials	

As it shows, direct inputs to individual beneficiaries were carefully restricted, to which the majority of women interviewed in the FGI/D responded negatively. One active WSHG member said that she was often mocked by her neighbors who scorned at her that the WSHG members received nothing from IVY. Similarly, an ASG member complained that “some people say that IVY is so stingy”. Another said that IVY is “working mysteriously with no frank help,” which was interpreted as “reluctance in helping people”. One other woman suggested that IVY “should buy something obvious” like “a big jar” because she wanted to “defeat the critics” by showing them a visible material given by IVY. Another woman went so far as to say that she didn’t feel like participating in IVY activities any longer because she had been waiting but “see nothing,” and wondered if IVY were to help her, “why do you [IVY] frustrate my hope”. Similarly, a village man whose family members have not been taking part in IVY-supported activities complained that the “organization is the one to make development, then why let [WSHG members] take their own money, and why can’t the organization provide capital?” Another man said that his wife participated in a WSHG but later pulled out because “she received nothing”.

Although there was one WSHG member who said that IVY was a good organization because it didn't lend money to people but instead provided women with know-how, positive responses to a limited material support remained a minority. As far as the short-term outreach is concerned, the little material support may have been too insignificant to attract interests of many villagers. Whether attracting a wider participation by a lucrative material support can be good for the beneficiaries or for the development of Cambodia as a whole on a long run is a difficult question.

### **3.3. Duplication of Activities**

Some duplication of activities has been observed between those of VWA and WSHG. For example, WSHGs' chicken raising and the chicken banks of SR and PK villages took place simultaneously. Similarly, rice banks are being prepared under the auspices of VWAs, while some WSHGs are contemplating saving rice, albeit in smaller scale. Such repetition of activities has a risk of diluting the limited resources that an individual, a group, an association and, by extension, the project has. Furthermore, the similarity of activities blurs the distinction between WSHGs and VWAs, leading some members to lose interest in WSHG activities after the formation of a VWA.

## **4. Impacts**

### **4.1. Observed Impact**

#### **Solidarity**

As discussed in the section 2.1. 4), there are signs that the sense of mutual help has matured through the WSHG activities. An interviewee remarked that it used to be difficult to borrow money because of changing interest rates, but now she could borrow money from WSHG savings without interests. Another woman echoed, saying that some women had enough money to help the needy when they were in distress by letting them utilize savings. This reflects that the group savings are regarded as a good means to help the poor, strengthen mutual assistance, thus solidarity.

#### **Women's empowerment**

It was observed that WSHG and VWA activities offered good opportunities for women to have more confidence in themselves. When asked what IVY had offered thus far, WSHG members replied that they were "strengthened of their spirits and knowledge". Although it

was noted that the organization was not too generous in terms of material support, some appreciated saying that the project had “enlightened women [about] the living conditions”.

The women’s power was most strongly felt at the VWAC elections. A number of women who were not a member of WSHG turned up for voting because they “wished to have a good leader” and “[it would be] easier to obtain information if we had our representatives”. The interviewed women also stated that they hoped “the living standard in [their] village will be better through VWA.” A number of VWAC candidates made a statement on the election day how they would like to have their village developed. From these it can be argued that women are willing to assume a greater role in community development and lifting of their living conditions when opportunities arise, and the formation of VWA offered such an opportunity.

### **Awareness about the open election process**

One unexpected but observed impact is the enhancement of understanding about “fair and open” elections among the Election Committee (EC) members. In due course of the EC meetings to decide the procedures of VWAC elections, the committee members gradually built better understanding about democratic election processes, although there is no data to support this claim. Nonetheless the IVY staff members observed that EC members’ awareness about the democratic elections has transformed; from uncertainty about “democratic” elections, they started to have a fuller responsibilities and strong sense of pride in the VWAC elections.

### **Food security and agriculture**

A few successful practices, particularly in home gardening, among WSHG members were observed across the project area. Those who “wanted to test what [she] learned from the organization” were generally rewarded with a better yield. In livestock raising, a few women said that they followed advice from IVY trainers about chicken feed. While a few claimed that their chickens grew faster, many others said that they still could not prevent their chickens from falling sick and dying. In fact, when the question about livestock raising was asked in the context of WSHG management, several women expressed their disappointment over the failing chicken raising caused by widespread illnesses. In addition, extension of skills remains a challenge. One woman told an interviewer that she tried to disseminate the learned skills and knowledge to her neighbors but she “found nothing in practice”.

Among the ASG members, a gradual change of attitude is being observed. A few members have started making organic compost and liquid compost. Although it is still premature to conclude that the ASG training courses had a concrete impact on the participants’ attitudes in

long-term agricultural practices, it may be reasonably claimed that a cornerstone for more sustainable agricultural practices is being laid out.

#### **4.2. Expected Impacts**

As discussed above, as more villager-to-villager communication channels are strengthened through WSHG, VWA and ASG activities, actual communication traffic is expected to make several impacts on the outcome of the project in the latter half of the project duration. While the strengthening of informal communication channels as such has values in itself, further impacts are expected in such areas as dissemination of agricultural skills and knowledge by Extension Volunteers of ASG and exchange of such information among WSHG members.

### **5. Sustainability**

It is still premature to fully assess the sustainability of activities and organizations set up within the project framework. There are, however, some positive indications that have been noted.

#### **5.1. VWA**

As discussed above, village women were found to be eager to have a village-based organization representing women's interests. The focus on women was one of the more controversial and critical modifications made during the project's reformulation. Village women's enthusiasm to select trustworthy leaders by fair and open elections has proved that there is a strong desire in women to have their issues addressed, needs met and aspirations realized. There is, thus, an encouraging sign that women will take a personal interest in, thus ownership over, VWA activities.

One issue, nonetheless, should be paid attention to. No village based associations or groups can sustain itself unless they have enough capital to cover operational costs. It should also be noted that it is unrealistic to expect VWA to become a "catch-all" community organization that cater to all segments (young, old, women, men, rich, middleclass, poor, etc.) of the population in a village.

#### **5.2 WSHG**

Sustainability of WSHG activities faces a greater challenge. The WSHGs are smaller than VWAs, thus migration of a member to outside village has a critical impact on the momentum

of a WSHG. Chicken raising, the first WSHG activities that utilized the members' savings, has not gone well due to suspected chicken cholera. Moreover, the majority of WSHG members have joined a VWA, leaving behind not-so-significant saving activities and instead taking up VWA's newer, medium-scale activities such as rice bank. Unless there is a change that inspires renewed commitment to WSHGs, the groups may lose some more members.

### **5.3. ASG**

As ASG activities have just started in two villages, their sustainability remains to be seen. It can be assumed that ASG members as an individual will continue using acquired know-how, and a few may even acquire such an attitude that they keep on trying out innovative ideas. However, when it comes to farmer-to-farmer information and skills dissemination, it will need much external assistance, morally, technically and financially. Thus the sustainability of ASG as a group or as a system through which villagers explore new ideas and skills and through which villagers disseminate such information to other villagers is yet to be tested.

## **VI. CONCLUSIONS**

### **1. Engagement of Women in WSHG Activities**

There are mixed results in the engagement of village women in WSHGs. As far as the data suggest, the level of engagement of village women to the project activities is not living up to the rather ambitious indicators set forward at the start of the project. For the current members, the failing chicken raising is a major setback, as they feel disappointed with the meager return for their diligent saving. The IVY staff have noticed that there is a waning interest in WSHGs among many members, not least because of this failure, but partly due to the set up of a VWA, which is regarded to overtake all women's initiatives within a village.

Quite a few members, however, expressed their gratitude to have a WSHG because it has provided an opportunity for women to "help each other" by allowing the members to borrow petty cash from the group savings. The sense of commitment to the mutual help is one reason some current members are strongly engaged in WSHGs.

### **2. ASG Formation Process**

The level of information disseminated to the project beneficiaries regarding the ASG formation process was found to be inadequate to involve all interested villagers, and more critically, to ensure that villagers shared a sense of fairness in the selection of ASG members.

While some villagers said that they were not aware how the members were selected for the ASGs, those who were selected eventually as the members of ASGs were fully aware of the purpose and process of ASG formation. This indicates that there was an uneven dissemination of information among village women. The people who attend meetings, such as the ASG formation meeting, tend to be the same set of people. In addition, at the time of the ASG formation VWAC members are still new in their roles, thus not up to disseminating information to people beyond their personal or physical proximity. This prevents information to be disseminated widely throughout a village.

### **3. Perception on the Organization and the Project**

Generally speaking, IVY as an organization and its project as such are perceived by villagers as a good, open and transparent organization working closely with women and the poor. A few women remarked that the organization is good because it offers more than just materials.

This, however, does not mean that the village people are fully satisfied and are happy with the project activities. The village women who were interviewed expressed frustration over IVY's inability to stop widespread chicken illnesses, and that "IVY let chickens die and members lose money." The villagers with different stakes in the project (WSHG members, non-WSHG members, VWA members, men, ASG members) all complained that there had been too little material incentives. While villagers showed a noticeable patience in the actions taken by their peer villagers (no one criticized VWAs for their very gradual evolution), it appeared that villagers are impatient to obtain immediate and tangible *support* from IVY.

## **VII. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Information Dissemination**

In order to redress the uneven dissemination of information, more concerted efforts are needed to ensure that nobody feels excluded or discriminated from the project unfairly. One way is to strengthen and utilize WSHGs as an informal communication channel through which all WSHG members can obtain, pass on, provide and exchange information. Another is to test the effectiveness of, and if proven well, to increase the use of public speakers and fliers. Providing VWAC with a couple of bicycles so as to expand their mobility for information dissemination tasks is also an idea.

### **2. Material Incentives**

It became clear that the limited material incentives are causing wariness, and sometimes

disappointment, among the project beneficiaries. This may hinder the continued engagement of those who are willing to invest their time and efforts, and discourage a wider participation from the target population. It is therefore advisable to increase the quantity of material support to the project beneficiaries.

The material to be offered to villagers should, nonetheless, be carefully selected and distributed in such a way that will enable or encourage the beneficiaries to explore knowledge and skills and utilize them in their day-to-day practices. Judging from the positive recognition of some villagers that IVY had offered training courses before distributing seeds, the difference between a “gift” and “incentive” can be understood by the beneficiaries. The incentives should be used as a change agent that helps villagers change their conventional behaviors with a better alternative, unlike the gifts that are offered simply to please villagers and get their attention.

The increased material offer may prove particularly effective in the ASG activities, which evolve around dissemination of information and know-how, which are then supposed to be translated into concrete actions. For instance, having a compost pit in the homestead is likely to encourage a village woman to start utilizing the knowledge she gain through training course on how to make organic compost.

### **3. Connecting WSHGs, VWAs and ASGs**

Just like a workshop needs an “energizer” that animates the participants when discussions fall somewhat dull, after one and a half years the WSHGs need an “energizer” activity that excite the current members and attract new ones. Ideally, the energizer activity should involve village women as an “actor” (as opposed to passive “beneficiaries”) and results in a highly visible and tangible output, in line with the justification for offering more material incentives. Introduction of cook stoves may be a good example of such an activity, as it involves women as the maker of the cook stoves (as opposed to receiver of a cook stove) and leaves them at least one cook stove (which is very tangible).

In addition to the participation and visibility, an energizer activity should connect WSHG activities and those of VWA. As discussed in the Efficiency section, the activities of WSHG and VWA have tended to duplicate each other. In order to avoid such duplication and the duplication of resources and efforts, more synergies between WSHG and VWA activities should be explored. For example, should cook stoves be introduced under the initiative of VWAs, its production can carried out by WSHGs, as well as by groups made up of non-WSHG members.



The synergies should also be explored between VWA and ASG activities. In the case of the cook stoves, for example, there is a window of opportunity for ASG to promote the use and make of organic compost, since it requires as an ingredient the organic matters that a cook stove saves by using less fuel compared to a conventional cooking fire. The ASGs, particularly the extension volunteers, may also offer targeted training to the poorest as a part of the poorest programme of VWA.

Such synergies are expected to increase the effectiveness and efficiency, hence the impact of the project by integrating otherwise dispersed activities into a coherent community development effort. When the different community-based groups such as WSHGs, VWAs and ASGs are able to strengthen each other through mutual interaction, and when one activity stimulates and triggers another, community development activities may be self-generated by village people by themselves, rather than a project implemented by an NGO.

## **ANNEX I: LIST OF EVALUATION TEAM MEMBERS**

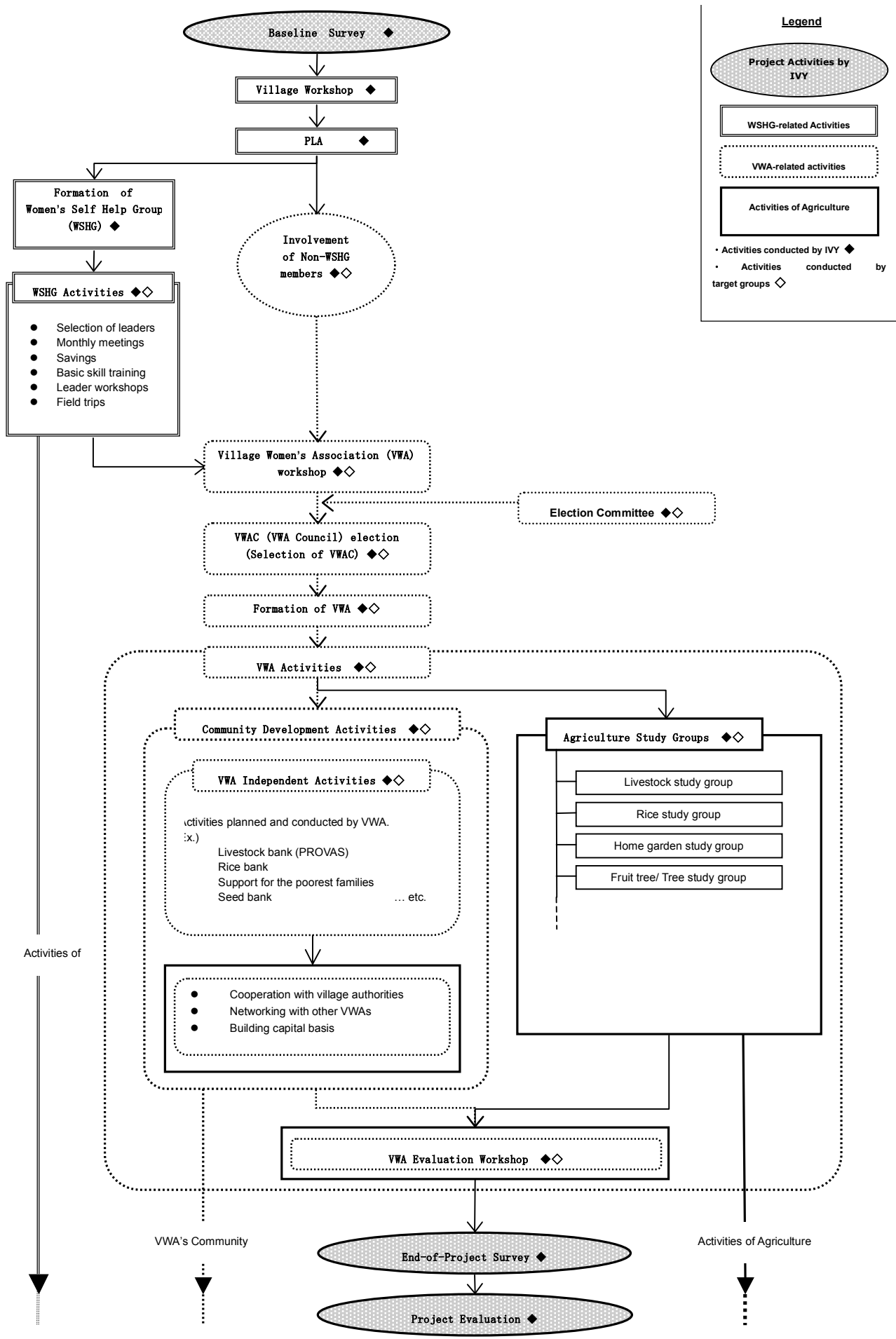
### **IVY Staff Members**

Chorn Bunly	Community Development Facilitator
Fukuhara Ryoko	Project Manager
Hirano Masahito	Administrator
Hang Vuthy	Community Development Facilitator
Ken Vutha	Community Development Facilitator
Ma Sokunthea	Senior Community Development Facilitator
Nou Sarin	Driver
Noun Dan	Senior Agriculture Facilitator
Phok Sovann	Community Development Facilitator
Tough Seng	Part-time Agriculture Facilitator
Yamazaki Yoko	Agriculture Manager
York Sanin	Senior Community Development Facilitator
Yos Nara	Project Coordinator

### **Research Assistants**

Mao Kung	Record keeper and translator
Sok Sotha	Record keeper and translator

ANNEX III: PROJECT ACTIVITY FLOW CHART



## ANNEX V: RECORDS OF THE FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW/ DISCUSSION

The following is the minutes of the exchange of questions and answers in 10 groups that participated in the focus group interviews/ discussions. The capital alphabets in the bracket (e.g. A) at the end of each answer stands for an individual in the focus group. The words of sentences in large brackets [ ] are supplemented by the authors of this evaluation report.

All the comments and responses were recorded as they were spoken, though some of the comments made by the interviewees may not be entirely accurate, in the belief that they reflect the perception of the interviewees.

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### Group A: Non-WSHG members

Village: Nearea Ten  
Moderator: Ma Sokunthea  
Note taker: Sok Sotha  
No of participants: 10 people

Q: Did you receive the information on group formation of the WSHG?

A: No, I didn't (A, C, F, D)

Yes, I heard through somebody in the village (B)

Yes, I Received some information because I participated in the meeting (H)

Q: Why didn't you receive the information on group formation of the WSHG?

A: I was not at the village at that time (A)

No body informed me about the group formation (C)

Q: How do you feel about the past groups formation of the WSHG?

A: I haven't seen anything notably (A, C)

I am not sure about the activities of WSHG so I don't understand them (B)

Q: What do you think if there is a WSHG formation in your village in the future?

A: IVY has to inform the villagers in advance (A)

The village chief should disseminate information to the villagers first, then register all participating members (D)

Q: Did you participate in the VWAC elections?

A: Of course (Most of them)

Q: Why did you join the election?

A: To select good women leaders who are competent (D)

It will be easier to receive information if we have women representative in the village (A)

We hope that our living standard will be better through the VWA activity (D)

We also hope that village women will have some work to do in the village (H)

We wish to have a leader whom we like (D, A)

Q: Was there any threat or pressure regarding the elections?

A: No, there wasn't (All)

Q: How did you vote?

A: There were photos of each candidate on the ballot boxes (All)

Just put the ballot into the box of a candidate that we preferred (D)

We had to find out the name of our favorite candidate (D)

Q: Who explained to you about the voting methods?

A: Village chief (H)

Election Committee (D)

Q: How did you feel about the election?

A: I felt happy (A, H, D)

I appreciated it (B)

Q: Are there WSHGs still working in your village?

A: I am not sure (A)

No there aren't (B, D)

Yes, there are (E, F)

Q: Do you know IVY?

A: No, I don't (F)

Yes, I do (D, H, A)

Q: What has IVY done in your village?

A: Home gardening (D)

Raising animals (D, B, C)

Raising fish (B, F, D)

Pond digging (D, F, H)

Provide capital for members (B)

Provide food for fish and animals (B)

Q: How do you feel about the activities of IVY in your village?

A: We're very happy that IVY wishes to work with people in our village (All)

Villagers will gain knowledge, skills and capital through the activities of IVY [to improve] their lives in the future (D, A)

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**Group B: Non-WSHG members**

Village: Rum Denh

Moderator: Hang Vuthy  
Note taker: Sok Sotha  
No of participants: 8 people

Q: Is there a WSHG in your village?

A: Yes, there is (E)

Q: Whom did you receive the information on WSHG formation from?

A: Through the village chief (E)

Through the IVY staff (B)

Q: Why did you not participate in the WSHG?

A: We have no time to participate in meetings regularly (E)

I could not find enough group members (B)

Doing some housework (F)

Looking after children and the aged (E)

Impossible to save money (low income families), because my family have no regular job to earn money for saving (C)

The previous members are not in progressive, as their chickens and pigs are still sick.

The organization didn't assist vaccine or medical treatment. It seemed not advantageous (E)

Lack of labor (D)

I was not invited to join in a group (A)

Q: If there is a group formation in the future, will you join?

A: Yes, of course (A)

I'm not sure (D)

Q: Did you participate in the election?

A: Yes, we did (E)

Q: Why did you participate in the election?

A: We wished to have a good leader of the Village Women's Association. It will be easier to obtain information on the village women activities (E)

To select the group leader (B)

Wish to have the representative of women in the village (B)

Wish to rally all together to create a rice bank (E)

Saving money to support the group (B)

Q: How did you vote?

A: Each voter was given a small piece of 5 ballots to vote for candidates (E)

The candidates' names were shown on each box. There were also the photos of the candidates (D)

One-person one vote (B)

- Q: Who instructed you about the methods of voting?  
A: The village chief
- Q: How did you feel about the election?  
A: I felt happy (B)  
I hoped that there would be a good group leader for women in the village (B)
- Q: Was the election fair and credible?  
A: Yes, of course (most of them)
- Q: If there is a group formation in the future, what strategies do you use to process it well?  
A: Call each other to participate (B)  
Have discussions in advance with the villagers (B)
- Q: Do you know IVY?  
A: Yes I do (A)
- Q: What is the logo of IVY?  
A: We are not sure (A, B, D, E, F)
- Q: How do you know IVY?  
A: Through the participation in a meeting (D)  
Know some of the IVY staff (B)  
Know through the introduction from the village chief (E)
- Q: What do you think about IVY? And what did IVY do?  
A: Most of the IVY activities are referring to the village women (B)  
They are implementing agricultural activities such as livestock raising, vegetable production, rice production, and saving groups (B)
- Q: What activities should IVY do in your village?  
A: Offer additional capital for the group members in order to purchase piglets and cows (B)  
Offer some rice (E, D, B)  
Offer cows for the group members (E)  
Assist and increase the group formation as many as IVY can (E)
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**Group C: WSHG members**

- Village: Nearea Tean  
Moderator: Ken Vutha  
Note taker: Mao Kung  
No of participants: 11 people

Q: What is your purpose in joining the WSHG?

A: I think that if I take part in this group it may partly reduce the poverty of the family.  
(A)

In the past I behaved badly to my family but after participating in this WSHG I became a more tolerant woman. (B)

I want to learn from the organization and I want to get more training to acquire knowledge with WSHG. (C, D)

I have sympathy to help each other. (E)

I would like to grow lots of vegetables. (F)

I would like to raise pig, chicken and fish. (G)

I decided to participate in this WSHG because I expected to get benefits from the organization. (C, D, H)

I want to have women's representatives to plan developments in village, to honor women's rights. (E, F)

Q: How can you reduce poverty?

A: In the past I always used violence, but I abandoned it. I try to make money so that my whole family may become financially better off. (A)

Q: What do you want to learn from the organization?

A: I just want to know about the process of WSHG development in the coming future. (C, D)

Q: How did you form this WSHG?

A: The organization came to encourage setting up groups through announcing the significance of grouping. (A)

Then the women got together and we established this group by ourselves. (A, B)

Q: How can you set up a group by yourself?

A: First of all, we have registration. Next we have a meeting and we decide to put money for saving. (A, B, C)

Q: Do [the organization] coerce you to register?

A: They didn't (All the people)

Q: How was the meeting run?

A: We had a few sessions and we agreed to put money for saving. Some of us have enough money so that we can help those who are poor by using the saving while they are in distress. (A, B, E, F)

Q: Who is handling the money?

A: The leader is. (A, B, C, D, E, F)

Q: How did you choose the leader?

A: By voting. (Almost all)

Q: Do you have any rules in the WSHG regarding the saving?

A: Of course we do. (A, B)



- Q: What is different before and after setting up WSHGs?  
A: I can make beds to grow vegetables in the home garden. I became a diligent woman and can grow crop by myself, instead of relying on my husband as before. (B)  
When I get a profit from selling crops, it is to reduce family poverty. (A)  
In the past, when we needed money it was difficult for us to rely on someone for borrowing money because interest rates changed. Now we can borrow money from WSHG as we need without interests. (B, C, D, E)  
This year I can raise 100 kg of fish enough to eat. There is no need to purchase fish. An organization came to teach me how to raise fish. (G)
- Q: Which organization?  
A: AIT. (G)  
I am very happy that we have WSHG and I enjoy its meetings and development in the village. (B, C, D)  
The organization trained us on how to raise chicken. (G, F)
- Q: How do you hold a meeting?  
A: The organization guides us and transformed our livelihood for better. I had a fieldtrip to the village of Boeng Kek in Dan Sar Commune. I was delighted. (A)
- Q: Did you get any new knowledge from the fieldtrip?  
A: I saw the people talking about how to make money. Their living conditions were better off. They have good harmony and love each other. They tried to earn from zero starting point till the organization came to reach out. (A)
- Q: Whom did you learn how to vote from?  
A: From the IVY staff and the [election] committee. (Almost all)
- Q: How did you hear [the explanation]?  
A: By a microphone. (A, B, C, D, E)
- Q: Was this voting fair?  
A: It was very fair. We voted for the people we were fond of. (Almost all)
- Q: What triggered the [formation of] the women's association?  
A: Voting. (A, B, C, D)
- Q: What is your purpose to establish this association?  
A: I want this association to run smoothly, progressively and expanded. I hope there will be a lot of members. I hope we have cooperation and participation of women. (E, F)
- Q: Do you have any suggestions to improve the voting?  
A: I would like to have women to cooperate smoothly. (A)
- Q: Do you know IVY?  
A: I do know. (Almost all)  
This organization arrived to enlighten women about the living conditions. (A)  
The IVY didn't put money to lend to people; instead, it provides women know-how

and how to lessen violence in the family. (C)

It is a good organization. (A, B, C, D, E, F, G)

Q: How do you feel about IVY?

A: For a long time, there has never been an organization to disseminate techniques and WSHG formation. Just now we see developments in the village triggered by the organization. (B)

It is an organization of generosity. (C)

This organization has disseminated know-how and information, has trained women. It doesn't discriminate any village. It is very good. (C, D, E, F)

Q: What did this organization provide to make you think that the organization is better?

A: They provided things such as vegetable seeds...amaranth, string beans, convolvulus and so on. (A, B, C)

Q: How did they provide them?

A: First they trained us then they gave us the seeds. (B, C, D)

Q: Do you have any suggestions to IVY for improvements?

A: I am often embarrassed by the people when I go to join in meetings. They mock me saying "you received nothing from the organization." (A)

They keep on mocking, saying "how much salary do you get from the organization for your participation?" (B)

I want to say that other organizations contribute money or gifts for those who participate [in their activities]. (A, C, D)

I only join this meeting, but if there is no profit I may depart. (F)

My neighbors [make sarcastic remarks], saying that for almost two years they see me joining meetings and how the progress going. (F)

I need more techniques for animal raising. (G)

What is the sense of joining this WSHG if you see [the organization] take [your] own money only to save, some people have criticized. (B, E)

I desire both rice seeds and fish fingerings. (G, H)

I ask the organization to provide better know-how and contribute capital as well. (G)

The IVY is mean. (A, B)

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### **Group D: WSHG members**

Village: Rum Denh

Moderator: Hang Vuthy

Note taker: Sok Sotha

No of participants: 9 people

Q: What is the objective of your participation in the WSHG?

A: Wish to know the activities of this group (B)

Wish to meet the villagers in order to create the time for discussion and improvement of friendship between villagers (A)

Wish to develop ourselves and access to the poverty reduction (B)

Q: What problems or obstacles have you met?

A: Sick chickens (B, E)

Animals have diseases (B)

Lack of vaccine and treatment for chickens and pigs (A)

Hard land and lack of fresh water (F)

Q: How can women help each other?

A: They can help each other through the saving activities; then we have money to lend to the members in case of emergency (E)

Saving so that we have money to buy chicken for group members (C)

Q: How did you form the WSHG?

A: Through the invitation to participate in the meeting (A)

Through the election [voting among members] of choosing leader and deputy leader (A)

Through the selection of group member (A)

Q: What is the difference between the pre and post group formation?

A: Village women became friendlier than before (B)

Women are able to know each other and exchange experience with other villages [through WSHG field trips] (F)

Q: What experience have you exchanged with each other?

A: How to grow lemon, how to make water channel, how to make bed for growing vegetables and how to use water (E)

Other villages are able to produce fruits and vegetables for selling (E)

Q: Have you ever disseminated experience and knowledge received from other villages to people in your village?

A: Talked to them of what we saw (E)

Showed them the seeds and young plants we brought from other villages (E)

Q: Do you have rules or guidelines for the group?

A: Yes, of course. (B)

Before making the decision of anything the group leader has to discuss with all members. The leader also has to explain the budget after saving enough money for the group members to buy chickens (E)

The leader is able to lend the money to members from the savings in case of emergency but she will have to inform it to other group members later (B)

We give members a favor [extension of debt payment] if they are not able to pay on time, but they have to pay for the complement later (B)

In case of a member leaving the group with or without reasons, her savings will not be withdrawn (E)

They have to print the right thumb as the sign of the group member (B)

Q: How much money does each member pay for the group per month?

A: The payment depends on the advanced agreement (B)

Depending on the possibility of the group members (A)

Usually 500 riel or 1,000 riel per month (F)

Q: Who is eligible for borrowing the saving money?

A: Only the member of the saving group (F)

Q: How much money can a member of the group borrow? Is there a limitation?

A: There is not a limitation of the borrowing money for a group member; it is according to the possibility of the group (B)

Q: When does the borrowed money have to be returned? How much is the interest rate?

A: The borrowed money will have to be paid back within 2 to 10 days, and there is no interest (B)

Q: Are there guidelines for buying and dividing up of chicken for group members?

A: Buying good chickens (F)

Productive chickens (A)

The chicken must weigh between 1.0 kg and 1.2 kg (B)

Q: What do you do if chickens die or get lost?

A: The members have to be responsible for paying back of the chicken to the group (B)

Q: What do you think if your chickens or pigs become sick?

A: Need the vet to help in treatment and need to purchase western medicines (F)

Separate chickens or pigs away from those sick animals (A)

Create the vet agent [VLA] in the village to intervene (B)

Q: Have you given the vaccine to your animals?

A: No, never (D)

Q: Why have you not given the vaccine to your animals?

A: I don't have money (D)

Q: Have you participated in the VWAC elections?

A: Yes, of course (Most of them)

No, I haven't, I went outside the village to earn a living (H)

Q: How did you feel on the election day?

A: I was very happy and hoped to have the leaders (E)

Q: How were the elections?

A: It went well (B-D-F)

Fairly (D-A)

The invalid ballot was not counted (D)

Q: Why do you think that the election was fair?

A: Because the election process was transparent without interference and forcefulness (E)

Have the clear names and photos of the representative candidate (E)

Q: Who made up the election campaign?

A: The Election Committee and the village chief (E)

Q: How did they campaign or disseminate the information of the election?

A: The village chief went down to meet everybody at home (E)

Announced by a microphone and speakers (F)

Q: How did you vote?

A: Bending the ballot and then put it into the box (D)

One vote one person (E)

Looking for the candidates' names and photos (D)

Q: Who explained to you about the election methods?

A: Village chief (D, A)

[Election] Committee (B, F)

IVY staff (E, D)

Q: Why did you vote for the leader of VWA?

A: To have the village representative for leading the activities and receiving the information from everywhere on time (E)

Wish to have village women leaders to activate better in the future (E)

Wish to have a rice bank and to improve animal raising activities (E)

Wish to have increased activities (D)

Participate in the poverty reduction (A)

Q: What qualifications should the leaders have?

A: Good attitude (E)

Be competent to lead the [association] (B)

Are able to read, write and calculate (B)

Q: How was the environment around you on the election day?

A: Nothing is irregular or disordered (E)

The election process went well (B)

Good cooperation between voters, the committee and the village chief (F)

Good participation from the village chief (F)

Each of us was delighted and appreciative (A)

Q: Are there any improper points related to the election?

A: No, there aren't (E)

There is nothing incompetent (E)

There is some incompetence (some members did not see the activities of ballot counting)

Q: Was the time of the election suitable for the villagers?

A: Yes it was (B)

The villagers had enough time to go to vote (F)

It did not affect strongly to the villagers' time (E)

Q: Is there a VWA in your village?

A: No, there isn't (A)

Q: Do you know IVY?

A: Yes, I do (D)

Q: From whom did you learn about IVY?

A: Through IVY staff (D)

Through the village chief (F)

Through the participation in the meetings invited by the village chief (A)

Q: Do you know the logo of IVY?

A: Yes, of course (A)

There is one stalk of vegetable across the Latin acronym (A)

I am not sure (C)

Q: Where does the IVY come from?

A: Japan (E)

Q: What has IVY helped so far?

A: Distributed ideas (E)

Strengthened spirit, knowledge (D)

Provided seeds, experience and budget complement (D)

Formed the saving group (F)

Q: With whom does IVY usually work in the village?

A: IVY usually works with village women (F)

Q: What do you think about the activities of IVY?

A: Enable women to exchange ideas and experience with other villages (F)

Women can receive experience from each other (F)

Women access to understanding their own rights (D)

Women received knowledge and skills (D)

Increase the activities of growing (F)

Make the village work more active than before (A)

Assist to eradicate the poverty level (A)

Increased family income (A)

Q: How can IVY improve its activities in the future?

A: IVY should support capital and agricultural tools for villagers, particularly for women

group members (most of them)  
Offer ideas, concepts, knowledge and techniques (D)  
IVY staff should come to meet the village women group more frequently (A)

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### **Group E: ASG members**

Village: Pon Kok  
Moderator: Phok Sovann  
Note taker: Mao Kung  
No of participants: 10 people

- Q: How do you get the information about the ASG selection?  
A: From the IVY. (Almost all)  
Q: How did IVY inform you?  
A: They arrived right here to disseminate [information on] how to set up ASGs. (A, B, C)  
Q: How did [IVY] form this ASG?  
A: Through the [VWA] that chooses members as group from the volunteers who also have got good personality, are eager to study and to comprehend. (A, B)  
Q: Who triggered the formation of ASGs?  
A: The women in the village. They have consultation with IVY. (A, B)  
Q: How does IVY give consultation?  
A: The IVY just masterminded setting up a group. (B, C, D)  
Q: What does [IVY] do before setting up groups?  
A: They called people join a meeting at the pagoda and made a presentation. (A, B)  
They have a session to establish as group. Each group should not have more than seven members. (B, C)  
Q: What happened during the meeting at the pagoda?  
A: [IVY staff] explained about the process of group formation. (A)  
There are five areas of agriculture from which we must to choose three. The fives were livestock raising, rice growing, home garden, fish raising, and fruit growing. (B, C)  
Q: How did they vote [to choose] the fields?  
A: There were some pieces of colored paper such as blue, yellow and red. We put pebble onto the one piece of color paper that we prefer. (A, B, C)  
Q: What do they put that color for?  
A: To mark the area of agriculture. (B)  
Q: What was this “putting pebbles”?

- A: Every one can put one piece of pebble. (C, D)
- Q: What was the result of putting pebbles?
- A: Three areas were selected; rice group, in which there are about eight members, home garden group, in which here are about seven members, and livestock raising group. (D)
- Q: What are they doing after that?
- A: They hold a meeting for training. (D, F)
- Q: Where do they have a meeting before training?
- A: They had a meeting at the same pagoda. We met according to the categorized groups. (E)
- Q: Why is it necessary to categorize groups?
- A: Because everyone cannot study the three areas at the same time. For example in the livestock raising group they teach us how to raise and take care of livestock. For a rice growing group they show us how to transplant and how to use fertilizer, which is very difficult to understand. (A, F, D)
- Q: Why were you selected as a member of ASG, for instance in the rice group?
- A: I think it was because I have an experience in managing rice fields, so they would like to train me more. Besides, I can use fertilizer. (A, C)
- I can make the rice field ready. (D)
- For me it's because I can keep rice paddy well. (E)
- Q: Who chose the members for groups?
- A: The leaders of VWA. (Almost all)
- Q: How did they choose the members?
- A: We asked the people if they wanted to join us. (C, D)
- Q: Why did you decide to join this ASG?
- A: I thought it could make a development. (A)
- I had some knowledge so I wanted to get more knowledge. (B)
- I wonder if the techniques would be similar to the old, routine ones. (C)
- I desire to see up-to-date techniques. (D)
- I just want to know the experience from IVY and compare it with my experiences. (E)
- I would like to get access to the best livestock raising [techniques]. (D, F)
- We want to fill the gap of knowledge like how to treat animals. (C, G)
- I want to practice the know-how I learn from the training. (A)
- I want to have a high yield of rice every year. For instance from one hectare of rice field can yield seventy to eighty *taos* of rice. (H)
- I want that I spend little money on farming but I can succeed in [having] high yield of rice. (J)
- I want to know how to inject a [vaccine] in pigs and prevent them from getting intestine worm. (B)



I want to know clearly the timing of fertilizer application. (C)

I want to know how to grow fruit trees without using chemicals harmful to health. (D)

I want to take advantage in growing rice like what I saw IVY farm. They use a small bunch of rice seedlings but they have lots of head of grain. I would like that. (E)

Q: How do think we can improve the ASGs?

A: There are many people who scold on me, saying that I waste my time to join with IVY. (F)

I wish ASGs will be extended to the whole village but it is impossible. (D)

I want the organization to buy something obvious, for example a big jar. Please give me money so that we can all buy it. (H)

One more example; the IVY wishes us to have a pit to make fertilizer but you should give us some money. Otherwise, we can share for help. (E)

Some people say that [IVY] is working mysteriously without frank help. That means IVY is reluctant to help people. For example, [IVY] want to provide us money but it seems that [IVY is waiting] to see the result [of our activities] first. (C)

My daughter and son always suggest me not join anymore. They say it is futile. (A)

Some say that IVY is so stingy. (J)

Q: Do you have any ideas how to extend the ASGs to the whole village?

A: They scorn at me about participation. They say “you receive nothing.” (D)

I want IVY to give us obvious outcome. (C, F)

If you attempted to provide us something I ask you to do so quickly. For example you want us to buy a big jar, and you need a pit to make fertilizer. But, hey, you give us fifty to one hundred dollars and other materials like bamboo, and then we can afford to share. (E)

Wording NGO is one to reduce poverty and to make development. Actually there is less development than anticipated. (B)

Some criticize that I have been trained for years but they see my chickens keep on dying. (C)

Q: What response do you have to them?

A: I would like to say that if the organization wishes to help us for anything then there should be apparent relief. (E, H)

I want you to buy a big jar for us in order to defeat critics. (D, H)

I ask the organization not to sell fertilizer at a high price. (B)

Q: Do you think the selection of ASG was fair?

A: It was very fair because these participants are volunteers. It wasn't by forcing. (A, B, C, D, E)

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**Group F: ASG members**

Village: Sam Rong  
Moderator: York Sanin  
Note taker: Sok Sotha  
No of participants: 10 people

Q: Are there ASGs in your village?

A: Yes, there are (G)

Q: What kinds of ASGs are there in your village?

A: Vegetable, livestock and rice group (G)

Q: How many members are there in each group?

A: From 10 to 12 (G)

Q: How long have you been in the ASG?

A: We have been in ASG for six months (most of them)

Q: How have the groups been selected?

A: Volunteer members (A)

Q: How did you receive the information on ASG selection?

A: Through participating in the meeting (G)

Through the dissemination of the association [VWAC] (B)

Q: What were the qualifications to be selected in the group?

A: There was something inaccurate [not quite good about the selection because] some of the members have no land for production, lack fresh water sources and lack labor (C)  
They don't have resource to practice and agricultural tools to cultivate either (G)

Q: How many persons registered in ASGs?

A: 10 persons (G)

Q: How many persons have already received the training?

A: 8 persons (B)

Some of the others had registered but were not at the village (C)

Q: What enabled you to be selected in the ASGs?

A: We have adequate time and possibility (G)

We have knowledge (D)

We have interest and are willing to try (B)

We have some experiences already (G)

We have estimated the expense and income (A)

Q: What difference have you seen after the training course?

- A: We have seen differences such as;  
Women became more aware of agricultural activities and techniques than before (D)  
In the past people did agriculture by habit from their past generation (D)  
Know how to select the seeds and how to use the fertilizer (B)  
Know how to spread the seeds and making bed and how to feed and raise animals  
(F)  
Know how to make dried and liquid compost fertilizer (B)  
Know how to arrange chicken nests (D)  
Know how to build a pig pen and prevent mosquitoes and pigs becoming sick (A)  
Know how to improve the soil quality (B)
- Q: How can you improve the activities of crop growing in a sustainable way?  
A: Use the fertilizer technically (D)  
Produce and use compost (B)  
Practice the methods of IPM regularly (G)  
Increase the awareness about the IPM methods (G)
- Q: How did you feel after the training course?  
A: I found that these training activities have provided lots of advantages for the villagers  
(B)  
Use knowledge at the individual household to improve the family income (G)  
Improve the activities of vegetable growing and animal raising as well (G)
- Q: What did you do after the completion of the training course?  
A: Disseminated the technique to the villagers (A)
- Q: After having training courses, did you create the rules for your group?  
A: Yes, we did (D)  
Scheduling of the training and the monthly meetings (D)  
The group will give penalty (singing) to someone who came late for the meeting (A)
- Q: How can we disseminate the information on the ASG selection process to the villagers?  
A: The already selected members have to achieve their activities effectively, then it will be is great to disseminate to the villagers (A)
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### **Group G: Non-ASG members**

- Village: Pon Kok  
Moderator: Chorn Bunly  
Note taker: Mao Kung  
No of participants: 9 people

- Q: Do you know that there are ASGs in your village?
- A: I have never known it. (Almost all)
- Q: I would like to tell you about ASGs. They are selected as groups, for example a rice group, in order to learn skills in training courses. Do you know this?
- A: That I know. (Almost all)  
I heard that [some villagers] formed a rice group. I also heard that the organization is going to provide a kilogram of rice. (A)
- Q: Are there other groups than the rice group?
- A: There are home garden group and livestock group. (A, B, C)
- Q: Is there anyone in your neighborhood participating in the ASGs?
- A: No. (A)  
I used to participate in the group but now I do not know which group I am in. (B)
- Q: Have you overheard about the group formation?
- A: I heard that they provide six kilograms of rice to the rice group. (A)  
I have heard about participation from my mother. (D)
- Q: Does your mother participate in an ASG?
- A: Yes, she is in the livestock group. (D)
- Q: Did you hear the announcement of the member selection to form ASGs?
- A: Sometimes I heard it. (A, B)
- Q: How did you hear it?
- A: I heard from a participant who joined the meeting. (A,)  
I live in a long way so nobody comes to tell me to participate [in meetings]. (F)  
I was invited. I could go to join the meeting but I could not because I was busy. (C)  
I used to join the meeting. I was in chicken raising group [WSHG?], and now I don't know which group I am in. (B)  
I heard when the organization arrived. (E)
- Q: What did the organization do?
- A: They gathered the member to form groups. (A, B, E)  
I heard from a black-shirt-auntie, who is in association, who walked around to tell about the meeting to everyone. (B)
- Q: How did [IVY and VWAC] recruit members to form groups?
- A: Nobody knows about this. (Almost all)  
They vote. (A, B)
- Q: How did they vote?
- A: They put pieces of rolled color paper for us to pick a piece. (A, B)
- Q: What do they put color for?
- A: I don't know you put it by yourself. (A)
- Q: Could you clarify why they put the color?

- A: They put the color to assign people a group. (B)
- Q: How can they obtain ten members formed as one group?
- A: I don't know. (A, B)
- Q: Why did not you participate in the ASGs?
- A: I was not informed. Nobody told me about the group formation at all. (F)  
I merely voted; I couldn't reach for more information because I was busy in the household, and missed to join the meeting. (B)  
I cannot grow [crops]; that's why I decided not to join in the group. (C)  
I didn't stay in the village [at the time of group formation]. (G)  
My mother participates in this group so I need not participate. (D)
- Q: Did you receive information [about the group formation] clearly?
- A: It wasn't so clear. (B)
- Q: Why didn't you stay in the village?
- A: I had affairs at homeland. (G)
- Q: Did you hear information from someone talking to another?
- A: Not at all. (F)
- Q: Does it mean you didn't know how the member were selected to form group?
- A: I don't know. (F)  
The organization came here to choose. (A, D)
- Q: If there would be ASG formation again do you want to join?
- A: I want to join but I have no time. (F, G)
- Q: What do you want to do in order to be eligible for participation?
- A: Let the [VWA leaders] walk [around the village] to announce the invitation. (A)  
She told me too but I had no time. (B)  
I didn't want to join because neighbors criticized the meeting, saying "what the sense of joining the meeting." They told me that I should rather stay [at home] and sell ice. (C, E)  
I will come to join a meeting for any benefit [I might receive] from the organization. (E)
- Q: What benefit?
- A: I want that the groups to progress. (A)
- Q: Which field do you want to get progress?
- A: The people scold me that they just see me take my own rice to join with group and they see the organization give you no help. So I feel dismay with participation. (A)  
The organization should provide people hope. (A, B)  
I hear some people say the organization is planning to give a well. (C)  
I have been waiting for it but have seen nothing so I have no good feeling about joining the meeting. (B)  
If you will help me why you frustrate my hope? (B, E)

I used to join in a saving group [to buy pig], but I never get any benefit from participating in it so I decided to quit it. (A)

I need an association formed and work smoothly for development. (B)

Q: In your idea, what the association should do?

A: (They did not give the interviewer a definite answer.)

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### **Group H: Non-ASG members**

Village: Sam Rong

Moderator: York Sanin

Note taker: Sok Sotha

No of participants: 11 people

Q: Do you know that there are ASGs in your village?

A: No, I don't (B)

I am not sure (D)

Yes, I know it (A)

Q: If you know that there are ASGs, how many groups are there? And what groups are they?

A: There are three groups; livestock, home gardening and rice (A)

Q: Did you receive the information about the ASG selection?

No, I didn't (D)

I did not receive any clear information (E)

Q: Did you register for the training course [an ASG]?

A: Yes, I did but I did not receive the training course (B)

I didn't register because I could not find enough group members (C)

I did not register because I am not strong enough to do things in group (A)

Q: Why did you not participate in the ASG?

A: To look after children at home (F)

To do some vending (E)

My mother has already joined in the ASG (D)

My husband did not give me permission (G)

I have no time to participate regularly in the meetings (A)

Lack of labor (B)

Sickness (A)

Q: Do you wish to join in the ASG?

A: Yes, I do (B)

Q: How was the group selected?

- A: I don't know; nobody told me (A)  
Selection for study (B)
- Q: What is the qualification of the group selection?
- A: I don't know; most of the villagers didn't know it (A)  
Nepotism (B)
- Q: Was there advanced information about the group selection?
- A: Yes, there was (D)
- Q: Who disseminated the information on the group formation?
- A: Through the invitation from the village chief to participate in the meeting (B)
- Q: How can we make sufficient information accessible to you later?
- A: The group chief [WSHG leaders?], village chief, and chief of the association [VWAC] have to inform to the villagers in advance (B)  
Disseminate information through speakers and leaflets (E)
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### **Group I: Village men**

Village: Prey Po  
Facilitator: Ken Vutha  
Note taker: Mao Kung  
No of participants: 10 people

- Q: Do you know this organization?
- A: Yes, I know IVY. (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I)
- Q: What does IVY do in your village?
- A: I saw they tell the women to get together and form groups. They also have meetings but I didn't know the purpose of the group meetings. (A, B)  
They started chicken raising. (C, D)  
They give women opportunities to develop their community. (A)  
They provide vegetable seeds like bean, convolvulus; make families progress. (D)  
I am very happy to see that through holding meetings and the rich help the poor, particularly target at women; I heard that the organization has planned to yield rice, is that so? (E, G)
- Q: Did you see with your eyes those activities?
- A: Yes, I did. (A, B, C, D, E, F, G)
- Q: How do you think about IVY?
- A: This organization has come to train to raise animal, and enabled people to love each other; it is a neutral organization not representing any [political] party; made the commune develop. (A, B, C, D, E, F)

Q: Does IVY give loans?

A: No. (All people said)

Q: Why did your wives not participate in the women's groups?

A: Because my wife is so busy and scarcely stay home. However, I am really fond of and support this group. (A)

For my wife, she participates in a group but I do not know which group she is in. I just see that she goes to join. (B)

My wife is busy making palm juice while she is at home. By the time she takes a bath and gets dressed and goes to join, the meetings are over. (C)

There are many children in my family and all children are still young. My wife has to be at home to take care of them and do other things. (D)

In the past my wife is went to join a group but later on she stopped because there is no one to help with house work. (E)

Q: How did IVY provide seeds and livestock raising training?

A: They came here to teach how to raise animal and the know-how of how to grow vegetables. Then they distributed vegetable seeds and hens. (B, C)

I have never seen the provision of seeds, materials or techniques. (C)

They provided seeds of convolvulus, amaranth, cucumber, and they held meetings a few times to teach. (A, D, E)

Q: What is your idea for improving or revamping the women's groups?

A: Actually, it is slightly weird that they only target at women for those meetings and that the women also pay attention to the organization's blueprint. For example when the organization put any plan for them to do so they do and follow all things. It is very attractive and I see that community and family have developed. (A)

Q: How do you want to improve these women's groups?

A: In my opinion, no bad point. That's it. (A)

No idea. I've never seen anything wrong. It is quite alright. (B)

I heard that the women talked something like this something like that. (C)

The women's groups should perceive clearly [the difference] between dry season and rainy season in order to be flexible according to the weather to raise animals well. (D)

Q: You say you have heard the women talk something like this and something like that, what does it mean?

A: I overheard the members of a women's group talking; some wanted to buy chicken or pig but others preferred to buy cow or rice, because those could be [beneficial]. (C)

Q: How do you feel about IVY?

A: I hail for organization coming here to teach women and making development in the community. (A, B,)

To be frank with you, I am not angry with nor dislike IVY; IVY trained the housewives to be able to save money well and to have consultation in community; in



addition, the registration [of WSHGs] was done without coercion; it was voluntary participation. (B, C)

I encourage all women to participate. (D)

I am very happy that this organization urged the villagers to [take part] in development, love each other and [increase] solidarity; I haven't seen anything like this for almost ten years. (D, E)

I am very glad that IVY emphasizes women's rights through WSHGs and bring commune and community progress; on the other hand there are some women who regret that they are absent to participate in a WSHG. (C)

Q: Why were some women regretful?

A: Because in the past she participated in a group, expecting that the organization would provide something, for instance a cow. But she received nothing so she came out. Now her name is no longer in the list. (C)

Q: Should there [be WSHG formation once again] what do you think of it?

A: I [encourage] my family to join [to get] as [much] development and I suggest everyone to take part because those who dropped out of the group did not know well that the participation was important. (C)

Q: What do you think IVY should do in your village?

A: I need the organization to have clear plans and results. For example, in agriculture it should have experiments in the field which result in visible results such as high rice yield. (A)

I want a pond to raise fish. (B)

The organization should provide more know-how and technique. (C)

The organization should provide more capital and seeds to women in order to grow supplementary crops because the rainy season is approaching. (A)

The organization is one to make development; then why let [women] use their own money (1000 Riels to 2000 Riels) to join in WSHG? (D)

Cannot provide capital? (E)

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### **Group J: Village men**

Village: Ta Reak

Moderator: York Sanin

Note taker: Sok Sotha

No of participants: 9 people

Q: Do you know IVY?

A: I used to hear from the villagers in this village (D, C)

- I used to hear from villagers in neighboring villages (F)  
I am not sure (A)  
I have known IVY for two years (B)
- Q: Do you know the logo of IVY?  
A: No, I don't (A)  
I am not sure (E)
- Q: What kind of organization is IVY?  
A: IVY is a non-governmental organization (E)
- Q: What has IVY done in your village?  
A: Help the poor in the village (B)  
Provided animals to its direct beneficiaries; provided knowledge and small skills (B)  
Provided vegetable seeds (H)  
Growing activities (E)  
Formation of WSHGs (B)  
Initiated work for the poor (H)  
Provided and expanded capital for the poor (E)
- Q: From whom did you know about the saving group and the distribution of seeds?  
A: I learned it from the activities of IVY in other villages (B)  
I know from the bio-intensive [experimental] farm of IVY in the village (E)  
I know through the group formation arranged by the IVY staff in the village (H)  
I know through the selection of the village women [VWAC elections?] (H)
- Q: What do you think about the activities of IVY in your village?  
A: IVY is supporting and enhancing the rights of village women (H)  
IVY has opened opportunities for women to exchange ideas and experiences and to have discussion from village to village or from farmers to farmers. (H)  
Contributed to the poverty reduction at the local areas (H)
- Q: Do you know that there are WSHGs in your village?  
A: I am not sure (B, E)  
I have never heard about those groups (A, H, E)  
I don't know (C)
- Q: Did you receive the information about the WSHG formation?  
A: No, never (A)  
Nobody let me know (A, F)  
I was not informed (F)
- Q: Have you ever received the information related to the WSHG formation from your wives or daughters?  
A: No, I have never received any clear information (A, F)  
My wife used to tell me (H)

- Q: How can we improve the WSHG formation process in the future?  
A: The IVY staff have to make an appointment with villagers in advance (A)  
Explain clearly the purposes of meeting with those village women (H)  
The IVY staff have to come down to the village frequently (A)  
Give leaflets that are related to the activities of women to villagers (A)  
Disseminate the information on activities regularly (A)
- Q: Why did your wives or daughters not participate in the WSHG?  
A: They are busy to earn a living (A, H, F)  
My daughters always go to school (A)  
I did not receive enough information (A)  
They could not find enough members for the group formation (B)  
They are not qualified to work in group (H)
- Q: If there is a group formation in the future will you allow them to join the group?  
A: Yes, we will encourage them to join in the group (All)
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### **Group K: WSHG members who practice the skills learned from training courses**

Village: Chhuok Sar  
Moderator: Mr. Nuon Dan  
Note taker: Sok Sotha  
No of participants: 8 people

#### **Home Garden**

- Q: Why do you grow vegetables?  
A: I grow vegetables for home consumption and for sale. (D, A, B)
- Q: Did you participate in the vegetable training course?  
A: Yes, I did (Most of them)
- Q: From the training course, what lessons did you learn?  
A: I learned about home-garden preparation (A, B, D, G, F, C, E)  
How to grow vegetables (D, G, B, C, A, E, F)  
How to maintain vegetables (G, D, B, F, C, E)  
How to prevent insects (D, F, B, E)  
How to make herbal insecticide (D, B, F, C, A)  
How to use herbal and natural fertilizer (D, E, C, F, B)  
How to pick fruits technically (D, E)
- Q: Which points have you practiced after receiving the training?  
A: I have made the herbal insecticide (D, A)
- Q: Which ingredients did you use to make the herbal insecticide?

- A: Mixed leaves of khnorn, slaak and breing kjal all together and soaked it in water. (D, A)
- Q: Is the herbal insecticide effective?
- A: I can say that it is effective and better than not using it (D, A)
- Q: After participating in the training course, have you ever obtained any additional ideas from the IVY staff?
- A: Yes, I was advised about the locations of home garden; that I have to find somewhere there is sufficient sunshine and there are not roots (D)  
I also learned how to prevent insects; mixing fuel with detergent and then spray it on the leaves of vegetable. Another way is to mix half a kilo of the knorn leaves with two liters of fresh water to make herbal insecticide (D)
- Q: Did IVY provide the training course only on the theories or with practice?
- A: They included practical activities (D)
- Q: Have you disseminated this knowledge to other villagers?
- A: Yes, Sure. We have disseminated it to our neighboring villagers but later we found nothing in practice (A)
- Q: Which knowledge or skills have you distributed to your neighbor villagers?
- A: How to grow vegetable (D, A)  
How to use water and watering (D)  
How to maintain vegetables (D)
- Q: How did you disseminate these techniques?
- A: Through discussion with the villagers (D)  
I told the clients who came to buy vegetable at my house (A, D)
- Q: What kind of crops or vegetables have you grown?
- A: String beans, winter melon and potato (A)  
Convolvulus (D, A)  
Gourd (D)
- Q: What kind of seeds have you distributed to the villagers?
- A: Convolvulus and string beans (D, A)  
Some of the seeds could not be distributed because they were damaged by cows, pigs, chickens and mice. (D, A)
- Q: How can you disseminate all these knowledge and skills to the villagers?
- A: We should give them some consulting when we have a meeting (D)  
Explain them the reasons (A)  
Showing them examples of growing and bed making (D)  
Provide them the seeds (F)  
Invite them to participate in the meeting and training (F)  
Have a weekly meeting (A, F)  
Showing them the ways of growing crops/ watering and maintenance (F)

- Q: How can we improve the home garden activities?  
A: Having growing and following up simultaneously (D)  
Improve the growing activities (D)  
Growing the crops that can give long-term advantage (A, D)  
Should have the watering machine/ water pump (F, B)
- Q: Why do you practice the techniques in crops growing activities?  
A: I wanted to do it as a pilot activity (D, A, B)  
For home consumption (D, F, A)  
To sell and to reduce expense on vegetable (D)
- Q: Why are you able to vegetables?  
A: We have water source and labor; we also have some knowledge and techniques (D)  
Focusing on the prevention and maintenance (F)  
Have market in the rural areas (D)

### **Livestock Raising**

- Q: Why are you able to raise livestock?  
A: Have a large homestead (H, B, F, A)  
Have sufficient resources to build a chicken hut (H)  
Have sufficient rice to feed (A)  
Have enough shade (B)  
Have enough fresh water and chickens (H)
- Q: Did you participate in the animals training course?  
A: Yes, I did (H)
- Q: What lessons did you learn?  
A: How to select good seeds and how to maintain animals (H)  
Giving feed (All)  
Disease prevention (H, B, A)
- Q: Which knowledge have you practised?  
A: Feeding; soaking rice in water before feeding it to the chickens (H)  
Feeding; soaking rice in white wine before feeding it to the chicken (H, F, D)  
Mixing ginger with rice and soak it in water before feeding it to the chickens (H, B, D, F, A)  
Providing some western medicine in case of emergency (A)  
Soaking the neem (sdau) leaves in fresh water and give it to chickens to drink (D, A, F, H)  
Putting tobacco leaves into the nest of chickens to prevent insects. (A)  
Putting the saray thnot in the chicken nest to prevent insects. (H)
- Q: Are all these methods effective?  
A: Yes, they're good (H, A)

- Q: Why do you soak rice in water or wine before giving to the chicken?  
A: Because the chicken can grow faster with them than with the ordinary feed (H)  
Q: What's the effectiveness of mixing ginger and soaking the neem leaves for chicken?  
A: Chickens are less to sickness (H, A, B)  
Chickens can grow faster (D, H)  
Q: What have you done for the sanitation of chicken huts?  
A: Cleaning it every day (H, A, B)  
Maintaining the cage (H)  
Q: After participating in the training course have you ever obtained any additional ideas from IVY staff?  
A: Yes, sure. We have received some ideas such as;  
Giving the soaked feed before selling chickens (H)  
Giving rice soaked in white wine for chicks (A)  
Q: Have you disseminated this knowledge to other villagers?  
A: Yes, we have disseminated some of this knowledge to our villagers (A)  
Q: Who have you disseminated the knowledge to? Men or women?  
A: Mostly to women (H)  
Some of our members haven't done this because they did not succeed themselves (A)  
Q: When disseminating knowledge, which methods do you think are effective?  
A: Invite the villagers to participate in meetings regularly (B)  
Discuss and exchange ideas on animals raising (H)  
Disseminate directly to the villagers (B)  
Inform them the ways of raising animals (H)  
Q: How can we improve the activities of raising animals, particularly chicken raising?  
A: Focusing on raising (H)  
Have a village veterinarian (A)  
Provide preventive care and treatments without charging money (B)  
Provide sufficient water source (B)
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**Group L: WSHG group members who practice the skills learned in the training**

Village: Chek  
Moderator: Chorn Bunly  
Note taker: Mao Kung  
No of participants: 8 people

**Home Garden**

Q: Which points did you understand from the training that you attended?

- A: I can make beds to grow vegetables. (A)  
I can build up fence to protect [the vegetables] from animals. (B)  
I made a watercourse to irrigate the home garden. (C)  
I just grow vegetables and sprinkle water on them. (D)
- Q: Have you used your knowledge from the training to grow vegetables?
- A: I did it but I am not so skillful in those techniques. (A, B, C, D)
- Q: What techniques?
- A: For seed planting, in the past time we always saw ants eat the seeds completely. After the training I take those seeds to soak in the oil for a while first to protect them from ants, and then we can start to grow. (A)  
We also can grow coriander around the seeds to prevent ants. (B)  
In the past I used much fertilizer on string beans but the crop was bad. After the training I reduced the fertilizer consumption and the crop is better. (D)  
Sometimes, we can grow cassava as the fence to protect our vegetables. Then we can get advantages of cassava both as crop and as fence. (E)  
Before we grow vegetables we must stir up the soil, sprinkle water and put manure so that the soil softens. (F)  
When we first cut convolvulus to cook we must cut to it short but when we do it for the second time keeps it longer; do not cut under its stem in order to let it grow. (G)
- Q: How about sawing seeds?
- A: We must soak seeds into oil to prevent the ants eating them and to let seeds increase their size. Then we stir up and soften the soil and water prior to sawing. (A, B)
- Q: How about practice? Do you do just as you said?
- A: I mix by my old habits and the know-how I learned in training. (A)  
Once I see the vegetables grow well I just continue it. In addition I can sell it for profits. (B)  
Plus, I have motivation to get seeds from the organization. (C, D)
- Q: Is there any point other than your better seed sowing to make your vegetables grow well?
- A: We prepare to a good watercourse to irrigate the home garden. (C)  
It is important to grow the vegetables near water. For example this month we have not enough water so it is so difficult. We just rely on rain. (B, C)
- Q: What motivated you to dig watercourses?
- A: Over there we have a well so I can dig a watercourse to flow the water to the home garden. (C)
- Q: What encourages you to dig a well?
- A: During the dry season there is little water, so I must dig a well in order to get a source for the irrigation system. When the rainy season comes I don't care so much. (C)  
Sometimes we dig a small pond to keep rain water during the rainy season. I can do

this because I have manpower – my husband and son. (A, B)

Q: What encourages you to build up fence?

A: I am a diligent person and [I would like] to prevent the animal coming and eating vegetables. (A, B)

The organization also has trained us how to make green fence such as sesbania. We can get advantages of it both as wood and as protection. (B, C, D)

Q: Have you seen any staff of IVY come to contribute ideas after you got seeds from the organization?

A: Often I meet staff. (Almost all)

Q: Does the staff come to observe growing at your homestead?

A: Yes, I see him come to look who is growing [vegetables] and who is not. (A)

He advised me that I should not to grow on the same land both string beans and cucumber. The land is small. (B)

I never see the staff come. (C, D, E, F)

Q: If the staff come to contribute ideas will you follow his/her advice?

A: Yes I will. For example a staff advised me not to grow crop under the shade, but instead I should expose it to the sunlight to get good crop. (A)

We grow delicious tasting vegetables. (B)

Q: Do you have any suggestions to improve the training?

A: I sometimes forget the skills. Please provide more ideas regarding techniques. (A, B, C)

Please show me again how to plant seeds and how to keep the home garden because I have no good memory. (D, E)

Please provide me more seeds. (B)

Q: What can you do to avoid forgetting techniques?

A: Just having staff's presence here to explain about the know-how helps. It's like the more we sharpen a knife the sharper the knife becomes. (A, B)

Q: If there is no provision from IVY what do you do?

A: No problem. I can buy seeds. But just provide me techniques. (B)

Q: Can you keep your seeds well?

A: Of course I can but the seeds of beans are always eaten by mice. (B)

### **Livestock**

Q: What did you learn from the training?

A: The chickens that just laid eggs must be kept in a protected cage for one week or longer and we crush a small amount of rice and mix it with ginger or wine for them to eat. When chicks grow up we crush rice to mix with cow pea so that they start to grow bigger and be fatter quickly. (A)

For the next we must lay leaves thickly and use liniment oil used as medicine to send



away small bugs. It prevents chickens from dying. (B, C, D)

Q: Why do you practice all that?

A: I just want to test what I had learnt from the organization. (A)

In the past the chickens were thin and small but when I followed [what we learned in] the training we saw that the chickens are fatter and bigger. (B)

I want to have an experiment. If it comes out with a good result I can sell my chickens for a good price. (C)

I got two good nests of chickens that I put them into protected cage. I sold [the chickens], which was worthy over 100,000 riel. (D)

For my hens, a hawk took two chicks. (E)

I cannot raise chickens well. (F)

We must feed them everyday. (B)

Sometimes, we can take these chickens to cook for food. (D, B)

Q: Why do need to put your chickens in a protected cage?

A: To make them good for eating; we can prevent chickens from getting intestine worm. (A, D)

Q: Have you seen any staff come to observe chicken raising?

A: Yes I sometimes see a staff came. He wants to know how I raise chickens. (A, B)

Q: Is there any staff members come to contribute more ideas?

A: I never see anyone. (Almost all)

Once the chickens get sick, we crush rice to mix it with wine for chickens to eat. (A, C, D)

Q: Do you have any suggestions to improve the training course?

A: I want to know how can we protect chickens from sickness and make them have good appetite. (A, B)

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### **Group M: WSHG members who are not practicing learned techniques**

Village: Chek

Moderator: Ma Sokunthea

Note taker: Mao Kung

No of participants: 9 people

### **Home Garden**

Q: Why did you not practice the techniques after you learnt them in training courses?

A: Because of I moved to live in a new place without a well. (A)

I have not enough fertilizer. (B, C)

I have a chronicle disease and my husband went to earn money in Phnom Penh. (D)

Due to lack of water. (E, F)

The chickens always damage my crops. (F)

I cut off convolvulus to cook once but when it grew again it looked bad because of lack of water. (G)

Q: Why do you lack water?

A: There is no well [in the homestead]; the well is located a long way. (E, F)

Q: Can you grow vegetable well should there is enough water?

A: Yes. (E, F)

Q: How about the knowledge you learnt?

A: I studied all but I still cannot practice. (A, B, C)

Q: Have you ever seen the IVY staff come to give more ideas when you meet problems like that?

A: I see nothing. (Almost all)

### **Livestock**

Q: Why did you not practice the techniques that you learned in training courses?

A: My hen has four chicks. (A)

The chickens got the dead pathogen. (B)

In the training course we heard that whenever chickens get sick, we must put husked rice to mix and soak with ginger and let them eat it. But chickens always fail to recover; the chickens still died in the same way as the ones before; I saw sore in their mouth. (A, B, C, D)

My hen had ten chicks. I let them come out of the protected cage, and they died. (E)

While I was studying, they told me to give husked rice soaked in rice wine as feed or to let chickens eat bud of eel [a kind of tree] but the chickens still died. (B, F)

I know well how to manage and make the nest from the lesson but whenever I practice it [the chickens] still died; their body became hot. (D)

Q: Did you choose the breed of chickens before starting to raise them?

A: I chose the dwarf breed. (A)

Q: Did you practice all the techniques after you studied them?

A: I did it but in vain. (A, B, C,)

I tried to feed them every time but sore appeared in their eyes then they died. (A)

I gave them rice soaked in water and I laid mat for them in the house so four still survive. (B)

I cannot raise chickens well because there is an avian flu. (C)

In the past, it took long for chickens to get worse and die but now they die quickly.

(B)

I tried what I learned; my chickens still survive. (D)

I lived in an isolated area so I can raise chickens well. But if I live near streets, I

cannot. (C)

I learnt and practiced the techniques but the chickens still fell sick and died, so I became doubtful. In their buttock, there is a burnt bruise mark. (E, F, G)

Q: Did you see any staff of IVY come and contribute opinions while you encounter the problems like those?

A: No. I see only [VWA leaders] walking around to ask people how many chickens were still surviving, how many chicks had been incubated, how much the chicken weighed when they were sold. (almost all)

I only heard to soak husked rice in rice liquor or ginger then let chickens eat it but the chickens still died. (A, B, D, E)

Q: You have mentioned only failures. Is there any success?

A: No. (Almost all said)

Some chicken survived. (D)

Q: Did you study anything new?

A: To let chickens to eat bud of eel or to soak rice in rice liquor so that chickens become fat. (A, B)

For ginger, used it only in cold season. (C)

To clean chicken hut and the nests where they hatch eggs in order to prevent small insects. (B, E)

Q: Did you receive any new information in the training?

A: It is weird; I tried to raise chicken – at the end they all died (chuckling). (A)

I learnt [some points] then I practiced [them so] I could receive fair result. (D)

Q: Did you see any useless topics in the training?

A: There is no fertilizer to put in crops. (A)

I used half a kilogram of fertilizer to put in the home garden, now [the vegetables] were damaged. (F)

I have enough seeds of bean to grow and eat but as I always sprinkle the water on it, the water has gone. (E)

I have no enough fertilizer. (D)

Q: What can IVY do in order to improve its activities?

A: Please often come, explain us, and provide farmers more seeds whenever the farmers fail to grow [vegetables]. (A)

I ask you to come and visit me often to be an incentive so that I can raise chickens or grow crops well. (B)

I need to have water. (C, E, D)

Once I have a well I can grow many kinds of crops like gourd, cucumber, water gourd, etc. (E, F, G)

Q: How can we get the wells?

A: Money. (A, B, C)

Then I can build green fence with such plants as cassava, cactus and sesbania. (A, C, D, F)

Q: I hear in other villages that they can grow crops well but their prices are cheap. Is it a part of your problem?

A: No problem. (A, B)

I cannot grow amaranth because ants always eat the seeds even though I soak them in the oil. (C)

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### **Group N: WSHG members who are not practicing learned techniques**

Village: Chhuok Sar

Moderator: Nuon Dan

Note taker: Sok Sotha

No of participants: 8 people

Q: What seeds have you obtained from IVY?

A: String beans, convolvulus and amaranth (C)

Q: What is the reason that you did not practice what you learned for home garden?

A: Low income (C)

Needy living standard (B)

Lack of water resources and agricultural tools (A)

Lack of labor (E)

There are many insects (D)

Not staying at home (G)

Vending outside the village (E)

The soil is hard and poor (C)

Q: What kinds of knowledge and skills related to the home garden activities did you receive?

A: How to make water channel and fence to protect vegetables from animals (A)

How to make vegetable bed (B)

How to grow vegetables (C)

How to arrange the home garden (A)

Q: How many training courses did you received?

A: Four training courses: growing and arranging the home garden; arranging the nutrition; chicken raising; and pig raising (B)

Q: Can you prepare nutritious food?

A: We cannot do as we learned because of the needy living conditions and low income (C)

- Q: Which points have you learned but have not practiced?  
A: How to arrange the home garden, and how to grow vegetables (B)  
Use of fertilizer (E)
- Q: Did you study about the natural fertilizer making?  
A: Yes, we did (E)
- Q: After participating in the training course have you ever obtained any additional information from IVY staff or other organizations?  
A: No, never (A)  
Yes, I received some advice from the IVY staff (D)
- Q: What kind of advice?  
A: How to make fence (D)  
Some of the villagers told me that my soil is poor and hard, I should grow vegetables in somewhere without roots in the soil, grow them somewhere there is sufficient light or sunshine, and I should use less chemical fertilizer because it can affect our health, and instead use more chicken manure (B)
- Q: What can IVY do to improve your living conditions?  
A: The organization should assist some agricultural materials such as watering can, hoe, seeds and shovel, and assist us with some capital, and provide rice to support us (A)  
Provide the vet service without charging fees, technical assistance for crops and fruit tree growing, and fruit tree seedlings (B)
- Q: Can you use all the techniques to raise livestock?  
A: No, we can not do everything but we can soak rice in fuel and cow urine to feed chickens, and mix ginger and rice and then soak in water before giving it to chickens (D)  
Mixing vegetables and rice is not regular (C)  
There are not enough vegetables for animals (C)  
We have done some maintenance work but chickens still become sick (E)
- Q: Did you bring the cock from outside the village for breeding?  
A: No, I didn't (D)
- Q: Why were you not able to bring the cock from the outside village?  
A: Lack of money to buy a good cock from the outside village (D)
- Q: Have you ever received the ideas of the cock selection from anyone?  
A: Yes, I have (F)  
Selection of good and big legs, and selection of productive chicken (F)  
Selection of the chickens with open tail (B)
- Q: How can we make chicken and pig grow fast?  
A: Feed more water and green (F)  
Should not feed more banana trees, because the banana trees are not nutritious (F)
- Q: Do you have any points or methods to change in the future?

A: IVY should provide the water source and vaccine for chickens and pigs (A)