

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
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Keyword 3	: Community interventions
Title of Entry	: LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH PROMOTING A DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM AND HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE
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**Abstract** : Kampong Chhnang is one of the provinces of Cambodia where people experience frequent food shortage, and 43 per cent of children under 5 years old are stunted<sup>1</sup>). In 2007, the Foundation for International Development/Relief (FIDR) launched the Food and Nutrition Security Project in Kampong Chhnang province and established an effective model to improve the livelihood of people in rural villages by introducing the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). In combination with improving households' rice productivity through SRI, the project encouraged farmers to practice home gardening and chicken/pig raising, and promoted a more nutritious diet by utilizing those home-grown vegetable and livestock through nutrition education. In addition, complementary feeding diet (CFD) was promoted for mothers who have children under 2 years old to improve their nutritious status. In order to make these efforts sustainable, the project worked closely with local key farmers, health volunteers, and youths to enable them to play leadership roles in the communities. The project moved on to its second phase in 2011 with an expanded target area and utilizing good practices and experiences gained from the first phase. After 6 years of effort, the results of an end-of-project survey confirmed that more than 90 per cent of households have adopted SRI, and the average yield was increased by 150 per cent from the conventional way. As a result, the number of households which experience the rice shortage more than one month in a year has decreased from 70 per cent in 2011 to 29 per cent. Also, more than 90 per cent of households have started growing vegetables and raising chickens, so that their income earned by agricultural activity increased from 253 USD in 2011 to 671 USD on average. Through the utilization of those foods and income, mothers have formed CFD cooking groups in the villages and proactively cook more nutritious food for the healthy growth of children. Through the experiences of community intervention by promoting a diversified agricultural system and healthier lifestyle, we believe that this multiple approach is an effective way to improve the livelihoods and well-being of rural people in a sustainable way.

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