



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Nutrition from the ground for all

Success story

Five beneficiaries share the positive changes experienced from participating in the project.

“Building Climate-Resilient and Eco-friendly Agriculture Systems and Livelihoods” (Climate REAL) is a project implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with financial support from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) as part of KOICA's Integrated Programme for Climate Resilience and Empowerment in Attapeu Province, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Seeing Ms Piksavanh Keovanpheng working in her garden is a regular sight for people passing through the village. The 35-year-old teacher from Oudomxay Village, Sanamxay District, has always grown a wide range of vegetables such as lettuce, morning glory, cabbage and coriander as additional income to support her family.



Although she grew vegetables in all seasons, she used to encounter many issues with pest infestation as well as waterlogging during the rainy season. Most of the vegetables would rot and she was not able to get a good price for low

quality produce. Ms Piksavanh tried different solutions like planting her vegetable in wooden boxes/trays to eliminate the waterlogging issue. However, the quality of the produce was still not very good and, taking into account the cost of the boxes/trays, it was difficult to make a profit. During the rainy season she would earn no more than LAK 500 000 per month.



She started engaging with the project in 2023 by invitation from the Provincial and District Agriculture and Forestry Office, with support from the village authorities. Her main motivation was to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to transform her vegetable garden into a better source of income, nutrition and quality of life for her family. By joining the project, she herself has also been transformed.

Technical staff and experts from the Climate REAL project conducted training on various topics such as adjusting and improving land for plantation, making compost and bio-fertilizer using natural resources available in the area, and preparing insect and pest repellent spray from bio-agents. The project also provided a full set of

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materials and taught her and her husband how to build a greenhouse from scratch.



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The open greenhouse provides better outputs in both dry and rainy planting seasons. During the rainy period in particular, there is no issue with waterlogging and heavy rain no longer damages the plants. The vegetables grow faster and are healthier. Pest protection is also improved, while the environment is also protected. The greenhouse allows for year-round cultivation and longer growing periods, providing larger and better produce and a higher income.



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Ms Piksavanh's garden is now an even greater source of nutrition, as it is home to several different types of vegetables. Based on the lessons gained through agribusiness training and market demand analysis, she plants a wide range of vegetables that match market demand

and fetch high prices. These include garlic, onion, dill weed, morning glory, lettuce, cabbage and coriander. Because of the market demand, middlemen often purchase produce from her garden.

With a better growing environment, the produce from Ms Piksavanh's vegetable garden now grows faster, stronger, greener and healthier. This not only provides better nutrition options for the family, but also means higher profits. Ms Piksavanh was able to generate a monthly income of LAK 10 million to LAK 12 million during the rainy season. With this level of income, she could technically make a profit of roughly LAK 9 million, equivalent to a 900 percent return on investment, as the investment in seeds and ingredients for making compost/fertilizer is between LAK 1 million to LAK 1.5 million.



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Ms Piksavanh aims to share and pass on her skills and knowledge to her students and the team of teachers at the school where she teaches through a special class activity on green vegetable plantation. She has also expressed an interest in sharing lessons with other farmers in the area. In the near future, Ms Piksavanh intends to expand and build one or two greenhouses to generate even more income.

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