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The Cambodian Society of Agriculture

The Cambodian Society of Agriculture (CSA) provides a forum where members can share information, raise important concerns and identify solutions for agricultural problems facing the people of Cambodia.

The formation of the CSA and the publication of the *Cambodian Journal of Agriculture* come at a crucial time for agricultural development in this country. The scientific community has rapidly expanded and a strong platform has been built from which Cambodia's research community can blossom. The Society now hopes to guide, and encourage agricultural research, extension and education in Cambodia.

The Society advocates the development of economically efficient, ecologically sustainable and socially responsible agriculture in Cambodia, while also providing opportunities for the dissemination of research results and exchange of information.

The importance of sustainable agricultural development to the identity of the CSA is made clear by the Society's logo. Its hexagonal shape represents science and research and the principles of the Society to enhance the environment. This surrounds a tree with three differently coloured leaves: blue (water), green (agronomy and forestry) and red (earth and livestock).

The Society, originally known as the Agricultural Sectoral Meeting, was officially registered as an organization in 1998. It is coordinated by a committee composed of a president, secretary, treasurer and five executive members all elected annually.

In 2001, 60 financial members from eight countries represented government departments, international organizations and non-government organizations at the Society's monthly meetings. The CSA meets on the last Friday of every month and also hosts seminars by a number of guest speakers.



Funding for the Society comes from membership, sponsorship, donations, and particularly with the help of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

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ការកសាងភាពជាដៃគូ រវាងសង្គមស៊ីវិល និង ស្ថាប័នស្រាវជ្រាវកសិកម្ម

BUILDING COLLABORATION BETWEEN NGOS AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Peter Cox¹, Numa Shams², Gary Jahn³, Polly Ericksen⁴, and Paul Hicks⁵

សេចក្តីសង្ខេប

ក្នុងប្រទេសកម្ពុជាក៏ដូចជាតំបន់ផ្សេងៗទៀតនៅក្នុងតំបន់អាស៊ីអាគ្នេយ៍ នេះគឺថា អង្គការក្រៅរដ្ឋាភិបាល មានតួនាទីយ៉ាងសំខាន់ ក្នុងកិច្ចអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ លើវិស័យកសិកម្ម តាមរយៈការពង្រីក និង បង្កើនសកម្មភាពស្រាវជ្រាវ ។ ទោះជា យ៉ាងណាក៏ដោយជាទូទៅ គឺមិនមែនជាតួនាទីរបស់ សង្គមស៊ីវិល ក្នុងការបង្កើតប្រព័ន្ធផ្សព្វផ្សាយ និងស្រាវជ្រាវឡើយ ។ អង្គការក្រៅ រដ្ឋាភិបាល អាចសម្របសម្រួល ឱ្យមានលទ្ធផល ដែលអាចទទួលបាន ដោយក្រុមកសិករ ចំពោះសេវាកម្មជំនួយរបស់រដ្ឋាភិបាល ហើយប្រហែល ជាលើកកម្ពស់ការ ប្តូរផ្លាស់សេវាកម្មទាំងនេះ ដើម្បីឱ្យមានភាពពាក់ព័ន្ធ ច្រើន ឆ្លើយតបចំពោះសេចក្តីត្រូវការរបស់សហគមន៍ ។ នៅក្នុងអត្ថបទ នេះយើង ធ្វើការបង្កើតគំរោងការងារដើម្បីជួយដល់សង្គមស៊ីវិល ហើយ និងស្ថាប័នស្រាវជ្រាវផ្នែកកសិកម្ម រួមបញ្ចូលទាំងអង្គការអន្តរជាតិ ដើម្បី ទទួលបាននូវការរៀបចំសហការ ដែលពោរពេញដោយផ្នែកផ្តុំ ។ យើងអាច បញ្ជាក់អំពីលក្ខណៈរបស់កិច្ចសហការ និង បញ្ហា ដែលកំពុងប្រឈមមុខ ពេលដែលយើងធ្វើសហការ និង អំពីរបៀប ដែលយើងស្វែងរកឱកាស សំរាប់ធ្វើសហការ ដើម្បីអោយមានប្រសិទ្ធភាព គំរោងសំណើវិសេសស្រូវ បានធ្វើសំរាប់ការទាត់ចែងកិច្ចការនេះត្រូវទាក់ទង ទាំងការយល់ព្រមរបស់ ស្ថាប័នដើម្បីគាំទ្រភាពជាដៃគូ ហើយ និង ប្រភេទនៃរបៀបស្រាវជ្រាវ ដែលអាចផ្តល់ការផ្តោតដ៏ ត្រឹមត្រូវសំរាប់សកម្មភាព ។

ពាក្យគន្លឹះ: NGO, ប្រព័ន្ធស្រាវជ្រាវ និង ផ្សព្វផ្សាយ, សង្គមស៊ីវិល

ABSTRACT

In Cambodia, as elsewhere in SE Asia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have an important role in agricultural development: through extension and, increasingly, research activities. However, it is generally not their role to set up a parallel research and extension system. NGOs can facilitate access by farmer groups to government support services and, perhaps, promote change in these services so they are more relevant to the needs of local communities. In this paper, we develop a

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framework to help civil society and agricultural research institutes, including international agencies, enter into more productive collaborative arrangements. We discuss the nature of issues to be faced when entering into collaboration, and how we can exploit opportunities for collaboration more effectively. Specific proposals are made for managing this. These relate both to the institutional arrangements to support partnerships and to the kind of research approach that can provide an appropriate focus for joint activity.

Key words: NGO, research and extension systems, civil society.

INTRODUCTION

There is increasing pressure on agricultural research and extension systems to reach resource-poor farmers. Science can be professionally respectable, and technically satisfying, and yet have little impact on the practical farming issues faced by smallholders who may have little voice in the research and political system (Rukuni, Blackie and Eicher, 1997).

One of the reasons for the increased presence of the NGO sector in agricultural research is a change in donor policy towards greater participation and decentralization. The World Bank claims that the role of the public sector has to be redefined to permit multiple approaches which account for user diversity, and to develop partnerships with farmer organizations, NGOs and the private sector for service delivery (World Bank, 1995). This is driven by the perceived need to increase the return on investment in agricultural R&D.

In the last decade, there has been increased interest, by both development specialists and donors, in fostering collaboration between government research and extension organizations (GOs), including international agricultural research institutes, and NGOs (CGIAR, 1997). The community-organizing skills of NGOs are seen to complement the technical skills of government and international agencies.

The issue is about how the research system can incorporate, and respond to, the voices of smallholders, including priority setting and mobilizing political support for agricultural research (Sands, 1988; Tripp, 1991; Rukuni, Blackie and Eicher, 1997; Ison and Russell, 2000). Smallholders are dispersed and often not confident in dealing with the political and social changes that are now taking place. NGOs could play a more active role as a partner of formal sector research systems and farmer groups to get the issues of small farmers onto the