

Pitou learns, then supports others.

I am happy when I can participate in things that provide me knowledge and skills that I can use to create income for my family and also help others.” said Mr. Pitou, a 55-year-old farmer. He sat under a coconut tree in front of his house.



Mr. Pitou is an optimistic man working on a rural farm while actively participating in the agriculture program of KADRA in Svay Rieng province, Cambodia, which World Renew supports. With his wife, two children, and one grandchild, he spends most of his time growing vegetables, and fruit and raising animals for daily consumption and market sales. He has been participating in the agriculture program since early 2023 as part of a KADRA community engagement program and working closely with the local authorities on mobilizing and identifying participants for the program.

He completed the KADRA’s pre-condition assessment on his learning potential and skills in agriculture. As a result, KADRA identified him as one of the Community Agriculture and Business Advisors (CABAs) for its targeted communities. By doing so, he would be allowed access to more training in financial literacy, entrepreneurship skills, production planning, and more during the next implantation stages.

In the meantime, Mr. Pitou never fails to coordinate and assist KADRA's staff in organizing the training events, including inviting participants and making other logistical arrangements.



During his first year after joining KADRA’s program, Mr. Pitou received training from KADRA on growing green onions during the rainy season, composting, and food processing. He practiced the techniques on his farm and reaped income from his labor. Now, besides growing for the family’s daily consumption, he also processes some produce for sale such as making pickles and soybean milk. Together with his wife, he grows cucumbers, water spinach, Kandeang (a type of bitter water spinach commonly eaten in soup), chilies, and other vegetables. During the growing season for about six months, he makes an average of 35,000- 45,000 Riels (8.75 USD- 11.25 USD) per day from selling his homegrown fresh and processed vegetables.



Mr. Pitou shared his plan with us. “I am going to expand my vegetable farm soon. I see an increase in market needs for cucumbers, luffa gourds, winter melons and spinach. I will encourage and help other farmers in my community to acquire knowledge and skills from KADRA’s program so that they produce in greater volume and save more income.”

Story of change

A Yong farmer has HOPE.

Meng Ratanak is 21 years old and is one of the youngest farmers who live in Srae Leav village, one of the OREDA (World Renew's partner) target communities in Kampot province. Although he has four siblings, none shares his enthusiasm for agriculture.



Despite his young age, Ratanak has been a helping hand to his family and to many youths in his village. Ratanak has been passionate about agriculture since he was a fifth grader and loved to take care of his chickens in his spare time. Ratanak also enjoys growing vegetables because he knows that there is a high market demand for them.

During the Covid pandemic, Ratanak struggled to keep up in school because of the family's situation. He began to help his family by working on the farm. He tried to learn about good agricultural practices (GAP) to improve the quality of his agricultural products. However, because of his limited knowledge and experience in agriculture, his production never came out as expected, and finding markets was quite challenging since he was new to bringing products to market. Ratanak rarely complained but never lost hope for making a change for his farm. He began to search for support from other successful farmers.

Auntie Rath was a successful local farmer and a farmer group leader. She provided support for Ratanak during his farming journey. Because of his high commitment to agriculture production, Ratanak was allowed to join the agriculture producer group.



World Renew and OREDA

As a group member, besides improving his agriculture production skills, he gained more skills in food processing and packaging for leftover vegetables as well as making compost and liquid fertilizer. Additionally, he could learn from a successful farmer in Kampong Chhnang province through a learning visit supported by OREDA.

He reported his improved capacities on how to deal with time conflicts and management, especially when agriculture training sessions took place while he was working on his farm and other skills that OREDA provided to farmers in the communities.

Although Ratanak's conditions are getting better, Ratanak still has difficulty due to at least four reasons: a lack of youth engagement, farmers' limited investment in agriculture, overuse of chemical fertilizer, and high pressure for low product prices.



Ratanak said, "I still need to learn more about how to deal with those key issues that I have identified to continue to increase my income from agriculture." He continued by saying, "Even though my results are still not as good as expected, I hope they will be good soon. It will always take time for everyone, including me, to apply technical skills and improve our production.

He added, "I hope to learn more about how to make different types of fertilizers for different crops as well as botanical pesticides. I also hope there will be more youth engagement and participation in the agriculture sector." However, he still encourages youth to complete their schooling, at least until grade 12.