

## ADDA-Srer Khmer-ECOSORN Project Cambodia



EU has launched a large project in co-operation with The Royal Government of Cambodia in the north-western part of the country. The project is called "ECONomic and SOcial Relaunch of Northwest provinces (ECOSORN).

In November 2007, Agricultural Development Denmark Asia (ADDA) in a consortium with the existing ADDA partner Srer Khmer (SK) has been awarded 3 agriculture contracts called "Extension Support for Implementing Integrated Rural Development Modules" for the duration of 3 years by the ECOSORN project.

Actually it is one contract for each of the provinces of Siem Reap, Banteay Mean Chey and Battam Bang in about 90 villages.

The strategy is to work through development modules that focuses more on rice as it is the most important crop for Cambodian farmers, who think that *"If they have rice to fill their grange they have food security"*.

Different techniques of cultivating rice will be introduced according to the agro-geographical areas such as rain fed rice, irrigated rice, the IPM method and System of Rice Intensification (SRI) which is completely different from farmer's traditional method of growing rice. For instance, SRI uses younger seedlings for transplanting and only one plant per hill and also the soil must be smooth by using a lot of organic matters and so on. Besides rice in the up land area, the project introduces cash crops such as soybean, mung bean, sweet corn, sweet potato, sorghum, millet etc.

In addition, in each module we will also implement other activities like home gardening, livestock production including pigs and cattle, family pond aquaculture, rice/fish culture and integrated farming. The activities are quite similar to those implemented in the Integrated Women Empowerment Project (IWEP) except for rice and cattle.

Certainly, to win such bidding is a great achievement for ADDA and the development agents in particular the local Cambodian authorities with whom the project will cooperate closely.

The EU ECOSORN ADDA contacts were signed in December 2007 by the consortium members and started implementation with the employment of 3 dynamic and experienced key experts in each province. It is believed that the project may a leap towards poverty reduction in Cambodia and ADDA is happy to be trusted to implement a large EU project.