



**MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



**FEED THE FUTURE - CAMBODIA IMPACT EVALUATION AND  
STRENGTHENING LOCAL CAPACITY TO MONITOR AND  
EVALUATE FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS**

**Quarterly Project Narrative Report - FY16 (Q1)  
October 1 – December 31, 2015**

**Food Security III Leader with Associates CA No. GDG-A-00-02-00021**

**Cambodia Associate Cooperative Agreement No. AID-442-LA-12-00001**

**Quarterly Project Narrative Report - FY15 (Q1)**  
**October 1 – December 31, 2015**

## **1. Introduction**

The Food Security Group (FSG) at Michigan State University (MSU) submits this first quarterly report for Year 4 under the Cambodia Associate Cooperative Agreement No. AID-442-LA-12-00001. At the core of this award is the impact evaluation of the FtF Cambodia/HARVEST Project and developing local capacity for the evaluation of food security programs in Cambodia.

During the first quarter, the team worked with Agricultural Extension Policy Formulation Core Group offering technical support and guidance to program evaluation short course participants to analyze data and prepare presentations.

This report is organized in line with the activities outlined in the Year 3 Annual Work Plan. The activities described below were in continuation of activities reported in Year 2 Quarterly Reports.

## **2. Implementation Progress**

### **2.1. Program Evaluation Short Course for 2016 and Degree Training**

The call for application for short course on program evaluation was announced in Cambodia Daily national newspaper in December (see Annex A). The announcement was also shared with Short Course participants from previous years. This time, we received 63 applications from mid-career professionals. We formed a 5 member committee to review and rate applications. Applications received by the due date were shared with the committee members (PDF file of the application attached for each applicant). The Committee members were requested to rate the application using the following criteria:

- Academic preparation in area of agriculture, food security and nutrition;
- Mid-career professional, i.e. relevant work experience about 5-10 years;
- English language proficiency based on education and training;
- Diversity (gender), organization (Government or NGO), geographic representation; and
- Potential for contribution to agriculture, food security and nutrition program/policy evaluation in Cambodia.

21 individuals were selected to participate in the short course in 2016 (see Annex B).

### **2.2. Degree Training**

Two Master's degree students (Mr. Maneth La and Mr. Botum Horn) funded under this project successfully completed all courses and defended their Master's degree Plan B

projects in December 2015. Both have returned to their home country and resumed their work.

Ms. Ngov Changsroat is a Master degree student at RUA. She is making a good progress in her theses work and plans to graduate in February 2016.

### **2.3. HARVEST Project Aquaculture Program Evaluation and Child Feeding Case Study**

MSU faculty team of Dr. Robert Richardson, Dr. Murari Suvedi and Dr. Michael Kaplowitz finalized the Cambodia HARVEST's aquaculture program evaluation. The report was shared with the AORs and will be finalized after incorporating comments and feedback.

Dr. Kimberly Chung completed the fieldwork for the child feeding case study. The data were transcribed and translated into English language. She is preparing the case study report and will be submitted to USAID by March 2016.

Based on request from the AORs, a new evaluation case study on commercial horticulture program of Cambodia/HARVEST will be planned and the case study will be completed by August 2016. Dr. Murari Suvedi will lead the case study with help from MSU staff, Mr. Sreng Bora from Cambodia. MSU team will involve three short course participants from 2016 cohort to conduct this evaluation. It is hoped that the evaluation findings will provide valuable insights in designing the interventions in the next 3-5 years.

### **3. Plan for FY 2016 and 2017 (Project Year 4 and 5)**

MSU Team developed the Work Plan for Year 4 (2016) and part of Year 5 (i.e., until March 2017) in consultation with the AOR and Mission staff (see Annex C). The Mission has reviewed the Work Plan and request for no-cost extension of this associate award until March 31, 2017.

The impact evaluation data collection is planned during June-July, 2016 and evaluation report will be completed by January 2017. A national workshop to share the lessons learned from various evaluation studies conducted during this project is also planned during the first part of 2017.

Similar to previous year, we plan to offer the program evaluation short course in 2016. The first week-long training session is planned during January 4-9, 2016 and the second session will be planned during August 12-17, 2016. We anticipate six team evaluation case study projects to be completed this year.

#### **4. Issues, Challenges and Way Forward**

Overall, we have continued to have good cooperation and collaboration with our partner organizations. The collaboration with Cambodia HARVEST, Royal University of Agriculture, General Department of Agriculture (GDA) and Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has been outstanding. RUA continues to be a great partner—we have been offering the Program Evaluation Short Course in collaboration with RUA. Many RUA students are engaged in fieldwork for evaluation data collection and benefitted from the partnership..

We hired a part-time (0.50 FTE) staff, Mr. Sreng Bora, who will assist us in project implementation. RUA Rector has provided an office space for our project.

We continue to have a good relationship with CDRI and we plan to engage CDRI for our impact evaluation endline survey in 2016.

#### **Annexes**

**Annex A: Call for Application for Short Course on Program Evaluation**

**Annex B: List of Program Evaluation Short Course Participants for 2016**

**Annex C: Plan of Work for Project Year 4 and 5 (i.e., 2016 and 2017)**

**Annex D: HARVEST Aquaculture Program Evaluation Focus Group Report**

**Annex E: HARVEST Aquaculture Program Evaluation Report**