
Chicken Farming has Transformed a Farmer's Life

Farming livestock such as cattle and poultry has improved the income and quality of life in Da village, Kratie province.

Mr. Chamnak and his wife started with 28 hens and four cocks, now they have more than double. Since starting in September 2016, 32 chicks have hatched, with more arriving weekly as the hens mature.



Mr. Chamnak looking after his chickens.

In 2016 Mr. Chamnak was given USD250 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to buy few hens and cocks to start the enterprise, as well as a brooder to speed up incubation of the eggs and netting to protect the birds. This was part of an initiative by Cambodia's Department of Animal Health and Production (DAHP) to strengthen and promote alternative farming methods in rural areas.

“At first, I just treated animals as a village animal health worker. Later on I started raising pigs but it wasn't profitable,” he explains, adding that this did not stop his desire to raise his own animals. “I am an animal health worker, so I should be able to raise animals because I know the techniques to keep them healthy” he said.

“When commune agricultural officials mentioned that they had received funding under an EU project to raise cattle and poultry and asked if I was interested in rearing chickens, I immediately said yes, I wanted to try it,” he remembers.

“If we let the hens hatch the eggs normally, the loss is around 10 percentage; but if we use hatching boxes, we will save the eggs.” explains Chamnak. Outdated

traditional techniques are now being replaced and farmers are reaping the rewards.

Mr. Chamnak has also been involved in demonstrating to others in his village how to provide vaccinations to their livestock. For chickens, he has taught the farmers how to mix antibiotics or vitamins - depending on the ailment- into food to ensure better efficiency.

“ *By practising these new techniques for selecting breeds, providing vaccinations to prevent illnesses and so on, we will make more profit – around 70 to 80 percentage more than using the old methods* ”

Mr. Chamnak, Farmer

Mr. Chamnak is vocal about his business venture and would like more farmers in the district to follow his lead.

“My message for them is that the demand for locally raised chicken is high. I advise them to follow the technical standards as prescribed by the experts, and by following them they will become successful chicken farmers themselves”, Chamnak said.



Mr. Chamnak is in his farm.

The EU supports the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' efforts to strengthen Cambodia's agricultural sector by providing technical and financial assistance, including through non-government institutions. EU support aims to promote sustainable development in agriculture, including the promotion of livestock and aquaculture as well as enhancing productivity, modernization and commercialization of agricultural products. EU investment in rural infrastructure has focused on improving the living conditions of poor and vulnerable households.

