



**Darwin Initiative/D+ Project  
Half Year Report  
(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019)**

<b>Project reference</b>	24-028: Darwin Half Year Report
<b>Project title</b>	Future-proofing Cambodian Wildlife-Friendly farming: securing conservation and livelihoods
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Cambodia
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Sansom Mlup Prey
<b>Partner(s)</b>	CIRAD
<b>Project leader</b>	Nicholas Spencer
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	April 1 <sup>st</sup> to September 30 <sup>th</sup> 2019. Half-year report.
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="https://sansommluprey.wixsite.com/smprey">https://sansommluprey.wixsite.com/smprey</a>

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).**

In 2019, the total number of Ibis rice member is 583 families (15 families are rejoined non-compliance family, and 132 families are new member) representing 1690.84ha.

Ibis rice Project has been promoted in 2 news villages Krala Peas and Okak villages, in total 139 persons attended (including 110 women) this meeting. Then, specific meeting were conducted to introduce the Ibis rice process to the key village persons, village chief, CPA committee (6 people from each village, half of women). After what, in cooperation with DoE (department of environment), local authorities, key persons and local community, information regarding land of the interested farmers has been collected (plots location, number of ha, historic...). SMP use SPOT satellite imagery to create maps of each farmer's land holdings. This in order to control the compliance with the Ibis Rice rules in the coming years (no extension of the rice fields, deforestation...). In cooperation with WCS use SPOT satellite imagery to verify land holdings as valid using historic satellite imagery. In total, 91 families' land information have been checked and registered representing 106 plots. Then, all eligible Ibis Rice member have signed their new farmer (including conservation clauses)

Also in the 2 new Ibis rice villages, VMN Inspectors has been trained to Internal Control System (ICS) on the 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 with participants total 21 people (6 women). Objective of conducting VMN inspector training on Internal Control System (ICS) is to enhance and encourage villager or member to become a VMN inspector and can earn income to support their family by part-time job and reduce to recruit Intern each year

In August, the Internal Control System (ICS) Inspection has been launched in CWS & KPWS. The objective is to monitor members' rice cultivation compliance. Up to now, it is ICS

inspections have been completed for 350 families, it still remain 55 families to inspect.

In 2019, SMP provided registered seed 1,197 kg (foundation rice seed, Sbai Mongol Sticky rice, Phkarumdoul and Domerb Sbai Mongkul) to 13 families with total land size 20 hectares in Danplet and Tmat Boey. It is expected that those famers could produce 36,000 kg of certified seed to supply SMP Ibis rice members in 2020.

Regarding the research part with our CIRAD partner, a total of 38 rice varieties that belong to four groups, i.e., fragrant rice (8), waxy rice (14), colored rice (9), and white aerobic rice (7) were established with the main objective to assess their adaptability, productivity and grain quality. In addition, rice seed multiplication and paddy production of potential sticky rice (10 households on a total area of 8.62 ha) are also being produced with farmers in 4 villages with the aims to empower farmers into rice seed production, diversify rice cultivars, breaking pests/diseases cycle, and improve the adaptability to climate variability and change.

Over 100 farmers (50 men and 58 women) from 4 villages were trained on the use of cover crop for soil fertility improvement. Majority of participants expressed their concern on the depletion of the soil fertility and productivity, and are convinced that the use of cover crops can contribute to the improvement of soil health as well as rice crop yield. However, they strongly suggested to provide further evidence of the increase of soil fertility and crop productivities as well as technically know-how for the implementation within their own context

Three fields from 2 villages are identified for the establishment of on-farm demonstration with the objectives (i) to implement and assess diversification after wet season rice, (ii) to generate empirical evidences on soil health, crop productivity and profitability changes, and (ii) to learning collectively, building technical farmers' capacity on CA-based farming production system. A range of cover crops will be tested on these pilot plots.

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

This year we saw a significant drought in the early season leading to late establishment of crops or damage. This certainly have impacts on yield this year and therefore the total tonnage purchased.

We also see that there is an increasing non-compliance for chemical use, we believe being driven by inward migration of people coming from intensive farming areas and misinformation to farmers. We also see that we had a much higher non-compliance for land-clearance, driven by an ability to clear land and sell it without consequence which is disrupting the dynamic of our incentives. Although we recruited 132 new Households in Preah Vihear we have lost almost 50 in non-compliance (final results after final compliance stage late October). This project will help SMP bring together all stakeholders after the harvest season to reflect and encourage non-compliant farmers to rejoin the project by processes which include returning land to the park or commencing a stepped reintegration

This clearly shows how important this investment into the project is to introduce and maintain organic farming and wildlife friendly practices as the social norm.

The findings explained above will inform some adaptation in how we re-train and recruit

farmers in the dry-season. We will discuss the non-compliance issues and meet to identify root-cause, particularly around some sporadic and non-beneficial use of chemicals which we have not seen before. The findings of our compliance so far will be shared with all stakeholders, particularly Darwin, GPL, CI and WCS and the associated provincial departments of Environment. A conference to share academic analysis on our incentive scheme will be held in late October Funded by 3ie (an impact evaluation organization). This event will have very important Government participation – we will share the validated success of IBIS rice as well as the newly identified trends and threats.

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with LTS:  Yes/No

Formal change request submitted:  Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance  Yes/No

**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend:

Due to working with another donor in Preah Vihear in parallel to the Darwin grant, we overspend in Quarter 1, and underspend in Q2. However, the entire budget for the year 3 will be used as initially schedule by the end of the year.

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

No

**If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document. Additionally, if you were funded under R25 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.**

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk). The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**