



Project Snapshot

Community Forest Members Produce Food and Cash Resulting in Decreased Deforestation and Poaching

USAID funds practical skills training on topics such as chicken raising to the members of community forests and facilitates the formation of chicken raising groups to improve nutrition and increase incomes.



Mr. Num Noeun provides healthy feed (right photo) to his 120 adult chickens. The chickens the family cannot eat are sold in local markets.



This chicken pen, made from locally grown bamboo and thatch creates a bio-safe place to raise healthy chicken and significantly reduce mortality during raising.

Mr. Num Noeun is Chief of Brasat Toek Kkmao Community Forest, located in Sambo District, Kratie Province, where he and his wife are members of a chicken raising group. The group was formed by the community after they received training from USAID to improve their chicken raising techniques. Prior to the training, chicken mortality approached 50 percent, making chicken raising an unprofitable activity. Mr. Neoun and his wife now depend on chicken raising to provide food and extra cash income.

The USAID Supporting Forests and Biodiversity Project, implemented by Winrock International, has provided several skills trainings to community members throughout the Prey Lang Forest Landscape. These trainings improve nutrition, provide an alternative to deforestation and increase cash incomes.

“Currently, we have 40 hens and 120 adult chickens. We harvest eggs and also let some hatch every day,” said Mr. Noeun. *“Two years ago we had 10 hens and raised chickens without quality feed and without good technique. After receiving a training course on improved raising techniques from the USAID SFB project, we increased the number of chickens raised and built a pen to provide the chickens a healthy environment,”* he added.

This year Mr. Noeun sold his excess eggs and chickens to generate an income of 3,200,000 riel (USD\$800). With this level of income he supports his family and buys school supplies for his children. Recently, he purchased a plough for rice production.

“The demand for chickens and eggs at the local market is high. Several of us formed a group to share best raising practices and bargain with local chicken buyers. We now have home-businesses, food to eat and no longer cut down trees to sell,” said Mr. Noeun.

Ms. Kim Vandy, an NGO executive director said, *“The community members now realize that there are a lot of customers for chickens and eggs and that making money from chicken and egg raising is easier than illegal logging and poaching,”* Ms. Vandy added.

“We appreciate this assistance offered to our forest community members by USAID. Our community members stopped logging and turned their interests to raising chicken and eggs. This helps us to conserve our forests and wildlife,” said Mr. Noeun.