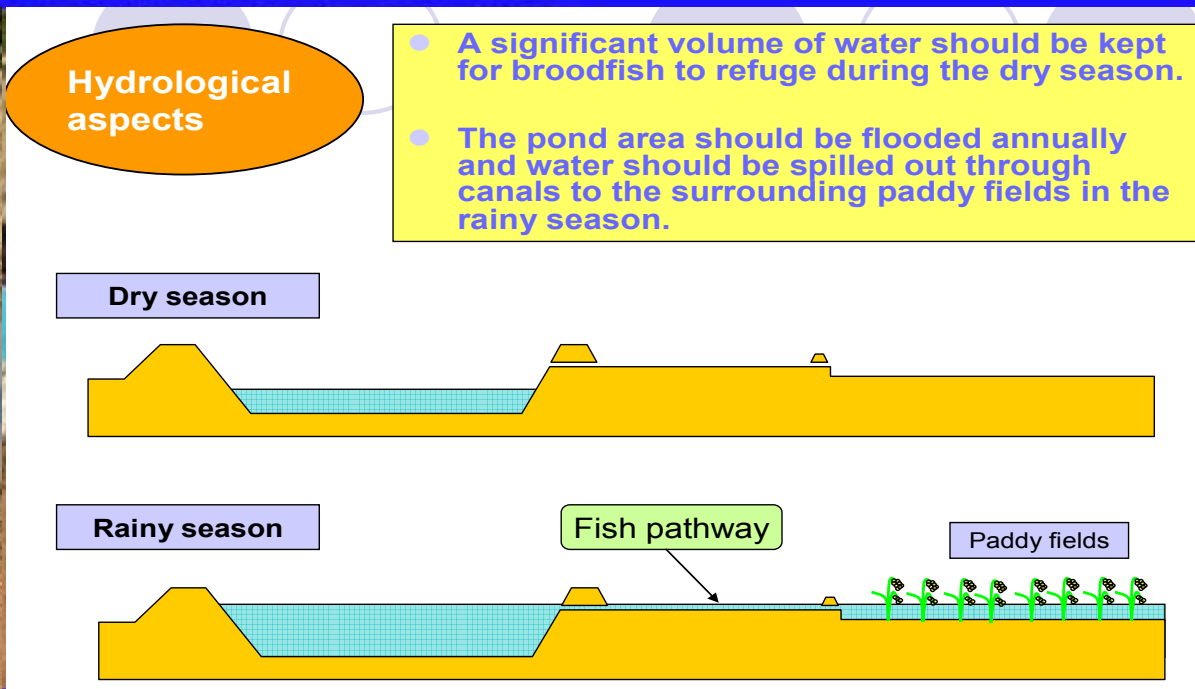


BEST PRACTICES IN SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT (SLM) THEME ON COMMUNITY FISHERIES



Community Fish Refuge (CFR) is one strategy that enhances fish availability and small farm income especially during the dry season. An example is in Priy Village in Kampong Speu where fish catch increased by up to 50%; poor households benefit and overall water management for agriculture is improved. CFR has also been adopted in at least 10 other provinces. The technology is supported by community consensus and support by local authorities to ensure that natural ponds are stocked, conflicts are prevented and benefits are maintained.

BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) through the Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Project has identified one hundred potential best practices in sustainable land management (SLM). Best practices in SLM are defined as: "Measures, methods or activities; that perform best or achieve the highest impact (in SLM) according to predefined criteria and assessed through a validation process." (UN Convention to Combat Desertification or UNCCD)

Information on Best Practices aims to guide policy makers and planners on what successful strategies may be promoted on a wider scale. At the same time, development workers can use them directly as "models" that may be adapted in somewhat similar situations.

There are 5 themes in Best Practices in SLM : (1) Sustainable Agriculture; (2) Community Forestry; (3) Community Fisheries (4) Community Protected Areas; and (5) Local authorities work in Natural resources management. Best Practices were identified in consultation with NGO partners. The key criteria used were relevance to issues on land degradation; the extent of adoption and current spread of the Best Practice.

There are two types of potential best practices: "technologies" and "approaches". Specific farming "techniques" (e.g. integrated farming systems etc) are examples of technologies. On the other hand, "approaches" can refer to "planning and facilitating tools" such as rapid appraisal tools, extension methods, efforts to improve security of tenure etc. This article discusses the Best practices under the Theme on Community Fisheries

BEST PRACTICES

In consultation with NGO partners, MAFF researchers identified 20 Community Fisheries (CFI) sites that have demonstrated the capacity to overcome some of the obstacles in implementing their Community Fisheries Agreements (CFIs). They demonstrate remarkable performance in ten criteria that revolve around the following:

- Increase in fish stock , income generation and biodiversity conservation
- Enhancing of knowledge and capacity of communities to solve problem as well as transparency and clear responsibilities
- Support by stakeholders including local authorities and technical institutions
- Support to key RGC policies
- Likely replicability in other places
- Demonstrates good communication strategies

Table 1 provides a summary of the 20 best practices. Five of these were documented further. These involve the following:

- Strategies for minimizing the cutting of flooded forests though indirect strategies such as the use of improved smoked stoves in Kampong Chhnang province;
- Stabilize fish access such as the dry season community fish refuge ponds in Kampong Speu.

Best Practices continued from page 1

- Planning and mobilization tools for communities such as action research approaches in Stung Treng.
- Micro livelihood loans to start up livelihood such as crab banks in Kep.
- Starting a revolving fund for community fisheries such as those in Siem Reap.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON BEST PRACTICE FOR SLM IN CFI

Aside from the list of 20 in Table 1, there are other sources of information on varying stages of best practices. Some of the Best practices are still young (newly developed but with strong potential); while some are mature and proven (many years of testing).

Among institutions monitoring CFI innovations, the Community Based Natural Resources Management Institute or CBNRMLI has a wide collection of case studies on community fishery initiatives.

The Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT) is a network of national and international NGOs working on fisheries and monitoring of Tonle Sap Lake.

The Cambodia Community Based Ecotourism Network (CCBEN) is a network of 30 institutional members who promote and share knowledge on community based ecotourism. Some of the Community based ecotourism (CBET) sites are supported by CFIs .

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are proven interventions that can enable communities to protect their fishery resources and sustain livelihoods with the support of local authorities and line agencies. It would be helpful to accelerate efforts for a timely registration of remaining CFI applicants in order to fully realize the benefits of the Community Fisheries Program to the both natural resources management and poverty alleviation

KEY ISSUES

Community fisheries are part of farming systems. Farmers are seasonal fishermen while flooded forests are sometimes devoted to agriculture during the dry months. Flooded forests benefit agriculture in the long run. They support inland fishery productivity which in turn supports farm household incomes. The RGC has earmarked major portions of inland fisheries for community fisheries management which include flooded forests

Government – community partnerships through CFI have brought about early positive impact on fishery productivity and improved institutional mechanisms. A key challenge has been the delayed recognition of applications for CFI and dependence on external support for the CFI legalization process.

CFI holders are also taking time to establish actual management as they are vulnerable to external factors (e.g. surrounding areas are under open access conditions). Large areas of flood forests need to be put under effective protection.

TABLE 1. LIST OF 20 CFI SITES WITH BEST PRACTICES (ADAPTED FROM ORIGINAL TABLE THE CFI BEST PRACTICES STUDY TEAM)

	Technologies and location of CF sites	Facilitating Organization and the period when assistance was provided
A. Technologies		
1	CF Flooded Forest Re-plantation Preaek Sramaoch CFI (607 CF members) in Preaek Sramaoch Village, Kompong Khleang Commune, Soutn Nikom District, Siem Reap Province.	FAO (started in 1995, TSEMP – C2 (2004) & TSSLP (2008). Progress report by FAO 2004 and final report of TSEMP C2. and TSSLP doc.
2	CF Flooded Forest Management Thnal Dach CFI (1317 CF members), Dan Run Commune, Soutn Nikom District, Siem Reap Province.	FAO (started 1995, TSEMP – C2 (2004) & TSSLP (2008). Progress report by FAO 2004 and final report of TSEMP C2. and TSSLP doc.
3	Freshwater Eel Fattening Rohal Soung CFI (15CF), Prek Narin commune, Ek Phnom district, Battambang province.	Local Initiative by Farmers, TSEMP – C2 facilitated in 2004 and TSSLP continues to facilitate this practice
4	Mangrove Forest Re-plantation Peam Krasaob CFI, Peam Krasaob Commune, Mondol Seima district, Koh Kong province.	PMCR/IDRC (1997), UNDP Small Grant Program 2007. SEAFDEC 2008.
5	Community Fish Refuge Ponds Kondal Village, (750 Village members, Kouk Pring Commune, Svay Chrum District Svay Rieng Province	In 1997, AIT/FiA, JICA (2005)
6	Community Fisheries conservation area development and management Srey Chek and Rohal Soung CFIs (2048 CF members, 851 CF members). Local Initiative by CF members.	SEILA, UNDP/ Cap. 21, UNDP small grant, TSEMP – C2 (2004) Local Initiative, TSSLP 2008 and Aphiwat Srey (AS)
7	CFi Mapping Development and Boundary Demarcation Srey Chuek CFI (2048 CF members), Prek Trobek Village, Kanchor Commune, Kandieng District, Purs	TSEMP-C2 in 2004 TSSLP facilitating this CFI from 2007.
8	Community Fisheries Area Management Plan (CFAMP)	I Started in 2005 by TSEMP-C2

	Technologies and location of CF sites	Facilitating Organization and the period when assistance was provided
	Aphivath Stueng Prey Pras CFI (376 CFI members), Prey Pros village, Thbeng commune, Kampong Svay district, Kampong Thom province..	Implementing by CFI and local authority; and facilitated by the FiA Cantonment
9	Method for flooded forest conservation at Tonle Sap by improved cook stove Chnouk Trou, Kompong Chhang province	Development Alternative Technology (DATE)
10	Traditional Fish Smoking & Testing Prototype Smoke House Designs Chnouk Trou, Kompong Chhang province	Development Alternative Technology (DATE)
B. Approaches: Knowledge management and decision support		
11	Community Fisheries Based Natural Resources Eco-Tourism Peam Krasaob CFI, Peam Krasaob Commune, Mondol Seima district, Koh Kong province.	UNDP – Small Grant and PMCR/IDRC facilitating.
12	CFi hatcheries development (Potential)Koy Meng CFI (1078 include 458 female members) Sdey Leu village, Koy Meng commune, Mongkulbori district, Banteay Meanchey province.	Started by TSEMP-C2 in 2007 FiA Cantonment in Banteay Meanchey province
13	Village Research Thai Ban, 2003 then IUCN & Ke CFI (number of members)	CEPA in Stung Treng (2007) and CORIN in Kampot and Kep
14	Capacity Building for CFI management Ou Taprok CFI (530 included 299 female), Ou Taprok and ChongKlong village, Ou Sandan commune, Krakor district, Pursat province.	Started by TSEMP-C2 in 2004 TSSLP and VAPSD (local NGOs) is facilitating from 2007
15	CFi by Law and Internal regulation development Ou Taprok CFI (530 included 299 female), Ou Taprok and ChongKlong village, Ou Sandan commune, Krakor district, Pursat province.	Started by TSEMP-C2 in 2004 TSSLP and VAPSD (local NGOs) is facilitating from 2007.
C. Participation , collaboration and monitoring		
16	Integrated and harmonized CF plan with Commune Development Plan Srey Cheuk CFI (2048 CF members), Kompong Trabek village, Kanchor commune, Kandieng district, Pursat province.	Seila Program supported then in 2003, UNDP Cap 21, TSEMP (2004) and then TSSLP

	Technologies and location of CF sites	Facilitating Organization and the period when assistance was provided
17	Religion and CF Conservation Area Pneat Koh Pongsat CFI (992 CF members), Thmey village, Pneat Communes, Krong Serey Saophon, Banteay Meanchey province	IDRC 2002 until now and UNDP Small Grant Program
18	Revolving Fund in CFI Prek Sramoach CFI, Kampong Khleang Commune, Soutr Nikom District, Siem Ream Province.	FAO supported by TSEMP-C2 and now TSSLP continues to facilitate this practice
19	CFI Patrolling Group Rohal Soung CFI (15CF), Prek Narin commune, Ek Phnom district, Battambang province.	Started KAWP (local NGOs) in 2000. AS facilitated in 2001, then TSEMP – C2 facilitated in 2004 and TSSLP is ongoing to facilitate in 2007
20	CFI Federation Peam Krasaob CFI, Peam Krasaob Commune, Mondol Seima district, Koh Kong province.	PMCR/IDRC (1997), MRC/FiA (1999/2000) UNDP Small Grant Program 2007.

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Note : Other References are found in the individual documentation of 5 Best Practices.

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