

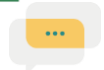


CAMBODIA

Vermicompost and Sustainable Packaging to Upcycle Food Products



Relevance



Fresh vegetables sold in the market produce relatively large quantities of organic waste. Currently, leftover vegetables in the market are cooked and re-sold to the public. The remaining unsold and deteriorated products which are unfit for sale go to animal and fish feed, composting, and disposal. Siem Reap Farmer Market (SRFM) and JUNLEN proposed the idea to develop processed food products from organic and sustainably produced crops with food safety and quality certification. The products will be packed in appropriate and sustainable packaging to become high-value food products. In the long run, this would solve the described environmental problem while potentially providing smallholders with additional income.

Objectives



- To increase the productivity, quality, and sustainability of SRFM smallholder farmers through vermicompost and the implementation of certified sustainable and organic crop production and food safety systems.
- To develop innovative sustainable packaging for a range of premium, nutritious, safe, ready-to-cook food products from leftover vegetables to increase smallholder farmer's incomes through diversification options.

Project Overview



Partner
JUNLEN and Siem Reap Farmer Market

Duration
October 2021
to May 2023

Total Volume
68,300 EUR



The Project at a Glance

Vermicompost is among the sustainable and organic crop production practices, which increases the sustainability of smallholder agricultural production. Agro products that are produced with vermicompost intake will be safer and healthier. This will provide benefit for farmers to have higher selling price, thus, create opportunity to increase household incomes. Furthermore, farmers will receive skills and knowledge enhancement through capacity building that will involve women and youth participation.



This project has four (4) potential environmental benefits:

- (1) reduction of packaging waste through the promotion and use of sustainable packaging;
- (2) reduction of food waste and utilisation for value adding resulting in reduced waste and carbon emissions;
- (3) promotion of sustainable farming systems, reduced chemical inputs and organic production; and,
- (4) promotion of vermiculture, a low input method of reducing and value adding organic wastes to produce organic fertiliser which is high in organic carbon and has benefits for the soil and the environment.

Through the partnership with the GIZ implemented Agrinnovation Fund in ASEAN, the project provides product testing, packaging types of machinery, and one earthworm house. Whilst the company provides vermicompost training development and delivery of training to farmers, product development, space for the earthworm house, and technical personnel.



Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

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JUNLEN

As of

April, 2022

