



CAMBODIA

Solar-Powered Cold Storage Room for Preserving Agri Products and Reducing Food Waste



Relevance



Farmers in rural areas often face challenges in keeping harvested vegetables fresh before transporting them to the markets. These farmers rely on crop collectors to pick up their products. However, the collectors often do not come to pick up the harvested crops if the production volume is low and the farm location is too remote. The long waiting period for produces to be collected leads to decline in quality, resulting in post-harvest loss for farmers. Therefore, Kasekor Akphiwat Thmei Agricultural Cooperative (KATAC) came up with the idea to build a cold storage room powered by solar energy to serve as temporary storage for crops before transporting the products to the markets, thus, reducing the risk of loss.

Objectives



- A cold storage room using a solar panel system is installed
- Supplies of safe vegetable in the region and across the country are improved and expanded
- Linkage of farmers, markets and consumers is enhanced
- KATAC members and shares are increased

Project Overview



Partner
Kasekor Akphiwat Thmei Agricultural
Cooperative (KATAC)

Duration
October 2021
to May 2023

Total Volume
43,700 EUR



The Project at a Glance



Currently, KATAC members cannot sell their harvested vegetables immediately at their farm, as the distance between their members' houses are too far. This condition poses a challenge to collect the crops in a quantity that allows them to be transported efficiently by truck to the market. On the other hand, the buyers or collectors do not come daily to the villages. To prevent vegetables from spoiling, it needs a storage temperature between 4°C to 10°C. Therefore, KATAC proposed to address this issue by building cold storage for crops of their members before transporting them to the markets. The suitable temperature will prolong vegetables' freshness and preserve good nutrients for consumers. This will reduce food waste risk due to perishable agriculture products that cannot be sold in the market.



With the solar-powered cold storage being opened, not only the KATAC community will be able to run the cold storage in a more cost-efficient way, but also increase farmers' income. Through the partnership with the GIZ implemented AgrInnovation Fund in ASEAN, the project provides solar-powered cold storage with an adequate number of solar panels to generate enough electricity to store vegetables. Whilst the cooperative provides space to install the cold storage, and training to the operator as well as users of the cold storage room and technical personnel.



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