

# PIG FARMING

## KAMPONG CHHNANG PROVINCE



FUNDED BY THE  
EUROPEAN UNION



Kang Sambath and his wife hold one of their piglets born through artificial insemination.

*“It’s a decent living. We have enough money to build our house and to support three children who study here and another who studies in Phnom Penh. I don’t think this would have been possible without our pig-rearing business — Kang Sambath”*

Kang Sambath lives with his wife and four children in Trapeang Kravan village, Kampong Chhnang province, in central Cambodia. In addition to farming three hectares of rice paddy, the family raises pigs, cows and chickens on the land surrounding their modest stilted house.

Ten years ago, Sambath and his wife were first taught how to artificially inseminate their pigs in order to improve

breeding rates, and neither of them has looked back since. The European Union-funded project forms part of a wide-reaching effort to share farming technology with rural Cambodian farmers.

“The advantage of using artificial insemination is that the sow will not be affected. Our property is small and so is the pig farm, so it is easy for us to take the sperm from the pigs. If we let them breed naturally the sow can get

sick and sometimes can’t be cured,” Sambath explains.

Rice farming still takes up most of his day, but a fifth of the 200 bushels (about 30% of the harvest) he grows each year are eaten by the family. The rest are sold to pay for animal feed.

While Sambath and his wife did not get further than grade 5 at school, they are determined that their children will receive thorough education.

Education costs have placed additional importance on the pig-rearing business to provide the necessary funds.

The training and subsidised materials provided by the EU have helped to ease the financial burden that the family faces.

"We sell our paddy rice for the pig food and then we sell those pigs to buy particular things," Sambath explains. "We can't support the family just by farming, without also raising pigs."

And the idea of artificially inseminating pigs is slowly taking off among other

residents in the village who have witnessed Sambath's success. Their understanding of the process, however, remains low.

"They are just not confident. They don't know how to use the sperm or even the right date to use it on."

This year Sambath and his wife have raised 38 piglets, either to be sold to others to be fattened, or to fatten themselves. The fattened piglets sell for about 7,000 riel (almost \$2) a kilo, and with each one weighing almost a hundred kilos, the financial return is significant.

He says he has seen a "50

per cent rise" in his family's standard of living, attributing this directly to the success that artificial insemination has had on his business.

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Piglets at Kang Sambath's farm born through artificial insemination.