Advocacy for Energy: Powerful New Leadership Role for Women’s Strategic Support Group

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Background

- In Cambodia 75% of the agricultural labour force is women
- 20% of agricultural households are headed by women
- Many poor rural communities have no access to energy, especially the last mile
- Time / labour to collect firewood limits their capacity for higher value tasks
- This limits nutrition, health, education, and life opportunities
- Impacts of climate change and no access to energy have made many women’s lives even more difficult.
Addressing challenges and gender inequalities in the agriculture sector in Cambodia

Developing and implementing MAFF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Strategic Framework (GMPSF) 2016-2020

Integrating the GMPSF into sectoral plans throughout MAFF, and coordinating implementation of these plans, including INDC.

Understand that Climate Finance mechanisms for CCM projects can help bring energy access to vulnerable women;

Build and demonstrate capacity in this new field with real actions which contribute to Cambodia’s INDC

This includes off-grid electricity/energy for the last mile, such as biogas and solar home/farm system.
1. Building institutional capacity in the GCWG about CCM
   - How to ensure projects are gender-responsive

2. Knowledge products document learnings for dissemination

3. Pilot project provides demonstration of a gender-responsive CCM project - key outcomes:
   - Reduced GHG emissions from cooking fuel
   - Saleswomen can have income from sales commission
   - Stove purchasers enjoy co-benefits:
     - reduced fuel costs so more money for better food and education
     - less time collecting fuel so more time for income-generating activities
     - better health, less respiratory and eye problems from smoke.
New Skills and Opportunities for GCWG

- Extensive training, workshops, field visits to understand climate science, climate change impacts, and climate change projects.
- Key focus on understanding CCM which has not previously been prioritized in Cambodia, in particular:
  - How CCM projects can bring clean energy to rural poor, especially women; and
  - How the GCWG can drive the process through its networks and advocacy.
- Need to demonstrate knowledge of climate policy and finance to establish credibility.
- Network of trained PFPs can “value-add” to climate change project partner teams.
Challenges

- Most gender professionals do not really understand climate change.
- Many climate change professionals lack practical understanding of gender issues and how to address them in project planning.
- Meeting at the same table does not mean both sides understand each other’s views and priorities – capacity building is essential.
- Need to identify entry points (e.g. Technical Working Group on CC) and establish relationships, credibility and respect with key stakeholders and energy sector.
- Limited supports for energy access to rural farms, especially women and households living in the last mile.
Two project proposals developed for CF:
1. Project proposal developed for solar pumping for irrigation
2. Project proposal developed for bio-digester installation
   - Requiring financial support for real actions with farmers
Implementing these two project plans.

Why CF?
- All major climate finance mechanisms now have a gender mandate
- Gender-responsive climate change mitigation projects bring energy access and can attract CF.
- Mainstreaming climate change mitigation into the GMPSF puts focus or developing skills and capacity within the GCWG to enable informed participation in ministry-wide CC projects and clean energy actions in agriculture sector.
Leadership role for GCWG going forward

- Building awareness and capacity within MAFF to embed gender-responsiveness in strategies, planning and activities related to clean energy and climate change (adaptation and) mitigation for agriculture sector
- Developing gender-responsive climate change mitigation project proposals which can
  - Enable access climate finance
  - Secure active roles for women in clean energy value chain and agriculture sector
  - Deliver economic, health and lifestyle co-benefits to women, especially for the last mile
- Empowering vulnerable women in agriculture sector to participate in decision-making related to climate change (adaptation and) mitigation and clean energy access.
- Actively building relationships with
  - Collaborators – to support our proposals
  - Partners – to provide essential technical expertise
  - Donors – to support our aims with project funding
- Implementing the proposed two projects for advocating the clean energy for the last mile of remote farmers.
Thank you very much your time and support!

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