



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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Four Irrigation Schemes handed over to communities in Prey Veng

Four irrigation schemes built with support from the Australian Government have been handed over to communities in Prey Veng province.

The four schemes located in Preah Sdach, Peam Cho, Kampong Trabek, and Peam Ro districts will give more than 1,500 farming households year-round access to irrigation water, allowing them to grow two or three rice crops each year.

“This is another example of how Australia’s development cooperation program in Cambodia is delivering high quality and sustainable results for Cambodian farmers,” Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, Angela Corcoran, said.

“I am proud of Australia’s work to help families and communities in rural Cambodia to increase their incomes and prepare for long-term challenges like labour shortages and climate change,” Ambassador Corcoran said.

Australia provided around USD 7 million for the four irrigation schemes through Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain Program (CAVAC).

Using concrete-lined canals, these pump and gravity-fed schemes are one of the best models of a complete sustainable irrigation system. With their focus on sustainable use of the water source, and strong community and local authority engagement in their design and management, these schemes will sustain increased farming incomes for many years to come.

With support from the Provincial Department of Water and Meteorology, CAVAC has also established and trained Farmer Water User Communities (FWUCs) to operate and maintain the schemes. This investment in the skills and capacity of the farmers who use and manage the schemes is critical to ensuring their strong ownership and sustainability.

CAVAC aims to increase the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers as well as trade in milled rice and other crops by strengthening market systems and investing in irrigation infrastructure. Since 2010, CAVAC has constructed and rehabilitated 30 irrigation schemes in Kampong Thom, Kampot, Takeo, Prey Veng, and Kandal provinces. CAVAC is the Australian Government’s largest aid program in Cambodia, with a total value of AU\$130 million (US\$92 million) between 2010 and 2021.

For more information about Australia’s development assistance in Cambodia, please visit <https://dfat.gov.au/geo/cambodia/development-assistance/Pages/development-assistance-in-cambodia.aspx>.

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