



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

**AUSTRALIA SUPPORTING CAMBODIA TO
REDUCE POVERTY THROUGH AGRICULTURE**

Around 130,000 Cambodian farmers will benefit from Australia's five year Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain (CAVAC) program which began in 2010.

The program will help boost farmers' incomes by increasing the value of agricultural production, with a focus on rice, fruit and vegetable farming in Kampong Thom, Kampot and Takeo provinces. It will also provide employment for the poor.

The CAVAC program has supported the development of the Cambodian Land and Environment Atlas and Resource (CLEAR) which was launched today [10 June 2011].

CLEAR is a spatial database which will allow researchers and planners to analyse socioeconomic, climatic, soil and land-use data to support decisions on how to improve agricultural productivity and manage natural resources.

CLEAR was developed through a partnership with two private companies, using data contributed by the Royal Government of Cambodia.

This is an example of how the CAVAC Program works with the Royal Government of Cambodia and private companies that are committed to improving long term support to rural farmers.

The CAVAC Program has also developed innovative farmer training and communication materials which are being used by the Royal Government of Cambodia, private companies and non government organisations across Cambodia.

H.E. Ms Penny Richards, the Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, said "Australia has been supporting Cambodia's farmers for 20 years and our assistance has contributed to rice yields more than doubling during this time.

In 2011, a more dynamic and complex agriculture sector, with emerging markets for agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertiliser, and opportunities for processing and export, requires a different type of support.

The CAVAC Program will assist Cambodia to make the most of the opportunities and manage the challenges of this changing context."

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