



CPSA

**CAMBODIA PARTNERSHIP FOR
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

QUARTERLY REPORT DECEMBER 2020

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CPSA

COUNTRY DIRECTOR' S WORD

The Cambodia Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (CPSA) has transformed itself over the last 12 months and expanded its activities to promote sustainable agriculture in Cambodia. We have brought in new partners, strengthened our cooperation with existing ones in our platform facilitated investments into our Working Groups, and more specifically in the sub-sectors we work in (e.g. cashew). We have also advanced new and innovative solutions (agtech) to address the challenges faced by smallholder farmers in Cambodia.

Building a strong team is critical to our operations and CPSA has doubled its staff to four people. Other achievements include formalizing CPSA's legal entity, defining our governance and securing core funds and additional resources through projects.

At present, CPSA has 85 members in its network, and collectively, our partners reached 10,000 farmers in 2019. In addition, the Cambodian Agri-food Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Working Group was newly set up, putting us at a total of four Working Groups. We thank our partners from the private sector, government agencies, civil society, farmer organizations, financial institutions and donors for their continuous support to ensure our ongoing success.

Yet, there remains much to do. Cambodia's agricultural potential is immense.

To achieve a broader impact on the sector, we need greater collaboration amongst multi-stakeholders throughout the agriculture value chain, from farms to the market. CPSA remains committed to working with our partners and donors to achieve scalable and measurable impact at the policy and grassroots levels. We hope you will continue to join us as we work together for a brighter future for Cambodia.

Signature

Ratha CHAN

COUNTRY DIRECTOR



RATHA CHAN

COUNTRY DIRECTOR

The Cambodia Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (CPSA) brings together companies, government agencies, civil society organizations, farmer groups and financial institutions to link smallholder farmers to the market. The CPSA and its partners work with the shared goal of increasing farmers' profits and productivity while improving the environmental sustainability of their farms.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

By the end of Q3, a very dynamic and successful quarter, most of CPSA targets are achieved, with only a few activities remaining on track and planned to be completed in the last quarter of 2020.

With respect to Finance and HR, CPSA (i) is continuing its tax compliance process to obtain tax exemptions, (ii) completed all due financial reports, and (iii) hired a (temporary) Communications Consultant.

On 29 July, CPSA organized the first Core Committee Meeting of the year, which saw the participation of its three Co-Chairs and of all WG Leads and Co-Leads. In this occasion, CPSA's Charter was officially signed off by the Co-Chairs.

The Pepper, Vegetables and Agri-Food SMEs Working Groups (WGs) have been actively pursuing their mandates and conducting regular core group meetings; the Cashew WG has been working on the Cashew Policy as well as witnessed the establishment of the Cashew Federation; lastly, another step towards the set of the Fruit WG was completed in September.

Communication with external stakeholders has been regular on our social media (Facebook), as well as via our bi-weekly "News Roundup". The launch of our updated website and newsletter is delayed to Q4. With respect to external projects and partnerships, CPSA obtained funds to conduct a research, continued the implementation of current projects and bided for new ones, while also starting collaborations with new stakeholders.

More specifically, we received funds from IISD to conduct research on rice and sustainability standards (in progress); meanwhile, we had further developments with our project from WEF on Sustainable Investments and ASEAN RAI Project of Grow Asia.

In terms of business development, we submitted a proposal to Khmer Enterprise for a three-year project (USD 500,000) focused on youth in agriculture and entrepreneurship; the proposal will be evaluated and negotiated further in Q4.

Finally, we initiated new promising partnerships with private sector actors (such as Chambers of Commerce, Certification Bodies,) and continued our engagement in the ag-tech space with WING and H.E. Serey Chea from the National Bank of Cambodia.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

As of June, /July 2020, CPSA resumed all activities and meetings in person as usual, with some virtual engagement still taking place occasionally. Despite the pandemic not being a major threat for CPSA's work in Q3, our team has been constantly monitoring the situation, especially that of our partners who were mostly impacted by the pandemic, and we offered (non-financial) support where we could.

INDICATORS

1.1.1	<p>Official signing of CPSA's Charter by Co-chairs Activity completed on 29 July, during the Core Committee Meeting.</p>	100%
1.1.2	<p>CPSA General Assembly organized Activity The General Assembly has been postponed to 2021, however 2 Core Committee Meetings will be held in 2020. One was hosted in Q3 (July), and the second will be held in Q4.</p>	50%
1.1.3	<p>Reviewing current capacity of existing website Activity completed in Q1.</p>	100%
1.1.4	<p>Upgrading website and content (outsourcing) In Q3 CPSA hired a Communications Consultant who is responsible, among the others, for upgrading the website. The official launch is expected for November (Q4).</p>	50%
1.2.1	<p>Reviewing the existing pipeline and classification Each month we have been consistently reviewing our existing projects pipeline.</p>	75%
1.2.2	<p>Developing business development tracking sheet Activity completed in Q1. Link to the tracking sheet</p>	100%
1.2.3	<p>Sourcing for new projects through Grow Asia/WEF networks and In-country opportunity In September we secured funds from IISD for a short-term research (completed in Q4), and since July we have been negotiating a 3 year project proposal with Khmer Enterprise.</p>	75%
1.2.4	<p>Generating Tracking Sheet for other sources of income Activity completed in Q2.</p>	100%

2.1.1

Participate to 24 national/sub-national events

We have participated to 9 events on agri-food systems since July 2020:

- Single Agri-Farmer E-Market Platform Group Meeting by WING (15 July)
- MOC Cashew Policy (July)
- MAFF's Contract Farming (July)
- CamboDHRAA (27 August)
- WEF & CDC Consultation Workshop for SD2 (27 August)
- National Report on ASEAN Consumer Empowerment Index in Cambodia (2 September)
- CPSF General Assembly (25 September)
- RUA (September)
- Aquaculture (22 September)

70%

2.1.2

Be invited and join as a moderator or speaker to 6 events

In Q3, we joined 2 events as a speaker:

- Single Agri-Farmer E-Market Platform Group Meeting by WING (15 July)
- CamboDHRA's workshop on Strengthening Capacities of Youth to Carry out and Benefit from RAI (30 September)

100%

2.2.1

Participate to 2 events/workshops/training organized by other CPs

In Q3 we did not join events of other CPs.

50%

2.2.2

Participate to 2 regional/ international events

Our team virtually join the following regional event:
"Confessional" - Lessons on Running Inclusive Value Chain Projects, organized by Grow Asia (2 September)

200%

2.2.3

Participate as speaker in 1 regional event

0%

3.1.1

Organize/co-organize 12 core group meeting of the WGs

In Q2, we co-/organised the following 5 WG meetings:

- Vegetables WG (7 July)
- Pepper WG (25 August and 3 September)
- SMEs WG (12 August and 10 September)

100%

3.1.2

Organize/co-organize 4 public events of the WGs

In Q3 CPSA co-/organized 3 public events:

- Learning event with AMK Microfinance on value chain financing (14 July)
- Fruit Roundtable (29 September)
- Cashew Federation Establishment (11 September)

100%

4.1.1

One Agri-digital solutions assessment (AgTech Solution)

In collaboration with WING, the assessment started in June 2020, and continued throughout Q3. Moreover, CPSA has been discussing with other partners (Sevea, EnergyLab) interested in creating and potentially leading an Agri-Tech Working Group.

80%

4.1.2

Co-sponsor 1 value chain project under the WGs

Activity completed in Q2. Report available [here](#)

100%

5.1.1

Increase # partners of CPSA by +24 [Baseline: 51, Endline: 75]

New partners: 8

Private Sector: Khmer Meatballs, Heng Mongkol Handicraft, Criche', Khmer Farm Khmer Fruit, Control Union, Farm Khmer Mobile

CSOs/NGOs: GIZ, Sevea

70%

WORKING GROUP PEPPER Key Activities

HOW ACTIVE IS THE WG & CPSA ENGAGED WITH IT?



The CPSF operation team meeting conducted on 27 July and the main purpose of the meeting was to restructure the CPSF governing body by adding 02 vice presidents from the private sector.

On 25th August, the CPSF Board was organized and made decision on adding two more organizations to be Vice Presidents to CPSF.

With support from CPSA and CIRD/HEKS, the CPSF General Assembly was conducted on 25 September, and the president, vice presidents were officially approved and elected by all CPSF members.

Moreover, CPSF's 2020 workplan and achievements were presented on this occasion, and Sela Pepper presented CPSF's activities and budget planned for 2021.

In Q3, based on the CPSF and international market demand, the pepper price was dropped substantially, in the meantime, pepper farms output still remained high if we're comparing to the demand.

By seeing the situation, the General Department of Trade Promotion (GDTP/MOC) invited CPSF management and its key partners to meet on 09th October to discuss how GDTP/MOC could support and cooperate with CPSF in order to help/support the pepper subsector during the difficult time.

During the meeting GDTP appreciated the work of CPSF and suggested to the CPSF to cooperate more to finalize the Pepper Policy. The Department had also well received the request of CPSF on pepper transportation and tax exemption and will bring the discussion forward with the H.E Minister.

Lastly, CPSF's request to discuss pepper farmers loan burden was accepted by the Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (ARDB). The meeting between CPSF and ARDB will happen in Q4, 2020.



WORKING GROUP CASHEW Key Activities

HOW ACTIVE IS THE WG & CPSA ENGAGED WITH IT?



The Draft Cashew Policy was translated into Khmer by Harvest II (USAID) and submitted to the Department of Trade Policy under MOC, since the policy needed to comply with the form of the Council of Minister, so the meeting of cashew policy technical group and the meeting with inter-ministerial were delayed. In plan, cashew policy will finalize in the first semester of 2021.

In the meantime, the initiative of Cashew Federation was consulted among the members of Cashew WG and beyond. The lead of Cashew WG, HEKS together with Santana company kicked off one gathering on the 11th September to collect feedback and interest of different actors in setting up the Cambodia Cashew Federation.



WORKING GROUP VEGETABLES & FRUIT Key Activities

HOW ACTIVE IS THE WG & CPSA ENGAGED WITH IT?



VEGETABLES GROUP

Base on the agreement of the VG Core Group member and the important of VG strategy 2021-2023, the VG Core Group meeting on June 12th, 2020, VG Core Group agreed to a)- To form the selection committee which will consist of 3 members who are the representative of WVi-MASE2, KOC and CPSA and b)- to form the technical committee consist of 7 members including 1. WVi-MASE2, 2. KOC, 3. CPSA, 4. SNV, 5. DCA, 6. VSO, 7. RUA.

On 07th July, the VG technical committee was organized and participated by all organization members, all participants agreed on hiring VG consultant with the estimated budget plan of 11,200\$.

Based on the recruitment procedures, the selection committee was unanimously recommended Mr. Leng Chhay (leading VG Strategic Consultant candidate) to technical committee and received no objection from the committee in September 2020. The assignment will implement in Q4,2020.



FRUIT GROUP

On 29th September CPSA organized a Roundtable Discussion on report "Rapid Assessment on Fruit Value Chains", the event has gathered around 50 participants from different actors along the fruits value chain. As the result from the meeting, 97% of the participants stated that they want to be members of a Fruit Group, and as a first step CPSA created a "Fruit Sharing Group" on Telegram where relevant information can be freely exchanged by all actors.

Next step, CPSA team will consult with potential key stakeholders in order to form the Fruit Group.



WORKING GROUP AGRI-FOOD SMES Key Activities

HOW ACTIVE IS THE WG & CPSA ENGAGED WITH IT?



In July, soon after its structure was formalized, the WG in cooperation with AMK Microfinance Institution held a public learning event on the topic “Value Chain Financing Package”.

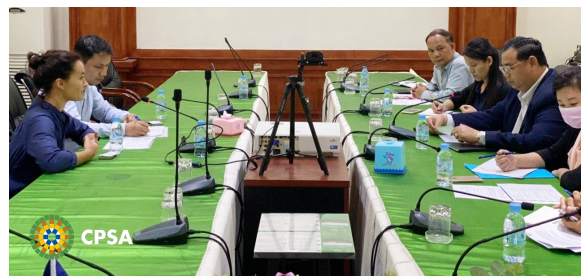
On 12th August, the Agri-Food SMEs Core Group was organized in order to develop WG Strategic Plan 2021-2023. First draft plan was produced as a result.

The first draft plan was then taken into discussion during a public workshop on 10th September, in order to gather more inputs from the general WG’s members. The strategic plan separated into 4 main areas:

1. Policy and lobby
2. Agri-Food SMEs Promotion
3. Agri-Food SMEs Working Group Capacity Building and Outreach
4. Agri-Food SMEs Development.

The WG Strategic Plan 2021-2023 will be put for further consultation and prioritized activities to implement in Q4, 2020

CPSA in cooperation with Control Union is going to conduct an online learning event on “Food Safety” in November 2020.



ATTENDANCE TO MEETING 2020

For more detail, check this [link](#)

	TARGET	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
GENERAL/ LEARNING EVENTS	280	253	0	188	
WORKING GROUP MEETINGS	200	200	71	179	

PARTNERSHIPS & PROJECTS PIPELINE

PARTNERSHIPS

Similarly to the other quarters of 2020, CPSA team has been very dynamic and active in terms of partnerships and potential collaborations with new and existing stakeholders.

In July, we held CPSA Core Committee Meeting, which gathered our Co-Chairs (Department of Agro-Industry/MAFF, Amru Rice & Farmer Nature Net) together with the Working Groups' Leads. This event was an opportunity to strengthen our relationship with the key partners and get feedback from them for CPSA future direction and focused areas. On the same day the 3 Co-Chairs also signed the CPSA Charter.

In the AgTech space, CPSA continued its engagement with different key players in AgriTech. The conversation among the key actors to design, so-called "One Platform" that could bring in different Apps to support agriculture sector, especially linking producers, green shop (retailers), logistic providers, deliver services and e-payment services together in order to facilitate better sale for farmer's' produces.

Thanks to the ongoing project implemented by the World Economic Forum (WEF) that CPSA has been supporting since 2019, we have also had the chance to meet and engage with new stakeholders mostly from the private sector (Chambers of Commerce, Certification Bodies) and from the public sector as well, such as the Department of International Cooperation (MAFF) and the Institute of Standards of Cambodia (MISTI). These interactions not only benefit the WEF project, but they can also benefit to our Working Groups: for example, one of the Certification Bodies we met in July will co-organize with us a learning event in Q4 for our WG partners. Other partners that we engaged with thanks to WEF and can potentially collaborate with us in future activities are the International Business Chamber (IBC) and Top Planning Japan (TPJ), a cashew processing company.

Moreover, in September CPSA organized a roundtable discussion on Fruit Value Chains (following our IDRC funded research in Q2), which saw the participation of many new stakeholders, with whom we started discussions on potential collaborations in Q4.

Other partnerships were consolidated with private sector partners and CSOs (e.g. CamboDHRRA, Oxfam) in the context of the ASEAN RAI project.

Lastly, on a monthly basis we have joined GA Network catch-up calls, which kept us to date on what goes on in the wider network, as well as triggered fruitful interactions with other CPs.

PROJECT PIPELINES

In Q3, CPSA negotiated with IISD/VSS team on consultancy project focusing on rice and sustainability standards (to be implemented in Q4).

And also, CPSA started a long and thorough process of negotiations with Khmer Enterprise, a government agency funded by the Ministry of Economy and finance, for a three-year project proposal that CPSA is likely to win and the implementation is going to kick-off in early 2021. The project will involve a variety of stakeholders from farmers organizations, universities, and private sector.

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS

IN COURSE

- IISD: Study on Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) in the rice sector
- WEF: Sustainable Investments in Cambodia
- Gender inclusion activities with budget from Grow Asia
- ASEAN RAI project with budget from Grow Asia

PROPOSAL STAGE

- Khmer Enterprise "Agri-preneurship Incubation Programme"
- MRLG/ RAI Alliance activities on sustainable investments in agriculture (concept note approved)

FINANCE

In Q3, CPSA's Finance and Operations Manager has been working on the following:

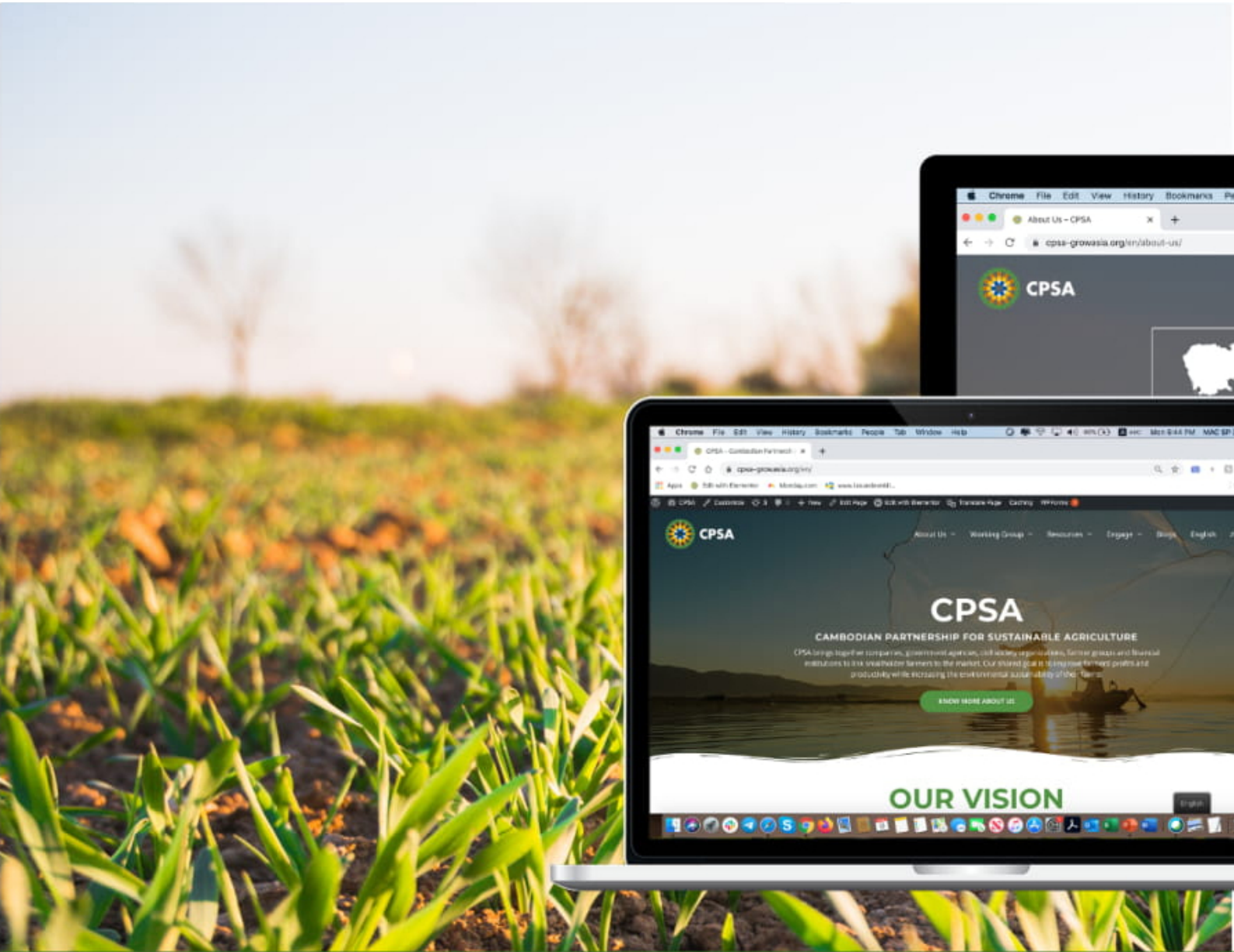
- Continued the process for CPSA to obtain a tax exemption (will be completed in Q4 2020);
- Completed the Financial Report for Q3;
- Supported the organization of the National Farmer Forum (October 2020);
- Recruited CPSA Communications Consultant,
- Published the vacancy announcement for CPSA's Organization Sustainability Plan Advisor

COMMUNICATION & VISIBILITY

In Q3, we regularly updated our Facebook page with relevant information and news, and also kept our active members up to date through regular communication via Telegram. Moreover, we started sending bi-weekly "News Roundup" newsletters via email to 500+ contacts (through Mailchimp), which share relevant articles on the agriculture sector in Cambodia and the region.

In September, CPSA hired an external Communications Consultant who for the next quarter is responsible for (i) developing our Comms Strategy, (ii) upgrading our website and (iii) managing our social media platforms and other activities as needed.

Lastly, in Q3 our 2020 Brochure started being shared digitally and in paper.



We are pleased to announce the launch of our new updated website.

With this new website, we work to optimize all relevant agricultural content to be informative, interactive, and beneficial to all the stakeholders.

<https://cpsa-growasia.org/en/>



Information



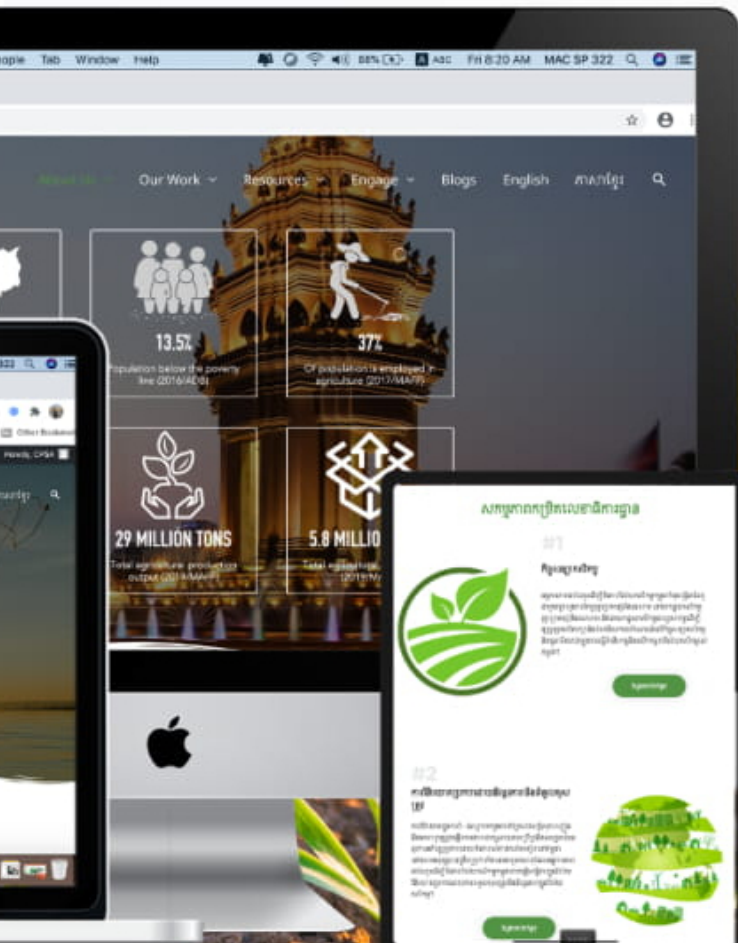
Education



Interaction



Opportunity



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