

# Cambodia

## Spotlight: Conquering Tomato Challenges Through Grafting

Many tomato farmers in Cambodia face difficulties year after year because their soil is infected with bacterial wilt. Other farmers forgo planting during certain times of year because the soil is waterlogged.

The solution to both challenges is grafting—specifically, joining the upper part of a tomato seedling to the rootstock of an eggplant seedling. Farmers who are interested in trying this technique raise both eggplant and tomato seedlings. When the tomato seedlings are about 20 days old, the EWS-KT Cambodia team

organizes a hands-on practical training where farmers can practice their grafting technique.

Not only are grafted plants resistant to bacterial wilt, but they produce a good yield and provide a longer harvest season. Furthermore, with their high tolerance to water-saturated soil, grafted tomato plants can enable farmers to grow tomatoes all year round, even during the rainy season.

### 2022 Results

13,887

FARMERS TRAINED

WOMEN

56%

MEN

44%

YOUTH

19%

657

DEMO PLOTS  
ESTABLISHED

AVERAGE NET PROFIT

US\$ 302.73

per crop cycle,  
500 sq. m. plot

HIGHEST NET PROFIT

WAX GOURD

US\$ 474.73

AVERAGE NET PROFIT,  
per crop cycle,  
500 sq. m. plot

1,116 TRAINING  
EVENTS





Kimship Choeurn (right) with EWS-KT Knowledge Transfer Officer Sokkeang Kheng

## Regaining Confidence in Hot Pepper

Three years ago, Kimship Choeurn's hot pepper crop had a lot of problems with disease and insects, especially during the rainy season. "That crop was so hard to grow," she said, "it made me afraid to grow hot pepper anymore."

In early 2022, EWS-KT staff came to her village in Siem Reap province to teach farmers improved ways of growing vegetables. Kimship told the EWS-KT trainers about all the problems she had had with her hot pepper. They showed her techniques for growing hot pepper in both the hot season and the rainy season and explained how to control pests. This gave Kimship hope, and she agreed to try hot pepper one more time as a key farmer.

Through training sessions and weekly coaching, EWS-KT trainers guided her through hot pepper production. She learned about land preparation, drip irrigation, and fertigation; the needs of the pepper plants; and how to control pests and diseases. When it was time for harvest, the trainers offered links to vegetable dealers and provided reports on fresh vegetable prices, which helped Kimship better understand the market and get good returns on her produce.

By the end of the year, Kimship had conquered her fear. With her new knowledge, she plans to grow more vegetables, especially hot pepper, and expand her farm.

“ Thanks to EWS-KT for changing me from a person who was very afraid to grow hot pepper to a confident and successful hot pepper farmer. ”

– Kimship Choeurn