



Bunong Indigenous People Association (BIPA)

# AGRICULTURE



We are a grassroots organization who engages for better livelihoods for Bunong indigenous people

## Who we support

The Bunong people are a poor, marginalized ethnic minority who lives in the Northeast of Cambodia. They are confronted with the loss of their fields, grazing areas and forest resources due to the rapid expansion of rubber plantations and intrusion of settlers. This has serious impacts on Bunong villagers' livelihoods, food security and culture. The Bunong used to rotate their fields on ancestral land and grew upland rice, maize, tobacco, many vegetables and fruits. Equally important was the collection of forest resources like wild honey, resin and bamboo. With the loss of land their traditional livelihoods are severely impaired, leaving this vulnerable population even more prone to the risks of poverty. The Bunong are forced to switch from rotational agriculture to permanent agriculture, however, there are no agricultural extension services provided by the State to support the farmers during this difficult transition phase and there is no information available in Bunong language.

## What we do

BIPA enhances farmers' capacities to sustainably adapt their rotational agricultural system to the necessity of permanent use of fields. Together with the farmers, we develop ways on how to secure and diversify their livelihoods so that they do not sell their land out of desperation. We support the farmers to develop their own way of combining their knowledge and preferences for certain foods and way of cultivation ('the Bunong way') with the requirements for adaptation to rapid change. We enhance farmers' capacities to grow and market traditional as well as new products.

## How we work

- we facilitate the exchange of experience and knowledge among Bunong cultivators and with other farmers
- we provide knowledge and a space for exchange of new ideas by the way of screenings of educational films in Bunong language
- we give technical support and training on how to sustainably grow new crops
- we support the farmers with affordable seedlings
- we advise on new methods of animal husbandry
- we support the farmers in developing marketing strategies so that they can successfully compete in the regional and national market



*Bunong farmers from Cambodia visit and learn from a Bunong cultivator in Vietnam who has already a lot of experience in growing pepper.*

## How you can engage

BIPA depends on the generous support of donors and partners. With your financial engagement you make our activities for better livelihoods for Bunong indigenous people possible. Currently, you can select to support the following activities:

- Personnel and material costs for the development of agricultural knowledge and methods, as well as for advice, support and training of farmers
- Production and screening of educational films in Bunong language
- Provision of seedlings of new crops to poor farmers
- Start capital for a demonstration farm where the farmers can get practice, training and exchange their ideas on how to grow new crops and raise animals (pigs, chicken, ducks)
- Exchange visits of Bunong farmers
- Start capital for a communal shop at the famous Bu Sra waterfalls, where villagers can sell their products to national tourists
- Start capital for mobile coffee shop in Phnom Penh, where Bunong students sell coffee and other products of Bunong farmers

You can contact us for further information on each project. We will ensure that your contribution will be used according to your wishes. As a grassroots organization, we operate with very minimal overhead costs. This way, the donations we receive from individuals and foundations directly impact the communities in their quest for better livelihoods.

### Contact

We thank you very much for your interest in our work. For further information, please contact:

Mr. Neth Prak, Director of BIPA (+855) 99 987 451

BIPA office Phnom Penh  
(+855) 99 98 74 51  
nethprak@gmail.com

BIPA office Sen Monorom  
(+855) 88 4862 882  
nethprak@gmail.com

BIPA office Bousra  
(+855) 88 4862 882  
chouy.maeing610@gmail.com

N# 09C, Street 45BT  
Sangkat Beuong Tompun  
Stang Mean Chey  
Phnom Penh  
Cambodia

Chamkatea village  
Spean Mean Chey  
Sen Monorom  
Mondulkiri Province  
Cambodia

Pu Char village  
Bousra Commune  
Pechhreada District  
Mondulkiri Province  
Cambodia

BIPA was officially registered as a local association with the Ministry of Interior of the Royal Cambodian Government in February 2016.