

Case study on People Affective from Pesticide Spraying Work

Peam Chor, Preas Sdach, Svay Antor and Prey Veng districts contain the larger agriculture land area among the 12 districts of Prey Veng province. Most of the monthly income of poor farmers in these districts is from pesticide spraying work for the rich farmer who own large agriculture land. Rice field are drier season rice. Sprayers can earn an income from pesticide spray work of around 10.000 riel (2.50USD\$) per day. The sprayers are not provided with protected clothing or equipment, nor do they have the money to spend to buy protected wear. Sprayers need to work daily to earn enough to support the family livelihoods. The owner doesn't worry about sprayer health, instead, focusing only on deadlines as promised between owner and sprayers.

Kuy Peak is 30 year old. He, his wife **Yet Long** is 28 year old and 3 children live in Pean Rong Village, Terk Thla Commune, Svay Antor District, Prey Veng province. He does not own agriculture land, his job is as a construction worker earning an income of 8,000 riel (2.00\$) per day. Unfortunately because of the economic crisis, he has no work. Once he learnt about pesticide spraying work he became interested because of the higher income than construction work. Kuy Peak is one of many vulnerable people among the sprayers in dry season rice in Baray Commune, Prey Veng district.



Within 3 months of starting pesticide spraying work **Kuy Peak** was dead. **Yet Long** said her husband always told her about the demands of the employer to mixed 5-10 kinds of pesticides together each time; haven't protected wears and time. When he mixed these pesticides, always pesticide barrel are split, and the smelling was bad causing him to suffer headache, skin diseases, and coughing blood. He spraying 10-15 pesticide barrels (1 barrel 20 lit) per day from Morning to Evening. After 2 months of being employed as a pesticide sprayer, Kuy Peak had to stop work for health reasons. After one month of medical treatment, he sadly passed away. The total income Kuy Peak earned during his employment as a sprayer was not enough to protect or cover medical treatment expenses of her husband she said. Nowadays, **Yet Long** is left with the high responsible of supporting the expenses of 3 daughters and 2 parents' now in old age. **Yet Long** was transplant seedling 8,000 riel per day (2.00 USD\$). After spending 1.50\$ for transport (Motordup), this left her with 0.50\$ for daily support of family. In case, she not came back home daily and one time per week to save money on transport expenditure.

Since the death of her husband, **Yet Long** is afraid and now suffers indirectly as a result of her husband's death She now has to use her income to pay back the purchase on credit of medicine to treat her husband.



As a result, her children can no longer go to school. She wants to recommend and request to the government of Cambodia to stop or ban chemical pesticide import the main cause for the loss of her husband and father to her children, Without this intervention, the number of widows will increase in future, forcing more and more vulnerable people into poverty, rather than achieving the Cambodian MDG1 (eradicating extreme poverty) and MDG7 (ensuring environmental sustainability).

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