

PRESS FILE

Az.: Wz 445 TH

Press Release

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany has the pleasure to inform you that the official inauguration of the Food Security Programme in the Province of Kampot took place on Friday, June 7th 1996. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Minister of Rural Development H.E. Dr. Hong Sun Huot, H.E. Ngy Chanphal, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Rural Development, H.E. Kun Kim Teng, Governor of Kampot Province and Ms. Susanne Baumann, Chargé d'Affaires of the German Embassy.

The Food Security Programme is one out of six projects in the field of technical cooperation upon which the Governments of the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia and of Germany have agreed.

On the Cambodian side the Food Security Programme is run by the Ministry of Rural Development with its Provincial Department being responsible for coordination of the project activities. On the German side the German Agency for Technical Assistance - the so-called GTZ - was commissioned by the German Government as implementing institution for the German contribution to the Project.

The Food Security Programme Kampot is planned for a period of six years as overall time horizon and it will reach approximately 75.000 persons in the districts of Angkor Chey, Dantung, Kampong Trach and Chum Kiri. This target group has been selected because it faces problems of chronic food deficiency or at least high vulnerability to food shortage. Within this target group special attention will be given to women heading households, former refugees, IDPs and Khmer Rouge defectors now returned to their villages.

In order to achieve the overall objective of the Food Security Programme - which is to satisfy the quantitative and qualitative food needs of the target group - the project will focus on the following fields of village level activities:

- Village infrastructure projects related to food security will be supported.
- Possibilities for diversification and increase of agricultural production will be identified and promoted through improved agricultural extension.

- The provision of technical and business training for secondary income opportunities by existing institutions will be strengthened.
- The provision of financial services to target groups by existing institutions will be strengthened.
- The provision of health and nutrition education to villages by existing services will be strengthened.

The conception of the Food Security Programme Kampot corresponds with the ideas and aims of the development policy of the Federal Republic of Germany which is intended as help towards self-help on a partnership basis. Assistance, therefore, can only be given to counterparts who take an active part in running projects. Of special importance for the German development cooperation are environmental sustainability and the promotion of the private sector for the economic and technological progress of a country.