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|  | **BACK TO OFFICE REPORT** | | |  | **ONE PAGE MISSION**  **REPORT SUMMARY**  **Date:** 17/04/2015 | | |
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| **Name: Reathmana Leang Team: Poverty Tel No: 012690402** | | | | | | **Travel Authorization #:** See attached | |
| **1. Approved Mission Itinerary:** | | | **2. List of Annexes:** | | | | |
| **3. (From) Inclusive Travel Dates (To)** 08-11/04/2015 | | **4. Key Counterpart (s) in Each Location:**  MoC, Provincial Deputy Governor, Provincial Department of Commerce, and  District Halls of Komrieng and Sampovlun,  230 farmers, traders and exporters  20% female participants | | | | | |
| **5. Purpose/Objectives of Mission**  To consult with the cassava farmers, traders, and exporters about the establishment of a cassava association and conduct the election to select association leaders, including one president and two vice presidents.    To visit the starch processing factory and learn about their challenges on its production and export. | | | | | | | |
| **6. Brief Summary of Mission Outcomes:**  Two associations of cassava farmers, traders and exporters were established in Battambong Province through the leadership of the MoC, the facilitation of the local authorities of the province, and the support of UNDP’s CEDEP II-Cassava. One association was established in Komrieng District and another one was established in Sampovlun District.    H.E Mao Thora, Secetary of State of the Ministry of Commerce, with Provincial Deputy Governor led a consultation with groups of cassava farmers, traders and exporters in the two districts of Battambong Province which cassava is planted the most. The participants expressed understanding the important roles of the association and thanked for the MoC and UNDP for the support on establishing the cassava associations. Based on the request of the participants, the working group decided to conduct an election to select one president and two vice presidents as focal points for communication and liaison with the MoC and UNDP. The elected leaders will work with the MoC and UNDP to develop an organizational structure of the association, coordinate with its members to develop a vision and strategy, and build their capacity to deliver services to its members.    The delegation visited BAI to learn about its challenges on production and export. In the meeting, the owner and managers of the BAI raised a number of challenges such as:   * + High transportation cost for raw material from farm to the factory   + Custom expense and other costs   + High electrical cost which makes the product not competitive with Thai Starch   + Unstable of Power Supply leading to increase the production cost   + Lack of material for 10 months operation   + Unavailable mechanisms to control the quality of Cassava Root   + Lack of water supply during summer season   + Have no buyers for wet Cake     BAI suggested to the delegation for the support on aspects as below:   * + Conduct a feasibility Study of Cassava Sector in Cambodia to know about its dynamic, system and challenges   + Provide budget support or technology for power plant as clean energy   + Develop a cassava export policy to support export of cassava-based products from Cambodia   + Improve transportation system to lower its cost   + Support the company to participate in exhibition or events to build business partnership   + Establish irrigation system in the area to reserve water for cassava production and processing     Gender note:   * + More than 20% of the voters are female   + 4 female traders stand for election, and one of them were elected a vice president of the association | | | | | | | |
| **7. Key recommendations /Actions to be Taken:**  MoC and UNDP need to work together for the assistance of association registration and capacity building of the elected leaders. | | | | | | | **8. Distribution:**  **(Copies to):** |

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| Next step, UNDP will work with BAI to find out ways to raise issues to relevant stakeholders. |  |  |
| 9. **Proposed Debriefing Date:** N/A | **Participation in Briefing:** N/A | |