

Cambodia Quality Horticulture Project

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THE NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE FOR PLANT & FOOD RESEARCH LIMITED

Cambodia Quality Horticulture (CQH) is a 5-year project (2017 to 2021) funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Programme.

Objective

Horticulture sector growth through delivering on market demand for high quality safe produce.

Opportunity

In Cambodia, as with other ASEAN countries, consumer awareness and demand for certified safe food is increasing, with demand for safe produce outstripping supply.

CQH supports the growth of the horticulture sector (with a focus on vegetables) through:

- Strengthening the linkage between market and supply to drive vegetable production, quality, safety and sales
- Capitalising on the increasing (and unsatisfied) demand for Cambodia-produced safe vegetables; substituting imported with local produce
- Leveraging the introduction of Cambodia GAP (CamGAP) to facilitate safe vegetable production.



Undertaking GAP farm appraisal on Project Alba farm. CQH has GAP auditing and inspection and training experts to help supply chain partners to understand food safety compliance requirements.



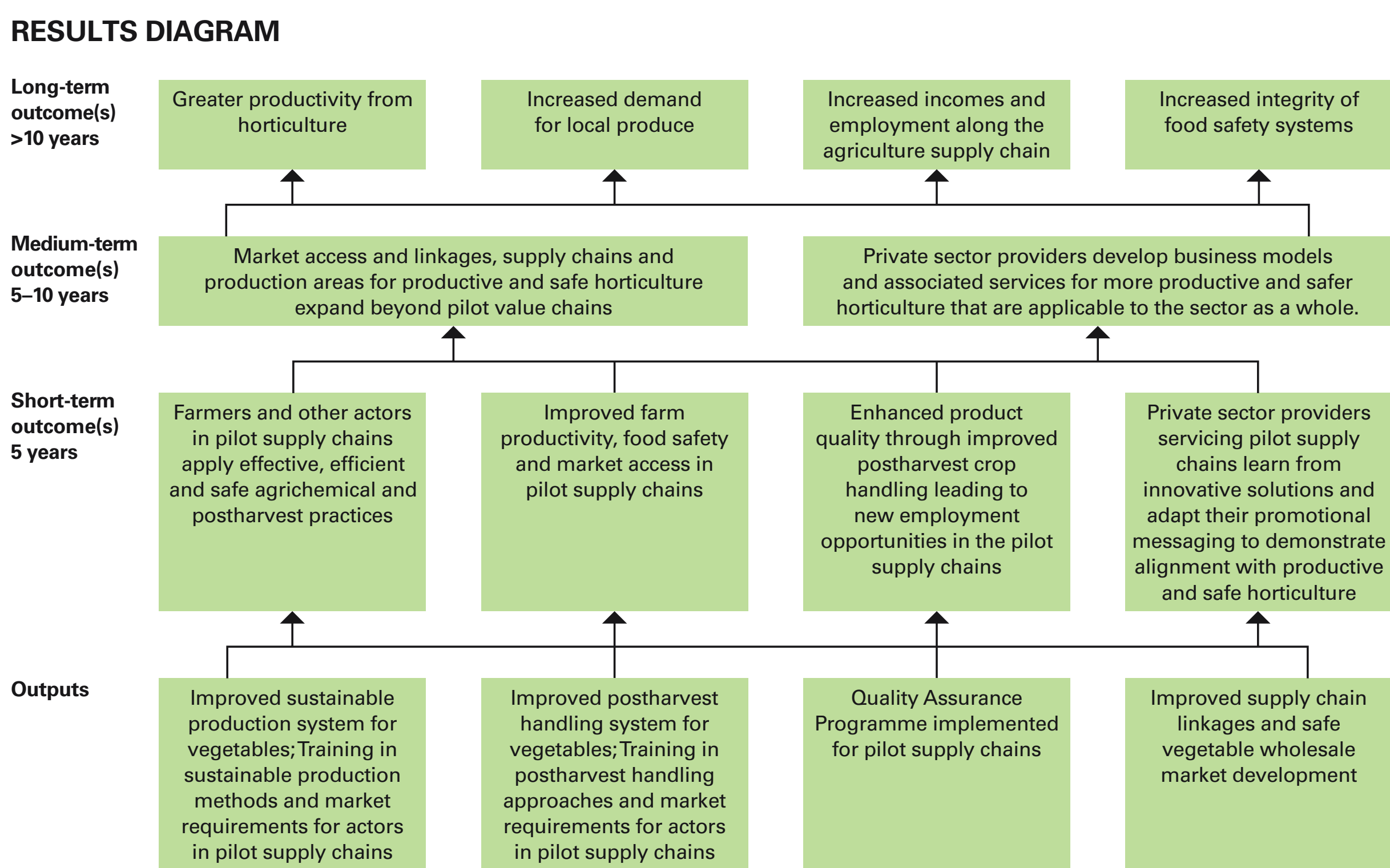
Plant & Food Research's Agronomist Egberto Soto (foreground) discusses crop establishment with EAC and Natural Garden agronomists.



Lors Thmey's Ms Or Nheanvuthy and Mr Huot Long with a best practice farmer implementation group.

Outcomes and Outputs

The planned outputs and intended short, medium and long-term outcomes which contribute to the goal are outlined in the Results Diagram.



Activities

Key activities of this project to achieve the above Outcomes and Outputs include:

- Supporting the implementation of CamGAP by providing auditing and inspection expertise to GDA and development of practical traceability processes for supply chains.
- Training of supply chain agronomists and postharvest teams on best practice requirements associated with the production of quality, safe vegetables.
- Supporting the development of a food safety assurance programmes based on testing for pesticide residues and human pathogen contamination.
- Consultation and development of improved supply chain infrastructure including assistance with design, prototyping and testing of washing and cooling equipment.



Students Chhom Poura (left) and Song Bun Teang from the Royal University of Agriculture have been trained by the Plant & Food Research food safety team to undertake weekly pathogen and parasite sampling for the CQH programme.



The annual Pesticide Residue Sampling programme involves benchmarking current practice and validating best practice. 105 kg of frozen samples were sent to New Zealand for analysis in May 2017.

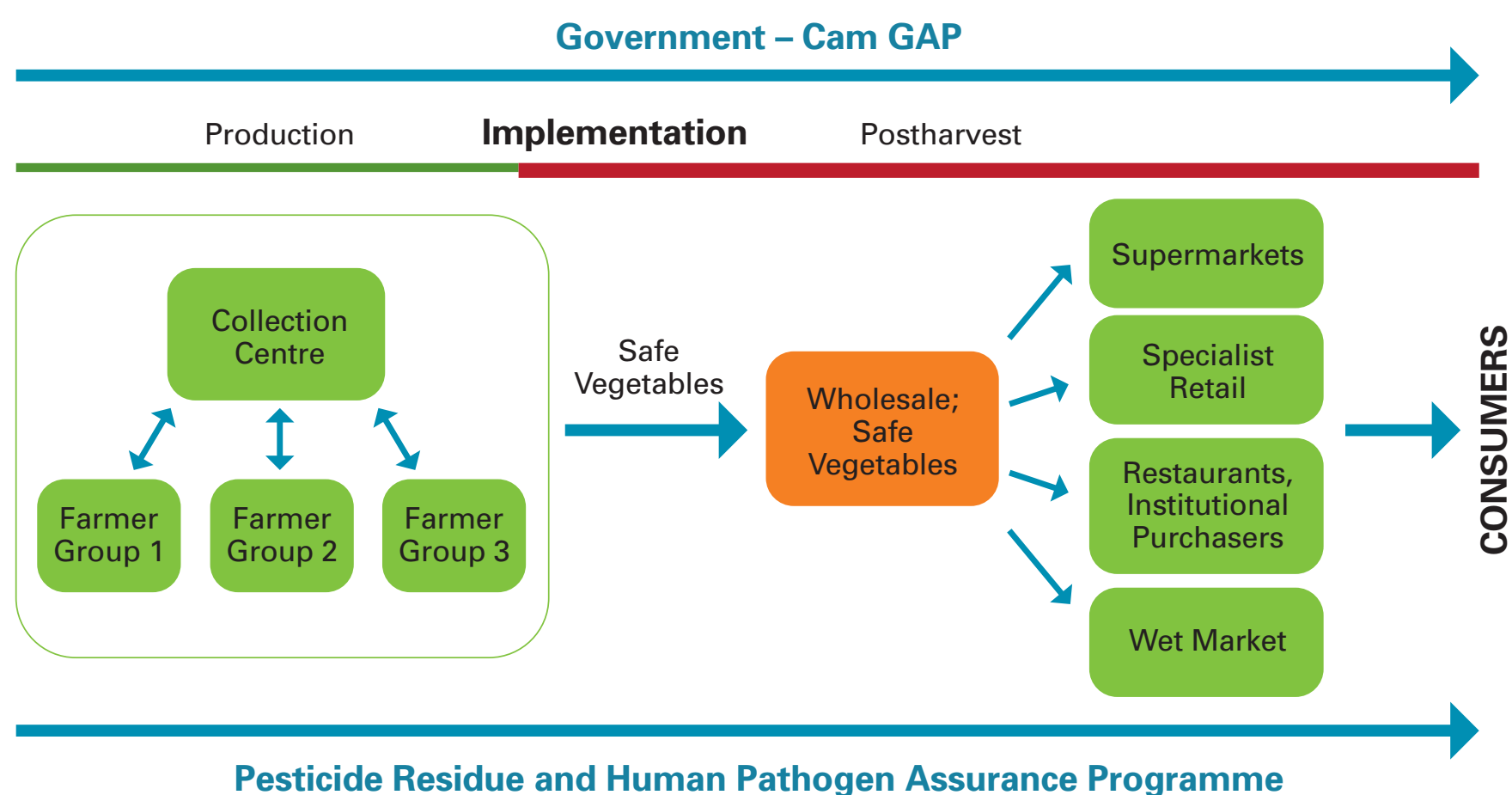


Figure 1. Key elements covered by the Cambodia Quality Horticulture Project.

CQH Partners



Lors Thmey an agriculture social enterprise, established in 2003 under iDE Cambodia that empowers rural Cambodian farmers to increase their incomes and improve their livelihoods.



Project Alba a for-profit social enterprise working with low income farmers in developing countries. "We have an innovative business model that is focused on achieving our mission to increase farmers' income now and in the future"



Eco-Agri Co. Ltd (EAC) provides green agricultural inputs such as bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers to farmers and chemical free vegetables to consumers. EAC's sister business Khmer Organics has a retail store in Phnom Penh.



Natural Garden was started in 2008 and produces, distributes and retails high quality vegetables, fruits and other healthy products. Natural Garden owns three farms, four stores in Phnom Penh and has an online distribution channel.



Signing of the CQH Agreement with MAFF. Pictured left to right are Neak Tharen (Natural Garden), Declan Graham (Plant & Food Research), Dr HE Hean Vanhan (MAFF), Mike Roberts (iDE), NZ Ambassador Ben King, Cambodia Minister of Agriculture HE Veng Sakthong, Th Lang Sovann Pisey and Ieng Sotheara (EAC), Guillaume Virag (Project Alba) and Kang Sideth (Plant & Food Research/CQH co-ordinator).

