

How contract farming companies bring safety standards to vegetables in Cambodia

By working with us smallholder farmers can implement GAP standards

Contract farming as an industry is in its very early stages in Cambodia, yet is key to ensuring that smallholder farmers can grow safe, healthy and clean vegetables.

Project Alba, is a social enterprise operating in Cambodia. Our model innovates contract farming and in doing so allows farmers to make more money, while we make profit and deliver tonnes of fresh vegetables to market daily.

We do this by offering a partnership to farmers in which they will get everything they need - equipment, tools, seeds, and technical advice to adapt small plots of their land (400m²) to grow high value vegetables. We also commit to buying 100 per cent of their produce which we sell on to regional wholesalers. It is by managing the whole process from farmer through to wholesaler that we can deliver quality standards.

The future

In Cambodia there is a growing demand for safe, healthy vegetables rather than those which are imported and contain high levels of chemicals. There are \$250 million of vegetables imported into Cambodia, largely containing unsafe chemicals, yet 90 per cent of people we interviewed in our 2017 market surveys want clean and chemical free vegetables. We are responding to that demand.



Growth

- X 3 more income for farmers by 2020
- 10,000 farmers growing quality vegetables
- Safe, locally grown food for 4 million people in Cambodia by 2020

Project Alba extension workers

Visit farmers on their field weekly to:

- Instruct farmers on the variety of crop to plant
- Distribute pre-calculated amounts of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides and advise on application and storage
- Train farmers on new techniques
- Provide technical support on issues faced by farmers including soil and pest issues
- Advise on water usage

This advice directly impacts food safety:

- Drip irrigation means pond water does not touch edible plant parts
- Using the correct product at the correct time (7 to 14 days before harvest) means the vegetable is residue free at harvest
- Soil, seed and fertilizer organic practices are followed where possible to ensure delicious produce



Pre harvest integral for chemical free vegetables

- Branded chemical free
- Pre harvest application intervals are respected
- Each chemical has a life span after which it evaporates



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