PHOTO & CAPTION
Returned Migrants Started Own Local Farm Instead of Re-migrating

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Tonh Pok (35) and her husband Noy Saroeun (32), returned migrants from Thailand, decided to start their own farming and animal raising business at home in Siem Reap

"I was asking myself during the last year I worked in Thailand: why am I working for others, taking care of vegetables and farming while I have my own plot of farming land back home? I think I should work for myself, grow my own vegetables, and my own farm here at home", said Mr Saroeun, pictured left with his wife, members of Producer and Savings Group in Siem Reap.

Saroeun and his wife went to Thailand to work on a farm for eight years before returning to their homeland in Siem Reap province in 2018. After meeting with Winrock International's USAID-funded Cambodia Countering Trafficking-in-Persons (CTIP) program's farmer promoter and learning about alternative income-generation activities that they can do at home, the couple decided to start their own farming business. They became members of both the Producer Group and Savings Group in their community with support from Winrock's partner, the Cambodian Center for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC).

"We could earn some money from working there [in Thailand] but we had to pay for many things including food. If we grow our own vegetables and farm here [in Cambodia], we can save some money. We can sell the vegetables and use it for food as well. And we can live with our family and take care of our children together at home", said the couple.

Through the support of Cambodia CTIP Program, Producer Groups and Savings Groups were created as part of community-based livelihood opportunities that create safety nets and networks to provide alternative income-generation activities and help prevent risky migration. Community-based group members are linked to skills training, livelihood opportunities, and small business development programs, such as chicken raising and vegetable farming.

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