

## Emerging pest and disease crisis in Cambodia: Case studies

### Saun Deth

**Cassava farmer, Lngeang commune, Tboung Khmum province, E. Cambodia**

There are many reasons I decide to grow cassava: it provides high yield, it's easy to grow and it tolerates drought. It also brings in more income than rice or cashew nut. If I grow cassava, I can get about \$1,500 per season. The input for rice and cassava is not different, but the income is better for cassava.

I started growing cassava since 2002 and I buy planting material from the other farmers in the village, either KU50 or KM94 varieties.

Last year and this year I noticed a problem with the cassava – this year it is very serious. The normal yield is around 20 tons per hectare, but this year it was about 10-15 tons per hectare. The cassava roots are small and have low starch content.

Last year I didn't know about this disease, so I planted infected material. I still have selected some planting material for the next season, but now I think it is also infected. Maybe I don't have planting material that is healthy and I don't know where to buy healthy planting material. I don't know how to grow other crops. I only have income for cassava, so there will be no income for me next season.

*If we can't grow cassava it really will affect our income and our children's studying. We have no choice but to plant this infected cassava, but if we have information about where to buy clean material at a reasonable price we are willing to buy. If not we will use the infected planting material – we have no choice.*





### **Kaun Sreyneth**

**Cassava farmer, Lngeang commune,  
Tboung Khmum province, E. Cambodia**

I have no choice; I will plant the infected cassava planting material that I have. I have two children, I am single and I live with my parents and two brothers and sister. I support the whole family, with my younger brother, because my parents are too old and my

older brother is not in good health. Now I know that you cannot cut the infected part of the cassava stake off: the whole stake will be infected if there are symptoms of the disease. I have seen symptoms of the disease on pieces of paper that have been shared with our group, so I understand about the symptoms.





### Tita Ty

Cassava farmer, Lngeang commune,  
Tboung Khmum province, E. Cambodia

I have 1.5 hectares of cassava and 1 hectare of rice. This season I just kept planting material from last season and cut the infected parts off, keeping the bottom part for next season. But I now see my field is infected and I understand that I planted the infected cassava stakes. We usually earn around \$1,200 from the cassava on 1.5 hectares per season, but this season we have lost 50 percent of our income. Our standard of living will decrease – we don't have enough money to pay for the whole family so we will sell our labor to other farmers, helping with weeding, planting and harvesting to get more income. We have no idea what to do now; we will follow other farmers, and cut the cassava that looks healthy to plant again – we would like to get healthy planting material.



## CONTACTS

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