



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

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*Borlaug Higher Education for
Agricultural Research and Development*

Final Scholar Report: Cambodia

By

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Executive Summary

Michigan State University (MSU) is the implementing entity of the Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) program. As part of the United States government's Feed the Future initiative, BHEARD is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT).

Honoring the legacy of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug, the program increases the number of agricultural scientists and strengthens scientific institutions in partner countries. BHEARD supports long-term training of agricultural researchers at the master's and doctoral levels, linking scientific and higher education communities in Feed the Future priority countries and the United States.



A BHEARD scholarship supports coursework at U.S. and regional universities in Africa, Brazil, Bangladesh, and India; providing funding for research and post completion research in the student's home country. In addition, the program provides a variety of allowances to cover training costs and laboratory fees. BHEARD also aims to develop, test and evaluate new models of small-scale institutional capacity development. This report documents BHEARD programmatic activities from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. It includes a program overview, financial summaries, and students updates for Cambodia.

Acknowledgement and thank you to all BHEARD staff who have worked for this program and contributed to this report.

- John Medendorp, Director
- Mathias Ndizihiwe, Student Progress Coordinator
- Cait Goddard, Institutional Capacity Development Lead
- Jen Riebow, Fiscal Officer

Activity summary

The Cambodian Mission sponsored a total of four students. Three at the PhD level and one at the masters level. Three of the four students completed their programs. One of the students failed their candidacy exams and was not promoted.

Successes

Three scholars (males) sponsored by BHEARD successfully completed their program. One of the scholars, Dr. Tho Kim Eang, has won several awards for research and innovation and has further funding for his research on plant pathology.

Challenges

Preparing students who may not have sufficient background to complete rigorous testing requirements was a challenge not only for the Cambodian program, but for other countries as well. An education is a large investment. At universities where candidacies must be successfully sustained or students are withdrawn, it might be worth the extra investment to work with a coach to ensure that the expensive investment of a graduate education is not lost.



Dr. Tho Kim Eang with the Encouragement Award (bronze) of the Asia Innovation Award from the Hitachi Global Foundation.

List of all scholars

| Name (first, last) | Sex | Cohort | Student Status | University | Subject Area | Academic Level | Graduation year |
|--------------------|-----|----------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Keo, Socheat | M | Cohort 1 | Completed | Michigan State University | Community Sustainability | PhD | FY18 |
| Nhim, Tum | M | Cohort 1 | Completed | Michigan State University | Community Sustainability | MSc | FY16 |
| Tho, Kim Eang | M | Cohort 1 | Completed | Michigan State University | Sustainability Plant Pathology | PhD | FY19 |
| Hour, Thany | F | Cohort 1 | Withdrawn | Michigan State University | Community Sustainability | PhD | - |

List of publications

In addition to completing their academic programs, the Cambodian scholars have published and continue to publish scientific papers in peer reviewed journals. The below table lists the publications completed up to the close of the BHEARD scholar program on September 30, 2021.

| STUDENT NAME | TITLE | AUTHORS | PUBLISHED IN | PUBLICATION DATE |
|---------------|---|---|--|------------------|
| Keo, Socheat | Impact of Climate Change on Agricultural Production in NorthWest Cambodia | Socheat Keo | Conference on International Research | 09/16/15 |
| Keo, Socheat | Impact of Farmer Organisations on Food Security: The Case of Rural Cambodia | THENG Vuthy, KEO Socheat, NOU Keosothea, SUM Sreymom and KHIEV Piro | Cambodian Development Research Institute Working Papers Series | 08/01/14 |
| Tho, Kim Eang | First Report of <i>Pantoea agglomerans</i> Causing Onion Leaf Blight and Bulb Rot in Michigan | Tho, K. E.; Wiriyaitsomboon, P.; Hausbeck, M.K. | Plant Disease | 02/01/15 |