Sustainable Irrigation:
Lessons Learned by the Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain Program (CAVAC)

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What is CAVAC?
An Australian-funded program focusing on Agriculture and Water
Two phases:
2010-2015
2016-2021
Agriculture: increase in yield and irrigated areas
Constructed around 30 irrigation system (15 pumping stations)
Supported their Operation and Maintenance (O&M)

What is Sustainable Irrigation?
Long-term ability of beneficiaries to operate and maintain their scheme
Scheme is profitable
Effective management of the scheme; effective and efficient operation and maintenance (O&M)
Increased level of income
Little or no external intervention needed

Conditions for Successful Irrigation
Building Trust
Functioning Scheme
Good team
Willingness to pay
Farmers' Interest
Time & Flexibility

What Makes a Well Managed Scheme?
Easily Managed by Farmer Water Users Community (FWUC)
High Rate of Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) Collection
Scheme & Pump Maintained by FWUC
Considering Private Sector (at some point)
The CAVAC Approach

Conceptual & Detailed Design 9-12 months
Construction 10-12 months
FWUC Establishment 6-10 months
On-going Support 2-3 years
Consultation and Participation (4-5 years)

Irrigation Design: Innovation & Efficiency

Involvement of Farmers: What? When? How?

High ISF Collection Rate

On-the-job Training

Scheme Improvements & Tertiary Canals/Quaternary Canals Construction
Potential Risks and Constrains

- Political Interference
- Decrease in Paddy Price
- Increase in Production Cost
- Time Required: Scheme & Farmers Behaviour
- Lack of Skills

Thank you!
Questions?