

# Peanut Blog

An ounce of information



## Sustainable livelihoods from climate change adaptation models

**VINH LONG – The Tra Vinh Community Development Project has changed the mindset of agricultural production towards a more environmentally friendly approach, bringing sustainable livelihoods to many households in coastal areas.**

Under the dry, sunny weather of the sandy soil of Ngũ Lạc commune ( Vinh Long province), the peanut fields of the Khmer people in Sóc Ôt hamlet are much greener this year than in previous years. Instead of the barren, disease-stricken rows of peanuts resulting from traditional monoculture farming practices using old varieties, the introduction of the Cù Chi peanut variety and new production processes has opened up a sustainable path forward.

Previously, farmers relied on experience, lacked technical skills, and experienced fluctuating yields due to pests and diseases, with their output dependent on traders. Since 2023, the Tra Vinh Community Development Project (CDP Tra Vinh), implemented by the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) and funded by billions of VND from Tra Vinh Wind Power Joint Stock Company 1 (TWPC), has contributed to changing farmers' mindset towards modern and sustainable farming practices.

Mr. Kim Cong Ro (residing in Soc Ot hamlet) excitedly shared: "In previous years, planting four or five acres of peanuts resulted in very inconsistent yields, with harvests of only three tons or less. This year, I tried planting three acres of Cu Chi peanut variety and one acre of the old MD7 variety, which received training and support from the project, including fertilizer and Trichoderma fungicide. The Cu Chi variety clearly yields a high output; harvesting fresh peanuts from one acre yields up to one ton. After drying, three acres yield one and a half tons, selling at 31,000 VND/kg, while the old variety only fetches 28,000 VND/kg. In this hamlet, all 46 people participating in the cooperative have achieved successful harvests this year."

Beyond just improving productivity, the project's strength lies in helping people reduce input costs amidst soaring agricultural supply prices. Ms. Thach Thi Rech (a resident of the same hamlet) said that participating in the cooperative significantly reduced her family's financial burden by teaching them how to compost manure and cow dung with biological preparations to replace chemical fertilizers.

"Before, the costs were very high. Now, after attending training with the instructor, I know how to compost cow manure with Trichoderma to fertilize the soil, so I use less chemical fertilizer, and the soil is better, resulting in a more successful crop than in previous years. My land is less than two acres, but this year I harvested two and a half tons, selling it for over thirty million dong, a profit of over ten million dong more than in previous years. I also sprayed less pesticides, only buying biological ones that can be controlled once, saving money," Ms. Rech confided.

Life-changing transformation through "nature-friendly" shrimp ponds.

Not far from the Ngũ Lạc bean fields, the ecological shrimp and crab farming area combined with mangrove forests in Cồn Tàu hamlet (Trường Long Hòa ward) is also showing many positive signs. Previously, the people of Cồn Tàu hamlet mainly raised shrimp using traditional extensive farming methods, releasing them naturally into the mangrove forest. The purchased shrimp fry were simply dumped into the ponds without quarantine, resulting in extremely high mortality rates. Thanks to the intervention of the Trà Vinh CDP project, a two-stage shrimp farming model adapted to climate change has been established.

Mr. Ngo Cong Khang, Head of the People's Committee of Con Tau hamlet, said that the entire hamlet has 351 households, and since the support project, the farming methods of the people have changed significantly. In the past, people would catch shrimp and immediately release them into mangrove ponds. Now they know how to build nursery ponds suitable for their own ponds, and only release the shrimp into larger areas when they reach the size of a matchstick head and are healthy, resulting in much higher efficiency.

The Con Tau mangrove shrimp cooperative currently has over 20 members, receiving support in the form of water quality monitoring equipment and high-quality shrimp fry with clear origins. Although market shrimp prices have recently fallen due to general fluctuations, thanks to stable production, clean and certified shrimp, and quarantined shrimp, the income of the farmers remains significantly higher than before.

As one of the pioneering households and currently serving as the head of the Con Tau mangrove shrimp cooperative, Mr. Ly Minh Hoang affirms that the foundation for sustainable development lies in collective cohesion. Instead of each person working independently, members now know how to come together to buy and sell jointly.

"Because we buy the shrimp fry in bulk together, the price is reasonable, and we also have a quality guarantee. Before, we were tempted by cheap, unregulated fry, which took a long time to grow. Now, using the company's fry, the farming time is shorter, and the shrimp grow very quickly, resulting in much higher yields than before. On average, a person farming shrimp and mangrove crabs on about 5 hectares earns around 200-300 million VND per year. The group's future direction is to upgrade to a cooperative and build a 3-star OCOP brand for the mangrove shrimp and Con Tau sea crab products," Mr. Hoang hoped.

Similarly, at the Mé Láng hamlet's giant freshwater prawn farming cooperative (Ngũ Lạc commune), from individual farming with limited techniques, the 15 members of the cooperative now all have stable profits of 100-200 million VND/hectare/year thanks to the pond treatment process using probiotics.

Mr. Tran Van Tung, a model member of the Cooperative, said: "Joining the Cooperative allowed me to receive training and share farming experiences, which helped my shrimp yield more than double, reaching two to three tons per hectare. Buying feed together with other members allowed me to get the original price from the company, reducing costs while increasing the value of the shrimp. Everyone is excited and wants to join the cooperative to expand their business."

According to Ms. Le Thi Thu Huong, Project Manager of the Tra Vinh CDP Project (SNV Organization), the project is built on three main pillars: enhancing production capacity to adapt to climate change; developing agricultural and aquatic product value chains; and empowering women economically.

"We are not providing handouts but focusing on professionalizing the people, encouraging them to form cooperatives and associations to develop the collective economy. The project acts as a bridge to bring companies supplying quality input materials and businesses guaranteeing output directly into agreements with farmers."

Another highlight is that we promote gender equality in a practical way, encouraging women to participate in economic management. The revolving fund for women's economic development, worth 240 million VND, has been disbursed through the local Women's Union and has gone through 4 rounds of loans so far, with more than 70 women accessing the capital, and the repayment rate reaching 100%, helping many women become self-reliant in their livelihoods," Ms. Huong informed.

Sharing the same view, Mr. Pham Xuan Tuan, Safety - Environment - Social Manager of Tra Vinh 1 Wind Power Joint Stock Company (representing the sponsor), said: "To date, the Project has established 7 cooperatives attracting more than 215 members to participate stably. Although this phase of the Project is nearing completion, we are confident that the cooperatives have independently formed a solid operational resource, financial capacity, and basic technical expertise. Our corporate social responsibility is not only to create green energy but also to work with the locality to build a green, sustainable economy, based on the solidarity of the community and outstanding members."

Regarding the overall effectiveness of the Project, Mr. Le Van Dong, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and Environment of Vinh Long province, assessed that the Tra Vinh CDP Project has brought about very positive changes, completely transforming the mindset and awareness of the people from purely agricultural production to a market-oriented agricultural economy.

To address the common problem of many current projects – that "the model stops when the project ends" – the agricultural sector in Vinh Long province has made fundamental preparations to take over and build upon the achievements. The experiences and technical processes for two-stage shrimp breeding or organic peanut cultivation along the value chain from this project are invaluable.

In the coming period, the Vinh Long Department of Agriculture and Environment will continue to direct specialized units to closely coordinate with local authorities and cooperatives to maintain and expand proven models.

**Source:** <https://www.vietnam.vn/en/sinh-ke-ben-vung-tu-nhung-mo-hinh-thich-ung-bien-doi-khi-hau>