

INTRODUCTION

In Cambodia, the forest is the bloodline of the agricultural sector, the life of farmers and the source of the national economy. At present, however, this resource is suffering severe depletion. The national forest policy encourages forest rehabilitation throughout the country. For this, tree planting is an important activity and calls for the involvement of citizens, particularly rural people, who, in turn, require additional tree planting techniques.

The Farmers' Tree Planting Manual was produced to respond to the needs of farmers for knowledge of tree planting techniques. Great effort was made to keep the manual appropriate, for mainly illiterate farmers, by using short texts along with pictures, to describe each activity and to explain each technique.

The manual is divided into three chapters, including the advantages of tree planting; planning for tree planting; and tree planting techniques. The chapter on the advantages of tree planting explains the benefits gained within and around fields, along pathways, and in public places, to prevent soil erosion, for fodder, as part of an agro-forestry system, and as a windbreak for protection from storms and floods. The manual is developed in such a way as to provide ideas for decision-making for forest land improvements, or for solving problems occurring in the field faced by farmers through practicing reforestation techniques. The chapter on planning outlines some activities that are necessary prior to tree planting, such as an analysis of the forest land situation, zoning and planting purposes, organisation of a working group, capacity building for group members, and seeking additional support. The chapter on tree planting techniques includes an explanation on the collection and maintenance of tree seeds, nursery preparation, seed treatment, germination and maintenance, preparation of the intended planting area and the maintenance of planted tree seedlings.

Information on seed treatment techniques for each species is detailed in Annex 1, which is helpful for practitioners.