



SuPER WE Coffee

2024 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

March: Assessment of Production and Processing, Cluster Exchange Meetings, Experience Exchange Workshop

April: Monthly Technical Meeting, Coffee Talks: Village Producers Meet with Traders, Dakchueng Highland Coffee's Participation in Sekong Province's 40th Anniversary, Dakchueng Highland Coffee Undergo Quality Testing in Thailand, Coffee Cooperative Training Program

May: SuPER WE Coffee Mid-Term Review, EU-Switch Asia Annual Meeting

BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Production and Ethnic Responsible and Women Empowered Coffee Value Chain Project in Sekong Province (SuPER WE Coffee) will empower coffee farmers to increase their productivity and quality of coffee and increase household income by supporting the establishment of coffee processing centers, planting and processing techniques for production groups, and the provision of planting and processing equipment. This project aims to support the development of a green, low-carbon, resource-efficient and more circular economy, to strengthen collaboration with cooperatives as well as building the capacities of women coffee producers on cooperative principles by integrating gender, leadership and entrepreneurship.

AREA



TOTAL BENEFICIARIES REACHED



DIRECT
400 FARMERS
280 WOMEN



INDIRECT
4,463 PEOPLE
2,217 WOMEN





MARCH

Assessment of Production and Processing

On 2-8 March 2024, the SuPER WE team conducted an assessment of coffee production and processing in seven villages, with a total of 12 participants (eight women). The purpose of this evaluation was to check in on the coffee plantation, evaluate current practices in coffee cultivation, and examine the choice of shade trees and the transformation coffee process. After completing the assessment, it was found that the coffee storage warehouse is small and needs to be renovated in order to encourage planting trees for the coffee plantations. This will help more farmers generate income from selling additional fruits and encourage the planting of trees for shade. attach technical information on coffee drying in the dry houses and encourage the farmers to initiate sending coffee samples to coffee traders to be an opportunity to sell coffee.



MARCH

Cluster Exchange Meetings

On 4-5 March 2024, the SuPER WE project held the cluster exchange meetings in four villages with a total of 77 participants (45 women). These participants represented coffee producer groups from 13 villages and included Farmer Field School (FFS) facilitators. As part of the Farmer Field School Program, these cluster exchange meetings facilitated the sharing and discussion of lessons learned, knowledge, and experiences related to coffee harvesting and processing. The focus was on the new and improved coffee dryer and coffee pulping machines. The coffee pulping machines received positive feedback from coffee growers, as it has the potential to reduce processing time, labor, and water usage. However, a more comprehensive evaluation of the machine's capacity, efficiency in coffee pulping machines, product recovery rate, damaged parchment coffee percentage, and electrical power consumption will be conducted during the upcoming harvest season.





MARCH

Experience Exchange Workshop

On 13 March 2024, the SuPER WE team organized an Experience Exchange Workshop in Sekong Province with a total of 50 coffee producers (26 women) from 15 villages. The workshop aimed to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and experiences from the implementation of pilot Farmer Field School (FFS) activities in target villages. It also aimed to initiate cooperation among coffee producers and government partners to promote a sustainable and inclusive value chain for coffee production in Dakchueng District, Sekong Province.



APRIL

Monthly Technical Meeting

On 2 April 2024, the SuPER WE team held the Monthly Technical Meeting at the CARE Sekong Office in Dakchueng District with a total of 8 representatives (two women) from provincial and district governments. The goal was to present and discuss ongoing efforts from February to March and upcoming plans for April 2024. In the meeting, the team has reported the implementation of activities on February-March 2024, the budget report for the past two months and the draft of project implementation plan in April. In addition, the team agreed to create an action plan aimed at addressing coffee processing issues in five villages.





APRIL

Coffee Talks: Village Producers Meet with Traders

Between 4-5 April 2024, the SuPER WE Team organized a field visit with lead six representatives' coffee producer groups (including five women) to visit Paksong and Bajieng District, Champasack Province. This aimed to provide them with the opportunity to discuss and exchange information with coffee traders - such as selling parchment, green beans, and negotiate deals. After the meeting, four traders immediately made offers, with purchase prices ranging between 66,000 to 82,000 Lao Kip per kilogram of coffee beans. The remaining five traders expressed interest but requested samples for quality testing before committing to a price. The producers showed particular interest in the offers, with the added benefit of picking up the coffee directly from the villages. However, these offers need further discussion and approval by the entire coffee producer groups.



APRIL

Dakchueng Highland Coffee's Participation in Sekong Province's 40th Anniversary.

Between 2-5 April 2024, SuPER WE Coffee Project team facilitated the participation of project partners from the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO) to display coffee products from SuPER WE producers at the 40th anniversary celebration of Sekong Province. The event provided a valuable platform for Dakchueng Highland Coffee to reach a wider audience and promote quality coffee beans that is harvested and produced by coffee ethnic women groups. This initiative highlights the SuPER WE Coffee Project's commitment to supporting its producers and empowering them to connect with potential customers.





APRIL

Dakchueng Highland Coffee Undergo Quality Testing in Thailand

Six coffee samples, originating from six target villages in Sekong Province were sent to 111 Better Together Company in Thailand for quality testing. Currently, officials are reviewing the test results to ensure accuracy and compliance with CQI (Coffee Quality Institute) guidelines. This quality testing initiative aims to assess the coffee produced in SuPER WE Coffee's villages and identify areas for potential improvement. By adhering to CQI guidelines, coffee farmers can elevate the quality of their beans, potentially increasing their market value and earning potential.



APRIL

Coffee Cooperative Training Program

On 23-28 April 2024, the SuPER WE Coffee Project conducted the coffee cooperative training program in 15 villages in Dakchueng District, Sekong Province, where a total of 185 coffee farmers participated (111 women). This program aimed to help the coffee production group recognize the various legislations, procedures, and principles related to cooperatives as well as the advantages of being part of a cooperative group. With ten villages now trained, this program signifies a positive step towards a more sustainable and profitable coffee sector for coffee producer groups.





MAY

SuPER WE Coffee Mid-Term Review

On 6-12 May 2024, the SuPER WE Coffee team plus the MILKA Team conducted the data collection for the Mid-Term Review (MTR). This data collection process involved gathering information from various stakeholders, including project beneficiaries, project staff, and local government officials. It will be used to assess the project's progress, identify areas for improvement, and ensure it remains on track to achieve its objectives. The specific findings of the MTR data collection are expected to be released in June 2024.



MAY

EU-Switch Asia Annual Meeting

On 20 - 21 May 2024, Paule Caroline Caringal, representative from CARE's SuPER WE Team participated in the EU-Switch Asia Annual Meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan. In Day 1, we participated in sector-specific discussion on plastics, construction, fashion and exchanged learnings with other EU Switch Asia grant recipients in the Food Systems sector. Day 2, we specific discussion on plastic waste governance, mobilizing businesses for circularity, and fostering knowledge sharing across regions. It is such a good opportunities prove especially, with the SuPER WE Coffee project being invited to participate in a podcast series to share more about the project and their learnings.





POWER OF VOICES

Women's Economic Empowerment

Recorded and translated by: KOUNGMING CHANGLEUXAY

"My family and I still want to learn more from the project, especially coffee planting techniques, coffee plantation maintenance techniques and composting because these things will help to increase coffee, including higher quality."

Ms. Homsamone Xayyakharm
Member of Coffee Producer Group
Dakeuy Village, Dakcheung District, Sekong Province



Homesamone is checking coffee quality.



Euek is happy to work with his wife.

"Before the project came, I didn't know how to sell coffee. I sold it at a cheap price with whoever bought it. After I participated in the project activities, I learned a lot about the techniques of coffee planting, coffee cultivation and coffee processing. In addition, I also learned about gender, which helped me decide with my wife to sell coffee."

Mr. Euek
Member of Coffee Producer Group,
Dakdern Village, Dakcheung District, Sekong Province

Contact Us:

Keoamphone Souvannaphoum

Country Director

Tel: (+856) 20 5564 2235

keoamphone.souvannaphoum@care.org

Khampaseuth Cheutchingthao

Provincial Manager

Tel: (+856) 20 7741 8956

khampaseuth.cheutchingthao@care.org

Nalada Phomvixay

Communications and Public Engagement Advisor

Tel: (+856) 20 5600 5600

nalada.phomvixay@care.org

CARE International in Lao PDR
P.O Box 4328, Nongsangthor Rd,
Ban Nongsangthor, Saysettha District,
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Tel: (+856-21) 217 727

Sekong Office
Dakcheung District, Sekong Province, Lao PDR
Tel: (+856-38) 215 010

✉ Lao.Info@care.org

🌐 www.careint.org/la

📺 [@careinlaos](https://www.facebook.com/careinlaos)

🌐 CARE International in Lao PDR

