



Introduction : In Chalamko in Thateng Laos, SFE has been carrying out an integrated rural development project (IRDP). This village is mainly composed of families from a mountain tribe, the thalieng. The tribe left the isolated mountain area 5 years ago and settled on the Boloven plateau. SFE helped the village to establish a development committee when the project started 4 years ago. This committee along with the local authorities and SFE has been able to implement a water system, latrines and an irrigation system. The number of gardens has multiplied, cleanliness has increased, the primary health knowledge of the population has improved. Today the committee is more independent and promotes the cleanliness of the village as well as good practical agricultural and nutritional methods..

SFE continues to help this village in the second part of the project, always with the aim of strengthening the capacities and independence of the village folk.

Training of village people continues in the fields of agriculture, hygiene and health. A new work has begun in primary school to increase the value of education in the eyes of the population and to assure that the young generation benefits from quality education. Solidarity groups made up of women are formed and trained in wisely using their money and putting it together to invest in developing their family resources.

SFE interviewed a village lady in June 2017 to ask her what changes she had noticed since the beginning of the project.



Testimony of Mrs Wangphay: In my village, before SFE came, the animals roamed around freely, the village was dirty and there were animal droppings even in the houses. We had no toilets and just went outside. For water, we had a well and a creek so we drank dirty water. Only a few families boiled water.

Today, after 3 years of collaboration with SFE, the first change concerns water that comes directly to the house which saves time.

It is good water and sufficient, we filter it with the filter we received during the project. To avoid becoming sick, we use latrines now. The animals are closed in, the village is cleaner and we clean it regularly. We have planted fruit trees which are very useful. We have taken advantage from the new irrigation system. We have more knowledge of hygiene ; wives and husbands work together and help each other.

