

## **Preliminary title of the PhD research project:**

**Inter-organizational learning to foster co-development and implementation of agroforestry innovations in Cambodia**

## **PhD Research Proposal Summary**

While agroforestry is gaining increasing recognition for its potential contribution towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals, how to facilitate extension programs to promote agroforestry adoption is an understudied area.

Barriers to providing agroforestry extension service for typically time-constrained institutional providers are the long-term process of establishing agroforestry systems, the knowledge intensity, and the need for smart adaptations to local conditions.

To overcome these barriers, the proposed study aims to fill the scientific gap by designing, conducting, and evaluating an inter-organizational learning process that allows for the co-development of agroforestry innovations together with farmers in a typical extension project time frame. Due to the crucial role of women farmers in the implementation of agroforestry practices, activities will be designed in a gender-sensitive manner, considering their needs and opportunities for empowerment.

This proposed project builds on the applicants 2,5 years of experience with FAO and CIAT in Cambodia. She can start this research by analyzing and systematizing data generated in this period along with a rigorous literature review to develop a framework for inter-organizational learning on agroforestry. This framework will be tested and analyzed as an integral part of an ICRAF project. The findings of this thesis will provide evidence from a specific case example showing how far inter-organizational learning can enable organizational units to create collective knowledge that efficiently build upon agroforestry-related knowledge generated within a network over time. In turn, recommendations will be synthesized for designing and organizing inter-organizational learning to promote and sustain agroforestry extension over time.