

Story Card CAMB 002

Story title	A Planting and harvest ceremony				
Story-teller: Name	Khoeuk Keosineam	Sex	F	Age	27
Recording time/date	20 October 2014				
Recording place	At her house in Pocha Village, Bousra, Pichreada, Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia				
Length	About 5.00 minutes				
Language(s) used	Bunong, Khmer				
Data available	<input type="checkbox"/> video	<input type="checkbox"/> audio	<input type="checkbox"/> picture	<input type="checkbox"/> notes	other ()
Topic/key words	Ancestor, ceremony, rice				
Category	Ritual				
<p>Summary</p> <p>The Bunong community still practices a planting and harvest ceremony at each family between the time when they plant rice and other crops and the time when they harvesting them. When the wet season starts in May, Bunong villagers start to plant rice. They offer a chicken, especially its blood and liver, to spiritual ancestors. After that, they invite fellow villagers to go and plant rice. When they finish planting, they drink a jar of wine together.</p> <p>Each Bunong family has to practice a harvest (<i>chouch royos</i>) ceremony in October, November, or December, when crops have fully grown. Villagers cut bamboo trees and peel the surface to make a doll in a shape of a wild swan. This is called <i>royos</i>. They then sacrifice a pig and paint its blood on the top, middle, and bottom parts of <i>royos</i>. The number of <i>royos</i> that villagers make depends on how many rice fields (<i>chamkar</i>) they have, as they place one <i>royos</i> at each rice field they have.</p> <p>About 10 to 20 days later, villagers pull out the <i>royos</i> from the rice field and harvest crops. They measure the rice yield with <i>kapa</i>. If a family gets the yield of around 50 to 60 <i>kapa</i>, they hold a <i>chouch norak</i> ceremony and sacrifice a chicken. If they get the yield of about 70 to 100 <i>kapa</i>, they offer a pig to express their gratitude to the rice spirit. They put animal blood on the <i>royos</i> and place it in the rice field. They then offer sticky rice together with chicken or pig liver and pray, while uttering, "We are about to harvest rice and take it to our house. So, you spirit, follow us to our place."</p>					

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