

Brief Report on Organic rice producer Confederation

Tuesday, 22th November 2011



With financial support from GIZ, CEDAC organized a workshop on November 22th, 2011 at CEDAC head office. 24 representatives of the Organic Rice Producers Confederation out of 18 communes of 4 provinces (Takeo, Kampot, Kampong Chhnang and Kampong Speu) attended the workshop facilitated by CEDAC's President, Dr. Yang Saing Koma and Mr. Claudius Bredehöft, Senior Advisor of GIZ and CEDAC staff. The objective was to share knowledge about post harvest practices, seed purification and how to improve the value chain of organic rice through the value added of rice. Furthermore Dr. Yang Saing Koma discussed with the farmers on the ownership of rice mill that producer community and CEDAC will be build in the future.

Mr. Samarth, Organic Rice Coordinator of CEDAC presented about post harvest practices. To assure best possible quality of the grains, the farmers should be aware of:

- ✓ 80 to 85 percent of the grains are ripe
- ✓ Moisture content at time of harvesting between 20 – 25%
- ✓ Avoid threshing with animals, threshing by hand is giving better results
- ✓ By using the threshing machine, be sure the machine is totally clean and well adjusted. Machine lenders tend to adjust the machine to thresh the rice fast and cheap. The Farmer should monitor well.
- ✓ Dry the paddy on mats or plastic sheets. On concrete or asphalt avoid the overheating of the paddy. The grain bed should not be higher than 3 cm. Turn or stir the grain at least once per hour to achieve uniform Moisture content. 14% of MC preserves milling, cooking and fragrance quality of the rice.
- ✓ Keep storage areas clean and avoid any contact with chemicals and other poisons. To assure organic quality to the Customer.

The techniques of seed purification were shared by Mr. Keam Makarady. Farmer themselves can do the purification of their seed by identifying good panicles, with many strong grains on the field during harvest time, then keep it in a safe place till the next season. Before sowing the rice husk must be removed. By selecting the pure seed, the yield will be higher and it will be more resistant

to insects and diseases. Also the farmers get a higher price when the harvest has an equal quality and no mixture of different types.

Following the recommendations of the international certification Body BCS for organic foods, Local Expert Mr. Samorn Channa introduced a Label System to assure traceability with the part of Internal Control System (ICS). CEDAC's Management made clear that Farmer's cannot sell their rice as organic if they do not follow the rules. The rice marketed by CEDAC is totally organic. This is the promise to the customers.

CEDAC plans to mobilize organic rice producer to build rice warehouse and milling machine under collaboration with Japanese Company (Taiwa Seiki). The rice mill will be exclusively for organic rice. The energy for the milling will be produced out of the rice husk to avoid Diesel burning with the Gasifire System. The Biochar (Burned rice husk) are good fertilizer which will be distributed to the farmers. Dr. Yang Saing Koma offered to the farmers to be shareholders of the rice mill by investing 200 kg paddy each year in a period of 5 years.

In conclusion, CEDAC's President, Dr. Yang Saing Koma resumed, besides providing agriculture techniques referring to the ecological principle, CEDAC has facilitated market accessibility the organic products in order to increase income and aiming for ensuring sustainable economic development of farmers.