

Regional Meeting on Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction

October 20-23, 2009

Mr. Keam Makarady, CEDAC staff member, recently attended the Regional Meeting on Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction in Guilin City, Guangxi Province, China. There were 40 participants from the governments of Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam and Bhutan as well as NGOs representatives, resource persons, and FAO staff members at the meeting.

The overall objectives of the meeting were:

- To highlight the results of the Pesticide Risk Reduction (PRR) farmer trainings and community education initiatives implemented under the National IPM Programs and the awareness raising, health, and environmental education and advocacy work that has been carried out by NGOs
- To strengthen regional networking on matters concerning IPM, PRR, and farmer/community education among government agencies, partner organization representatives, and FAO staff members
- To assess the needs, opportunities, and strategies for continued regional and national collaboration to strengthened the impacts and sustainability of the PRR Community Education initiatives

The meeting included presentations and discussions on the activities implemented by government and NGO partnerships under Swedish funding. Country-level strategies and plans to design the community education programs for the PRR Phase II Extension (2010-2013) project, "Working Towards a Non-toxic Environment in Southeast Asia", were made through collaborations between government organizations and NGOs. A field visit for the two groups to the Guangxi IPM Program on ecological engineering project and Farmer Field School was also included in the meeting.

