

## **Study Tour on Farmer Water User Community at Sdau Kaong and Oustreng**

November 8-14, 2009

The Irrigation Working Group of CEDAC hosted a study tour on Irrigation Systems and Farmer Water User Communities (FWUC) for government officials - many of who were local government officials - from Mondulkiri Province. There were 52 participants, including 7 women, who attended this study tour. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) funded the field visit.

During the tour, the study team visited two different irrigation schemes - Sdau Kong and O Treng Irrigation Schemes. The following topics and issues were discussed and shared during the field visit:

- Different types of irrigation systems
- The process of identifying an irrigation scheme's feasibility and construction implementation
- How to set up and manage the FWUC
- How to do land adjustments
- Membership fee collection and financial management
- The operation and maintenance of the system
- Crop calendar planning and implementation
- Implementation and water allocation plans

At the end of the field tour, the participants met at the CEDAC offices for one day to share their observations, reflections, learning points and insights. The CEDAC team also introduced the government policies for irrigation system development, FWUC, and shared key points on irrigation project implementation as well as FWUC organizations.

The study tour went smoothly and met the expectations of all the participants. The participants gained useful knowledge about irrigation development and participatory irrigation management. The tour made it clear to them that irrigation development is more than physical infrastructure development. The social infrastructure and the issues related to organization and governance need a lot of attention as well. This knowledge will help them to design and implement successful irrigation schemes in their target area.