

Inauguration of the Rice Mill and Fodder Cooperative and Project Closing

December 30, 2009

With funding support from LDSC, CEDAC began implementing a three and half-year project in 2006 entitled "Improving the Livelihood of Small Farmers in Kampong Tralach and Samaki Meanchey, Kampong Chhnang Province." The project has been actively working in 93 villages of 16 communes in the target area. Around 3,700 farmer families have participated in or benefited from the project.

In honor of the conclusion of this project and the project's accomplishments, CEDAC organized the Project Closing and Inauguration of Rice Mill and Fodder Cooperative event in Kampong Chhnang Province. Around 450 people participated including farmers, farmer organization representatives, local authorities, and stakeholders.

The ceremony was presided over by H.E. Kith Seng, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (MAFF), and Mrs. Dork Sothea, Deputy Governor of Kampong Chhnang Province. During the ceremony, Mr. Kith Seng recognized the efforts of CEDAC and the Latter Day Saints Charity (LSDC) to improve the livelihood of farmers and their contribution to reducing the poverty of rural people. He reiterated that the knowledge and skills that farmers gained from the project would continue to effectively develop their community.

Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC's President, agreed that the project would significantly contribute to poverty alleviation in the target villages by building the capacity and ability of the farmers to intensify and diversify their agricultural production and by facilitating the development of small business activities.

Under the intervention of the project, two rice mill cooperatives and two fodder cooperatives were registered as "Agriculture Cooperatives" and recognized by the Provincial Department of Agriculture of Kampong Chhnang. During the workshop, H.E. Kith Seng, Dr. Yang Saing Koma, Ms. Dork Sothea and the President of LDSC missions in Cambodia awarded a certificate of recognition to all the registered Agriculture Cooperatives.