

CEDAC Annual Meeting

January 5-6, 2010

CEDAC organized their two-day Annual Meeting at the Cambodian Japan Cooperation Center (CJCC) in Phnom Penh. There were 239 participants including CEDAC staff, Community-based Field Assistants (CFA), Young Agri-Entrepreneur (YAE) Farmers, FNN representatives, and members of the CEDAC advisory board who attended the meeting.

A summary of current activities, program results, a financial report from 2008, and the strategic plan for 2010-2014 were presented and discussed during the meeting. According to CEDAC's President, Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC worked mostly on strengthening the capacity and ownership of farmers to improve their quality of life based on the SAMCHOL philosophy, which consist of Health, Friendship, Knowledge, and Money. "Even though we faced some problems in 2009, still we have achieved many successes," he added. Those successes included SAHAKREAS CEDAC, CEDAC Publication (Farmer Magazine), producer organizations and marketing cooperatives, saving and credit cooperatives, Farmer Water User Community, family rubber planter associations, rural school teacher saving associations, community-based organizations and networks, Farmer and Nature Net (FNN), Rice Mill Communities, Animal Feed Communities, Agriculture Cooperative registration, village-based saving groups, Rural Youth Training (including indigenous youth), agriculture and local development service provider association (ALDA), work with commune councils for democratic governance, work with poorest families and vulnerable group like PLHAs, pioneering links between small producers to market, work on climate change, work on financial management, and work with the media. Moreover, Dr. Koma commented on the great successes that some of CEDAC's programs and works have had by being accepted and integrated into National Policy such as the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) and Promoting Local Innovation (Prolinnova).

The strategic plan for 2010-2014 was also present and included a new mission to strengthen the capacity and ownership of 500,000 small farmers to improve their quality of life through improvements of health conditions (mainly improved food, nutrition, and sanitation), collective action and mutual cooperation among farmers and stakeholders, knowledge and self-confidence, income and saving capital, the quality of natural resources and the environment, and participation in local governance.

The meeting also included the annual election of CEDAC's presidential candidate, the CEDAC Steering committee members, and CEDAC outstanding staff members for 2009. As a result, Dr. Yang Saing Koma has been elected to be CEDAC's president for another tow more years. At the conclusion of the meeting, all CEDAC staff members met for a dinner party at the CEDAC office.

