

World Bank Consultant Visits Rice Seed Farmers

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With supporting funds from the EU and EED, CEDAC has been implementing the **Poverty Reduction Among Subsistence Rice Farmers through the Promotion of Sustainable Livelihood Systems (PRS-EU) Project**. The project runs from January 2008 through December 2010, and it covers 270 target villages in 25 target communes of 4 districts: Samrong and Barti district (Takeo Province) and Borsedth and Kong Pisei districts (Kampong Speu Province).

The PRS-EU project recently hosted a field visit for World Bank consultant, Dr. Mak Soleang and Mr. Jim Stanelle. The guests paid a visit to Sreychei village in Beungtranh Khangtbong commune in the Samrong district of Takeo Province, which is one of the target areas of the project. The CEDAC project staff accompanied them to meet with Mr. Ouk Phoeun and four other local rice seed producers.

During the visiting, the guests made time to have conversations and discussions with the rice seed producers in order to gain insight and understanding on the status of local rice seed production and the methods being used by the farmers to produce good quality rice seeds. They also discussed the usefulness of rice seed production when directly accessible to the rice farmer, rice seed storage methods, ways to improve soil fertility, the rice seed network, and the rice seed business. The guest also discussed with the CEDAC project staff members to get a better idea about how to work with and support rice seed production and how much it costs. In addition, the guest shared some concrete ideas for developing rice seed production with farmers. Those ideas included:

- The farmer should increase their rice seed production and continue to build a network to help supply good quality seed
- The local seed or traditional seed should be conserved and protected by the farmers
- Purified seed should be widely accessed and used by farmers
- To guarantee the quality of rice seed an internal control system should be put into place to assure standards of quality in the market and to gain trust from consumers

During the field visit, the guest became very interested in rice seed production. They impressed that it is a good development approach being introduced by CEDAC. The guests pointed out that the project has also been beneficial for farmers by contributing to the protection and conservation of local resources and local rice seed, and has added value by linking them to the market through the provision of good quality seed through specialization.



Guest learning about rice seed storage.



Observing liquid compost and botanical pesticides