

## **Workshop on Harmonization and Equivalence for Organic Agriculture in Asia**

27-30 May, 2010

CEDAC staff member Mr. Khorn Sdok attended a workshop on Harmonization and Equivalence for Organic Agriculture in Asia in Shainghai, China. The workshop was conducted and supported by Global Organic Market Access (GOMA), a project of FAO which cooperates with the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). There were 34 participants and 23 observers representing private and government sectors from 16 countries including Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, China, Japan, Malaysia, USA, Philippine, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Italy and Australia. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Share information about the organic guarantee system of each country; and
- Discuss the way forward for the harmonization and equivalence of organic agriculture in Asia.

During the workshop, several important topics were presented and discussed. They included the global status of organic agriculture, organic agriculture trade, consumer trends, and solutions to solve the problems. All participants were divided into four groups to discuss and work on different issues such as how to harmonize and achieve equivalence in organic agriculture in Asia, especially organic regulations in Asia and development of an Asian and Certification Alliance. All participants also had the opportunity to attend the BioFach of China exhibition, which featured organic trade, to visit the BioFarm, which practices organic agriculture, and also to attend the World Expo 2010.

