

Building Network of Farmer researcher groups

1-2 June, 2010

CEDAC, in cooperation with Prolinnova Cambodia (Promoting Local Innovation), organized a meeting to promote local innovation and develop an experimentation plan for the upcoming rainy season. The goal is also to support the development of a network of farmer researchers. Held at CEDAC's Institute for Local Development (CILD) office, Phnom Penh, the meeting was attended by 45 key farmer researchers (7 women) from 11 provinces including Kandal, Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, Kampong Thom, Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Takeo, Kampong Speu and Kampot provinces. The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Sam Vitou, Director of the CEDAC Institute for Local Development (CILD), and Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC President. During the two-day meeting, farmers shared their experiences in experimenting with local innovations and discussed the strengths and weaknesses of their experimentation in order to identify ways to improve their plans for experimenting with new innovations this season. The innovations include the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), compost-making, rice seed selection and purification, raising eels and chickens, making animal feed, no-plow rice farming, making botanicals, and more. Experimentation plans were presented the second day. Many journalists participated and reported on the plans for their respective publication/broadcasting audiences.

Dr. Yang Saing Koma said that this meeting is crucial in promoting local innovation among farmers throughout Cambodia. He was optimistic that more innovations will be initiated by farmers with strong self-confidence, self-reliance and ownership. Participants too were optimistic and hope to have more innovations and the results of successful experimentation to share with other farmers when they meet in the next season.

