

## **CEDAC held a meeting with NGOs partner on Linking Small Farmers to Market**

June 07, 2010,

The network of Linking Small Farmers to Market organized a meeting with local NGOs who are partners of Oxfam-GB at CEDAC's Institute for Local Development (CILD) office, Phnom Penh. This meeting was led by CEDAC with participation from six local NGOs such as Apiwat Strey (AS) based in Battambang province, Chom Roeng Cheat Khmer (CCK) based in Takeo province, Vigilance based in Kampong Cham province and three other partners based in Kratie province including Kafdoc, CCD and CRDT. This meeting was supported by Oxfam-GB based in Kratie province. The major objective of the meeting was for members of the network to share their experiences regarding their progress, problems and challenges in linking small farmers to markets.

During the meeting, each NGO presented their progress in working with their community-based organizations (CBOs), with a focus on enhancing the bargaining power of farmers through market intervention. The presentations revealed that most of the CBOs have made good progress in saving activities that enable members to generate income and profit to invest in community businesses such as rice, fish processing, community shops, handicrafts and other agriculture products. However, each NGO has also experienced problems and challenges in supporting their CBOs, such as the drop in rice prices and no market for members' agriculture products.

In response to the above problems and challenges, CEDAC presented a model of working with NGOs partners based in Kratie province, who collaborated together to open a shop for linking some products of CBOs to the market/consumer. This shop could be a model for CBOs to sell their products. The management of the shop is led by CEDAC, NGOs partner and CBOs representatives. At the end of the meeting, all network members visited Sahakreas CEDAC (CEDAC-Enterprise) to see the collaboration to link the products of CBOs to the shop channel.

