

New Cambodian Wild Honey (Khmum Prey) is now available in the market

June 22, 2010

SAHAKREAS CEDAC, in cooperation with the Non-Timber Forest Product Exchange Program (NTFP-EP) for South and Southeast Asia, organized a ceremony launching Cambodian Wild Honey (Khmum Prey) at SAHAKREAS CEDAC's head office, Phnom Penh. Around 50 participants including community wild honey collector groups from 4 provinces, Monduliri, Koh Kong, Kratie and Preah Vihear and local authority representatives presented their experiences and works in collecting honey within their communities to the participants, especially the journalists.

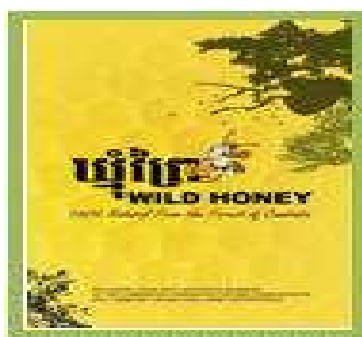
The ceremony marked also the official signing of the supply contracts between SAHAKREAS CEDAC and representatives of the community honey collector groups from the 4 provinces. Moreover, SAHAKREAS CEDAC and NTFP-EP has also signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate and coordinate social marketing and quality management support to the honey collectors groups participating in this national wild honey initiative.

During the ceremony, CEDAC President Dr. Yang Saing Koma, who was the chairman of the SAHAKREAS CEDAC expressed the importance of SAHAKREAS CEDAC in its lead role in linking producer communities to the market. With this new wild honey product, SAHAKREAS CEDAC is not only providing a healthy, safe food to the consumer, but it is also taking part in protecting and promoting a sustainable environment.

Dr. Koma is optimistic that this new wild honey (Khmum Prey) product will be highly welcomed and accepted by the Cambodian public.

Ms. Femy Pinto, the Cambodia Facilitator of the NTFP-EP, said that "supporting the Cambodian wild honey market not only helps bring quality honey to the general consumers but also provides a viable income source for the honey harvesters, and thus helps to improve their livelihoods." It brings benefits to both people and the forest of Cambodia "More than 20,000 hectares of natural forest in the 4 provinces are being protected by the wild honey collecting communities" she added.

It is important to note that from an initial buying order of over 100 liters from Koh Kong and Monduliri in 2008, SAHAKREAS CEDAC increased their buying order through the NTFP network to almost 1,500 liters in 2009, and plans to buy up to 4,000 liters from Monduliri, Koh Kong, Kratie and Preah Vihear province in 2010.



Buzz of success for forest honey hunters

Provincial honey collectors sign sales contract

BY CHUN SOPHAL

HONEY collectors from four provinces signed an agreement with the Cambodian Centre for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC) Tuesday in order to bring more to market.

CEDAC president Yang Saing Koma told the *Post* that under the agreement bee-hunting communities would supply 4,000 litres of pure forest honey per year for sale in 10 shops across Phnom Penh.

"We hope that, through this agreement, CEDAC and forest honey hunter communities will benefit from both increasing their income and preserving natural resources for each community," Yang Saing Koma said.

Pich Phony, president of the Cambodian Honey Hunter Community, which represents about 300 members in Mondulkiri, Koh Kong, Kratie and Preah Vihear provinces, said honey would be sold to CEDAC for US\$9.70 per litre.

He added that the honey hunter communities in the four provinces are able to collect from 5,000 to 8,000 litres



Bees bred at the Tokyo Grain Exchange last year. Cambodian honey collectors are to see a rise in the amount of honey they bring to markets. **SUCHEENO**

of honey in total per year at present.

According to MSME Bee Project, only 10 percent of the 500,000 litres of honey demanded domestically each year is currently supplied by Cambodia's collectors.

It is hoped the deal will also help strengthen community conservation of hives and natural forest resources.

"Previously, we collected

honey by cutting tree branches and then taking the whole nest, but we no longer do so now.

"We collect only the honey, and we leave the nest and young bees there so that they will produce honey again," Pich Phony said.

CEDAC hopes to buy honey from collectors in three more provinces if the scheme goes well. ■

Honey Farmers Ink NGO Deal for Market Access

Agriculture firm hopes deal will help communities and conserve woodlands

By CHHORN CHANSY
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Agriculture wholesale firm Sahakreas Cedac Ltd signed a deal with honey producers in four provinces yesterday to connect them to the market and provide them with a fairer, more stable price.

Sahakreas Cedac has agreed to cooperate this year with the Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Program for South and Southeast Asia in purchasing 4,000 liters of honey from more than 300 farmers in Monduliri, Koh Kong, Kratie and Preah Vihear provinces, said Sahakreas Cedac President Yang Saing Koma, up from 1,500 liters in 2000.

"This will reassure the community, because they have a market for selling their honey," Mr Saing Koma said yesterday at a signing ceremony in Phnom Penh, adding that the

honey will be branded as Wild Honey and will be sold at retail outlets around Phnom Penh.

Sahakreas Cedac Limited was created by local NGO Cambodian Center for Study and Development in Agriculture last year.

"Farmers will also be obliged to pay attention to the standard of their product," Mr Saing Koma said, adding that by doing business with farmers in this way, he estimated that more than 20,000 hectares of forestland would be protected as workers would no longer have to rely on additional income from cutting down trees and selling timber.

Ith Vun, a representative of a community honey-farming group in Preah Vihear province, said that consolidating a link to the retail market would encourage farmers to increase their production levels.

"This will improve our liveli-

hoods and provide us with jobs," Mr Vun said, adding that CEDAC had agreed to pay farmers \$9 per liter for their honey.

Pich Phuny, a Banong minority member and a representative of a honey-farming community in Monduliri province, said that prior to the deal with Sahakreas Cedac, some farmers in his community had sold honey to traders for as little as 5,000 riel per liter. He welcomed the deal with Sahakreas Cedac as a way to ensure that the forests in the area remain protected.

"The minorities depend on the forest for their products," Mr Phuny said. "If we cannot protect it we will not be able to keep producing honey."

Monduliri deputy governor Svay Sam Eang said the deal would help establish sustainable employment for villagers in the province.