

CEDAC Hosted PAN AP Project Partners Meeting

From 18-21 July 2009, CEDAC in cooperation with Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PAN AP) organized the Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia (SENSA) project partners meeting at the CEDAC office, Phnom Penh. 15 people including 6 women at this meeting. Participants were from Malaysia, Vietnam, The Philippines, Japan, China, Laos and Cambodia

The overall aim of the meeting was to facilitate more in depth discussions, consultation and planning amongst PAN AP's and regional partners. Specifically:

- Report on the situation of problems found in the respective countries and at the regional level and proposed solutions by various partners
- Evaluate the past 3 years and identify any gaps
- Share policy advocacy experiences and strategies amongst partners
- Plan for the next 3 years under the KemI project (bearing in mind that it is likely to be a continuation of Phase 1 with the same overarching objectives)
- Gain a deeper understanding of local pesticide issues in Cambodia at the community level via a field visit and possible dialogue with key farmers

During the meeting, project partners from each country presented on policy advocacy and their campaigning experiences and strategies to the floor. Several important points including the pesticide risk reduction through the pesticide awareness program, pesticide monitoring, networking activities, advocacy with the government and the pesticide companies to ban high toxin pesticide and the pesticide law legislation were also shared.

As a result, the project has expanded to include a new partner from Laos to be partners and planned for the next three years 2010-2013 to raise public awareness, monitor the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) code, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and to advocate at national and international level with government and pesticide companies.

It is important to note, that on the last day of the meeting, a field visit was organized by CEDAC to the project target area at Kos Roka commune, Kampong Siam district, Kampong Cham province. The visitors were very interested in the alternatives for Cambodian farmers in reducing and/or to stop using pesticides on their vegetable production through the production of botanical pesticides; compost manure making and traditional variety seed selection.