

## **Organization of Commune Forums in Siem Reap Province Help Identify Current Problems and Solutions of Target Communities**

SIEM REAP: On June 10th and 13th, 2011, CEDAC's project titled "*Promoting Climate Resilient Livelihoods for Small-Scale Farmers in Most Vulnerable Dry Land Areas in Siem Reap and Kampong Cham Provinces*" organized two different commune forums in Tasome and Donpeng communes of Angkor Chum district, Siem Reap province. The objectives of the forum were to present the project results between January and June 2011, and to improve the partnerships and cooperation amongst CBOs, citizens and local authorities. In total, 125 participants, including 32 women were in attendance. Participants consisted of government line agencies (including from the education district, agriculture district, and women and children focal points at the district level), local authorities (including commune chiefs, village chiefs and commune policemen), and community representatives (including youth, women, farmers, and primary school principals).

The forums placed special emphasis on identifying the priority problems and needs of the villagers in the communities as well as proposed solutions towards addressing those problems. Specifically, participants identified climate risks, food security and environmental issues in their respective communities as well as developed plans for implementing solutions. Additionally, participants both learned about the project's activities and achievements, and about results accomplished by the commune councils from January to June 2011. Last but not least, participants, especially the commune chief, made commitments to to work closely with the project in order to improve the living conditions of the people in their communes.

*It is important to note that with funding support from the European Union (EU), CEDAC in cooperation with PLAN International and PLAN Cambodia, will be implementing the aforementioned project for five years in Siem Reap and Kampong Cham provinces.*