

End project workshop in Prey Veng and Svay Rieng province

PREY VENG & SVAY RIENG: From June 28 to 29, 2011, CEDAC's project entitled "Development of food production, farming income in Prey Veng and Svay Rieng provinces" organized an End Project Workshop. 170 participants, including leaders of farmer organizations, farmer promoters, commune council members, district governors and representatives of concerned line department participated in the workshop. The workshop was presided by directors of Provincial Department of Agriculture (PDA), CEDAC's President, and the Districts' Vice-Governor. The purpose of the workshop was to (1) present the achievements, experiences and lesson learnt of project implementation, (2) let cooperating farmers present their experiences and livelihood improvements after joining the project and (3) to discuss and define the strategy to maintain the sustainability of the project activities after the withdrawal of CEDAC.

During the workshop, Dr. Yang Saing Koma introduced the history of CEDAC and its accomplishments so far and the fact that until now CEDAC has been working in 4,776 villages in 706 communes of 112 districts across 20 provinces. 138,000 families are currently benefiting from CEDAC Field Programs including families applying innovations, indirect cooperating farmers and other stakeholders. Moreover, 1,125 village-based farmer associations involving 49,414 members of which 30,635 are women have been supported by CEDACs' projects. The main achievement of "Development of food production, farming income in Prey Veng and Svay Rieng provinces" is that more than 4000 farmers have benefited from the project through participating in trainings, workshops, exchange visits and applying innovations, particularly System of Rice Intensification. 77 farmer associations with 4321 members have been supported and 217 saving groups have been able to mobilize a saving capital of 2 767 255 200 Riel which equals to USD 674 940.

Following CEDACs' director speech, Mr. Thi Bunheng, project coordinator presented the achievements, experiences and lesson learnt of the project implementation. Eight farmers, who have been applying System of Rice Intensification, Ecological Chicken Raising, Multi-Purpose Farm and participating in Saving Group and Women Group presented how their livelihoods and social capital have changed after joining the project.

Plenary discussion was then employed to find out strategies to ensure the sustainability of the activities after the withdrawal of the project. During the dialogue, participants defined some strategies such as (1). Strengthening the cooperation between different saving groups by creating local saving group cluster and (2). Linking all farmer organizations to a national farmer network (Farmer and Nature Net).

It is important to note that CEDAC via GRET with funding support of the European Union (EU) has been implementing a one and a half year project entitled "Development of food production, farming incomes, nutrition and resilience in rural Cambodia" from January 2010 to June 2011. The project aimed to improve the economic and social security for family scale farmers, the nutrition level of rural households as well as to develop food availability and quality.

