

## **Mainstreaming of Actions to Support Farmer Water User Communities (FWUCs)**

KAMPONG THOM: From July, 19-20, 2011, a workshop on “Mainstreaming of Actions in Support to FWUC under NWISP Project” was organized at the FWUC office of the Stung Chinit Irrigation Scheme in Kampong Thmar commune, Santuk district, Kampong Thom province. Mr. Khim Sophanna, CEDAC Senior Program Advisor, attended the workshop which main objectives were:

- Share and discuss the “present situation” and the “target situation” of the FWUCs under the North-West Irrigation Projects, implemented by Mowram and financed by ADB
- Share good and bad experiences concerning FWUC creation and management
- Present the findings and discuss on the proposed mechanism to support FWUC by Mr. Jean-Marie Brun, Consultant, commissioned by ADB and AFD
- Find ways to support FWUCs in a sustainable manner

61 participants (4 of whom were women) representing Mowram, Pdownram, 14 FWUCs (from Pursat, Siem Reap, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Sihanoukville, Kandal and Kampong Thom Province), NGOs, Farmer and Water net (FWN), Service Providers, ADB and AFD were actively involved in the presentations and discussions during this two-day workshop.

As a result of the workshop, the main challenges (raised by their representatives) currently faced by the FWUC are:

- Quality of construction works and physical infrastructures
- Water shortage due to water availability of the main schemes
- Flood, especially in 2009 caused by Ketsana storm
- FWUCs have been newly established, therefore little management experience
- Lack of capacity, time and money to regularly support FWUCs activities
- Limited knowledge and participation of farmers (and farmer’s participation) concerning collective actions and challenges of irrigated agriculture
- Poor services provided to farmers (from FWUCs) since it lacks some structures (tertiary canals, quaternary canals etc)
- Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) introduced, but poorly collected
- Limited technical and financial support from Pdownram due to time and budget constraints
- Future uncertainties, etc.

It is important to note that during the workshop, two presentations were made by the Irrigation Service Center (ISC), including the Assessment Tools to evaluate FWUCs and the Services which could be provided by ISC.

