

## **Project Advisory Committee Meeting**

**TAKEO:** CEDAC initiated a new project this year named “Enhancing the participation of farmer associations in local governance and development through capacity building and cooperation with local authorities in five districts of Kampong Speu and Takeo Provinces, Cambodia (EPF-TKO&KPS),” which will last 36 months (from January 2011 to December 2013), through financial support from Church Development Service (EED). The project aim is to contribute to the establishment of an empowered civil society in Cambodia through an enhanced participation of village-based farmer associations (VFA) in democratic governance and local development. The project has been implemented in 300 villages across 30 communes of Tramkak, Samrong and Bati districts (Takeo province), and Baseth and Kongpisei districts (Kampong Speu province).

After one semester of being implemented, the project organized the project advisory committee meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2011 which took place at Balubsvay Leaybo Restaurant, Tramkak district of Takeo province. Twenty-six participants from district and commune councilors, representatives of Government District Officers (GDO), Farmer and Nature Net (FNN), VFA from 5 target districts of the project and EPF staff participated in this meeting. During this meeting, Mr. Sim Samoeun, CEDAC’s Executive Director was invited to be a chairman of the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to build up cooperation between public and civil society sectors and to help give the project some direction and method in local development.

As a result of participation in this meeting, the participants gained a better understanding about the project’s operations and goals and what participants would do to further cooperation between organizations. The District Governor and Councilor Representative requested for better cooperation with FNN and GDOs in development.

