

Aga Khan Foundation Learns About the Integration of SRI and SfR in Cambodia from CEDAC

From September 5 to 16, 2011, a team from the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), headquartered in Geneva Switzerland, toured four provinces of Cambodia where CEDAC is working – Kampong Chanang, Takeo, Kampong Speu and Kampot province. The purpose of the visit was to learn from CEDAC’s integration of SRI (System of Rice Intensification) and SfR (Savings for Self-Reliance) in Cambodia. Since its inception, CEDAC’s integrated approach to economic development has supported increased access to financial services in rural villages and increased access to information on agricultural technologies such as SRI and chicken rearing. CEDAC’s approach has enabled many villages to diversify their incomes and become more food secure.

Accompanied by CEDAC staff, the AKF team visited numerous CEDAC beneficiaries, including savings group members, organic rice producers, village farmer association leaders, key farmers and federation (“SOSOR”) representatives. The team also engaged in many discussions with CEDAC staff to better learn how the program has achieved its successes.

AKF expects that the lessons learned from visiting CEDAC programmes will inform the rice extension, marketing and savings group programming that AKF supports in other countries including Tanzania and Madagascar.

AKF, an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), is a private, not-for-profit, nondenominational, international development agency established in 1967 by His Highness the Aga Khan. Working in 19 countries, with special emphasis on the needs of rural communities in mountainous, coastal and other resource-poor areas, AKF seeks to provide sustainable solutions to long-term problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and ill health in the poorest parts of South and Central Asia, Eastern and Western Africa, and the Middle East. Its activities are coordinated not only with those of other AKDN agencies but also with local, national and international partners in order to provide a full package of multiple activities that can spark a long-term process of positive change for these poor communities.

