

Training course on Plant Breeding and Seed Production

From September 5-30, 2011, Mr. Yi Kim Than, CEDAC's program director, participated in an international training course on **Plant Breeding and Seed Production**. The course was organized by the organizations Svalof Consulting AB and NIRAS International Consulting, and was funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). 26 participants from 14 countries, including Bangladesh, Botswana, Cambodia, China, PDR Korea, Georgia, Morocco, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia participated in this course.

The main objective of the course was to enhance the participants' managerial efficiency by increasing their knowledge in all the essential elements of a modern seed industry. The specific objectives are:

- To advance the participants' knowledge in the new dimension of a free market economy for the benefit of the farming community and global food security;
- To broaden and develop the participants' knowledge about agro biotechnology-challenges, problems and possible ways forward;
- To enhance the participants' understanding of the organisation, management and modern technology in production, processing and storage of seeds;
- To improve the participants' knowledge in quality control and certification of seeds for the benefit of the farmers as well as seed trade;
- To enable participants to find, use and draw conclusions from sources of information and expertise related to food security and modern plant breeding and seed technology;
- To support the participants in initiating processes of change in their home environments within the above mentioned fields and enhance their project management and communication skills.

There were many topics covered by the training course, including:

- Seed policy, law and regulation including certification
- Plant breeding and agriculture biotechnology
- Seed production and processing
- Business Development and Marketing
- Project management and communication

Through participation in this training course, Mr. Yi Kim Than gained more knowledge and experiences in regards to the seed industry in Sweden and in the world, and he also commits to sharing this knowledge to all interested CEDAC's staff members and farmer networks. He'll implement the project of change that he has developed during the course and will use the results of this project for a presentation in the second phase of course, which is to be held from March 12-23, 2012.

