

## **CEDAC Launches New Project with Provincial Department of Education Youth and Sport of Kampong Speu Province**

**Kampong Speu:** In cooperation with the Provincial Department of Education Youth and Sport (PDoEYS) of Kampong Speu Province, a project launching workshop was organized by CEDAC on November 17<sup>th</sup> at a meeting hall of PDoEYS. The workshop was presided over by Mr. Loeung Sophat, Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Yin Saroeun, Deputy Director of PDoEYS, Mr. Van Samphors, representative of Primary Education Department of MoEYS, and Mr. Sim Samoeun, Executive Director of CEDAC. This workshop aimed at promoting the project “Happy Mountain Bird phase IV” to the government officers and stakeholders. Approximately 60 participants, including the officers of PDoEYS and the District Education office, representatives of NGOs, CEDAC’s staff members and other stakeholders, were invited to attend this workshop. It is important to note that Happy Mountain Bird Project phase IV has been implemented by CEDAC in the entire Kampong Speu Province since February 2011 and will go on until January 2013.

During the workshop, Mr. Sim Samoeun, Executive Director of CEDAC, said that *“there were 3 concepts to improve the quality of life. Those included (1) study, (2) study, and (3) study. CEDAC has conducted research in Kampong Speu Province and found that approximately 90% are farmers whose children could not access basic primary education even at 6 years old. These are the reasons why CEDAC decided to implement this project in Kampong Speu Province.”*

Later on, Mr. HIM Noeun, HMB IV Project Coordinator, presented about CEDAC and HMB IV’s background and its achievements up to October 2011. Up to October, the project has achieved fruitful results. For instance, 6, 770 target families have been selected from 734 target villages with 734 promoters. Moreover, the project has organized at least 361 monthly trainings and 34 quarterly trainings for those promoters in regards to basic agricultural techniques. In addition, 6, 100 target families have been practicing agriculture techniques introduced by the project. Consequently, 36% of target families have practiced SRI techniques, led by 63% in chicken raising and 67% in home gardening. Additionally, 51% of target families have practiced composting, while liquid compost accounted approximately for 14%, followed by 6% in EM fertilizer. More importantly, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) has signed officially the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CEDAC in implementing this project. Moreover, 51 primary schools have conducted the four activities introduced by the project, including: selecting teachers to be in charge of their village, children census, village map drawing, and children group formation. As a result, approximately 171 maps have been drawn while 1, 599 children groups were formed by teachers in charge of villages.

The workshop ended with fruitful results. The Deputy Provincial Governor and officers under his supervision, and related stakeholders understood the HMB IV project clearly as well as CEDAC. Those participants actively asked questions to clarify doubts and share experiences through the question and answer forum. With support from the representative of the primary education department of MoEYS, most issues concerning the lack of cooperation from school principals and teachers were addressed.

