

PANAP Confronting the Food Crisis and Climate Change Conference

September 27-29, 2009:

Two CEDAC staff members - Mr. Sam Vitou and Mr. Keam Makarady - attended the Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PANAP) **Conference on Confronting the Food Crisis and Climate Change** in Penang Province, Malaysia. More than 100 people from 22 countries participated in the conference whose main objective was to strengthen the social movement to assert and advance food sovereignty and climate control in confronting the current food crisis and climate changes.

The conference provided a platform for regional networking, sharing, and brainstorming. During the conference, the key impacts and challenges of the food crisis and climate change to vulnerable sectors of society were identified and analyzed. The role of corporations as agents of change, the actions and strategies to strengthen social movements, and the solutions and alternative responses to the current situations were all discussed and analyzed as a group. At the conclusion of conference, all participants voted to support the People's Unity Statement that embodies the peoples' voices and their stances, solutions and calls on this crisis. The consensus of each country and organization to show their rice products and rice seed was also simultaneously agreed upon at the conference.

In continuation with the Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PANAP) conference, Mr. Sam Vitou and Mr. Keam Makarady attended the PANAP 2nd Congress on Advancing Food Sovereignty - Strengthening People's Movements from September 30 – October 2, 2009. There were 90 participants from 16 countries and 62 organizations attending the congress. This was also an event to commemorate the PANAP Eighteen Years of Empowering People for Change. There were presentations from keynote speakers addressing the theme of "People's Struggles and People's Alternatives." A report from the PANAP task force was presented that summarized six years of work on food sovereignty, pesticide use, and women in agriculture. Mr. Sam Vitou, acting as a representative from CEDAC, shared experiences from the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) dissemination and mainstreaming in Cambodia. There were panel discussions and open forums on resisting the corporate globalization of land; health and livelihoods of rural societies; and sharing struggles, victories and challenges from each region. The PANAP working principles, network building and expansion strategies, and the future plan of action and adaptation were also discussion. A field trip to Gunung Jerai organic farm was made on the third day the congress.