

The 5th National Assembly of the Organic Rice Producers Federation

October 26, 2009

With funding support from DED, the Cambodian Center for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC) and Farmer and Nature Net (FNN) organized the 5th National Assembly of the Organic Rice Producers Federation at the CEDAC office in Phnom Penh. There were 99 people, including six women, attended the assembly, representing Takeo, Kampot, Prey Veng, Kampong Speu, Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, and Kampong Chhnang Provinces. The participants also included Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC's President; Mr. Mak Seurn, Chief of the Department of Agriculture Extension of MAFF; Mr. Winfried Scheewe, CEDAC Marketing advisor; Dr. Carl Josef Weiers, Senior Expert on Cooperatives; Mr. Pan Sopheap, the FNN director; Mr. Lang Seng Horng, CESDE's director; Mr. Nep Orng, President of the National Organic Rice Federation; CEDAC staff members; farmer community representatives; and commune councils.

The National Assembly focused on disseminating the strategy for collecting the yield for the upcoming harvest season and promoting and strengthening the understanding of organic rice quality. Information was also provided concerning the process of registering community agricultural development. Dr. Carl Josef Weiers discussed the history of a cooperative in Germany and examined how that example could be useful in Cambodia.

The knowledge and lessons were well received and the participants gained valuable information about community development and organic rice production.