

National Organic Rice Producer Meeting

September 24, 2009

With funding support from Agriterra and technical support from CEDAC, the Farmer and Nature Net (FNN) held meetings with the representatives of the National Organic Rice Producers Federation at the office of the CEDAC Institute for Local Development (CILD) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The objectives of the meeting were to reflect on the current activities of the National Organic Rice Producer groups, to strengthen the cooperation among the various communities, and to prepare strategic plans for the upcoming harvest season.

There were 45 representatives (2 women) from Takeo, Kampot, Prey Veng, Kampong Speu, Kampong Cham, and Kampong Chhnang Provinces who attended the meeting. The training workshop was facilitated by Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC's president; Mr. Oun Sophal, FNN's president; Mr. Pan Sopheap, the FNN director, Mr. Lang Seng Horng, CESDE's director; Mr. Nep Orng, president of the National Organic Rice Federation; and Mr. Norng Sam Art, coordinator for National Organic Rice Federation.

Both Mr. Oun Sophal and Mr. Nep Orng expressed optimism for the future of the organic rice market and its' positive role in human health and the environment. Mr. Lang Seng Horng presented the progress of CEDAC's projects and Mr. Norng Sam Art discussed the situation of organic rice production in 2009. Finally, Dr. Yang Saing Koma facilitated a discussion on the 10-year plan for the Organic Rice Producers Federation.

The meeting helped to foster greater cooperation between the farmers by allowing them to share their experiences and their ideas with each other. The information concerning increased rice quality and the 10-year plan were received well with a strong commitment to successfully incorporate these ideas in the upcoming harvest season.