

Sharing SRI Experiences Workshop

October 03, 2009

CEDAC organized a workshop to discuss the experiences and benefits of SRI practices at the Chormpul Farmer Resource Center in the Popel commune, Tramkak district of Takeo Province. There were 41 participants from 12 districts in Takeo, Kampong Speu, Kampot and Kampong Chhnang Provinces who attended the workshop facilitated by Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC president, and Professor Norman Uphoff, the guest speaker from Cornell University.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Capitalize on the experiences of SRI farmers who have conducted seed selection and to analyze those results
- Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of SRI - especially the contribution of SRI to the changes in farmer's living conditions
- Provide the opportunity for the farmers, CEDAC, and Dr. Norman Uphoff to share and learn from one another



Dr. Yang Siang Koma and Professor Norman Uphoff inspect SRI rice during a village visit.

The workshop provided a forum for participants to share the results of their experiments with SRI techniques, particularly in seed selection and soil improvement. Many of the participants expressed optimism towards SRI commenting that it was a promising technology for them and has led to positive behavioral changes. The SRI practices have contributed to remarkable livelihood improvements even for small landholders. The participants also acknowledged that the potential for even greater improvements and continued increases in yield – up to 10 tons per hectare - are possible through improved seed selection and top soil fertility.

In addition to the workshop, Professor Uphoff and Dr. Koma also visited the multi-purpose farms of Mr. Ros Mao in the Popel commune village and Mr. Phoeun in the Boeung Tranh Khangtbong commune village of the Samroang district. A visit to the SRI fields of Mr. Prak Chres and Mr. Tuy Phorn in Trapaingthom Khancheung commune of the Tramkak district was also arranged.