

"Building and strengthening capacity workshop of FNN self-reliant pig producers' groups"

In good cooperation with (CBSP¹) of CEDAC, on September 21, 2010, FNN organized a first self-financing workshop for Kampong Cham's Pig Producers Groups at CEDAC's chicken slaughter house in Cheung Prey district. Unlike previous workshops, the organizer team sent out invitation letters to all members with clear instruction and information that the workshop will not pay them. It means that the workshop is a self-commitment, self-motivation and self-finance. As result, there were 22 committed participants (whom 5 were female) attended the workshop. In observation, only about 5 % out of the total members were absence due to specific reasons. The case has shown a strong self-reliant and sustainable process of the pig producers groups.

Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC president and also FNN Advisor, Mr. Uon Sophal, FNN president, Mr. Pan Sopheap, FNN Director, and Mr. Nhem Bunrath, CBSP program officer, played roles as facilitator, organizer and resource persons. The workshop was started by participants were asked to review their development and challenges that have been enjoyed and faced so far. In general, they were happy with the results, because since they have joined the groups they could improve and generate their family incomes through:

1. *having regular and fair price market of CEDAC (shop);*
2. *having no longer cheating by the middlemen; and*
3. *having clearer vision and techniques about pig raising.*

However, some challenges have still occurred and faced them such as:

1. *bursting pig deceases included recent decease of blue ear pig decease;*
2. *lacking and expensive resources to produce the pig's feed; and*
3. *the segment market are still limited*



After that FNN president welcomed the participants and gave some inputs to encourage the pig producers groups to continue their efforts, particularly to discover new techniques and improve their pork quality, especially the quality of pig's feed. The president said that the honest, cooperation and networking are the vital factors for farmers, particularly the pig producers groups, are needed to be strictly abided by.

In following, Dr. Koma welcomed all participants. Taking an opportunity, Dr. Koma also introduced Mr. Lang Senghorng, Managing Director of Sahakreas² CEDAC, and Mr. Lim Sokundarun, Project Coordinator of CBSP. Key aim of Dr. Koma to induce both key figures is to increase cooperation and linkage between the producer groups, technical support team and market link. All sides will be benefited if they have good cooperation.

After that Dr. Koma provided crucial inputs for the participants to improve and generate their families' incomes by basing upon pig producing. He started with asking all participants to divide into two groups in order to assess who are the real professional farmers. He wanted to know who want to raise pig as the core business and who wanted to grow rice as the main business. Then, about 90% among the participants wanted to raise pig as their

¹ . CBSP is the abbreviation from Community Business Support Project. It is a part of CEDAC

² . Sahakreas CEDAC means "CEDAC Enterprise"

core business and only about 10% who were still not clear and wanted to grow rice as their main business. The facilitator wanted to know who really focus to live their lives by basing upon professional raising pig. So, he asked the participants to make their individual action plan for their future incomes from raising pig and how much exact amount of money that they want to get in the next 5 years. Please see the picture below.



Most of the farmers, in general, have been living their lives very hard, because they are not focusing and not having specialized business/work. He then emphasized that the professional farmers should focus on any specific work such as if they want to raise pig or chicken they must focus on pig or chicken as the real business. Then collected money from selling their pigs or chickens could buy some rice for their food. By doing so, they will be able to supply the greater demands of pork on the market, especially CEDAC market. After having made action plan, all participants wanted to become professional pig producers. The facilitator then asked a question to assess who raised their pigs by real organic feeds and who still raised their pigs by mixed some industrial feed. What are benefits and what are key problems?

Most of the producers, then, still mixed some industrial feed, because they were not able to find all organic resources to feed their pigs. Among them, only two families fed their pigs by real organic feed. In general, there were two categories of pigs that have been produced. The first category was raised for producing pork. Second category was raised for producing piglets. As results:

- A. Real organic fed pigs:
 1. Pigs that fed by real organic feed were healthy, no death, were not affected with pig-deceases, and gain highest profits.
 2. Piglets are healthy and low risk of death and decease.
- B. Mixed some industrial fed pigs:
 3. Pigs that fed by industrial feed were less healthy, high risk to death and were highly affected with pig-deceases.
 4. Piglets are highly faced with risk of death and deceases.

So, what are appropriate solutions? How to cope with the problems?

Dr. Koma explained and gave some inputs and recommendations. According to him, pigs are fed by mixing some industrial feed will be easily affected by various deceases (because one of ingredients of the feed is made from meat such as fish powder). Therefore, in order to prevent pigs from being affected by various deceases, the pig producers should avoid the chemical or industrial feeds that contain some meat.

In respond to feedback of participants about unavailability of natural resources to feed their pigs, Dr. Koma gave some recommendations as follows:

1. Growing as much as possible the convolvulus, sweet potato, cassava, banana and so on; and
2. Using only rice brain to mix with convolvulus or sweet potatoes or cassavas to feed the pigs.

In case, they are not able to produce these resources by themselves, added Dr. Koma, they can contract with other producers of cassava, potato and convolvulus and rice brain. But, they, the pig producers, have to build their strong and professional network. Dr. Koma then motivated them advantage and disadvantage of having network, where they can collectively sell and buy (whole sale). He also mathematically calculated about capital investment on raising pigs by comparing the real organic feed and mixed some industrial feed. In general, the real organic feed gives higher profits and face low risks of various deceases. The most important thing of the real organic fed pigs is to social and environmental protection and care.

After that, the facilitator, organizer and delegations visited the pig slaughter house and producing farm. Up to now, 3 head-pigs are slaughtered everyday for CEDAC market in Phnom Penh. But, CEDAC plans to increase numbers as much as possible in coming years.

In conclusion, the workshop was evaluated as fruitful and successful, because the pig producer groups have better understanding and have clear vision and plan for their pig business. Particularly, they have clearly known their market, known how make shift of pig production for daily supply to the market and known how to raise their real organic pigs with higher production and profits. Simultaneously, CEDAC will reach its goal to regularly supply the demands of customers with safe and healthy pork. The self-financed workshop will be practically replicated.

Uploaded by NOY Kimhong