

Networking meeting of FNN district committee networks of Takeo province

On October 13, 2010, FNN organized a district networks' meeting at provincial level at Rokar Krao commune office, Donkeo city, Takeo province, where 25 participants included facilitator, organizer and resource person (whom 7 were female) attended. Among them were included CEDAC president, FNN president, FNN director, CEDAC staff, chairmen, vice chairmen and treasurers of 9 district networks of FNN in Takeo province. Mr. Som Hak, FNN provincial chairman, and Mr. Nep Ang, FNN chairman of national organic rice federation, were co-organizers. Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC president, Mr. Uon Sophal, FNN president, and Mr. Pan Sopheap, FNN director, were co-facilitator and resource persons.

The meeting started with sharing recent development issues and challenges in each district of the province, especially after the establishment of FNN new structure of district networks. Recent development issues were summarized and formulated as follows:

1. Rice growing in Udom Sorya commune of Tramkak district is shorter than normal growth (with having known reason).
2. Long draught and abrupt flood has threatened rice fields in many parts of the province. Herds of mice destroyed rice fields in Kirivong district.
3. Problems of Cambodian women who worked as maidservants in Malaysia.
4. Gangster activities are spread out in some districts.
5. Some parts of the province rice are growing good, saving groups are healthy. In Bati district, now, the district committee bought two computers with a printer to serve their works since their saving capital are bigger and increasing.

Challenging issues of district networks after being established were summarized and formulated as follows:

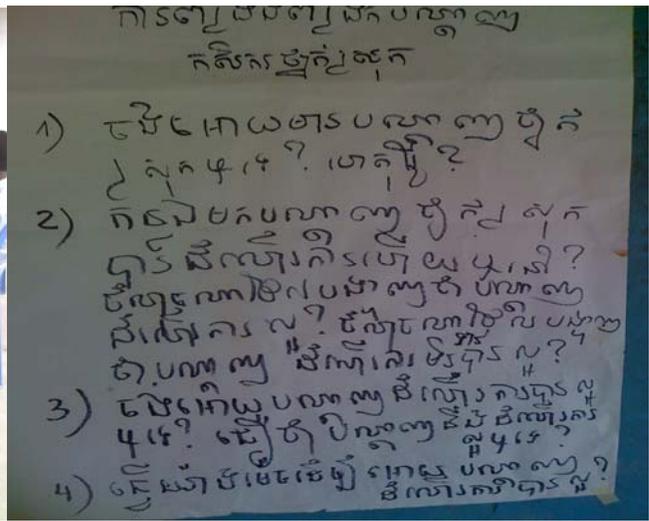
1. Still difficult to organize meeting, because no budget;
2. Not yet collect membership fee for 2010;
3. Not yet clearly understand about the new principle of membership, roles and responsibility;
4. Still difficult to collect membership fee;
5. Not yet received payment receipt from provincial leader; and
6. Less cooperation of the authority and so on.

After that FNN president, Mr. Sophal, welcomed and shared his experiences of district network meetings in Kampot province. He mainly put SoSor as a core activity of FNN at district level that has been able to support and sustain FNN, especially in the future. He recommended all district leaders to put an effort to develop their respective SoSor. But, he emphasized that the district network leaders, as farmers, have to discover or invent new farming techniques, to apply and to replicate.

In following, Dr. Koma welcomed all participants and provided crucial inputs for the participants. He said that it is not as easy to establish the farmer association as what we have thought. But, as farmer leaders they have to do and work harder to reach their goal. So, how to develop the district network?

According to Dr. Koma, to travel around and closely observe the general situation within their community is very important for them as leaders to develop their plans and activities. As district network leaders, he added, they have to be more active and proactive, especially to pay more self-resources and times than their normal members. Otherwise, they are not able to lead others if they have the same performance. Then, the participants were divided into four groups to discuss on following four questions:

1. Do you all want have the district network? Why?
2. So far, have district networks worked? Which points are good and which points are needed to be improved?
3. Do you want to see the district networks are going well? Do you believe will the networks are going well?
4. What do you do to push the networks are going well?



Results were summarized and formulated as follows:

1. All groups wanted to have district network, because (1) it is easy for back and forth communication, (2) easy management and (3) common solution.
2. So far, the district networks have organized regular meeting, made action plan and implemented. However, points to be improved, not all committee members joined the meeting. Membership fees are still difficult to be collected. Local authority not yet fully cooperated with the new structure.
3. They really wished to see a healthy network and they have strongly believed in it.
4. In order to build strong and healthy district networks must (1) build strong SoSor and clusters, (2) the elected committee members are self-committed and high responsibility, (3) regular meeting, and (4) good cooperation with relevant authority and stakeholders.

Subsequently, more practical and essential inputs were provided by Dr. Koma. He then asked individual participant to present their previous development and set up a new action plan within their village.

The meeting was evaluated as helpful to refresh and guide the elected district leaders. The participants were asked to write their self-impression after one day of meeting. In general, as district network leaders, they are clearer about role, responsibility and vision than before. The next plan for meeting was set on November 18. **However, we noted that there were some little different between results they shared early of the meeting that they were difficult to organize meeting, because no money. But, in their presentation with respond to question number 2, they said their district networks are going well because they have regular monthly meeting. What is your idea?** *Uploaded by NOY Kimhong*