



THE 8TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF FARMER AND NATURE NET Phnom Pros Hotel, Kampong Cham Province, Mar 16-17, 2011

By: FNN Secretariat:

Since being established in 2003, by CEDAC and FNF, the Farmer and Nature Net (FNN) has gradually improved and developed herself to be more independent and self-reliant farmer organizations network in Cambodia. From year to year CEDAC has minimized her leadership and administration from FNN and maximized the self-governed and self-reliant to FNN. Obviously, since 2009, FNN has administered, facilitated, organized and led by the Board of Directors, who are all real farmers and assisted by hired secretariat staff members. The first ever self-organized FNN GA in 2009, in Broseth district, Kampong Speu province, even was evaluated not professional organization, but it showed the start of self-organization of the farmer organizations network. Learning from the last experience of the 7th GA organization, the GA this year March 16-17, 2011, was much better organized and facilitated. The success has been reflecting more independent and mature of the FNN organization. However, all FNN advisors, especially Dr. Yang Saing Koma, have still much involved in mentoring and providing orientation. The 8th GA was presided over by H.E. Ith Nody, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (MAFF). Beside that H.E. Srun Darith, Deputy Secretary General of Council for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD), Mr. Pech Sany, Deputy Director General of Rural Development Bank (RDB), Mr. Pen Vuth, Deputy Director General of Agriculture Department of MAFF, Mr. In Saroeun, Chief of farmer organization of MAFF, Mr. Chheng Nareth, Vice Chairman of Provincial Department of Agriculture of Kampong Cham, Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC President/FNN Advisor, Mr. Pel Sokha, FNN Advisor, Mr. Khim Sophanna, FNF Program Manager, Ms. Elise Wall, CCA, Mr. Lay Pektry, CCFin Executive Director, Mr. Pa Nguon Teang, CCIM Executive Director, FNN provincial and district leaders from 51 district (13 provinces) and CEDAC and FNN staff members attended. In total, there were 162 participants (whom about 50% were female).

Main purposes of the GA were to (1) present a brief report of activities and finance of FNN in 2010 and development report by each province; (2) elect new provincial leaders, new members of BoD and national leaders; and (4) strategize for 2011-2013 and approve on new membership fee for 2011.

The purposes were achieved through the following results:

- Brief activities and financial expenses of the FNN were reported to the GA.
- Development activities of each province, which related to saving groups, saving community for prosperity (SoSor), application of new agricultural and farming techniques, good cooperation with the government authorities and relevant stakeholders, were discussed and reported.
- New provincial leaders (11 out of 13 provinces) were elected. Meanwhile, two provinces were combined with neighboring provinces i.e. Banteay Meanchey combined with Battambang and Siem Reap combined with Kampong Thom, because both provinces still have only one district each as members. The 11 provincial leaders automatically become members of Board of Directors of FNN at the national level.
- New FNN national leaders were democratically elected. It was the great honor for FNN, because H.E. Srun Darith, Deputy Secretary General of CARD, Mr. Chheng Nareth, Vice Chairman of Provincial Department of Agriculture of Kampong Cham, Mr. Pel Sokha, FNN Advisor, and Mr. Nop Vy, VOD Program Manager, were the chairman and members of election committee. The processes were smooth with free and fair elections. Three rounds of elections were conducted. First, to elect FNN president. Seven candidates were self-appointed. As result, Mr. Uon Sophal, former FNN president, has been re-elected as the new president for 2011-2013. Secondly, to elect FNN vice-president. Four candidates, one was female, were self-appointed. As result, Ms. Khuon Sey, former FNN treasurer, has been elected. Thirdly, to elect FNN treasurer. Two candidates, one was female, were self-appointed. As result, Ms. Sam Kanha, former FNN women national network leader, has been elected. It is very important to be noted

that now numbers of women leaders are steadily increased and challenged. GENDER BALANCE IS POSITIVELY PROMOTED...

- 12 core activities have been strategized for 2011-2013.
- New membership fee for 2011 was approved with at least 20,000 riels or 5US\$/year/association must be paid to FNN.
- FNN representatives had a chance to ask several questions to relevant ministry and stakeholders to clarify some issues, procedures, processes and cooperation such as what and how the MAFF and RDB could help and cooperate with the FNN in order to assist and succeed the government's policy, which aims to export rice one million tons by 2015. Beside that some questions referred to CEDAC and FNN were also raised. Answers, clarification and recommendations were positively and fruitfully responded.
- Gender balance and promotion was implemented and proven. Five outstanding women leaders were awarded with their best performances and best practices in rural development processes. They were (1) Ms. Sam Kanha – Svay Rieng, (2) Ms. Chey Siyat – Kampot, (3) Ms. Khuon Sey – Pursat, (4) Mr. Prak Dina – Kampong Speu, and Miss. Hey Bopha – Takeo.

In general, the 8th GA of FNN in Kampong Cham province was highly evaluated by supreme guests and participants as success. However, some recommendations from the supreme guests were quoted as follows:

- FNN has been doing a lot of works (activities), but lack of public relation (PR). So, FNN must be more active and cooperated with MAFF with regard to PR. The MAFF will help to develop FNN activities in its bulletin. (H.E. Ith Nody, Under Secretary of State, MAFF);
- It would be much better if activities of family economy for women is promoted and intensified such as agriculture and food processing – not only saving and credit (Mr. Chheng Nareth);
- Independent and self-finance through collecting membership fee from the members is very crucial to sustain the farmer organizations network, especially FNN. (Dr. Koma);
- Good management and leadership of FNN, especially for saving community for prosperity (SOSOR) and rice business cooperatives, is very important to build trust among members and other crucial stakeholders such as MAFF, RDB, CARD and other funding agencies. (Dr. Koma);
- Be humble and good cooperation with all relevant stakeholders and members are the great leader. Don't be boast/arrogant and rude. (Mr. Khim Sophanna, FNN Manager);
- FNN and CEDAC has done great job with regard to rural and agricultural development. CARD has also done the same thing. So far we lack of cooperation. So, we need more cooperation and collaboration to succeed our goal. (H.E. Srun Darith, CARD). *Uploaded by: Mr. NOY KIMHONG*

