

Key Farmer Leaders Gather for FNN Provincial Network Meeting in Prey Veng Province

PREY VENG: On May 29, 2011, in good cooperation with CEDAC projects “IFS-PV and FF-PV&SVR”, FNN organized the 4th provincial network meeting in Prey Veng province. In total, 84 key farmers, including 22 women were in attendance representing 61 villages and associations from 40 communes of 7 districts. Mr. Thi Bunheng and Mr. So Lihen, Project Officers of IFS-PV and FF-PV&SVR and their colleagues organized the meeting. Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC’s President and FNN’s Advisor, was the main resource person at the meeting. Mr. Uon Sophal FNN’s President and Mr. Pan Sopheap, FNN’s Director, co-facilitated the meeting.

The following objectives and outputs were achieved as a result of the meeting:

- Mr. Uon Sophal reviewed the history and process of FNN. He also updated the plenary on the development and working approaches of FNN leaders with local authorities, development partners and stakeholders, both in his province and at the national and international levels.
- Mr. Duk Nam and Ms. Ok Savan, vice-chairman of FNN’s Provincial Network in Prey Veng, shared their updates about developments facts with FNN in the province. To date, the total savings capital of the 61 associations is 4,022,920,000 riel (US\$ 981,200) with 4,146 saving members. This progress can be compared with the initial 1,183 saving members and 29,025,000 riel (US\$7,080). Amongst all of the association members, only 115 member families have been built and used biogas digesters as of today.
- Mr. Ung Touch, Chairman of Russey Sanh association, Russey Sanh commune, Sithor Kandal district, Prey Veng Province, shared his best practical experiences regarding the history and the processe of his self-help saving and credit association, human and financial resources mobilization, management and leadership and cooperation and collaboration with local authority in his district.
- The strength, weaknesses and opportunities of the self-reliant saving associations (SoSor) were also reviewed.
- Collectively, the group developed a plan and vision for the provincial network, framed particularly around the concepts of self-reliance and sustainable development. The vision is for each self-help saving network to have a savings capital of millions riel by 2015.
- Ideas and recommendations for future improvement were collected. Some of those mentioned focused on what the individual farmers and the farmer association networks can do to reach their vision by 2015 and what they can do on a daily basis and right away without having to wait on others.
- The benefits of the households’ use of bio-digesters were discussed and promoted.
- Self-reliance associations were selected for the next meeting.



Overall, the Provincial Network Meeting in Prey Veng province has helped participants to develop a clearer understanding about the concepts of self-reliance and sustainable development.