

Key Farmer Leaders Gather for FNN Provincial Network Meeting in Kampot Province

KAMPOT: On May 22, 2011, FNN, in cooperation with CEDAC, organized the 3rd Provincial Network Meeting at Dangtung district, Kampot province. In total, 67 key farmers, including 12 women, were in attendance representing 55 villages and associations from 24 communes of 7 districts. Dr. Yang Saing Koma, CEDAC's President and FNN's Advisor, was the key 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 structure of the 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 as well as at the national and international levels.
- Mrs. Chey Siyat and Mr. Mao That, Vice Chairpersons of FNN's Provincial Network in Kampot, shared their updates about developments with FNN in the province. To date, the total savings capital of the 55 associations is 1,568,442,200 riel (US\$382,547) with 4,013 saving members. This progress can be compared with the initial 507 saving members and 81,444,000 riel (US\$19,864). Amongst all of the association members, only 389 member families have been built and use biogas digesters today.
- The strengths, 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 10 billion 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 immediately without having to wait on others.
- The benefits of the household use of bio-digesters were discussed and promoted.
- Self-reliance associations were selected for the next meeting.



Overall, the Provincial Network Meeting in Kampot province has helped participants to develop a clearer understanding about the concepts of self-reliance and sustainable development. In particular, participants better understand the terms "MEANS" and "END GOAL" in relation to the establishment of the farmer organizations network. The next provincial FNN meeting will be organized on June 24, 2011, at which time further planning and strategies will be discussed and participants will be provided an opportunity for sharing updates and progress developments. The collection of membership fee and contribution to maximize the self-reliance and sustainable development and to minimize the members' dependency will also be discussed.