



INTERNATIONAL FARMERS' DIALOGUE
"The resilience of farmers and the future of ASEAN farmers;
Looking forward to sharing, solidarity and cooperation"
Battambang, Cambodia – 26th to 30th November 2016



1- Opening Ceremony

Farmers from Cambodia, Australia, Europe, India, Japan, Korea and Taiwan gathered to express their solidarity in this global world, to affirm the important role of agriculture in the world, to recognise the dignity of farmers as the feeders of the human community and to ensure the security needed to provide the food. They gathered to share experiences, difficulties and hopes.

The gathering was officially opened on November 27 by the Deputy Governor of Battambang, His Excellency Dr. But Kimsean. He said, "We have to make sure our history is not repeated. Peace brings development; if we don't have peace, we don't have development, nor do we have a future for ASEAN farmers. We must be committed to develop agriculture and to take this opportunity to make this country more competitive in local and foreign exports".

Claude Bourdin from France and coordinator of Farmers' Dialogue International, reflected on the motto of the Farmers' Dialogue - "Where farmers renew their calling to feed the world". "What does 'Be the change you want to see in the world' mean for farmers? You care for the land, manage natural resources and provide good quality food for humanity."

Dr. Heng Monychenda, President of Buddhism for Development, spoke of the role of farmers in Cambodia. "I don't know if to laugh or cry. We don't realise we are so important and we are not highly valued. Our children have stopped being farmers because they see the poor returns their parents receive from all their hard work. In Battambang, very few of the graduates from

Agriculture University go back to farming. One of the reasons for this is that the students know they are thought of by others as a lower class of people. Most of our villages contain only the elderly because young people are leaving to work in factories in Thailand and other parts of Southeast Asia. They don't want to farm in Cambodia but they don't mind being labourers in Thailand. Don't expect others to bring you a solution. If you are a farmer, don't sell only rice; grow vegetables, raise fish and animals. We have a government programme which farmers join to learn how to change their way of doing things. It is an honour to be included with the farmers of the world."

Father Totet is from the Philippines and is the Parish Priest for Siem Reap. "I want you to know that I fully support farmers and their activities; we in the Catholic Church support all farmers. You are all small farmers and you need to be proud of the fact that you provide 75% of the food used by people in the world. I am a priest and so I don't have a wife; instead I work with village people and every day we see the problems and challenges you face. During your time at this Dialogue don't be shy, get to know each other and learn from each other. Go back home and share what you have learnt here. Don't just sit and listen; you need to be interactive with each other and active. I want to show my appreciation to Initiatives of Change. The team is so active and I can see the impact of lofC on this Cambodian team. This is a good and positive signal for the future of this country. Be encouraged to share your voice while you are together here.

Overseas guests shared stories of farming from their own countries.

Phil Jefferys (Australia) said, "My heart aches for the people of Cambodia." He said he had come to Cambodia to see how small farmers may be able to contribute knowledge, especially to small farmers in Asian countries and Africa. "The challenge is to encourage a political realisation of the vital need for a healthy farming sector for the survival of the small farmer and a sustainable production of food. Many farming families including my wife and I, were forced by banks into selling their farms. It is difficult to explain to small farmers from several countries in Africa, Thailand and India farming a few acres that even though our farm was 3,500 acres, we were no more secure than a farmer with one or two acres. It was after this period with a personal understanding of the difficulties and challenges that farmers face daily that I began working with the Farmers' Dialogue. This was where I could work with farmers to help where I am able, with the challenges farmers face.

" My hope is to see coming out of this dialogue, farmers with new thinking on ways to ensure they can produce the food we all need while caring for our natural resources of air quality, soil and water and sharing this with our neighbours".



2- Quiet Time

Dominique Emeriau shared about the difficulties farmers are facing in France where they are not seen as important. A number of years ago a law protecting farmers was abolished but nowadays there is a new trend where people are seeing the importance of agriculture.

Lee Dong Yeol and Kim Sang Gee (South Koreans) described how similar the situation was in Cambodia to their country. They pointed out that for many years they were under the rule of another

country and then there was a war with the North of Korea fighting against the South which divided their country. "In Korea farmers are well respected. Like you, we need to learn from our parents and to find what we lost. In Korea we have learned that farmers can change government policy by coming together and having a stronger voice. We had a silent time this morning. I wonder what you heard from your heart? If it just means closing your mouth maybe you heard nothing - I heard the sound of the air conditioner. In Korea, being a farmer, means listening to your star. Do you listen to your star when you are farming? I try to listen to my star every day because farmers should know about the seasons."

When he was young, Huang Kuan Wei from Taiwan, worked with his parents on their farm. He used to say that he would never be a farmer but, as he said, "Here I am, a farmer for four years. Knowledge is power and by coming together here we can learn from each other and use our knowledge to bring change. I would like to share a story. There was a beggar who used to go to a temple to ask God to bring him a big win in the lottery. Every day he would go and ask God to bring him huge winnings. One day God said to him, "Buy the ticket first!" Knowledge is the coupon; without it you cannot win.

"My father is one of the top producers of white lilies in Taiwan; I grow flowers, rice, vegetables and Hypericum berries which are used for decoration. We invite friends to come and learn about agriculture and they help us on the farm. I give them food and accommodation.

"We need to learn how to care for our soil and we invite experts to come to teach us how to do things better. I change my crops each year, so that I do not destroy the nutrients in the soil, and I make my own compost. We need to use technology to find the best times for planting so that we do not harvest at a time when the price is low. Diversify; don't grow what your neighbours are growing!"

Yun Sophat (from Cambodia) left his family home when he was young and went to live in Son Soubert's Peaceful Children's Home. When he graduated from high school, Soubert found funding to send Sophat to an agricultural university in Thailand.

" When I was at the Children's Home, we had Morning Glory, a common green vegetable, with almost all our meals as it was so easy to grow. In 1994/5 we didn't have money for fertiliser so we used the water from the septic tanks. I used to ask the cook how many kilograms of Morning Glory she needed each day and I would grow according to her needs. There was a demand for this plant from Singapore, where we could get a good price, but we had problems with hygiene and standardization. We lacked knowledge and experience. We kept it too long, people uprooted the plant to get more weight rather than cutting it and we couldn't use what we had left over. Knowledge is so important. "

Mr. ICHIRO KOIZUMI, from Japan, has been the General Director of Npo Ai No Kai since 1998. It means, "People of Love". They run Myoga Mura Village which is a community for people with disabilities. Their philosophy is to "Cultivate the Earth" and so no chemicals are used. With just 12 hectares they eat what they grow and they buy very little. Children and the disabled work and live together in about 50 homes. Since 1962 they have helped 600 people starting with only 11. People work in agriculture, pottery, weaving, bread making, food processing and operating a coffee shop.

He said, "It is not for strong people to help the weaker ones. It is to offer oneself to people who do not fit the present social system. We are given the chance to learn and to enjoy and share our life with those who are suffering. Don't work for money; work to support weaker people. Small

steps and small effort are important. We want to work with Son Soubert and the Cambodian farmers.

"I have an idea that we should form a small cooperation between each other with a small bank in each area to provide financial needs. If we do this, the middle men and business people would not benefit more than the small farmer. Politicians come and go but no farmers have disappeared so let's have confidence and let's work together. I would like to encourage young Cambodians to come and study Japanese agriculture. "

Dr. Walter Frick from Germany is a volunteer in Cambodia, working in agriculture with the Don Bosco organization. "Agriculture is my passion; I've been doing it for more than 60 years. We grow rice, vegetables and livestock and are able to provide our 800 children with a free meal. I would encourage the government to give advice and education to the farmers and also to have a better infrastructure - providing electricity and gaining more access to markets. Cambodian farmers sell their rice cheaply to Thailand and Vietnam because they do not have storage facilities. Because they lack education they are often cheated by sellers who sell inferior fertilizers. I'd like to help farmers by training young Khmer to be agricultural mechanics. Farming is hard work and machinery can make a farmer's life better but there is no one to fix the machinery.

"I recommend to the government to strengthen the education of youth, especially in agricultural skills. We have many agriculture universities in Cambodia but no schools with practical farming. People need training to run a farm - understanding soil, weather, plants, finance etc. In Don Bosco we have a workshop and we train 25 young Khmer to be good agro mechanics, to learn how machines work and to be able to repair them. They learn for two years, take a test and then open a business in their village. I would like to share my life with Cambodians as a thanks for my good life."

Nop Non is a Cambodian farmer from Thmor Koal in Battambang Province. He farms 3,000 sq metres of land and produces 30 tonnes of vegetables. "We have to have multi use of our land, growing different crops. Our vegetables are grown without chemicals and companies know they have more taste and are more healthy and so they are happy to buy from us. We grow beans to improve soil quality. If you visit our farm you will notice that the 10 acres I inherited from my father are mostly rocky and so we can only use 2 hectares. We have a farmers' group with 200 members and we meet every month to talk about what we should grow and what we need to do. We need to recognise the importance of soil quality. It's hard work but through the years it improves and your crops will be better. Find something new to plant, study your soil and grow plants that are best for your soil. Use lots of compost!"

His Excellency Pol Hom, a Cambodian Member of Parliament and Chairman of the National Assembly 3rd Committee on Agriculture spoke of the past struggles when he used to carry weapons; at one point he was in charge of a radio station for the liberation front. "I don't have any techniques for farming but I am the son of a farmer. I understand the struggles you are facing. Land is everywhere in Cambodia but a lot is owned by tycoons. Farmers would like to rent land but the price is too high. We have problems with irrigation; water is everywhere but rice fields are dry because the dykes are not working properly. Fertilizer is imported from other countries or is manufactured in Cambodia by foreign companies. Farmers have a good harvest but they have no market, no storage facilities and buyers cheat when purchasing the rice. Government departments are constantly pointing fingers at each other and refusing to accept responsibility. We import 200 tonnes of vegetables a day. How can we stop this activity? Farmers must learn to diversify so that they need not depend only on the rice crop."

Dr. Heng Monychenda has been a soldier, physician, teacher, district governor and now he heads Buddhism for Development. "How do we care for our farmers? I would like to ask international friends to help us in investment and finding markets for us. Farmers need to be shown how to change their methods of farming and how to grow different crops so that we aren't constantly importing from outside Cambodia."

In Cambodia people usually grow what their neighbours grow and so, along the roads one sees farm stall after farm stall all selling the same product and all occupied by family members who work at their stall all day, every day. During a question period it was suggested that Khmer farmers needed to network and work together. There is a need to create farmers' groups to create cooperatives. Farmers would then be able to help each other by providing each other with crops when they didn't have enough to sell.

Dr. Meas Nee (Cambodia) is an academic who now farms in Battambang Province. "We have a culture of shifting the responsibility onto other people. We blame other countries. We spend so much time blaming other countries and spend no time discussing what WE can do. When we demonstrate the government accuses us of starting a revolution and they want us to be quiet. If we don't do anything we won't move on anything."

"We cannot continue comparing ourselves to Year Zero in the Khmer Rouge Regime. We have to compare ourselves with other countries today. More than a million young Cambodians have moved to Thailand for jobs where they can earn more a day.

"Let's talk about our human resources, our education system in primary schools where 98 per cent of our children enter but at the senior levels only 6 to 8 per cent remain. At 13 they start dropping out and seeking employment in Thailand. The challenge for Cambodia is to create a disciplined workforce where people come to work on time and stay at their job.

"In Cambodia we have 5 million hectares of farmland and 60% of this is rented by the government to big companies. On the other hand 70% of the population owns less than 1 hectare of land. If you only own 1 hectare, no matter how hard you work you will never be successful. In 1990 we had a workforce of up to 80% for farming and the rest worked in other sectors. After 2014 we have a farm workforce of 59%. They can't live on the land with their families because they can't get enough income. Not less than 90% of farmers are in debt because of borrowing; they die slowly because they get further into debt and that's why they move to Thailand.

"Now is the time for you to come together to talk about the needs of the Cambodian farmers and for farmers to think about what their needs are. They need to stop depending on the NGOs and think for themselves."

The farm visit day took the farmers to visit a vegetable plantation at Hope of Children where we saw vegetables being grown hydroponically and listened to Munny Vansaveth, a monk and director of the centre, talking about caring for orphan children, providing them with accommodation and food grown at the centre.



Participants expressed an interest in taking a course at the centre to learn their techniques. We visited the farm in Samlaut belonging to Phirun and his family who grow pepper, durian, longan and other crops.

We also saw the Kam Ping Puoy dam for irrigation, which was built with slave labour, by hand, during the Khmer Rouge period. It is also the graveyard for many thousands of labourers who died of starvation during the building of the dam.



4- Organic Papaya

A panel composed of Mr. Claude Bourdin, Dr. Heng Monychenda and H.E. Pol Hom, Chairman of the National Assembly 3rd Committee on Agriculture, spoke on different topics. H.E. Pol Hom spent most of the session listening to the difficulties, hopes and demands from the farmers, and promising to relay them to the policy-makers. Another panel enabled the Cambodian participants to get facts from experts and to respond to them on the major issues affecting them.

Each morning, one hour was dedicated to sharing inspiring experiences of personal change and inviting all the participants to experience 15 minutes of quiet time, as a source of inspiration. The last day of the session concentrated on drawing lessons, decisions, ideas and initiatives that grew out of the Dialogue, as a way to demonstrate our commitment to rural development. One morning we were asked, "I wonder what you heard from your heart? Are there some relationships in my life which I keep unsolved and, if they were solved, could make a difference. Is there something in my life which makes me powerless?"



5- CHEM THORNIN

Chem Thornin (Cambodia) told of when he was in high school and his father was the principal. His mother was a farmer, growing cashew nuts, and the money from the sale of the produce sent him to school. When the family became poorer, Thornin moved to Phnom Penh where he lived with a friend. His friend had a computer which Thornin thought would help him get a good job; Thornin only received \$20 a month from his mother and a lot of that had to be used to pay for the parking of his bicycle at school. He phoned his father to ask for more money but his father cursed him. Thornin decided he didn't have a father and so they didn't speak for more than a year. One

day he cycled to the river bank and saw a family sitting on a mat in front of the royal palace. "I saw them having a time together; parents and children enjoying each other's company. I realized I didn't have parents like this family. When I learned about Initiatives of Change I was sharing a room with a friend who had also stopped talking to his father; he cried because his father died. Even though he wasn't speaking to his father, the father continued to send him money. He realized his father had loved him. It taught me that if my father died I wouldn't have had a chance to say thank you to him and so I decided to show respect to him and to apologize. We now have a good relationship and I talk to him many times in the week. Things may be too late if we don't act now. If you want to do something you should do it now and not tomorrow."

"Absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love; these four principles motivated us to organize this event. I don't want to be a part of the problem of society; I want to be a part of the solution. For this event we don't have salary and we use our own money and our own effort."

Son Soubert - High Privy Counsellor to His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, the King of Cambodia. "As a child I studied abroad in France and my father always told us to study hard with our own efforts and not to cheat. Now I teach in the School of Archaeology in university in Phnom Penh. I tell my students, 'If you dare to cheat or open the book in the exam and I catch you, I will not mark your paper. I caught some students and told them they would have to repeat the year. They told their parents who were angry with me. I said they couldn't steal knowledge. If we cheat in exams how can we compete with our neighbour? If we cheat we get a good mark but we can't do anything as we know nothing. Honesty is important; we can't accuse others who are corrupt because we are also corrupt."

"During the Pol Pot years I prayed for change; I wanted Cambodia to go back to a golden age. During the Khmer Rouge time there was no compassion; no mercy. It was like hell. During the reign of King Sumaramith, the king would help to dig irrigation; even the government ministers had to go and dig. He had advisors and assistants to the rural population; they would go into the rice fields and give advice to the farmers. The government provided housing for the farmers. We grew many crops and laboratories checked our products such as milk. We had tourism, we reclaimed salt from the sea, we built roads and railways. We exported rice to French colonies in Africa and even to Indonesia. We promoted education by building universities which we didn't have during French colonization. Phnom Penh was known as the Pearl of Southeast Asia. We built the first Olympic stadium in Southeast Asia and we had a refinery for processing oil but all these things were destroyed by the Khmer Rouge. We have to commit ourselves to change, starting with little things. We did it before and we can do it now."

Chum Veuk (Cambodia) In 1994 a communal council election took place and my father was the District Governor Candidate for Bavel District, Battambang Province. He had a kind heart and was respected by many villagers in my hometown. Because of his popularity his opponent in the election lost confidence and thought he wouldn't be able to defeat my father and so my father was assassinated. He was killed in front of me and my younger brother. The killing did not stop at my father's death as people hunted for me and my younger brother; when drunk they would say, "If we want to kill the grass we must uproot it". My elder brother saw that the situation was not safe for the two of us and so he took me to stay at Son Soubert's Peaceful Children's Home. At that time it was not an orphanage, only empty land where we had to go fishing every day to make our living. By moving to PCH my family and I hoped that I would be able to continue my studies but I lost many years because of my problems. I graduated from senior high school at the age of 25. Son Soubert found funding for me to study at university in Thailand and, on graduating, I promised him that I would work for him to pay him back for his kindness.

"I would like to say that 90% of the younger generation these days think that being a good person is good enough, whereas 10% think we need to be more than just a good citizen. We need to dare to take responsibility and to be more accountable than the businessmen or politicians. I owe a lot to many people on this earth and I hope that what I am doing now will continue, paying forward for the next generation."

Open Space

Kim Vuth (Cambodia). “In this session we will get together to discuss what we should do when we go back home. As we look at the following questions we should ask ourselves, 'What can I do, how can each one of us make a difference? We can change many things in our society; the government, NGOs, micro finance but we need personal change. We can't say, 'I am a farmer so I can't make change in other areas'. If we wait and think about what other people are doing, nothing will happen and our dreams will never come true. We have seen how our country developed in the past but war took us backwards, so now



6- Open Space

we have to make our country great again. I have heard speakers sharing a lot of problems they face so now let us look at these questions.” Participants chose the question they wanted to discuss and met in groups:

What can YOU do to let stakeholders know your needs?

We can form a farmers' group or cooperative. We have to identify the common problems and share information with each other. Meet the local authorities and find partners in other communities. If we work together we can find markets. We should exchange our work experiences and best practices and support each other through advocacy programmes with other agencies.

What can YOU do to improve your market for your product?

We need to produce what the market needs and we have to know what crops can grow in certain soils. We have to grow different crops in different villages and improve our crops using technical knowledge. We should stop growing crops that can't be sold and do seasonal cropping. If we can't sell something we can make something from it - turning radish into pickle for example. We can make a community warehouse that benefits many people.

What can YOU do with your over-produced products?

We need someone to tell us what the market needs. If we have a warehouse we can sell at other times. We can turn unsold produce into food for our chickens and pigs at a reduced cost to the farmer. There should be programmes for sending out information to farmers telling them how many tonnes are needed.

What can YOU do to keep the younger generation interested in agriculture?

Students need information on farming with field trips to farms. We can invite agricultural experts to take part in a workshop or training session. We need to encourage our children, taking them to farms and sending them to technical schools. Children need to see the benefits of farming.

What can YOU do to get a lower interest rate?

We can form a savings cooperative with a fixed term credit and lend money with lower interest to farmers. We need to find partners with NGOs who will give us long term loans with a low interest.



7- Decisions

What can YOU do with all the new knowledge and experience you have gained at the Farmers' Dialogue? We will spread it around the community and we will take all we have learned to apply in our community. For example, we will use organic and not chemical fertilizer. We will tell schools to grow vegetables and we will make compost in an easy way.

DECISION TIME

Participants met in regional groups to talk about what they would do after the Dialogue.

I will start making my own fertilizer from compost and will call my committee for a meeting once a week. I will meet friends from university who are all in banking and know nothing about farming, so they understand the importance of the agricultural sector.

We will do house visiting going from house to house and will meet students in school. At the end of the year we will have a workshop to teach children in the countryside about agriculture. We will partner with NGOs and have more training.

We have 3 cooperatives. We started a year ago with a loan from the Rural Development Bank. We pay back every 3 months and in 2 years we pay the principal plus the interest. I will talk about the Dialogue with my team and in December we will start having meetings. When we understand each other well we'll spread our knowledge. We use a lot of chemicals so we will give information about organic fertilizer and we will encourage farmers to grow different kinds of crops.

We will meet to discuss selecting seeds according to the needs of the market and using organic fertilizer to improve soil quality. We will gather farmers and teach them how to do multi-cropping/rotating crops.

I want to speak less and do more.

The Roman Catholic Church representatives pointed out that their church works in 25 Cambodian provinces. "We've learnt a lot at this Dialogue. We want to cooperate with local authorities to form a farmers' group to meet and talk about planning. We will make compost fertilizer for rice planting.

"We will select poor farmers to help who only do rice farming as they depend on the sky because they don't have irrigation systems."

Participants from Banteay Prieb, a rehabilitation centre for people with disabilities, spoke of the need to give young adults hands on practice and how they were able to grow 3 crops a year plus growing mushrooms from rice straw and raising animals.



9- Decisions

A young Cambodian volunteer with Initiatives of Change spoke about the need to help society, no matter who it is. "We share food with poor people on the street and at the Khmer-Soviet Hospital in Phnom Penh. We did it every month because we want to help people. When I organized this programme I was a student. I used to think about the rich; why couldn't they see the street children begging on the street? With their money they could help these children. I then decided we should start with ourselves. We do it to show our love. We don't expect anything in return; we do it with our pure hearts.

Peter Heyes (Canada) "There is more to farming than growing crops and raising animals. Farmers have to care for their families, find money for their children's education, money for medical needs. There are so many pressures on a family no matter what the parents do for a living. These pressures can lead to conflict in families. I have lived with a farming family in Alberta for many years; the farm has been in the same family since 1921 and it is now owned by two brothers, John and Bill. When they were younger, John was often critical of older brother Bill and was quick to judge Bill's mistakes, but John was also quick at hiding his own mistakes. John's self-righteousness caused tension with Bill, and it threatened their goal of owning the most efficient dairy farm in the province. In 1958 the brothers learned about Initiatives of Change when a group of international farmers visited their farm. Their main message was to first look for change within oneself. John said, "I swallowed my pride, apologized to Bill and asked for his help to be different." With peace between the brothers, the farm was more successful than ever. "If we want to work well together we all need to look at our relationships."



10- DOK VIRAK

Dok Virak (Cambodia) talked about the time when he worked for a private company dealing with land concessions. "Every time we went out to work, the team leader would join me. When we took a boat that cost \$25 he would say, 'Why don't you put down \$50?' Because I believe in the principles of Initiatives of Change I believed in absolute honesty but I decided to do as he said. When we stayed in a room we would rent one with a fan but claim expenses as if we had been in an air conditioned room. If we rented motorbikes I would over-invoice and at the end of the month I usually had about \$200 extra in my pocket which I would share with the team.

"During this time I kept being reminded about absolute honesty and I always thought of the money. I always taught my children to be honest but here I was being dishonest. I felt bad because my boss always gave me extra pocket money. I decided to quit my job even though it was important for the rural people. It was related to forest concessions; if the forest was chopped down, the people suffered. Often the trees were destroyed to make space for factories. The rural people thought they would get jobs in the factories which would make up for their loss of their forest but this often didn't happen. They called me many times to return to work but I refused.

"I decided to tell my boss about my stealing. I apologized to him and said I would return the money. He said I was insane as nobody had ever spoken to him like that. He said he was happy I was honest and that I could keep the money as a gift. Since then I've felt good as I had done what I wanted to do and my mind is now free. Before, I couldn't sleep but now I know that honesty is the best policy."

Claude Bourdin (France). "Is it only Virak who has this problem? Some years ago I went through the same process. Don't underestimate the satisfaction and freedom that comes from putting things right. This is an important day; what kind of initiative can I undertake to help myself

change and to help others? What do we need to decide for ourselves, what can we do together and are there things that need to be put right in my life? I see the immense difficulties you go through but I also see the determination you have to get on with life, caring for creation, giving food to people. I'd like to thank you for this. I would like to thank the young people who have made this possible; not only for what they have done but also for what they are and for what they have shared."

Muny Vansaveth, Director of Hope of Children - "I figured out during the silent time that we have to start from within ourselves. I easily get frustrated and it costs me a lot. We also have to change our external desires. We are Buddhist, Muslim and Christian and my thought is how can we work together; before I thought we Buddhists were the best."

"Sreylin and I (Yan Sreyyat) are from Battambang. When I was young we had little money and all our planting was done by hand. I got tired working in the fields but I also had to go to school. I was an outstanding student in primary school but I often had to skip classes because of working in the fields and so my grades got worse in high school. In my quiet time I thought about my early difficulties and I want to change my life and the life of those in my community."

Sound Samlai, from Oddor Meanchey - "After the silent time I thought I felt fresh. I'm a farmer in the countryside and I never thought of meeting international farmers like this. I want to cry. I will share this experience with people in my community. We have to change our mindset away from using chemical fertilizer.

Through speeches, panel discussions, quiet times, family sharing, open space and planning for the future, great meals and relaxing times together, a cultural evening under the stars by a swimming pool and an appreciation time, writing words of thanks on paper pinned to the back of participants, along with lots of planning and hard work by volunteers, people went home feeling happy because they had been given a chance to come together to talk about agriculture in Cambodia and other parts of the world. We are going home to share what we have experienced and learnt and with lightness in our hearts, knowing that together we can bring change.

