

BROAD GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION FUND (RCF)

The Backdrop

The 15th Governing Council (GC) of CIRDAP, 2005 decided to establish Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF) at CIRDAP through voluntary contribution from member countries with a view to have more vibrant regional / bilateral cooperation among the member countries, and to enhance and build capabilities of the available human resources and link organisations with various instrumentalities, viz., Internship, Sabbatical, Short Term Research Studies, etc. Such effort will give fillip to academic endeavours, intellectual dialogue and better institutional relationship among the member countries.

Evidently, Asia-Pacific region has enormous successful and innovative experiments in rural development and poverty alleviation that needs to be captured, documented and disseminated for better understanding and appreciation of rural development and poverty alleviation policies and efforts, which, in turn, will facilitate exchange of expertise and enhancing individual and institutional capabilities. Thus, the rationale behind creation of RCF is to create suitable academic ambiance, facilitate cross fertilisation of ideas and encourage member countries by providing financial, technical and administrative support so that officers / faculty from CIRDAP Contact Ministries (CCMs)/CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs) can take up such academic activities for generating knowledge base which can be utilised by the member countries and link institutions.

A. Internship Programme

The basic premise of 'Internship Programme' is to build individual's research capability and strengthen academic pursuits, in turn, it will build institutional capabilities. The

internees will conduct research study and prepare report and share experiences on critical aspects of poverty alleviation and rural development. Such academic contribution will be documented and disseminated to utilise that knowledge.

- The internship programme is open for nominees, particularly young officers from CCMs and faculty from CLIs, who will be deputed at the CIRDAP Headquarters, Dhaka to take up short term thematic research study and prepare the report.
- Salary and other admissible perks of such officials will be borne by the respective country.
- International travel cost and local hospitality at Dhaka, Bangladesh will be covered under RCF.
- CIRDAP will provide technical and academic support. The research report will be submitted to CIRDAP, which will be circulated to all member countries to utilise it.
- The period for internship shall not be more than three months.
- This is not a cross country programme. It is only available at the CIRDAP Headquarters

B. Sabbatical Programme

The purpose of ‘Sabbatical Programme’ is to have faculty exchange and intellectual dialogue, which will eventually create a group of experts in the region and such expertise could be utilised by CLIs. This programme is open from one CIRDAP member country to another. Since CIRDAP has limited number of professional positions, so representation from all member countries can not be accommodated. If such unrepresented countries would like to have academic engagement with CIRDAP, then the Sabbatical Programme can be utilised. Moreover, the expertise and specialisation of the person can also be utilised by the host institution during his/her stay.

- A member country may depute official to attend short-term training programme (not less than one month) being organised by other link institute.
- CMCs / CLIs may depute officers / faculty under short term sabbatical exchange to work at CIRDAP Headquarters.
- CLI may have faculty exchange by deputing faculty member for short term work at another CLI.
- Salary and other admissible perks of such officials will be borne by the respective country.
- International air travel will be covered under RCF.
- The host country will provide local hospitality that includes board and lodging and local transportation .
- The reports will be submitted to CIRDAP, which will be circulated to all member countries to utilise it.

C. Short Term Research Study

The objective of ‘Short Term Research Study’ is to capture the available innovative and best practices in rural development and poverty alleviation among member countries. For the purpose, CCMs / CLIs may have to submit a short term research proposal within the scope of the scheme. The research study report will be documented and disseminated by CIRDAP. Such study will provide inputs in the policy formulation and enhance research capabilities.

- CLIs have to develop and prepare a list of available innovative and best practices in their respective countries. The list will be shared among CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) to take up research study.
- CMCs / CLIs are required to prepare Research Proposals within the scope of the scheme and submit it to CIRDAP.

- The short term study will be country specific (not more than one country) as a particular innovative programme may not be available in other countries
- This scheme is not open to persons to study within their own country rather one has to take up research study in other country.
- Salary and other admissible perks of the researcher / officer will be borne by the respective country.
- International travel cost will be covered under RCF.
- The host country will provide local hospitality that includes board and lodging and local transportation .
- A short term research study shall not be more than three months.
- The research reports will be submitted to CIRDAP, which will be circulated to all member countries to utilise it.