



# CIRDAP - REEDS International Rural Development Innovation Challenge 2026

**ONE IDEA. ENDLESS CHANGE. COUNTLESS SMILES**

CIRDAP & REEDS Invite Rural Champions, innovators, community leaders, Rural Enterpreuners, Start Ups, NGOs & Institutions to showcase real impactful rural innovations that have potential to empower & inspire rural communities

 **Selected Top 5 Innovations  
will be awarded with USD 500 &  
Certificate Each!**

 **Next 10 Impactful Ideas  
Certificate of Appreciation**

 **Features in a BOOK & Attend to  
International Conference**

**Share your story of change  
your innovations could be the next story of hope for thousands of villages**



## Why This Challenge?

Rural communities across Asia Pacific region face complex challenges - persistent poverty, inequality, climate vulnerabilities, limited opportunities, lack of access to services like healthcare and education, poor connectivity, limited job opportunities leading to youth migration. Agricultural productivity and market access remain difficult, further deepening rural disparities.

To address these issues, CIRDAP in collaboration with REEDS announces Rural Development Innovation Challenge - a dynamic platform to discover, support and amplify transformative ideas that can reshape rural future. This challenge invites bold, practical and scalable innovations that improve rural livelihoods across Asia and the Pacific.

This initiative is designed to spark creativity and action. By recognizing and rewarding outstanding innovations, the challenge aims to accelerate rural progress and local talent. Whether you are a community leader, researcher, entrepreneur, or student - if you have a solution that can make a difference - we want to hear from you.

## Why Participate?

- Trigger Development in Rural Areas
- Get recognized internationally
- Inspire rural transformation
- Network with experts & policymakers
- Showcase your work to the world



## Who Can Apply?

Applicants should be from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMC's) :

- \* Experts \* Partner Institutions
- \* Focal Ministries / Link Institutions
- \* Government & Non-Government Agencies
- \* Individuals \* Startups/Social Entrepreneurs
- \* Community Institutions
- \* Industries \* Venture Capitalists
- \* Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR) Organization

## What We're Looking For?

### Innovations/Solutions that

- Provide low-cost, high-impact solutions for rural communities in less time.
- Address rural challenges (poverty, food insecurity, social inequality, climate change, inadequate access to services and opportunities, poor connectivity, youth migration, and poor agricultural productivity). The topics are indicative, not exhaustive
- Empower village communities, by improving livelihoods, dignity, and access to opportunities & resources
- Inspire transformational changes that are scalable in other areas.



### Your innovation could be:

- A new model, technology, or process
- Policy, program, or case study
- A success story with proven impact
- An Implementable Concept



Selected Top 5 Innovations → USD 500 each + Certificate of Appreciation



Next 10 Innovations → Certificate of Appreciation



All Submissions → Featured in a CIRDAP publication circulated globally



★ Selected innovations will also be invited to showcase at international conferences, webinars, and CIRDAP events

## How to Apply

- Submit a proposal (Not more than 5 pages)
  - Ideas can be written in any language.
- Attach at least few high-resolution photos.
- Share clear evidence of impact (success stories, case studies, testimonials, data).
- Potential Deliverables.
- Include your biography/organization profile + contact details.



\*A recorded video submission (not more than 5 minutes) is also accepted\*

**Last Date of Submission : 28 February 2026**

## Share Your Ideas



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**Last Date of Submission : 28 February 2026**



## Organizer

**CIRDAP:** The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is a regional, intergovernmental and autonomous organization. It was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations for promoting integrated rural development in the region.



CIRDAP has 15 member countries, namely **Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host State), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam**, and based at Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Operating through designated contact ministries and link institutions in member countries, CIRDAP promotes regional cooperation. It plays a supplementary and reinforcing role in supporting and furthering the effectiveness of integrated rural development programmes in Asia and the Pacific.

## Co-Presenting Partner

**REEDS:** Rural Economic and Educational Development Society (REEDS) is a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation established in 1989, dedicated to improving the quality of life in rural communities. With a multi-state presence in India and outreach in Canada (Toronto) and the USA (Texas), REEDS promotes inclusive rural empowerment through sustainable, community-centric interventions that enhance livelihoods and socio-economic well-being.



Aligned with key National Development Missions and contributing to select UN SDGs, REEDS leads initiatives in Sanitation & Hygiene, Safe Drinking Water, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Waste Management, Awareness & Education, and Monitoring & Evaluation of developmental programmes.

REEDS remains committed to empowering rural communities to lead better, dignified, and sustainable lives.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### ➤ Is it mandatory to submit the innovation idea within five (5) pages?

No. The idea note can be of any length. You may submit a one-page, two-page, or longer document, as appropriate, well within 5 pages.

### ➤ Is submission allowed only in English?

No. Innovation ideas may be submitted in any language.

### ➤ Are photographs mandatory for submission?

No. Photographs are not compulsory. You may also submit diagrams, illustrations, flowcharts, or other visual representations instead if required.

### ➤ What is meant by “clear evidence of impact”?

The submission may present an idea or concept. You may describe the potential impact of innovation and how it is expected to benefit the community or beneficiaries.

### ➤ What are ‘Potential Deliverables’?

Potential deliverables refer to tangible or intangible outputs, results, or outcomes of the innovation. Examples include job creation in a village, increased household income, improved services, or enhanced capacities.

### ➤ Is organizational affiliation required to submit an idea?

No. Individuals may submit innovative ideas independently. Organizational affiliation is not mandatory.

### ➤ Does the recorded video need to be in English?

No. The video may be recorded in any language you are comfortable with.

### ➤ Is it mandatory to submit a biography or organizational profile along with contact details?

Yes. Contact details are mandatory. Please include your name, email address, and contact mobile number (or WhatsApp number) in the email body while submitting your innovative idea or proposal. A brief biography or organizational profile is optional.

