

VOICE OF CIRDAP

Empowering The Rural Communities

Issue 21, May 2026



CIRDAP

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)

An Intergovernmental & Autonomous Organization Working For
Strengthening Integrated Rural Development Systems for 15
Asia and The Pacific Countries.

 www.cirdap.org

Women and Youth: Driving Agribusiness in Asia-Pacific

The Asia-Pacific region is home to about 60% of the world's population, with youth aged 15-24 making up a significant share — over 700 million strong, or 56% of global youth. Women comprise roughly half the population, and in many countries, they form the backbone of agriculture, contributing 43% to 60% or more of the agricultural workforce, especially in South and Southeast Asia.

Agriculture remains vital across the region. While its share of GDP has declined to around 5-10% in many economies, it still employs about 30% of the workforce overall — much higher in developing nations. It underpins food security, rural livelihoods, and poverty reduction, with growth in the sector shifting toward high-value crops, fisheries, and livestock. Agribusiness plays a crucial role here — it bridges farm production with markets, processing, and retail, adding value, creating jobs, and boosting rural economies. In Asia-Pacific, agribusiness accounts for a growing share of agricultural GDP, with strong growth in food processing, supply chain logistics, and digital platforms.



Women have emerged as key innovators in the agribusiness ecosystem. To name a few, in India, women-led farmer producer organizations have scaled dairy and spice processing, improving incomes by 30-50%. In Bangladesh, women entrepreneurs have built successful organic vegetable export businesses. In the Philippines, women-led cooperatives dominate coconut value chains, from processing to international marketing.

Youth are bringing tech and fresh ideas. In Vietnam, young entrepreneurs have developed mobile apps linking small farmers directly to buyers, cutting out middlemen. In Indonesia, youth-led startups are revolutionizing precision farming and e-commerce for agricultural products. In Nepal, young innovators are building successful Agri-tourism and organic certification businesses.

Effective strategies for promoting women and youth include targeted training in digital skills and business management, access to finance through women- and youth-friendly credit schemes, mentorship programs pairing experienced farmers with young innovators, and policy support for land rights and market access. Creating youth agripreneur networks and women-led cooperatives has also proven highly effective.

CIRDAP Research Projects on Gender Responsive Budgeting in Nepal, Women and Youth Livelihood Promotion in Sri Lanka and Women in Silk value chain project in Iran and Publications such as 'Inspiring women of Asia and Pacific', '100 IRD Models of Asia and Pacific', Policy briefs are few works by CIRDPAP on women and Youth in Rural Development.

Women and youth are not just participants but the future of agribusiness in Asia-Pacific. Empowering them through skills, capital, and enabling policies can drive inclusive growth, innovation, and sustainable Rural Development across the region.

With Warm Wishes

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara
Director General, CIRDPAP

A significant meeting took place on 4 May 2026 between the Director General of CIRDAP, HE. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, and the Chairman of the Governing Council of CIRDAP, HE. Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh. The meeting was held to advance several important institutional and programmatic agendas of CIRDAP.

The meeting focused on advancing key institutional priorities and strengthening collaboration between CIRDAP and the Government of Bangladesh. Important discussions included preparations for the upcoming Governing Council and Executive Committee meetings in Dhaka.



Deliberations were also held on the celebration of World Rural Development Day 2026, which will be organized as a national event through a collaborative arrangement between CIRDAP and the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division.

Progress on the CIRDAP Innovation Challenge was reviewed, with the announcement of winners scheduled during the World Rural Development Day celebration on 6 July 2026.

Institutional matters such as recommendations on enhancing membership contributions and ongoing efforts to expand CIRDAP membership across Asia and the Pacific were also highlighted.

The Director General further briefed on current programmes and initiatives of CIRDAP.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Mohammad Showkat Rashid Chowdhury, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division; Mr. Md. Shahidul Hasan, Secretary, Local Government Division; Mr. Prodip Kumar Mahottam, Additional Secretary, RDCD; and Mr. FAM Zakirul Huq, Head of Administration, CIRDAP.

CIRDAP remains committed to advancing rural development across the Asia Pacific region through strong institutional partnerships and collaborative governance.

CIRDAP is pleased to announce the CIRDAP–SAARC Collaborative International Online Training Programme titled “Redefining Roles of Women in Agri-Food Systems in the Asia-Pacific Region”, bringing together professionals, researchers, and practitioners from across the Asia-Pacific region to champion women's leadership and empowerment in agri-food systems.

Dates: 15–17 June 2026

Platform: Online via Zoom

Time: 09:00–12:15 Bangladesh Time (daily)

This 3-day training will help you:

- ✓ Understand gender gaps in agri-food systems
- ✓ Apply gender-responsive approaches in rural development
- ✓ Promote climate-smart agriculture that empowers women
- ✓ Design policies and programs for inclusive food systems
- ✓ Connect and network with regional professionals.

Register Now (FREE):

<https://forms.gle/Vx8QESeNvkiKzBxb8>

Registration Deadline: 10 June 2026

For details, please see the brochure link below:

<https://cirdap.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/CIRDAP-SAARC-collaborative-International-Online-Training-Program.pdf>

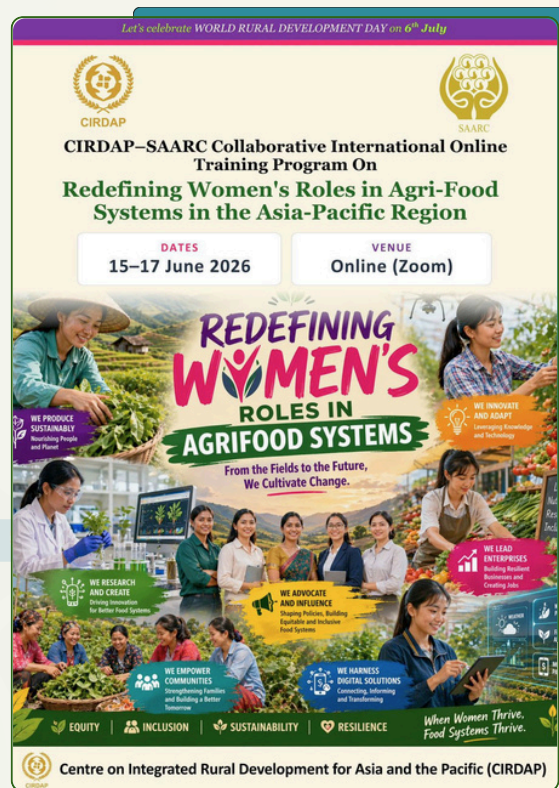
For more information, contact: Dr. Ganga Dutta Acharya, Director (Research), CIRDAP

director_research@cirdap.org

+9779841371697

Let us work together to position women as key drivers of sustainable and resilient agri-food systems across our region!

Together for Gender-Inclusive Agriculture!



DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence invited Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) to participate as a speaker in the international hybrid workshop titled “Effective Delivery of Health Services through Digital Tools in Global South”, held on 6 May 2026. The workshop brought together policymakers, academic institutions, health experts, and implementing agencies from across the Global South to discuss innovative digital solutions for improving healthcare delivery.



The opening session featured welcome remarks by Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), and special remarks from senior officials of India's NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



The workshop addressed pressing healthcare challenges faced by many developing countries, including geographically dispersed populations, shortages of healthcare professionals, inadequate infrastructure, and fragmented service delivery systems. Special emphasis was placed on the growing role of digital health technologies such as telemedicine, AI-supported diagnostics, mobile health applications, interoperable health information systems, and remote patient monitoring in strengthening healthcare accessibility and resilience.

As part of its participation, CIRDAP nominated Pulse Healthcare Services, one of Bangladesh's leading telemedicine providers, to present the country's experience in digital healthcare innovation. Pulse Healthcare Services is recognized as Bangladesh's first virtual telemedicine platform and application, offering video consultations with physicians nationwide through web-based and smart-device technologies. The platform currently provides 24/7 healthcare support through a network of more than 1,800 doctors, including over 700 specialists. Its services include online doctor consultations, medicine delivery, doorstep pathology support, and affordable insurance solutions. With over 50 B2B clients, the platform now reaches nearly one million people across Bangladesh.

A key highlight of the workshop was the participation of Mr. Shafayet Chowdhury as a panelist nominated by CIRDAP. During the session on “Effective Delivery of Health Care Services Using Digital Tools – Experiences of Global South,” Mr. Chowdhury shared Bangladesh's experience in expanding healthcare access through telemedicine and digital platforms. His presentation highlighted practical innovations and scalable service models that have improved healthcare accessibility, reduced travel and waiting time for patients, and strengthened healthcare support delivery across diverse regions of the country.

The workshop featured lead presentations and discussions from experts representing countries including India, Thailand, Fiji, and Bangladesh. Discussions also explored opportunities for collaboration among Global South countries to strengthen digital health ecosystems and promote knowledge exchange on adaptable healthcare models.



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), has successfully concluded the International Training Programme on "Building Resilient Rural Communities in a Changing Climate", held from 27 April to 02 May 2026 at NIRDPR, Hyderabad, India.



26
Executives

10
CIRDAP Member Countries

6
Days of Learning

VALEDICTORY SESSION

The valedictory session, led by Dr. Milap Punia, Hon'ble VC of Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, India and Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, offered deep insights into building resilient rural communities in a changing climate. Drawing from field-based evidence in semi-arid north-western India, Dr. Punia highlighted the intersection of social, economic, political, and technological dimensions shaping rural livelihoods.



Discussions emphasized both farm and non-farm sectors, stressing the importance of infrastructure such as roads and financial credit access. Key indicators included community sensitivity to climate change and socioeconomic conditions. The session also touched on contract farming in urban areas, such as Delhi, underscoring the need for integrated livelihood promotion.

Dr. Punia advocated for a bottom-up participatory approach over top-down administration, urging adaptation strategies that move beyond isolated interventions. He called for equity-focused, logically grounded solutions to address environmental stress and socioeconomic constraints, empowering rural communities for sustainable futures.

PARTICIPATING MEMBER COUNTRIES

The programme brought together 26 participants from 10 CIRDAP Member Countries, along with representatives from both organisations:

- Sri Lanka
- Bangladesh
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Thailand
- Malaysia
- Lao PDR
- Vietnam
- Philippines
- India

CIRDAP remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthening regional cooperation and building the capacity of rural communities across Asia and the Pacific to adapt to and thrive in a changing climate. The knowledge, networks, and strategies developed through this programme will contribute meaningfully to the pursuit of climate resilient and sustainable rural development across the region.

The Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development and Sustainability Program

(ARBDSP), a flagship initiative of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) of the Philippines, stands as a compelling model of integrated rural development for the Asia Pacific region. Rooted in the

Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), ARBDSP transforms agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) into productive, self-reliant, and resilient stakeholders through a comprehensive package of support services.

Our Strategic Focus



Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries



ARB Organizations



Agrarian Reform Communities

At the heart of the program is the Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) strategy, adopted in 1993, which clusters contiguous barangays to maximise resource allocation and development impact. To date, 154 ARCs have been launched, 443 Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Organizations (ARBOs) have been formed with over 35,000 members, and support services have reached more than 49,000 ARBs nationwide.

The program operates through six integrated components: the ARCESS component delivers farm machinery, agri extension services, rural infrastructure, and credit access; the CLAAP project provides seed capital and livelihood training, targeting 36,000 beneficiaries with 30 per cent women participation; the PAHP initiative links ARBOs to institutional markets, generating over PHP 1.5 billion in gross sales between 2019 and early 2023; the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support addresses climate vulnerabilities through block farming and community seed banks; Social Infrastructure Building strengthens organisational capacities of ARBOs; and the BALAI Housing Program provides affordable, climate resilient housing integrated with livelihood activities.

The results have been substantial. Between July 2022 and May 2024, over 74,000 ARBs were capacitated with agricultural skills in the Davao Region alone, while 179 farm machineries were distributed across the Zamboanga Peninsula. The Senate approved a PHP 1.5 billion budget for ARBDSP in 2023, reflecting strong government commitment to the programme.

ARBDSP's participatory and multi agency approach, engaging partners such as the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Department of Trade and Industry, and civil society organisations, offers valuable lessons for countries across the Global South seeking scalable, community centered models for agrarian transformation and sustainable rural development.

CIRDAP has been proudly spotlighted in the April 2026 Edition of KhetiValah Global Agri E-Magazine, one of the leading voices in global agriculture and rural development!

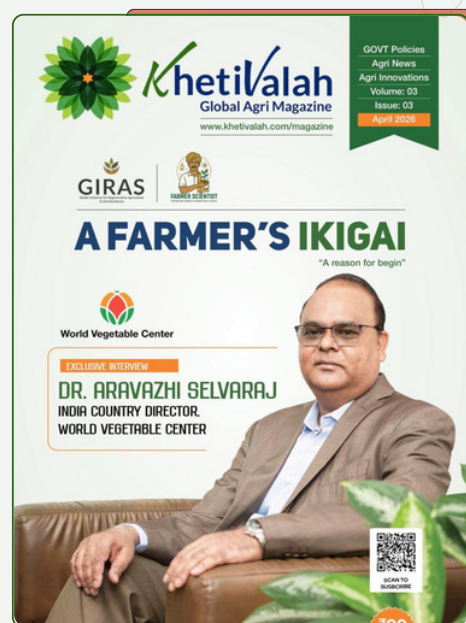
This special issue highlights CIRDAP's impactful work across the Asia-Pacific region (pages 49–56), along with the "Rural Heartbeat" cover feature on our Honourable Director General, HE. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara. His visionary leadership and steadfast commitment to rural transformation continue to inspire progress and collaboration.

The feature showcases CIRDAP's recent activities, innovative rural development initiatives, key regional updates, and the "Integrated Rural Development Models Series in the Asia-Pacific Region"—reflecting our ongoing dedication to knowledge sharing and regional learning.

Explore the full edition and discover stories shaping the future of agriculture and rural development.

👉 Click the link below to read the full magazine!

<https://cirdap.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/KhetiValah-Magazine-April-2026.pdf>



From Producers to Powerhouses: How FPOs are becoming the "Supermarkets" of Rural India – Mr. Pradeep Ghosh, GLIDE, India

For decades, the narrative of the Indian farmer has been one of struggle—fighting rising input costs, unpredictable climates, and the desperate migration of youth to factory floors. Vrutti Livelihood Impact Partners has long worked to change this, but a recent breakthrough in Karnataka, India, has revealed a radical truth: **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) don't need to beg for a place in the global market; they have the capacity to become the "Supermart" of their own regions.**

By adopting the **GLIDE - Group Livelihoods for Development approach (developed by OASiS Social Innovations Lab)**, FPOs can now transition from mere raw-material suppliers to architects of a circular, self-sustaining economy.

The Hidden Drain: A ₹13.68 Crore Revelation

During a GLIDE workshop conducted by OASiS in Kalaburagi (earlier Gulbarga) Karnataka, India, 30 FPO Leaders and Coordinators from Vrutti Livelihoods for Impact, realized that while they were exhausted from "chasing" remote markets for their pulses and vegetables, they were ignoring a goldmine at home.

In a typical village like Dharmapur (300 households):

- **The Income Gap:** An average household earns ₹2,63,000 per year but spends ₹4,56,000.
- **The Spending Leakage:** The village collectively spends ₹13.68 crores annually on 348 different factory-made packaged goods.
- **The GST Myth:** The village pays ₹2.12 crores in GST every year—far more than they receive back in government "freebies" or welfare schemes.



The GLIDE Shift: From "Producers" to "Producer-Consumers"

The realization was stark: the villagers were already a massive market for FMCG giants. They were exporting their labor and raw materials cheaply while importing expensive, processed goods. GLIDE flipped the script by helping FPOs look at what they already possessed:

- **Human Capital:** 65 distinct skills were identified among the participants, 46 of which could immediately generate local livelihoods.
- **Natural Capital:** 197 types of raw materials (86 of which grow wild and cost nothing) were found right in their backyards.
- **Market Capital:** Of the 348 products they currently buy from outside, they already have the skills to produce 152 of them locally.

Building the "Local Supermart"

The FPOs realized that their "hidden strength" is their massive, loyal consumer base. By grouping together, seven FPOs created a network of 5,250 farmer families.

The Strategy for Economic Swaraj:

1. **Circular Production:** FPOs identified 9 initial products (using free, uncultivated raw materials) to replace existing packaged goods.
2. **Internal Markets:** Instead of fighting for shelf space in city supermarkets, FPOs sell these goods directly to their 5,250 member families.
3. **Capturing Value:** By processing their own Red Gram into Dal and manufacturing their own FMCG goods, the "leakage" of ₹13.68 crores is plugged. This money stays in the village, creating jobs and wealth.

"We realized the goal wasn't to find a market; **we are the market**. By producing what we consume, we stop being vulnerable to global price fluctuations."

The Outcome: Thriving, Independent Villages

By embracing the GLIDE approach, these FPOs are no longer just agricultural cooperatives—they are becoming integrated enterprise hubs.

This model addresses the root causes of rural distress:

- **Ends Migration:** Youth find dignified, skilled work in their own villages.
- **Climate Resilience:** Multi-cropping and organic methods reduce dependency on expensive, chemical inputs.
- **Financial Independence:** Villages move toward Economic Swaraj, where they are no longer dependent on outside markets or government benevolence.

The FPOs of Karnataka state in India are now trying to prove that when farmers stop looking outward and start looking inward, they don't just survive—they lead. They aren't just farming anymore; they are building the future of production and retail, one village at a time.

Hear from the Participants:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUIIX94CsUNb46C0U5y2hhi2VeriBuaLI&si=8F3WRSz891I3aLBK>

Walk through the Photo Gallery: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/QjrY3WTAn9GdtaSMA>

To know all about GLIDE, and benefit from it, visit the link: <https://www.glide.org.in>





CIRDAP organized a knowledge series webinar titled "Food and Agriculture: From a Gender Lens" on 7 May 2026, featuring esteemed expert Dr. Yamuna Ghale from Nepal as the lead speaker.

Dr. Yamuna Ghale opened the session with a powerful message: Right to Food is Right to Life. She emphasized that every citizen has the right to enjoy food as per their age, health condition, and culture, and that this right is deeply interlinked with the agriculture system. She further highlighted that communities, the private sector, social institutions, and international agencies all have a shared responsibility to support every State in fulfilling its duties toward its citizens.

Dr. Ghale drew attention to the changing context of globalisation, where food and agriculture are increasingly being commodified as a function of trade. She noted that the growing threat of climate change has brought far more challenges than opportunities for smallholder farmers and women led farming systems, particularly in developing countries. The rising trend of male youth out migration has further feminized agriculture and food chain related tasks.

At the same time, women continue to face significant barriers including limited access to production resources, technological innovations, and mobility. They are also expected to manage productive, reproductive, community, and political roles simultaneously. In certain communities, socio cultural dimensions make girls and women even more vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition.

The session was chaired by H.E. Dr. P Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, and brought together distinguished experts and stakeholders from across CIRDAP Member Countries to discuss innovative and people centered approaches to strengthening agricultural extension systems in the region. The webinar can be accessed in CIRDAP YouTube Channel.

The graphic is a vertical rectangular poster for a webinar. At the top, it says 'CIRDAP KNOWLEDGE SERIES-57' next to a photo of two women in a field. Below that, the title 'Webinar on 'Food and Agriculture: From a Gender Lens'' is written. The date and time are listed: 'Thursday, May 7, 2026', '11:00 AM (Bangladesh Time)', and '10:45 AM (Nepal Time)'. A link to the Zoom meeting is provided. A circular portrait of Dr. Yamuna Ghale is shown, with her name and title 'Esteemed Speaker Yamuna Ghale, PhD CIRDAP Expert Nepal' below it. The CIRDAP logo and full name 'Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)' are at the bottom. Contact information for the organizer, venue, and coordinator is also included.

CIRDAP Welcomes Dr. Mahadeb Prasad Poudel as Programme Officer, (Research)

CIRDAP is pleased to welcome Dr. Mahadeb Prasad Poudel as Programme Officer (Research), effective 1 May 2026. Dr. Poudel is a distinguished Agricultural Economist with more than 27 years of extensive experience in Agricultural Policy, Development Planning, Program Management, and International Development cooperation in Nepal. He earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Taiwan and holds a Master's degree in International Agriculture from Van Hall Larenstein, Netherlands.



Throughout his professional career, Dr. Poudel has played a significant role in leading strategic initiatives related to agricultural development, resource mobilization, project prioritization, and policy support aligned with national development goals. His technical expertise spans agricultural risk management, insurance design, food security, climate-resilient agriculture, and price volatility analysis. He has also demonstrated strong leadership in designing and implementing large-scale agricultural programs, market system development, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Prior to joining CIRDAP, Dr. Poudel served in several senior leadership positions, notably as Executive Director of the Kalimati Fruits and Vegetables Market, where he contributed to institutional strengthening, market modernization, and value chain integration involving multiple stakeholders.





Dr. Poudel has worked closely with leading international development organizations, including Food and Agriculture Organization, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and International Fund for Agricultural Development, supporting policy formulation, investment planning, and capacity development initiatives. He has also published widely in peer-reviewed international journals and presented his research at regional and global forums.

In addition to his professional achievements, Dr. Poudel has served as a research consultant, academic supervisor, and peer reviewer for international journals, contributing to the development of future professionals in the field of agricultural and rural development.

CIRDAP Knowledge Series 58

Webinar on Action Lab for Transgender and Gender Variant Youth

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) hosted its 57th Knowledge Series Webinar on 21 May 2026, spotlighting the recently completed project "**Action Lab for Inclusion of Transgender and Gender Variant Youths in Mainstream Livelihood.**" The session was chaired by H.E. Dr. P Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, and featured Dr. Sandhya Gopakumaran, Director of Training and Development at the DDU GKY Resource Cell, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), India, supported by Mr. Abhinav Dutta, Expert.

A Collaborative Initiative for Change

Jointly implemented by CIRDAP and NIRD&PR, the project introduced an Action Lab model designed to integrate transgender and gender variant youths into sustainable livelihood systems through skill development, enterprise support, and community engagement.

Webinar on 'Action Lab for Inclusion of Transgender and Gender-Variant Youths in Mainstream Livelihood'

Thursday, May 21, 2026
11:00 AM (Bangladesh time)
10:30 AM (India time)
[Click here for zoom link](#)

Dr Sandhya Gopakumaran
Esteemed Speaker
Director Training & Development
DDU-GKY Resource Cell
National Institute of Rural
Development & Panchayati Raj
(NIRDPR), Hyderabad, India.

CIRDAP
Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)

Organized by: CIRDAP (icd@cirdap.org)
Venue: Virtual (Via Zoom Conference) (www.cirdap.org)
Coordinator: Ms. Hurain Jannat (communication_officer@cirdap.org)



Action Lab 1, led by the Sahodari Foundation in Tamil Nadu, trained 11 participants in coconut shell crafting and food processing, tapping into the region's abundant coconut produce. Supported by CSR contributions and the Lion's Club, the group has since conducted practice workshops and an exposure visit to a successful coco craft unit in Kerala.

Action Lab 2, implemented in West Bengal through the organisation PLEQSUS, covered three streams: mushroom cultivation (now supplying 78 individual customers), spice grinding (reaching 123 families and 4 grocery stores), and apparel stitching in partnership with USHA International, which garnered national media coverage on NDTV.

Key Takeaways

The project demonstrated that evidence based, community driven approaches can meaningfully advance social and economic inclusion. Core lessons emphasised the need for ecosystem support for entrepreneurs, adaptive programme design, and the inseparable link between wellbeing and livelihood. The way forward includes scaling these models, deepening market linkages, and expanding regional learning networks.

The full webinar is available on the CIRDAP YouTube Channel.





The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is an Intergovernmental, Regional, and Autonomous organization. It was established on 6 July 1979 at the initiative of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations with support from several other UN bodies and donors. The Centre came into being to meet the felt needs of the developing countries at that time as an institution for promoting Integrated Rural Development in the region.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared the date of 6 July as the World Rural Development Day, which is also the foundation day of Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), as a recognition of the organizations significant role in sustainable rural development endeavors in its member states in the Asia-Pacific region. The World Rural Development Day will be celebrated every 6 July as to inform and to remind everyone on his/her role and responsibility for collaborative actions on integrated rural development to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

From the original six members, CIRDAP has now grown up as a Centre of 15 member countries. The member-countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host Country), Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The main objectives of CIRDAP are to:

- Assist National Action;
- Promote Regional Cooperation;
- and Act as a servicing institution for its member countries for promotion: Integrated Rural Development (IRD) through Research, Action Research, Pilot Project, Training, and Information Dissemination. Amelioration of Rural Poverty in the Asia-Pacific region has been the prime concern of CIRDAP.

The programme priorities of CIRDAP are set under four Areas of Concern:

- Agrarian Development;
- Institutional/ Infrastructural;
- Resource development, including human resources;
- Employment.

Within these Areas of Concern, the thematic areas identified are: Poverty alleviation through participatory approaches with emphasis on social sector development (e.g. Health, Education and Nutrition); Employment generation through Microcredit support, Infrastructure Development and Local resource mobilisation; Gender issues; Governance issues; and Environmental concerns for Sustainable Rural Development.

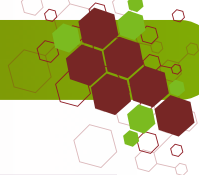
Operating through designated Contact Ministries and Link Institutions in member countries, CIRDAP promotes Technical Cooperation among nations of the region. It plays a supplementary and reinforcing role in supporting and furthering the effectiveness of Integrated Rural Development Programmes in the Asia-Pacific region.

Voice of CIRDAP – Monthly E-Bulletin of CIRDAP

Voice of CIRDAP (VoC) is a monthly newsletter published by CIRDAP. The purpose of the VoC is to highlight various facets of IRD in the Asia-Pacific region and activities of CIRDAP with stakeholders.

The designations employed and the presentation of materials in VoC do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of CIRDAP concerning the legal status of any country, city or area, or of its authorities or boundaries. News items, viewpoints on IRD and related issues are welcome. All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor.





Attention To The CIRDAP EXPERTS

CIRDAP would like to seek the support of the CIRDAP Experts for their greater involvement in enriching the lives of Rural Communities on CIRDAP platform.

Experts are invited to contribute in the following ways:

1. Provide updated information as indicated below. This reply will be treated as Experts renewed interest in CIRDAP Activities:

Name, Designation, Office, Contact detail, Photo, Country, No. of years of Experience, Areas of Expertise in Integrated Rural Development (Mention only FIVE important areas) and Complete CV.

2. A monthly e-bulletin 'Voice of CIRDAP' has been started by CIRDAP which is reaching 1.18 lakh stakeholders covering member countries every month. Experts are requested to give at least one Innovation on Rural Development with good photos in not more than one page for publication.

3. Please provide 2-3 minutes **video on any innovation, experience in Rural Development** which would be added to newly created CIRDAP YouTube Channel.

4. CIRDAP will be very happy to process/forward any of your national/International projects on Rural Development to funding agencies through **Project Facilitation Centre of CIRDAP**. If approved, the project will be led by the expert who prepare the project.

You are requested to send all the above information to Dr. Venkatamallu Thadaboina, Program Officer (Learning) and CIRDAP Email: po_learning@cirdap.org



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**Chameli House
The Headquarter of CIRDAP**



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