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# CIRDAP NEWSLETTER



## About CIRDAP

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is a regional, intergovernmental and autonomous institution.

It was established on 06 July 1979 at the initiative of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations with support from other UN bodies and donor.

It has 15 member countries, viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh (host state), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

## VISION

CIRDAP, a Centre of Excellence in Integrated Rural Development.

## MISSION

Our mission is to provide technical support and promote innovative best practices on sustainable IRD amongst member countries in Asia-Pacific in order to improve the lives of the rural people.

## Replication of “Multi Commodity Solar Tunnel Dryer” Model in Sri Lanka

Realizing the importance of minimizing the food loss, Department of Agriculture, Government of Sri Lanka requested CIRDAP to introduce a simple, cost-effective dryer for vegetable drying. As requested, CIRDAP took initiatives to introduce a Multi-Commodity Solar Tunnel Dryer (MCSTD) for drying vegetables on a pilot scale.

MCSTD was also successfully introduced to Bangladesh in 2018, developed by PhilMech and implemented by CIRDAP, with the technical assistance from PhilMech. From CIRDAP, Mr. Goerge Chandra Babu, Programme Officer (Research) visited Sri Lanka to fabricate and operate the MCSTD. The programme was scheduled from 8-26 February 2019.

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The brief details of the project activities are as follows:

Date	Meeting/Visit	Agenda/Activities	Outcome
9th February	Meeting with Director General of Agriculture (DGA), Sri Lanka	Overall discussion on Piloting MCSTD in Sri Lanka	(i) Fabrication of the MCSTD at FMRC was successfully done.
11th February	Discussion with Director, Additional Director of Horticultural Crop Research & Development Institute (HORDI) and project team from Food Research Unit of HORDI	Overall discussion on Piloting MCSTD in Sri Lanka	(ii) Demonstration on Operation of the dryer was successful. Drying the pumpkin was successful that took only one and a half days for drying.
12th February	Discussion with Project Engineers of Farm Mechanization Research Centre (FMRC)	Discussion on design, materials, and fabrication of MCSTD	(iii) Secretary highly appreciated CIRDAP for instantly agreeing to provide dryer technology for improving the food system. He also extended his willingness to contribute to seed capital and establishing CIRDAP sub center. Other ministry officials are also very cooperative for organizing GC & EC meeting and to actively contribute to forthcoming NC meeting.
13th February	Meeting with Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Additional Secretary (Development), Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and other relevant officers at Ministry of Agriculture	<p>(i) <b>Piloting MCSTD:</b> The discussion was based on cost effectiveness of this dryer and market for dried products was discussed. Possibilities of drying Pumpkin and using in various food products like soups, cakes, biscuits and even for using as an ingredient in animal feed were also discussed.</p> <p>(ii) <b>Payment of Seed Capital US\$10,000:</b> Secretary (MoA) requested the CFO to look for the possibilities of paying this contribution. CFO informed that they are in preparation of conducting GC, EC meetings of CIRDAP. Mr. Babu requested them to organize in late October/early November 2019.</p> <p>(iii) <b>Establishment of Sub-center of CIRDAP:</b> Mr. Babu explained the advantages of setting up of this sub center. Secretary has requested Director, HARTI to look into this matter.</p> <p>(iv) <b>CIRDAP's National Coordinators (NC) Meeting:</b> Mr. Babu briefed him about the forthcoming NC meeting in Bangladesh. He extended his fullest cooperation for this meeting.</p>	<p>(iv) Meetings with the Secretary and other officers of the MoA were fruitful.</p> <p>(v) They were very keen to introduce the MCSTD in Sri Lanka. According to their opinion, this is a cost-effective drying technology even though it has its own disadvantages.</p>
14th February	Visit to seed potato project on the request of DGA	For consultation	
14th-20th February	At FMRC for the fabrication process	<p>(i) Fabrication of the MCSTD at FMRC.</p> <p>(ii) A discussion was also taken place on the inception of SDF funded small scale food processing project with new Principal Investigator Ms. Disna Rathnasinghe, Addl. Director, ETC, DoA. The difficulty faced by them is to identify a cost-effective Vacuum Frying Machine. It is pointed out that the electricity cost for operation can be much higher with the proposed machine.</p>	<p>(vi) It is also initiated to carry out an experiment with MCSTD to fine tune the drying mechanism for local products.</p>

21 <sup>st</sup> February	Test run of the MCSTD	
22 <sup>nd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Drying of Pumpkin in the dryer.	
	Final discussion with DGA	<p>(i) A brief on the progress on MCSTD was provided. He agreed that further research on drying different vegetables and fruits should be carried out using this dryer.</p> <p>(ii) A discussion was held with DGA and the Additional Director General (Development) on a major concern of implementing SDF project, i.e. cost of energy for the proposed Vacuum Frying machine.</p>
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Meeting with new Director of HARTI	They discussed about establishing CIRDAP sub-center in Sri Lanka. New Director has welcomed the idea and assigned one officer to pursue this matter.
	Meeting with the Secretary, MoA	It was to brief him on the progress of fabrication and operation of the dryer. The discussion was centered not only on dryers but also on product development and marketing. The real issue of loss of food due to excess production is lack of knowledge and willingness to consume processed food. Hence, it is suggested to develop attractive food items to meet consumer preference

### CIRDAP National Coordinators' Planning Workshop in Bangladesh

<b>Organizer</b>	<b>Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)</b>	
<b>Venue</b>	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Cumilla, Bangladesh	
<b>Date</b>	10-13 March 2019	
<b>Supportive Organization</b>	BARD, Cumilla	
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>(i) To provide better understanding of CIRDAP system and processes;</p> <p>(ii) To plan and propose CIRDAP biannual programme 2020-2021 for the Policy Bodies' (i.e., Governing Council, Executive Committee, Technical Committee) consideration;</p> <p>(iii) To strengthen the management of programme activities; and</p> <p>(iv) To strengthen networking amongst the Secretariat, CIRDAP member countries, their rural development link institutes and other development partners.</p>	
<b>Participants</b>	22 participants from 15 CIRDAP Member Countries, including seven (7) observers.	
	<p>The countries are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Afghanistan</li> <li>▪ Bangladesh</li> <li>▪ Fiji</li> <li>▪ India</li> <li>▪ Indonesia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Iran</li> <li>▪ Lao PDR</li> <li>▪ Malaysia</li> <li>▪ Myanmar</li> <li>▪ Nepal</li> <li>▪ Pakistan</li> <li>▪ Philippines</li> <li>▪ Sri Lanka</li> <li>▪ Thailand</li> <li>▪ Vietnam</li> </ul>
<b>Resource Persons</b>	Dr. Singh from India who was former Director of CIRDAP Training Division.	

22  
participants  
from  
15  
CIRDAP  
Member  
Countries  
attended  
the  
Programme.

<b>Contents and Field Visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) CIRDAP Framework and Processes</li> <li>(ii) Initiatives of Digital CIRDAP</li> <li>(iii) Overview of CIRDAP Training Programmes</li> <li>(iv) CIRDAP's Research Programmes and Processes</li> <li>(v) Effective Integrated Rural Development (IRD) Programmes in CMCs (National Coordinators' respective countries presentation on IRD programmes)</li> <li>(vi) Discussion on Revised Programme for 2019 and Proposed Biennial Programmes for 2020-2021</li> <li>(vii) Field Visits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Visit to Maynamoti, a historical place of Bangladesh.</li> <li>▪ Field visit to a community village under <i>Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar</i> project. About hundred villagers both male and female who were associated with Ekti Bari Eki Khamar Project participated in the open discussion meeting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Lessons Learnt</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) <b>Criteria for nomination of participant:</b> ToR for participant's nomination should be improved. Some specific criteria should be included in the ToR that can help to identify right participant(s) for training or workshop.</li> <li>(ii) <b>National Coordinators (NCs) need sufficient time for preparation:</b> It was realized that NCs need more time for preparation to participate in the workshop. It was also better if more time was given during the discussion session on proposed biannual programme, they could share more details about their programme activities.</li> <li>(iii) <b>Preparation of presentation by NCs:</b> NCs should be requested to strictly follow the template for preparation of the presentation. It may be requested to submit the presentations in advance for scrutinizing.</li> <li>(iv) <b>Protocol for foreign participants:</b> Sometime security is essential for foreign participants. Their security and necessary police protocol should be ensured during the programme. It was learnt that traffic jam also created problem to reach in right time in the destination. Flight could be missed due to traffic jam. In this regard, initiative can be taken by the Administration for future programme.</li> <li>(v) <b>One should go earlier in the venue to oversee the preparation:</b> For overseeing the preparation and logistics works, at least one representative of CIRDAP should go to venue to look after overall preparation to organize the program.</li> <li>(vi) <b>Sharing Best Practice:</b> We can collect best practice through NC coordinators and can share among member countries.</li> </ul>

### CIRDAP -NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on “Food Waste to Wealth - Post Harvest to Market” in Vietnam

<b>Organizers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Socialist Republic of Vietnam</li> <li>(ii) Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)</li> <li>(iii) National Institute of Rural Development &amp; Panchayati Raj (NIRD&amp;PR)</li> </ul>
<b>Venue</b>	Thu Hu Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam
<b>Date</b>	01-10 March 2019
<b>Sponsor</b>	Government of India
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To educate participants on approaches to minimize food waste and food losses besides promoting high agriculture productivity to ensure food security for the people of the world; and</li> <li>(ii) To find out solutions for future generations, particularly to help feed nine billion people in 2050 without undue environmental implications for water, land and fishery resources.</li> </ul>

Representatives

from **13**  
CIRDAP  
Member  
Countries  
participated  
in the  
Programme.

Participants	A total of 19 participants from 13-member countries of CIRDAP represented the training workshop (excluding Vietnam participants)
Invited Resource Person	Dr. Tran Cong Thang, Deputy General Director, Institute of Policy and Strategy Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam.
Contents and Observations	<p>Most reports of the participants reflect government institutions' policies, framework and programmes.</p> <p>The Tutors were well equipped and facilitated the training well. However, bulk also of their content were mainly on waste management technology and practices. Only one guest tutor, Dr. Tran Cong Thang presented a Vietnam experience on Initiatives to Mitigate Post harvest to Market Losses. The Programme was relevant and exciting to understand in terms of its significance to address world hunger and poverty. Unfortunately, country reports lacked substantial data that could be analysed and published to add to the literature on Food Losses and Food Waste, and more importantly to present the current status of CIRDAP member countries poverty and hunger stories.</p>

### CIRDAP-NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on “Geospatial Information Management in Rural Development” in India

Organizers	(i) Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) (ii) National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)	
Venue	NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India	
Date	19-28 March 2019	
Sponsor	Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India	
Objectives	<p><b>Specific:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To train the participants in the current use of the spatial technologies like Remote Sensing, GIS &amp; GPS in rural development;</li> <li>(ii) To discuss various application potentials of geo-spatial technologies in development programmes with specific reference to their countries and exchange ideas; experiences in formulating and implementing the Geo-spatial technologies, assess the feasibility of meeting the regional needs based on existing manpower, software, hardware and data availability and assess the training needs and resources requirements at the country level;</li> </ul> <p><b>General:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(iii) To promote effective networking among the relevant institutions in the countries of the region and to address common challenges, mitigation and issues and promote information sharing and for South-South cooperation;</li> <li>(iv) To present case studies on application of the GIM in rural development and to disseminate the same at the regional level; and</li> <li>(v) To strengthen capacity building efforts of member countries through training to accelerate application GIM in the region to achieve SDGs.</li> </ul>	
Participants	19 participants from 11 CIRDAP member countries.	
	The countries are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Afghanistan</li> <li>▪ Fiji</li> <li>▪ India</li> <li>▪ Iran</li> <li>▪ Malaysia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Myanmar</li> <li>▪ Nepal</li> <li>▪ Philippines</li> <li>▪ Sri Lanka</li> <li>▪ Thailand</li> <li>▪ Vietnam</li> </ul>

19  
participants  
from

11  
CIRDAP  
Member  
Countries  
attended.



Invited Resource Persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Dr. N Aparna, Group Head, NDC, NRSC;</li> <li>(ii) Dr. C S Murthy, Head, Ag. Sciences, NRSC;</li> <li>(iii) Dr. C S Jha, Group Director, Forestry &amp; Ecology, NRSC;</li> <li>(iv) Dr. V V Rao, Group Director, Water Resources, NRSC;</li> <li>(v) Dr. KHV Durga Rao, Head, DSC, NRSC; and</li> <li>(vi) Dr. A K Joshi, Group Director (G&amp;WGS), NRSC</li> </ul>
Facilitators from CIRDAP and NIRD&PR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Mr. Mohd Shanawaz Kashif, Project Scientist, CGARD, CIRDAP;</li> <li>(ii) Dr. P Kesava Rao, Associate Professor &amp; Head, CGARD, NIRD&amp;PR;</li> <li>(iii) Dr. M V Ravibabu, Associate Professor, CGARD, NIRD&amp;PR;</li> <li>(iv) Er H K Solanki, Assistant Professor, CGARD, NIRD&amp;PR; and</li> <li>(v) Dr. N.S.R.Prasad, Assistant Professor, CGARD, NIRD&amp;PR.</li> </ul>
Contents and Lessons Learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Specific areas in rural development planning, including agriculture, forestry, watershed planning, land use and land cover, infrastructure, water resources, natural resource management and governance issues where the application of Geospatial technologies would be most effective and work out specific proposals for follow-up actions. The knowledge was disseminated on various modules with various geospatial technologies, image processing software and capabilities.</li> <li>▪ The regular sessions of the training programme were held through the presentation, discussion and some hands-on experience. As part of the training programme, participants visited many relevant fields in Hyderabad, Bangalore and Mysore for gaining relevant knowledge and experience.</li> <li>▪ Participants gained knowledge and skills in the application of GIS and remote sensing tools and techniques in the various field of rural development.</li> <li>▪ It is expected that the participants will utilize the knowledge gained in their daily works, resulting in an improved workflow and high quality of outputs, thereby contributing to the better planning and management in their countries.</li> </ul>

### International Training Programme on "Social Audit in Rural Development Programmes" in India

Organizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)</li> <li>(ii) National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&amp;PR)</li> </ul>
Venue	NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India
Date	19-28 March 2019
Sponsor	Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, India
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To discuss the need, concept and approaches of social accountability mechanisms in general and social audits in particular;</li> <li>(ii) To make the participant understand the provisions of different rural development programmes with reference to social accountability mechanisms;</li> <li>(iii) To enable the participants to understand and critically review the approach and practice of social audit;</li> <li>(iv) To expose the participants to the best practices of social audit in rural development programmes in India; and</li> <li>(v) To have hands on experience by conducting one mock social audit in a village of India.</li> </ul>
Participants	20 participants from nine (9) CIRDAP Member Countries attended.

20  
participants  
from  
09  
CIRDAP  
Member  
Countries  
attended.

	<p>The countries are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Afghanistan</li> <li>Bangladesh</li> <li>Fiji</li> <li>Iran</li> <li>Myanmar</li> <li>Nepal</li> <li>Philippines</li> <li>Thailand</li> <li>Vietnam</li> </ul>
Resource Persons/ Facilitators	<p>Facilitators from CIRDAP and NIRD&amp;PR are:</p> <p>(i) Mr. Tomasi V. Raiyawa, OIC Training, CIRDAP; and</p> <p>(ii) Dr. Srinivas Sajja, NIRD&amp;PR</p> <p>Apart from NIRDPR's staffs, several invitee resource persons had been invited for sessions.</p>
Contents and Field Visit	<p>Four Modules were presented as Course content, namely:</p> <p>(i) Poverty and Rural Development Scenario;</p> <p>(ii) Transparency and Accountability Measures;</p> <p>(iii) Social Accountability Mechanisms and Social Audit; and</p> <p>(iv) Field Visit for Understanding Social Audit.</p>
Field Visits	<p>(i) Golkonda visit;</p> <p>(ii) Visit to SSAAT office and interaction with Director, SSAAT;</p> <p>(iii) Field Visit to observe Social Audit process (selection of VSA and training);</p> <p>(iv) Field Visit to observe Social Audit process (document verification, Physical verification and door to door verification); and</p> <p>(v) Field Visit to observe Social Audit Gramsabha and Public hearing.</p>

### CIRDAP-NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on “Decentralized Governance and Delivery of Services – Way to Good Governance”

16  
participants  
from  
10  
CIRDAP  
Member  
Countries  
attended.

<b>Organizers</b>	<p>(i) Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)</p> <p>(ii) National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&amp;PR)</p>
<b>Venue</b>	NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India
<b>Date</b>	19-28 March 2019
<b>Sponsor</b>	Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, India
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>(i) To discuss the international perspectives and the Asia-Pacific trends of decentralized governance;</p> <p>(ii) To share knowledge of governance, its theory and practices, and share best practices of good governance;</p> <p>(iii) To discuss decentralized governance in better service delivery;</p> <p>(iv) To develop mock action plan for decentralized governance; and</p> <p>(v) To share knowledge on the rural development programmes in India by practicing decentralize governance.</p>
<b>Participants</b>	<p>16 participants from 10 CIRDAP Member Countries.</p> <p>The countries are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Afghanistan</li> <li>Bangladesh</li> <li>Fiji</li> <li>Indonesia</li> <li>Iran</li> <li>Myanmar</li> <li>Nepal</li> <li>Philippines</li> <li>Sri Lanka</li> <li>Vietnam</li> </ul>

- Resource Persons**
- (i) Dr. M. Gopinath Reddy, Professor and Head, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad;
  - (ii) Dr. S. Senthil Vinayagam, Principal Scientist, National Academy of Agricultural Research Management;
  - (iii) Shri A. Murali (I.A.S), Director General, Telangana State Archives, Hyderabad;
  - (iv) A.Y.V. Krishna (I.P.S), Joint Director, CBI, Hyderabad;
  - (v) Mr. Sunil Vyas, Joint Director, Accounts & Treasuries (retd.), Maharashtra;
  - (vi) Ms. Chandra Iyengar (retd. I.A.S), Home Secretary, Government of Maharashtra; and
  - (vii) Dr. B. Chandra Mohan (I.A.S), Principal Secretary/Chairman and Managing Director, Handicrafts Development Corporation, Tamil Nadu.

<b>Contents and Lessons Learnt</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Framework of Decentralized Governance:</b> Participants came to know about India's administrative structure for decentralizing governance system.</li> <li>▪ <b>Way of Service Delivery in Decentralized Governance:</b> Over the sessions relevant to service delivery, participants came to learn about Government of India's various programmes, initiatives and its pros and cons.</li> <li>▪ <b>Approaches to ensure Good Governance:</b> Throughout the sessions relevant to ensuring good governance, resource persons describe the differences between good and bad governance, the indicators that government have to follow up for ensuring good governance, the gaps between policy and practices in practical life and so on.</li> <li>▪ <b>Field Trips:</b> In field trips, participants visit another state of India named Tamil Nadu for experiencing good governance practices. Participants visited two villages in Chennai to see initiatives that been taken by Self Help Groups for ensuring their livelihoods.</li> </ul>
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## Training-cum-Exposure Visit for Indian Officials to Bangladesh

<b>Background:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The National Bank Staff College (NBSC) is the training wing of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NBARD) of India requested CIRDAP in 2017 to organize a training-cum-exposure visit on "Promotion of Enterprise Development and Sustainable Livelihood through Microfinance Sector in Bangladesh" for their officials.</li> <li>(ii) Consequently, the Secretariat facilitated the programme for NBSC officials from 27th to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.</li> </ul>
<b>Participants:</b>	(i) The programme was attended by 11 Senior Officials of NBARD from the different states of India. The male and female ratio of participants was 7:3.
<b>Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To foster knowledge-idea-innovation-function on the microfinance sector in Bangladesh;</li> <li>(ii) To develop an idea on enterprise development through microfinance; and</li> <li>(iii) To understand the functional of microfinance for the promotion of sustainable livelihood.</li> </ul>
<b>Contents and Field Visits:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The Exposure Visit was mainly focused on 3 components, i.e. Microfinance, SME Development and Livelihood Generation. The team visited six (6) organisations as well as three (3) field visits on this thematic areas within 5 days. The programme plan was as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day-1: Meeting with the senior management of Bangladesh Bank and PKSF</li> <li>Day-2: BRAC (field visit and meeting with the senior management)</li> <li>Day-3: Grameen Bank (field visit and meeting with the senior management)</li> <li>Day-4: BRDB (field visit and meeting with the senior management)</li> <li>Day-5: Meeting with the senior management of SME Foundation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



**Observations:**

- (i) The programme outline was well appreciated by the participants. It was diversified comprising of Government and Non-Government initiatives as well as banking sector initiatives on the mentioned topics so that participants could gain diversified knowledge;
- (ii) The Government and Non-Government organizations what we selected, they arranged the programme very effectively. In some cases, organizational head was in the meeting and make the programme more worthwhile through their knowledge and experience sharing.
- (iii) Arranging Exposure Visit outside CIRDAP contact ministry and link Institutions, is certainly a very effective initiative in the aspects of CIRDAP visibility expansion. Through arranging such kind of Exposure Visits, It will strengthen our bonding outside our contact ministries and link Institutions too.

**CIRDAP-RGNIYD Collaborative International Training-cum-Exposure Programme on “Youth Engagement to meet Sustainable Development Goals”**

<b>Organizers</b>	(i) Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) (ii) Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)
<b>Venue</b>	RGNIYD, Chennai, India
<b>Date</b>	18-22 February 2019
<b>Objectives</b>	To analyze the latest and diverse range of needs and benefits of career development sector, the project objectives are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To inform the Social Innovation and Best Practices for youth development;</li> <li>(ii) To explain the knowledge on Youth Development Policy and Practice;</li> <li>(iii) To identify priority and strategy based guidelines to address the emerging opportunities and challenges through community-based developmental entrepreneurship; and</li> <li>(iv) To introduce the government’s intervention on the ICT sector for personal and professional skill development.</li> </ul>
<b>Participants</b>	Initially, 20 Participants were selected from 10 CMCs. Finally, 14 participants attended the programme.
<b>Invited Resource Persons</b>	(i) Dr. Kumaravel, Assistant Professor, RGNIYD; (ii) Mr. David Paul, Training Officer, RGNIYD; (iii) Mr. Rangaswamy Elango, Managing Trustee, Trust for Village Self Governance; (iv) Mr. M.B. Nirmal, Founder, Exnora International; (v) Ms. Aruna Vinodh, Senior Director, Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust (BYST); (vi) Dr. R. Kaleeswaran, Coordinator, Art and Literature, Loyola Students Support Services; and (vii) National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), 4 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, Arrakonam.
<b>Facilitators</b>	(i) Ms. Mahjabin Monika, EA –Training, CIRDAP; and (ii) Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Head, CNIC, RGNIYD.

**14**  
students  
from  
**10**  
CIRDAP  
Member  
Countries  
participated.

<b>Contents and Lessons Learnt</b>	<p>(i) <b>National Youth Policies of CIRDAP Member Countries:</b> Participants came to know about their countries youth policies and gaps. They also came to know about India's Youth Development Index and its importance. They got some ideas about the areas of SDGs where youths can involve directly.</p> <p>(ii) <b>Self-Development Sessions:</b> Through these sessions (i.e., career counselling, life skills, theatre for transformation, disaster management/mitigation strategies and emergency response), they learnt some life skills and career planning, transferring messages through a creative theatre performance, etc.</p> <p>(iii) <b>Field Trips:</b> They visited Mr. Elango's projects and Exnora International (a local organization). Through these visits, they came to know about some social based projects.</p>
<b>Observations</b>	<p>The main objective of the programme was to build up the awareness and give a platform, where youth can identify the ways on how they can contribute to SDGs through regional collaborations. The objective was achieved successfully.</p> <p>Throughout this programme, some ideas on social innovation, youth development policies/programmes/practices, increase employability through Life Skill, Leadership and Entrepreneurship have been provided to the participants.</p>

### Visit to BARD to Study a Pilot Project

On the request of Director General of the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), a pilot project on Improved Potato Cultivation Technology as well as Consultation for Mushroom Production was started at BARD, Cumilla during the beginning of Dec. 2019. As a part of this initiative, a visit to BARD on 23-24 January 2019 was arranged to study the progress of the pilot project on Potato Cultivation and the progress was made in mushroom cultivation programme.

The CIRDAP team monitored the potato cultivation technology field and recorded the observations. It was observed in the plots that planted with new technology vigorous growth and faster ground cover whereas in traditional technology, the growth rate was very poor. This visit also included the spawning production Lab and cultivation area of Mushroom to observe the growth and take necessary initiatives to secure fruitful output.

### Visit to Lal Teer Seed Company, Gazipur

Organised by the Lal Teer Seed Limited at Bashon, Gazipur on 18th January 2019 to showcase its products and show seed testing and packing facility, Mr. George Chandra Babu, Programme Officer (Research) of CIRDAP attended the programme and enhance his knowledge seeing different aspects of seed processing. The seed testing facility includes testing for germination, moisture content, seed viability and vigour. This testing facility conforms to the ISTA standards as such their seed quality test is accepted globally. Lal Teer Seed Limited is a research-based and the largest seed company in the private sector of Bangladesh since 1995.

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