

41 YEARS OF CIRDAP

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE



Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific

CIRDAP

CIRDAP

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is a regional, intergovernmental 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. From the original six members, CIRDAP has now grown up as a Centre of 15 member countries. The member-countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host State), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. 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.

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. In pursuing this mission: we shall strengthen collaboration with our link ministries, link institutions, development partners, private sector and other stakeholders; we shall adopt state of the art information and communication technology; we shall commit to mobilizing resources; and We shall embrace the values of Diligence, Integrity, Transparency and Accountability, Inclusivity, and Resilience to inculcate professionalism.

VALUES

CIRDAP should be guided by the following values:

Diligence – Commitment to careful and persistent work and effort to contribute to the achievement of CIRDAP goals;

Integrity – Uphold moral or ethical code through honesty, faithfulness, sincerity and innocence;

Transparency and Accountability – Ensure that all activities are undertaken through ways in which they can easily be visible by others and taking ownership of their processes and outputs;

Inclusivity – Ensure the inclusion of the most vulnerable rural people in terms of socio-economic status, gender, physical challenges in all activities undertaken; and

Resilience – The ability to anticipate and manage challenges to sustain continuous progress.

Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Road GPO Box 2883, Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh.

Phone : 02-9563384 Fax: 02-9562035, 9571880

Email administration@cirdap.org, Web: www.cirdap.org

MESSAGE from DIRECTOR GENERAL



41st Anniversary Address 2020

It is an honor and grateful joy for me to give an address to mark CIRDAPs' 41st Foundation day today on 06th July, 2020.

CIRDAP was established on 06th July, 1979 and 41 years later it is still well and alive. Institutions and individual have made this happen. Allow me therefore to extend our special thanks to the following for their immense contribution:

- The Governments that were represented in the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of a Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific that was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 29 July 1978. These include Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Korea (Rep. of), Lao, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam ;
- FAO for coordinating the Conference and the establishment of CIRDAP Centre;
- The Government of Bangladesh for hosting CIRDAP and providing the beautiful Chameli Heritage Site in Dhaka with its buildings. Through her generosity, the Government of Bangladesh also funded the construction of an International standard Conference Centre.

- The former Director Generals which includes:
 - Mr. Aziz-ul Haq, (1979-1984) Bangladesh ;
 - Mr. ATM Shamsul Haque, (1984-1992) Bangladesh ;
 - Dr. Shamporn Hanpongpanh, (1992-1996) Thailand;
 - Dr. A.V.S. Reddy, (1996-2000) India;
 - Dr. Mya Maung, 2000-2004) Myanmar;
 - Dr. Durga Prasad Paudyal, (2004-2004)Nepal ; and
 - Dr. Cecep Effendi, (2012-2016) Indonesia
- Former Staff Members;
- Current Staff Member; and
- Development Partners.

We have been in the process of adding value to the celebration of the Foundation Days every year, but had to downscale the celebration this year because of COVID-19.

Despite this, COVID-19 has also provided us an opportunity to reflect on our journey towards the achievement of CIRDAP's mandated roles; to improve the quality of life or our marginalized people through regional corporation.

For the past months we have seen the importance of connecting with the marginalize rural people, physical environment, social and cultural environment and modern information technologies. These are to be embedded with basic human values such as love.

Above all we need to consider taking a Wisdom Driven Rural Development Approach as the new normal towards the post-COVID era.

Be positive, Stay safe and enjoy CIRDAP's 41st Foundation Day.

God Bless you all.

PAST : Lest We Forget

WE ARE CIRDAP



Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific is a Bangladesh-based intergovernmental organization involved in rural development and poverty alleviation. 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. Initially it had six members countries and has grown to fifteen.

The Organisation was established to:

To assist national action and promote regional co-operation relating to Integrated Rural Development (IRD), in the region

To act as a servicing institution for its member states

To encourage joint collective activities to benefit the member countries both individually and collectively

To alleviate poverty through people's participation in the development process.

Some successful events attributed to the Organisation include the following:

- > Regional Cooperation Crucial for Watershed Management, Seminar on CIRDAP's 31st Foundation Day, Dhaka, 6 July 2010
- > Second Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific, 27-28 January 2010, Dhaka
- > Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-17), 25 January 2010, Dhaka
- > Twenty-Seventh Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-27), 24 January 2010, Dhaka
- > Fourth Regional Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, 26 January 2010, CIRDAP, Dhaka
- > Initiation of the ICT Centre at the CIRDAP International Conference (ICC), 26 January 2010, CIRDAP, Dhaka
- > Training-cum-Exposure visit on Micro-Finance in Bangladesh for Indian Officials, 05-12 February 2010 (STST.56), Dhaka
- > Twenty Fifth Meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-25), 26-29 July 2009, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
- > Policy Dialogue on Success Story of Malaysia on Rural Transformation and Poverty Reduction, 27-30, April 2009, Langkawi, Malaysia
- > Ministerial Retreat for Rural Development Ministers of CIRDAP Member Countries

HISTORY OF CIRDAP POLICY BODY MEETINGS

The highest authority of CIRDAP is its Governing Council (GC). It consists of the Ministers in charge of Agriculture and Rural Development or any other relevant agencies in member states. The Governing Council formulates policies, provides directions to the Centre and approves Planning, the biennial work programme and the budget. At present, the Council is composed of 15 members representing all member states. It meets every two years. Below are the dates and venues of past Governing Council meetings lest we forget.

TYPE OF MEETING	PLACE	DATE
GC-(1)	Bangkok, Thailand	2-6 July 1979
GC-(2)	CIRDAP, Bangladesh	5-6 December 1980
Special GC	Kathmandu, Nepal	7-8 December 1981
GC (3)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	8-9 December, 1982
2nd Special Meeting	Manila, Philippines	1-2 December 1983
GC-(4)	New Delhi, India	6-7 December 1984
GC-(5)	Jakarta, Indonesia	17-19 December 1985
GC (6)	Islamabad, Pakistan	9-10 December, 1987
GC-(7)	Hanoi, Vietnam	7-8 December 1989
GC-(8)	Colombo, Sri Lanka	9-10 January 1992
GC-(9)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	14-15 December 1993
GC-(10)	Vientiane, Lao PDR	7-8 December 1995
GC-(11)	New Delhi, India	28-29 November 1997
GC-(12)	Yangon/ Bagan, Myanmar	3-4 December 1999
Sub-Committee Meeting of GC	Dhaka, Bangladesh	11-12 March, 2000
GC-(13)	Kathmandu, Nepal	17-18 January 2002
GC-(14)	Jakarta, Indonesia	25-26 August 2003
GC-(15)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	2-3 October 2005
GC-(16)	Manila, Philippines	31 May-1 June 2007
GC-(17)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	25 January 2010
GC-(18)	Tehran, Iran	13-14 December 2011
GC-(19)	New Delhi, India	30 September 2013
GC-(20)	Nadi, Fiji	20 August 2015
GC-(21)	Manila, Philippines	13 October, 2017
GC-(22)	Colombo, Sri Lanka	11 October, 2019



19th Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-19) 30th September, 2013 in India

The **Executive Committee** comprises the Secretaries/Permanent Secretaries/Secretaries Generals of the Contact Ministries. Its main functions are to review and make recommendations to the Governing Council on matters concerning the management and operation of CIRDAP. It also has the responsibility of advising the Director General of the Centre on the implementation of the policies and decisions of the Council, its day to day activities, and providing guidelines for the functioning of the Centre. It meets every two years back to back Governing Council Meeting. Below are dates of past EC meetings and venues.

TYPE OF MEETING	PLACE	DATE
EC-(1)	Bangkok, Thailand	6 July 1979
EC-(2)	CIRDAP, Comilla, Bangladesh	2-3 Dec 1980
EC-(3)	CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh	Oct 26-27 1981
EC-(4)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	6-7 Dec 1982
EC-(5)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	14-15 Dec 1983
EC-(6)	New Delhi, India	3-5 Dec 1984
EC-(7)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	16-19 Sep 1985
EC-(8)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	26-27 Nov 1986
EC-(9)	Islamabad, Pakistan	6-7 Dec 1987
EC-(10)	CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh	7-8 Dec 1988
EC-(11)	Hanoi, Vietnam	4-5, Dec 1989
EC-(12)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	7-8 January 1991
EC-(13)	Colombo, Sri Lanka	6-7 January 1992
EC-(14)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	2-3 Dec 1992
EC-(15)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	11-12 Dec 1993
EC-(16)	Vientiane, Lao PDR	4-5 Dec 1995
EC-(17)	CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh	4-5 Dec 1996
EC-(18)	New Delhi, India	25-26 Nov 1997
EC-(19)	CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh	2-3 Dec 1998
EC-(20)	Yangon, Myanmar	30 Nov -1 Dec 1999
EC-(21)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	22-23 Jan 2001
EC-(22)	Kathmandu, Nepal	14-15 Jan 2002
EC-(23)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	28-29 Oct 2002
EC-(24)	Jakarta, Indonesia	22-23 August 2003
EC-(25)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	29-30 Sept 2005
EC-(26)	Manila, Philippines	28-29 May 2007
EC-(27)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	24-25 Jan 2010
EC-(28)	Tehran, Iran	10-11 Dec 2011
EC-(29)	Delhi, India	27-28 Sep 2013
EC-(30)	Nadi, Fiji Island	17-18 August 2015
EC-(31)	Manila, Philippines	9-10 October, 2017
EC-(32)	Colombo, Sri Lanka	8-9 October, 2019

The third CIRDAP policy body is its working committee known as the Technical Committee (TC). It is composed of the heads of all CIRDAP Link Institutions, the Director General of FAO or a representative; the Director General of CIRDAP, as well as an expert of outstanding professional competence in IRD. An advisory body, which meets annually, the TC provides professional inputs, and assists in the implementation of the Centre's programmes and projects in the member countries. The Technical Committee meets annually. The dates and venues of past TC meetings are shown below.

TYPE OF MEETING	PLACE	DATE
TC-(1)	Comilla, Bangladesh	6-8 October 1980
TC-(2)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	26 -28 July 1982
TC (3)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	9-11 May, 1984
TC-(4)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	2-5 August, 1986
TC-(5)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	6-7 July, 1988
TC (6)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	3-6 July, 1989
TC-(7)	Comilla/Dhaka, Bangladesh	15-18 July, 1990
TC-(8)	Hyderabad, India	16-19 July 1991
TC-(9)	CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh	1-2 July 1992
TC-(10)	Islamabad, Pakistan	18 -21 July 1993
TC-(11)	Songkla, Thailand	26-28 July 1994
TC-(12)	Pokhara, Nepal	11-14 September 1995
TC-(13)	Yangon, Myanmar	6-9 June 1996
TC-(14)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	29-30 November 1998
TC-(15)	BARD, Comilla, Bangladesh	26-28 October 1999
TC-(16)	Manila, Philippines	6-8 November 2000
TC-(17)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	7-9 August 2001
TC-(18)	Dhaka, Bangladesh	19-20 August 2002
TC-(19)	Yangon, Myanmar	6-7 June 2003
TC-(20)	Colombo, Sri Lanka	21-22 September 2004
TC-(21)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	15-17 December 2005
TC-(22)	Bandung, Indonesia	12-14 September 2006
TC-(23)	Chiang Mai, Thailand	20-22 August 2007
TC-(24)	Kathmandu, Nepal	5-7 May 2008
TC-(25)	Tehran, Iran	26-29 July 2009
TC-(26)	Kabul, Afghanistan	11-14 December 2010
TC-(27)	Colombo, Sri Lanka	13-16 June 2012
TC-(28)	Jakarta, Indonesia	23-24 May 2013
TC-(29)	Hanoi, Vietnam	15-19 September 2014
TC-(30)	Islamabad, Pakistan (Seminar)	5-8 May, 2015
TC-(31)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	25 May 2016
TC-(32)	Comilla, Bangladesh	02-06 May 2017
TC-(33)	Nadi, Fiji	18-19 April 2018
TC-(34)	Hyderabad, India	27-28 June, 2019

Though the CIRDAP Secretariat has moved to Dhaka, the BARD Institute remains its partner in Rural Development programmes. In 2017, BARD hosted the CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC- 32). Then in 2019 it hosted a one week Training Programme of CIRDAP Focal Point Officers from its 15 member countries. Furthermore, the BARD Management has allowed its facilities and resources to pilot few of CIRDAP Projects such as mushroom and potato farming. On the left is the picture of the main entrance to BARD in Cumilla, Kotbari, Bangladesh.



INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT MODELS & BEST PRACTICES

Over the years, Rural Development in Asia Pacific evolved around models. One of them perhaps the original is called the "Comilla Model". Akhter Hameed Khan - the pioneer of the Cumilla Model and the first Director of the Academy-conceived of the idea and developed the method of its implementation in the areas of agricultural and rural development on the principle of people's participatory role. The training-cum-research institution originated at the Bangladesh academy for rural development (BARD). The model is implemented under six principles:

1. Make use of the existent training-cum-research institution, i.e. BARD.
2. Affiliation of a laboratory area to carry out survey/research and organize action-research or pilot projects.
3. Thorough study of the laboratory area and conduct intensive consultation with the villagers on their problems and their views about the solution of those problems.
4. Close collaboration with the planning commission at the national level which made and evaluated policies and prescribed priorities in respect of plans and projects.
5. Continuous evaluation and documentation of the pilot projects, not only to determine their progress but also to discover their weakness and revise them wherever necessary.
6. Assist the government agencies in the multiplication of the model.

The Model was supported by Four major components as Institutional Framework and One programme which were:

1. Capacity Building-a two tier agricultural cooperative at village level 'primary cooperatives' (KrishakSambaySamiti) and a 'central federation of primary cooperatives' at Thana level
2. Infrastructure & Resources- Building of roads, drainage and irrigation to generate employment using people as labour
3. Governance-Combining national officials and people representatives into one single framework
4. Programme-provision of an Irrigation Programme to assist farmers through their active participation

The effects of the model were seen to have:

1. Replaced the colonial approach of development through officers.
2. Developed food security and create employment
3. Empowered people to become productive and leaders. It develops government and people partnership and assist bottom-up planning.



PIONEER IN CUMILLA MODEL

Akhter Hameed Khan (15 July 1914 – 9 October 1999) was a Pakistani development practitioner and social scientist. He promoted participatory rural development in Pakistan and other developing countries, and widely advocated community participation in development. His particular contribution was the establishment of a comprehensive project for rural development, the Comilla Model (1959). It earned him the Ramon Magsaysay Award from the Philippines and an honorary Doctorate of law from Michigan State University.

In the 1980s he started a bottom-up community development initiative of Orangi Pilot Project, based in the outskirts of Karachi, which became a model of participatory development initiatives. He also directed many programmes, from microcredit to self-finance and from housing provision to family planning, for rural communities and urban slums. It earned him international recognition and high honours in Pakistan. Khan was fluent in at least seven languages and dialects. Apart from many scholarly books and articles, he also published a collection of poems and travelogues in Urdu. (source: Wikipedia)



**Staff of the AHKNCRD, Park Road, Islamabad
in front of their building**



**Director General Mr Israr Moh'd Khan
and staff at the AHKNCRD giving out
certificates to participants**

PAST & CURRET DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIRDAP

(1979 - 2020)



Mr Aziz-ul Haq (1979-1984)
(Bangladesh)



Mr ATM Shamsul Haque (1984-1992)
Bangladesh



Dr Somporn Hangpongporn
(1992-1996) Thailand



Dr A.V.S. Reddy (1996-2000)
India



Dr Mye Maung (2000-2004)
Myanmar



Dr Durga Prasad Paudyal (2004-2012)
Nepal



Dr Cecep Effendi (2012-2016)
Indonesia



Mr Tevita G B. Taginavulau (2016-2020)
Fiji



Dr Effendi welcoming his successor
Mr Taginavulau as
CIRDAP DG (2016-2020)

AIRD & CIRDAP CONNECTION

The Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development (AIRD) was first established under the name of the Golzar Training Center. It was founded 1335 (Hijri year) with an area of 55 hectares of land in the Chahar asiab district of Kabul Province with financial assistance from the Government of India and other donors .It was called then the Rural Development Center.

The goal of the establishment of this center was to train staff members who would be responsible for key ministries in rural development programs. This was the first rural development training center founded by Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan.

Among the key tasks of the Rural Development Educational Center include the following;

- > the development of educational programs for high school graduates to train them as community worker,
- > a multi-purpose training campus for college graduates to train Cooperative staff and other educational programs for members of the village councils.

Then in the year 1352, the center was called the National Institute of Rural Development (NRI), which offered bachelor and master studies in the field of rural development, and worked on the evaluation of rural development programs and projects but, due to civil wars and changes in the organizational structures of the ministries, the institute failed to implement its development plans and was subsequently divided into directorates in Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.

The Institute was re-established after the formation of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, to act as the Communication Institute for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP). And continues to work in the implementation of the Comprehensive Rural Development strategy through establishing capacity building and research programs.

In November 2007, the Strategy for the Establishment of Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development (AIRD) was established in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Fortunately, the membership of the Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development as a communications institute in Afghanistan was approved by member states. Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development (AIRD) has been able to strengthen its communication with other institutes with its 14 member countries and provide active contributions to the preparation of Rural and Development reports from Asia and the Pacific.



Govt. of INDIA: its Relevance to CIRDAP

On the 26th, June 2019 India hosted the CIRDAP Technical Committee at the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayat (NIRD&PR).

In a message shared for the occasion, which was read by Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR, Shri. Narendra Singh Tomar, Honorable Union Minister of Rural Development, Agriculture Farmers Welfare and Panchayati Raj, Government of India, said, "I am happy to note that the Technical Committee is meeting for the third time in India and that representatives of 14 other countries are taking part.

The Symposium on 'Climate Change Mitigation in CIRDAP Member Countries' has come at the right time. We, the members of CIRDAP countries, with a combined population of 2,549 million, account for 34 per cent of global population. We, with our activities, will be impacting a combined rural population of 1,539 million in CIRDAP member countries.

India, under the leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is striving to create peaceful, friendly and mutually supportive relations with all countries. India has made an all-out effort to support activities of CIRDAP through technical and financial support."

Addressing the Symposium, Shri. Tevita G.Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Director-General, CIRDAP, Bangladesh, said, "India is a founding member of CIRDAP, which was established in 1979. Since then, India has been a major pillar in ensuring CIRDAP's relevance and visibility amongst its member countries and outside its periphery. To date, it pays the highest membership contribution to the tune of USD 95,000."

Further, Shri. Taginavulau said, "Govt. of India is sponsoring four fully funded international training programmes every year, which are jointly coordinated and implemented by CIRDAP and NIRDPR.

PRESENT: Leaps and Bounds & Rebounds



(Right) The Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina Addressing audience at the opening of the CICC Complex in 2013



DG Effendi and Staff of CIRDAP inheriting the CICC from the Govt. of Bangladesh in 2013



Audience in the opening of the CICC by PM Sheikh Hasina in 2013



Inside the bigger International Standard Conference (CICC)



Outside the CICC building. Below the Hon. PM Sheikh Hasina unveiling the plaque



Sitting capacity inside the CICC, a gift from the Govt and People's Republic of Bangladesh to CIRDAP. Below CICC in its majestic pose.

CIRDAP POLICY BODY MEETINGS



GC-21 Meeting in Manila, Philippines 2017



GC-22 Meeting Colombo, Sri Lanka 2019



EC-31 Meeting Manila, Philippines 2017



EC-32 Meeting, Colombo, Sri Lanka

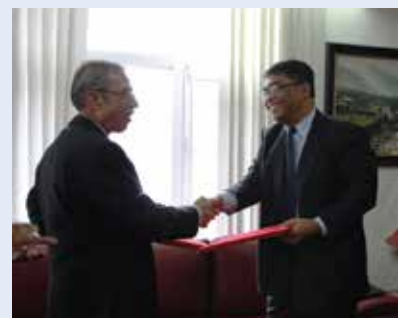
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS & MEMBERS



**Exchanging MOU Instruments,
DG CIRDAP/DG APO in Japan**



**Membership drive. DG CIRDAP meeting
Solomon Island High Commissioner to Fiji**



FAO, CIRDAP major development partner



**DG CIRDAP seeking membership
drive in IRAN, 2019**



Interview of Director General, CIRDAP

The following Interview was published in Dhaka Tribune Newspaper on **October 15th, 2019** on the occasion of **International Day of Rural women day**. "Make rural areas an attractive workplace for women". Tevita G Boseiwaqa Taginavulau with **Mahmud Hossain Opu/Dhaka Tribune**

How would you evaluate the current situation of rural women in Bangladesh's labour force?

Rural women have gradually taken an active role in the labour force. According to the Asian Development Bank, they were about 8% around mid-1980s. But in 2017, they account for nearly 36% of the national labour. According to the latest data, overall migration (internal and overseas) by men is at 11%, so the economic work in the village farm is likely to be taken over by women. So their role has increased and they are contributing. The role of women in rural economic has increased and they are contributing more in rural labour.

What are the existing obstacles hindering rural women from being more involved in economic activities?

A number of factors may discourage women from being actively involved. One is lack of accessibility to resources. Traditionally, men have been facilitated in this role. Accessibilities to resources, to land and finance is something hindered by the culture. There has also been a lack of proper freedom to freely participate. Climate challenge will be an emerging challenge. It is going to affect women as well. There is no anti-discriminatory law that might benefit the woman. Besides, migration increases workload of women and they will be expected to take care of all household chores.

How can Bangladesh eradicate discrimination and underdevelopment of rural women?

First, take a look at the laws and policies in place with affirmative action with proper revision. If it is clear, then see that it is enforced and closely monitored. If it is not clear, consider affirmative action.

Women need to be included in mainstream development processes. If that happens, they will feel that they are empowered and will contribute more. Empower them with finance, infrastructure, education and skills to make it balanced and sustainable.

While the theme for International Rural Women Day talks about sustainable accessibilities to infrastructure,

services and social protection with empowerment, do you think this is being practiced in Bangladesh?

Look past the offices. They are accessible. The laws are there. But the thing is, are the practitioners giving them proper opportunities? The practitioner and implementers of the laws need to be act properly to improve accessibility.

How can an increase in gender-based violence and sexual harassment impact the national economic progress?

The impact would be devastating. Bangladesh has made good economic progress, and women have largely contributed. They are now more engaged in rural production than ever. But this can be affected if they do not feel comfortable to go out. If their movement is restricted, their outdoor activities will be restricted. Imagine what would happen if millions of women were confined in their house out of discomfort.

How can we promote agricultural cooperatives and entrepreneurship involving rural women?

My general statement is - make the rural area more attractive than what garments factories could offer. When you want to make it attractive you have to empower them, give them access to resources, finance, capacity building. Make them feel secure. Give them all-in-one packages including incentives for entrepreneurs. You must provide a support system where they know they are happy living in rural areas.

How could Bangladesh ensure food security for rural women?

Agriculture is a source of income. Besides, non-farming activities can strengthen can secure their livelihood. Secure means settled. If they have settled their livelihood, it means they have food security. Home gardening could be a contributing factor.

Food loss has been a concern for Bangladesh. How can rural women help reduce food loss through involvement in agro-processing and other relevant areas?

Food loss is major threat. It affects Bangladesh just like the rest of the developing world. Processing foods at home would be great solution. In Sri Lanka, they have small, affordable machines which are easily accessible. Women there use work with their families to process food. There is an obligation for the supply chain to buy from them. It works well there. We are working with Daffodil International university and Philmac, one of our partners, to replicate the Sri Lanka model here.

What would you say is the best quality of Bangladeshi rural women that is helping them succeed economically?

Rural women in Bangladesh are very hard-working. The existing limitations could not prevent them from working. Their love and concern for their family drive them.

What is CIRDAP doing to enable rural women of Bangladesh?

I have already mentioned one. We are planning to do a research next year on women aged between 18-27 who are out of work and educations. We want to facilitate their involvement in economic activities. In addition, we are trying to promote good practices in Bangladesh and promoting and mobilizing the women participating in economic activities.

40th Year of CIRDAP Celebration, 2019

The Bangladesh Minister for Local Government Rural Development & Cooperative Hon. Mohd Tazul Islam. The Celebration of CIRDAP 40th Year was spent on a Rural Development Forum under the theme: "CIRDAP Beyond 40"

Forum was conducted in four technical Sessions which were as follows:

> Day one: Sunday 7 July, 2019

Session 1: Enabling Rural Environment for Enhancing the Quality of Life: Farm Perspective;

Session 2: Enabling Rural Environment for Enhancing the Quality of Life: Non-Farm Perspective

> Day two: Monday 8 July, 2019

Session 3: Enabling Rural Environment for Enhancing the Quality of Life: Rural Women Perspective; and

Session 4: Enabling Rural Environment for Enhancing the Quality of Life: Rural Youth Perspective.

The celebration also allowed some private organisations that deals with women development and rural development were invited to showcase their products and services. The Minister had the opportunity to talk to some of them. It was a free demonstration on their part.



DG Mr Taginavulau addressing audience



Official photo session
40th Year Celebration



CIRDAP 40th Year Birthday Cake



H.E. Vicente VT. Bandillo of
Philippine far left



Hon. Minister meeting invited NGOS



Hon. Minister meeting some exhibitionists



Invited NGOs displaying their wares



Caritas Bangladesh show their products



More displays



Speakers in the Rural Development Forum



Dr Karim posing questions to Panelists



Panelist in the 40th Year Rural Dev. Forum



Hon T. Islam opening 40th Year celebration



Audience to the Minister's address

FUTURE: Aiming for...

CIRDAP SUB-CENTRES

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The establishment of CIRDAP Centres is captured in the Agreement for the Establishment of Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, 1978 Document.
- 1.2 Encouraged by Governing Council in its meeting (GC-21) in Manila, Philippines following up earlier commitments approved in 1995 and 2013

2.0 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 There are two main objectives:
- (i) to achieve and fulfil the objectives and functions of the Centre (CIRDAP).
 - (ii) For the Host CMC, the Centre shall collaborate with CIRDAP Secretariat

3.0 BENEFITS

- 3.1 (a) CIRDAP :
- Enhances its relevance and visibility to its member countries;
 - Improves its service delivery to member countries; and
 - Expands and strengthens its network at the national and community level through the Sub-Centres.
- (b) Host CMC
- Assist the CMC/CLI to enhance its status in the region within and outside the country ;
 - Networking with organisations specialise in rural development ;
 - Collaborate with CIRDAP Secretariat to develop appropriate rural development models;
 - Use CIRDAP name to solicit funding from regional and international donors.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 There are responsibilities for both CIRDAP and its Sub-Centres to commit to:

CIRDAP

- Approve the Centre to conduct its business under CIRDAP's name;
- Provide technical support through CIRDAP network;
- Disseminate information on best practices ; and
- Capacity building for Staff of the Centre.

Host Country

- Provide office, equipment, stationaries and bear the all operational costs;
- Provide staffing for the centre;
- Provision for Transport and amenities required;
- Provide staff accommodations and other social facilities if required; and

5.0 CIRDAP REGIONAL CENTRE ACTIVITIES:

- Strengthen CIRDAP Framework in host country;
- Strengthen strategic linkages with regional organizations and development partners in host country;
- Establish partnership with National organizations through signing of MoUs to conduct Research;
- Strengthen human and institutional capacity;
- Strengthen resource base through internal controls and mobilisation of resources through Programmes;
- Strengthen the management of programme activities to meet needs of Host country;
- Providing technical support through the following:
 - Needs Assessments (NAs) either through cross country (CMCs) programmes;
 - Professional services and capacity building;
 - Documentation of case studies;
 - Use of state-of-art information and Communication Technology ;
 - Generate and disseminate new knowledge on IRD ;
 - Providing Policy analysis and advice

SOME OF CIRDAP LINK INSTITUTES



AIRD in Afghanistan



BARD, Cumilla, Bangladesh



NIRD&PR in Hyderabad, India



LDTA in Nepal



HARTI in Sri Lanka

CIRDAP EMBRACING DIGITALISATION AS WAY FORWARD

The CIRDAP Secretariat has reached a milestone in its four decades of existence by conducting one of its policy bodies meeting via Virtual mode. On the 4th March, 2020 the first ever Virtual meeting took place amongst CIRDAP member countries with members participating from their own offices defying time and space. The Chairperson, Dr. WR Reddy with the CIRDAP Secretariat were based from NIRD&PR whilst the TC members remain in their own countries and converged digitally. The Virtual meeting technology used for the meeting was CISCO WEBEX. The technology is a video conferencing solution is a freeway that sets up and organise video remote meeting such as the CIRDAP TC meeting. In this case 13 member countries converged virtually. All members of the CIRDAP member countries participated with the exception of the Governments of Philippines and Nepal who sent their apologies.

The Virtual meeting experience mentioned is indicative that the world today is more connected than ever before. Improving access technology and knowledge is important for developing knowledge economy. The desire to achieve SDG 2030 by all countries is arguably resting on how much each country invests in IT technology. The IT technology helps in reliable data collection which is a major challenge. All data would range from social protection, violence against women, girls and children, food security and waste, environmental abuse, natural resource audit, planning and management all of which are aspirations of the SDG 2030. The CIRDAP member countries are embarking on Geographical Information System (GIS) for rural development, natural resource management and urban development planning.

In Bangladesh, the host country for the CIRDAP Secretariat envisioned that by 2021, the government will bring digital rural services with one-stop centre. These one-stop service centres are essentially micro-enterprises run by citizen entrepreneurs in tandem with elected local government representatives. They leverage modern technology to provide citizens access to more than 150 public and private services. Meanwhile, at the CIRDAP Secretariat, a GIS programme is being undertaken to build capacity in geographic information systems and cartography. During training, participants work with advanced analytical tools and develop skills in spatial problem solving. There is potential in GIS training for better services amongst CIRDAP member countries particularly in mapping in areas of social services such as health. Such maps demonstrate how GIS could be used for the surveillance, prevention, and treatment of heart disease, stroke, and other chronic diseases. In Education it could be used to resolve poor literacy. However, indication of its pursuance at the Secretariat Headquarter is evident in the launching of an e-library in 2019 to connect to all 15 CIRDAP Member Countries link ministries to facilitate disbursement and sharing of information and knowledge in integrate rural development. However, in the advent of the COVID19, the CIRDAP administration and management landscape is affected significantly. The Secretariat has viewed the implementation of Information Technology to facilitate its conferencing and interactive activities more seriously now than ever as a way forward.

CIRDAP New e-Library

Hon. Minister Tazul Islam opening CIRDAP e-Library



CIRDAP First ever VIRTUAL MEETING for Technical Committee



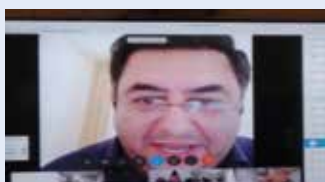
NIRD&PR DG as TC Virtual Meeting Chair with Secretariat



TC Member Thailand



TC Member Pakistan



TC Member Iran



TC Member Myanmar



TC Member Sri Lanka



CIRDAP MEMBER COUNTRIES

Afghanistan

Bangladesh

Fiji

India

Indonesia

Iran

LaoPDR

Malaysia

Myanmar

Nepal

Pakistan

Philippines

Sri Lanka

Thailand

Vietnam





CIRDAP

Center on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific
Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Road, GPO Box 2883, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh
Tel: 880-9558751, 9559686, 9586509 Fax: : 880-2-9571880, 9562035
Email: dgcirdap@cirdap.org, icd@cirdap.org; Web: www.cirdap.org