DG’s Mission Visit to Sri Lanka

The Director General of CIRDAP Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau paid a mission visit to Sri Lanka during 03-07 September with a view to meeting with Hon. Minister, Secretary, Additional Secretary, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Director (Projects) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), and Director of the Hector KobbeKaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) to discuss mainly on GC-EC 2019 meetings proposed to be held in Sri Lanka. The meetings were very cordial, and matters, among others, were discussed on strengthening linkages and other operational arrangements.

The following meetings and programme activities were taken place during visit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inauguration of the Training Programme on “Project Planning, Monitoring</td>
<td>3.09.2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Evaluation” at HARTI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Secretary, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Director (Projects), MoA</td>
<td>4.09.2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Minister of Agriculture, MoA</td>
<td>5.09.2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Additional Secretary (Technology), MoA</td>
<td>5.09.2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field visit to Kandy and Matale Districts of Sri Lanka to observe and</td>
<td>06.09.2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>collect first-hand information on non-farm small scale food processing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>operations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Director HARTI and closing ceremony of the training</td>
<td>07.09.2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>programme</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Training on Horizontal Learning Programme (HLP) Orientation in Nepal

An in-country training programme was organised on Horizontal Learning Programme (HLP) Orientation at the Local Development Training Academy (LDTA) in Nepal from 28-30 August 2018. It was mainly a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme participated by LDTA Officials, Municipal and Local Government Association Officials, Local Governance Initiative and Network Asia (LOGIN Asia) Nepal Country Members, and a representative from Lao PDR. A total of 30 participants attended the programme.

Objectives of the Programme:

- The main objective of the programme was to develop facilitators on HLP in Nepal;
- To discuss the concept, process and approaches of the Horizontal Learning in the connection of local development;
- To identify the approach for possible adaptation and replication; and
- To find out some best practices of Nepal and accordingly prepare the fact sheets.

Facilitators:
On behalf of CIRDAP, Mr. Hossein Shahbaz and Mr. Tomasi V. Raiyawa, and Mr. Santanu Lahiri from LOGIN Asia facilitated the programme.

Participatory Approach:
The training was conducted in participatory approach. Participants made brief presentations, and attended the group discussions, individual sharing and exercises during the training.

Training on Economics, Breeding and Nutrition Management of Dairy Cattle in Sri Lanka

CIRDAP in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development and Rural Economy (MoF&ARD and RE), Government of Sri Lanka organized the cited in-country training programme from 10-14 September 2018 at the Institute for Continuous Education (ICE), Kandy, Sri Lanka. A total of 38 participants attended in the five (5) day-long training programme. The Director General of the Department of Animal Production and Health has inaugurated the programme and also attended the closing session.

Objectives:

- To hands-on exercise to develop cost-benefit analysis for dairy;
- To learn breeding, nutrition and disease management of the dairy cattle; and
- To get ground level experience on dairy farming through field visit.
Facilitators:
There were two facilitators in the programme. They are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Arbinda Kumar Saha</td>
<td>Dairy Consultant</td>
<td>Dairy farming, breeding and nutrition, Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Md. Shafiqur Rahmann</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Dairy Economics and farming, Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Training on Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation in Sri Lanka

Organised by CIRDAP with support from the Hector Kobbeaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), the aforementioned training programme was organised during 03-07 September 2018 at HARTI, Colombo for the officials of HARTI and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Government of Sri Lanka. Hon’ble Director General of CIRDAP has attended the inaugural and closing session that enhanced the CIRDAP’s visibility in Sri Lanka. Mr. Goerge Chandra Babu, Programme Officer (Research) has accompanied DG CIRDAP during the programme.

Objectives:

- To exercise hands-on to develop a Logical Framework Matrix (LFM);
- To develop a mock project to practice project development and management; and
- To develop monitoring indicator and steps of evaluation.

Key Highlights of the Programme:

(i) Hon. State Minster of MoA H.E. Mr. Wasantha Aluvithare inaugurated the programme along with the Secretary of MoA Mr. B. Wijayaratne, Secretary of State Ministry Mr. D.V. Bandulasema and Director HARTI Mr. Karunadasa Udage.

(ii) Total 24 mixed group participants from MoA and HART attended the programme.

(iii) There were two facilitators in the programme. They are Mr. G. Venkata Raju, Professor and Head, Centre for Planning Monitoring & Evaluation from NIRD&PR, India, and Mr. Aminur Rahman.
Consultant from Bangladesh. One local (Sri Lankan) expert also presented his paper as guest speaker on the training topic viz. Dr. Fredrick Abeyratne, Consultant and Agriculture Economist.

(iv) Whole programme was designed with practical exercises. In this regard, participants were divided into four learning groups to develop a demy project to serve the purpose of the training.

(v) Though it was a mixed group, however, participants were interacted with each other and contributed during group discussion and project development.

**Courtesy Call on Secretary of RDCD, Bangladesh**

DG CIRDAP paid a courtesy call on the Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Division (RDCD), Government of Bangladesh in August 2018.

**Issues Discussed:**

The following discussions, among others, were taken place:

(i) DG CIRDAP thanked Mr. S.M. Ghulam Farooque, Secretary, Ministry of RDCD for participating in the 39th Anniversary of CIRDAP as Special Guest in the inaugural ceremony and as Chief Guest in the closing ceremony.

(ii) DG discussed on the allocation of housing for CIRDAP professionals. The Secretary gave responsibility to his PS to follow up this matter.

**Meetings with UNIDO**

UNIDO Country Representative (CR) in Bangladesh, Dr. Zaki Uz Zaman came to CIRDAP on 19 September 2018 and had a brief discussion with CIRDAP officials regarding potential future partnership.

**Meeting Outcome:**

Both UNIDO and CIRDAP were agreed on the followings issues:

- Start the work at root level with marginalized rural people who are left behind;
- Importance of maintaining the quality and standard;
- Importance of knowledge exchange and joint collaboration for success;
- Importance of packaging; and
- Starting pilot projects at small scale as it involves less risk.

**Follow-up of the Meeting**

Another meeting with UNIDO was held on 23 September 2018, where UNIDO CR Mr. Zaman was kind enough to come to CIRDAP again. Detailed discussion on donor agencies took place between two organisations. They came to an understanding that both organisations will prepare separate proposals, and will jointly submit to donor agencies for fund.

**Meeting with ERD on Issues of South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

A discussion meeting on issues of South South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TC) between the Economic Relations Division (ERD) and CIRDAP was held at the Conference Room of the UN Wing of ERD on 16 August 2018. A team from CIRDAP lead by DG CIRDAP attended the Meeting, where Dr. Kazi Anowarul Hoque, Additional Secretary (UN), ERD presided over.
Meeting Outcome:

(i) CIRDAP may revise its current Strategic Plan (2018-2022) to accommodate issues and activities of SSC for member countries in the region.

(ii) CIRDAP could explore and facilitate exchange of best practices, transfer of technologies and development solutions, and exchange expertise from Bangladesh to countries of Asia-Pacific regions. ERD will provide list of approved best practices to CIRDAP for necessary actions.

(iii) Representation of CIRDAP in international forum of SSC can be ensured through communicating with UNOSSC.

(iv) ERD and CIRDAP, if needed, can facilitate issues of SSC further by sitting together.

DG talks at Global Land Forum 2018 as High Level Speaker

As invited by the International Land Coalition (ILC), a global alliance of 200+ civil society and intergovernmental organizations, Director General of CIRDAP attended the Global Land Forum 2018 at Bandung, Indonesia on 24-28 2018, and delivered his presentation as a High Level Speaker on “Rural Development Challenges in Asia” on the session Multi-stakeholder Discussion on People-Centered Land Governance in Asia. He highlighted the need to take a balance approach, particularly incorporating the components of moderation and spirituality in our development processes. The GLF is a platform to learn from the successes of others, get the pulse of emerging issues, sharpen strategies, build collaboration, and be challenged and inspired.

Visit to BAPARD, Bangladesh

A team from CIRDAP, comprising of Mr. George Chandra Babu (Programme Officer-Research), Mr. Md. Zakaria (Programme Coordinator) and Ms. Rafia Islam (Asst. Admin. Officer) Islam visited the Bangabandhu Academy for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development (BAPARD), Gopalganj, Bangladesh on 30 September to 2 October 2018 to discuss on possible collaborative programmes. They had meeting with Senior Officials of BAPARD.

Objective: The main objective of this visit was to initiate primary discussion with BAPARD regarding collaborative programs like training, action research, pilot projects etc.

Field Visits

BAPARD arranged some field visits to the nearby areas where they showed fish hatchery, vegetable cultivation in hydroponic system (Floating Technology), vegetable cum fish culture in floating bed, and cages etc. Some uses of solar energy have also been observed in villages.

Visit Outcome

- A MoU will be signed between CIRDAP and BAPARD for jointly undertaking any projects in future.
- CIRDAP and BAPARD both have agreed to come up with two pilot project proposals, and then share with each other. Combining inputs from both parties, the proposals will be submitted to the relevant ministry for funding purpose.

Visit to Tuber Crops Research Centre of BARI for Collaborative Projects

Programme Officer (Research) and Programme Coordinator of CIRDAP visited the Tuber Crops Research Centre (TCRC) of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) at Gazipur, Bangladesh on 24 September 2018 to find out collaborative projects, especially on Potato Seed Production. They had meetings with Senior Officials of several divisions/centres of BARI. A strong linkage was established with
officers of BARI, especially with TCRC, Farm Machinery and Postharvest Processing Engineering Division (FM&PPED) and Horticulture Research Centre (HRC).

Meeting Outcomes

Meeting with Director and other Senior Officials, Tuber Crops Division:
- A MoU will be signed between CIRDAP and BARI for jointly undertaking any project in future.
- CIRDAP will revise the project proposal and jointly organize the pilot project with TCRC, BARI.
- TCRC, BARI is looking for year round potato seed production through installation of air cooling system to control temperature. CIRDAP will find the possibility in consultation with relevant experts.
- TCRC proposed that there could be two aeroponic units set up; one in BARI premises and the other in Debiganj Potato Research Centre of BARI under the proposed project.

Meeting with FM&PPED:
- We had a meeting with Mr. Engr. Md. Ayub Hossain, PSO and Dr. Muhammad Arshadul Hoque regarding agro machineries and machineries for postharvest technologies. He provided a book of Introduction to BARI Developed Agricultural Machineries. Mr. Arshadul, SSO, BARI demonstrated various agro machineries and equipment produced by BARI.

Meeting with HRC:
- We visited Horticulture Research Centre of BARI and discussed with Dr. Babul Chandra Sarker, Principal Scientific Officer (PSO) for finding out any technology developed by them ready for piloting. They have developed new fruit and vegetable varieties projects that can be piloted with their collaboration in different part of the country.
- Horticulture Research Centre (HRC) will arrange a meeting with Director, HRC and CIRDAP for find out collaborative pilot projects and research.

Visit to Rural Development Academy, Bogura
A visit was arranged to Rural Development Academy (RDA) during 27-28 September 2018 for formal meeting with DG (RDA) coinciding with exposure visit of NIRD&PR Officers from India. Programme Officer (Research), Programme Coordinator, and Executive Assistant (Research) were in this visit.

Key Highlights and Outcomes of the Visit
- In accordance with the request of Director General of CIRDAP, the above team visited RDA to participate at the final discussion on the exposure visit of the NIRD team.
- We also had a separate discussion with DG, RDA and other senior official on collaborative projects, especially on marketing problems of Char products.
- This team also visited nearby villages to see successful implementation of rural development
projects by RDA. Director General of RDA Dr. M. A. Matin briefed on Char project with special reference to technical issues, challenges, possibilities and past poverty scenario market for Char (M4C) project. It was also discussed on possibilities of developing projects on Eco-tourism, climate resilience agriculture etc.

- RDA expressed their keen interest on joint projects with CIRDAP.
- DG, RDA invited DG CIRDAP and senior officers of CIRDAP to visit Char area to witness the ongoing programs and to find out the challenges related to marketing and identify opportunities for introducing new marketing opportunities.
- The other projects identified were Eco tourism and climate resilience.
- RDA requested to reestablish the display cabinet for rural products in CIRDAP.
- Climate resilience projects with special reference to introduction of climate resilience varieties.
- Training for poor village women for handicraft making.
- Possibility of establishing small scale agro industry in rural areas.
- Community Bio gas plant for new areas.

### Selected Candidates for PGDRDM in India

Post-Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) is a one year long post graduate course offered and conducted by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, India. CIRDAP circulated invitation for nomination to CMCs in early June. After receiving nominations a systematic selection process took place in CIRDAP HQ and finally selected five (5) candidates for 16th Batch (2018-19). The selected students from the following organizations have successfully started their diploma in NIRD&PR, India:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Mohammad Rafi Rahmani</td>
<td>Balkh PRRD Journalist</td>
<td>Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Md. Shahidur Rahman</td>
<td>Upazila Rural Development Officer</td>
<td>Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), MoLGRD&amp;CD</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Penioni Kuinikoro</td>
<td>Senior Media and Communication Officer</td>
<td>Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Mojdeh Banifazel</td>
<td>Senior Expert</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture – Jahad</td>
<td>Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Ye Thi Ha</td>
<td>Upper Divisional Clerk</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI)</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Status of National Spatial Data Infrastructure in CMCs

The CIRDAP CGARD unit (well-known as GIS Centre) is studying the status and perspective of GIS in CIRDAP member countries, and found the status of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in CMCs. India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand have recognized the importance of the development of Geospatial Infrastructure, and built a framework of NSDI. The rest CMCs are also formulating to develop an own NSDI. NSDI of a country is important system for the integration of spatial information for developing countries to organize the data for access and use of geospatial entities. NSDI ensures that spatial information is accurate and available to local, state, and national governments as well as to the private sector.
Every year CIRDAP offers internship to its member countries. This year CIRDAP sponsor three top merited students of Post Graduate Diploma Student in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) from the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, India for internship. It was a thirty (30) days internship. The programme successfully started from 16 September 2018 and completed on 15 October 2018. During their internship they researched on the “Status of the Most Marginalized Rural People in CMCs: Policies, Practices and Alternatives”. As a part of their internship, they visited Rural Development Academy (RDA) for field experience on rural development areas/projects/programmes as well.

The names of the three interns were: a) Mr. Lenka Raghu Vamsi Kumar, b) Mr. Shivam Khandelwal, and c) Ms. Sahithi Kotharu.

### Internship Programme for NIRD&PR’s Student at CIRDAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Programme Title</th>
<th>Organised by</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Elora Sharmeen, Programme Officer (Training), and Ms. Mehjabin Monika, Executive Assistant (Training)</td>
<td>Study Visit of KILA Faculty Members on HLP in Bangladesh</td>
<td>National Institute of Local Government (NILG) with Support of LOGIN Asia</td>
<td>As observer</td>
<td>14-18 August 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Najiba Rashid</td>
<td>Workshop on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) of Organic Farming Process</td>
<td>Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>29 September 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### New Intern at CIRDAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Date of Joining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Nawrin Khan Nijhum</td>
<td>Intern</td>
<td>19 September 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Forthcoming Programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29-31 October 2018</td>
<td>CIRDAP – SAC Collaborative Regional Workshop on ICT for Development of Rural Agriculture in South Asia: Policy Concerns</td>
<td>RDA, Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-05 November 2018</td>
<td>Exposure visit for Faculty members and officials of NIDR&amp;PR and SIRDs</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03-07 December 2018</td>
<td>CIRDAP – APO Collaborative Workshop on Organic Agriculture 3.0</td>
<td>RGNIYD, India</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Fellowship Programme 2018-19

The Indian Government has sponsored twenty (20) slots of this fellowship under CIRDAP Secretariat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.</th>
<th>Institute</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>IIPA</td>
<td>Climate Change and Governance</td>
<td>22-10-2018</td>
<td>02-11-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>NIRD</td>
<td>Good Governance for Management of Rural Development Programmes</td>
<td>22-10-2018</td>
<td>18-11-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>CIFT</td>
<td>Extension Management Techniques for up-scaling Technology Dissemination on Fisheries</td>
<td>09-11-2018</td>
<td>22-11-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>RISDC</td>
<td>Development Partnership: Learning South-South Cooperation (LSSC)</td>
<td>12-11-2018</td>
<td>23-11-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>NIRD</td>
<td>Community Driven Rural Development</td>
<td>19-11-2018</td>
<td>16-12-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>NISE</td>
<td>International Training Programme on Solar Technologies and Applications</td>
<td>26-11-2018</td>
<td>14-12-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>GSITI</td>
<td>Geographic Information System for Geoscientists</td>
<td>10-01-2019</td>
<td>06-02-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>NIRD</td>
<td>Participatory Planning for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development</td>
<td>18-02-2019</td>
<td>17-03-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>NIRD</td>
<td>Training Methodology for Development Professionals</td>
<td>21-01-2019</td>
<td>17-02-2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For applying in these courses under CIRDAP Secretariat click [https://www.itecgoi.in/stream_list.php](https://www.itecgoi.in/stream_list.php), or visit CIRDAP website.

Certificate Course on GIS and its Application

CIRDAP Centre for Geoinformatics Application in Rural Development (CCGARD), widely known as GIS Centre, is offering a “Certificate Course on GIS and its Application” for aspiring students and professionals who wish to build their career in geospatial industry and want to be proficient in applying Geo-information science in their respective field. For details, please visit CIRDAP Website.

For further details, please contact:

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E-mail: icd@cirdap.org  
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/cirdap/](https://www.facebook.com/cirdap/)  