



Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific



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DG CIRDAP visits for Fishing to the Pacific

The Director General of CIRDAP Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau went for fishing to the Pacific in early August 2017, not to catch fish literally but to capture the attention of development organisations as potential partners. He first attended the South Pacific Community (SPC) meeting in Noumea, New Caledonia towards the end of July 2017, where he met the Melanesian Spearhead Group, Mr. Amena Yauvoli. Mr. Taginavulau extended an invitation to Mr. Yauvoli to attend the CIRDAP Governing Council (GC) meeting to be held in Manila in early October, 2017.

Mr. Taginavulau then met with the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), Mr. François Martel. This meeting a discussion for an MoU was raised for partnership. Besides this Mr. Martel was also invited to the GC meeting in Manila. Later he met the Director of PIANGO, the umbrella body of all NGOs in the Pacific. Their discussion ended with their agreement to the drawing up of an MoU between PIANGO and CIRDAP.



Meeting with Director, PIANGO



Meeting with H.E. High Commissioner of the Solomon Island in Fiji

Mr. Taginavulau's fishing expedition also included governments in the Pacific. First, He met the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Mereseinin Vuniwaqa, her Permanent Secretary, Mr. Josevata Koroivueta and senior staff before he called into the Ministry of Rural Development to meet with Mr. Meleti Bainimarama, the Permanent Secretary. He later met the Ministry Deputy Secretary, Mrs. Loata Vakacegu. Mr. Boseiwaqa also had the opportunity to meet with the Solomon Island High Commissioner to Fiji, Mr. John Patteson Oti. Mr. Oti also acts on behalf of the Vanuatu government.



DG CIRDAP handing over the CIRDAP crest to the Secretary General, PIDF

Discussions on MoUs being drawn and signed up between CIRDAP and the three organisations in the Pacific demonstrate the CIRDAP Governing Council desire to extend membership to the Pacific. Two organisations, MSG and PIDF are expected to attend the 2017 GC meeting in Manila in October 2017 as observers. Conclusively the fishing expedition allowed CIRDAP catch big fishes in the Pacific.

Aarong attracts Interest in Fiji



A team of two officials from Aarong, Bangladesh Mr. Ashraf and Tanveer visited Fiji upon the invitation of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation through the initiative of CIRDAP. Their visit was a fact-finding mission to determine how a development model suitable for Fiji could be designed for rural women.

The two Aarong officials visited few women cultural groups starting with Ba Womens' Forum viewing their crafts before they visited another womens' group that specialises in bee keeping. Later in the day they went to Lawai, Nadroa to visit a group that specialise in pottery. The highlight of their visit when they conducted a workshop in which participants came from the

cultural and religious they had visited. The purpose of the workshop was for the construction of a development model to assist women in entrepreneurship. The team drew national interest after appearing twice in the six o'clock NEWS at the Fiji TV One in which the purpose of the visit was highlighted. The Ministry of Women as outcome of the Aarong visit is discussing the sending of a delegation of top government officials to Bangladesh in 2018.



Mr. Tanvir [on the left] and Mr. Ashraf [on the right] both flanking DG CIRDAP and PS, Ministry of Women

CIRDAP - SAARC Regional Workshop on Non-Wood Forest Product

CIRDAP in collaboration with SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, organized a Regional Workshop on Community based Non-wood Forest Product Enterprise Development: A Sustainable Business Model during 24-26 August 2017 in Thimphu, Bhutan.

Through this expert consultation, CIRDAP and SAC aimed to develop a regional project to be implemented in the region for the hilly population in South Asia, Southeast Asia and Pacific countries, Experts from seven SAARC Countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan) and three Southeast Asian Countries (Lao PDR, Myanmar and Philippines) and Fiji Islands from Pacific Countries participated in the Workshop.

The Workshop was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Development, Royal Government of Bhutan on 24 August 2017 at a Local Hotel at Thimphu. The workshop came up with several recommendations including the issues to be covered in the regional initiatives.



Regional Workshop on Revitalization of Rural Communities through Productivity Improvement Initiatives in Jakarta

CIRDAP and Asian Productivity Organization (APO) has successfully conducted the workshop on "Revitalization of Rural Communities through Productivity Improvement Initiatives" in Jakarta, 21-25 August 2017. The workshop was organized in collaboration with Indonesia's Ministry of Village, Development of Disadvantaged Region, and Transmigration (MVDDRT). On behalf of DG CIRDAP, Ms. Eva Benita A Tuzon, Director, RPPD and Ms. Nishat Farzana, Programme Associate, RPPD attended the workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia.



The five-day workshop reviewed different approaches to and models of rural community revitalization and their applicability to participating organizations and countries. A total of 22 participants from CIRDAP and APO member countries attended the workshop.

TC-32 Working Committee Meeting

A high-level TC-32 Working Committee Meeting, consisting of Mr. Maudud R. Safdar, Director General, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Bangladesh, Ms. Susana Evangelista-Leones, Director, Department of Agrarian Reform, Philippines, and Ms. Chanda M Pandit, FA, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) India, along with Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, DG, CIRDAP, was held at the CIRDAP Headquarters during 3-5 July 2017.



CIRDAP celebrates its 38th Foundation Day



CIRDAP observed its 38th Foundation Day on 06 July 2017. With a view to celebrating the day, an inaugural session and cultural programme were organised at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre, Dhaka. In the inaugural session, Ms. Susana Evangelista-Leones, Director, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Philippines was present as Guest

of Honor, where Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, DG CIRDAP, Ms. Elena C. Cabanes, Asst. Director, DAR, Philippines, and Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director (PPD), CIRDAP also attended the programme. On the occasion, the whole campus was decorated with beautiful attire. The gala ceremony was followed by refreshment for the participants.

EC-GC Preparatory Meeting in the Philippines

The EC-GC preparatory meeting was held with the participation of Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, DG CIRDAP, Mr. Setareki Tale, Commissioner, Central Division, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Government of Fiji, Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director (Research and Pilot Projects Division), CIRDAP, and key officials from the Department of Agrarian Reform, Philippines. They mainly discussed the agenda of EC-GC to be held in early October 2017 in the Philippines. Later, they also discussed regarding Agribusiness Forum Theme.

Geo Informatics Experts visit BARD

Geospatial experts of CIRDAP visited the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla on 25 July 2017 with the purpose of introducing a brief understanding of the Geo-Informatics applications, which has been playing remarkable role in the age of information technology around the globe. The team was comprised of Dr. Shri J Rajesh, Project Scientist, Centre on Geo-Informatics Applications for Rural Development (CGARD), Mr. Mohd Shanawaz Kashif, Project Scientist, CGARD, and Md. Waliul Hasnat, Computer Programmer, CIRDAP.

The team had a meeting with the Directors and Senior Officials of BARD, where Dr. Abul Kalam Sarifullah, Director (Project) chaired the meeting. The discussion started with welcome speech by Dr. Kamrul Ahsan, Director (Training). Then a video of BARD with their programme and activities was displayed. CIRDAP team made a presentation on GIS focusing on geospatial techniques used to sustainable rural development. The presentation was followed by question-answer session.



BARD officials showed very much interest about GIS. They have requested for one month long training for them on GIS. Dr. Abul Kalam Sarifullah concluded the session with a remark that BARD will form a committee regarding collaborative programme between CIRDAP and BARD on GIS, and the proposal will be sent to CIRDAP accordingly after approval of concern authority of BARD. Later the team visited the Library, ICT Lab, Conference Hall, Hostel, Cafeteria, Administrative Building and other Departments of BARD, accompanied by Mr. Sk Mashudur Rahman, Joint Director, BARD.

CMCs' Candidates selected for One Year PGDRDM Programme in India

Under the regional cooperation, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India as a goodwill gesture has offered to sponsor five slots to CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) for one year residential Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM conducted by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, India) in order to develop capacities of rural development managers in the Asia-Pacific region. The Ministry has entrusted CIRDAP to solicit nomination from its member countries and scrutinize on the criteria suggested by the Ministry and NIRD&PR. Accordingly, nominations were sought for 14th Batch (2017-18) from CMCs. On the basis of prescribed eligibility criteria, nominations were scrutinized and shortlisted. The shortlisted candidates were interviewed jointly by CIRDAP and NIRD&PR through Skype on 18 July 2017. The interview board was comprised of following members:

1. Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon (Director, Research & Pilot Projects Division, CIRDAP)
2. Mr. Sayeed Ahmed Reza (Director, Admin. & Finance, CIRDAP)
3. Dr. Aryashree Debapriya (Associate Professor, Centre for PG Studies and Distance Education, NIRD&PR)

The nominated five candidates on the basis of prescribed eligibility criteria and suitability of the candidature by the interview board has been forwarded to MoRD as well as to NIRD&PR for consideration to admit them in the forthcoming PGDRDM programme. The nominated candidates are as follows:

Name	Designation and Institution	Country
Ms. Nu Nu Wai	Upper Divisional Clerk, International Relation Division, Department of Rural Development, Nay Pyi Taw	<i>Myanmar</i>
Ms. Nazila Saligheh	Expert, Ministry of Agriculture Jihad	<i>Iran</i>
Ms. Fahima Hashimi	Trainer, Institute of Rural Rehabilitation Development, AIRD, MRRD	<i>Afghanistan</i>
Mr. Koroka Balemaiwai Kabakoro	Senior Administrative Officer, Provincial Administrative Officer Naitasiri, Ministry of Rural & Maritime Development and NDMO	<i>Fiji</i>
Mr. Ahmed Rahim Khostai	Social and development affairs Manager, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development	<i>Afghanistan</i>

New Staffs join CIRDAP



Mr. Tomasi Raiyawa, a Fijian of nationality and iTaukei (indigenous) by nature of the Fiji Islands, joined CIRDAP on 31 July 2017 as temporary staff on the basis of short-term. He has been appointed to implement the initial stage of the strategic plan, and oversee the overall improvement of the physical and administrative aspects in CIRDAP Secretariat. Prior to joining CIRDAP, he was the Director of Education looking after the Primary Education Sector under the Ministry of Education from 2012-2015. He also worked earlier for the Ministry in different high level positions and contributed a lot in curriculum development and higher education system in Fiji. In 1998, he joined the Netherlands Radio/Television Training Centre. He had worked with the University of the South Pacific as Consultant in 2016 and later as University Radio Station Manager before leaving Fiji to join CIRDAP. Mr. Raiyawa attended the University of the South Pacific from 1995-2007, a period of 12 years, wherein he acquired his first degree in BA in History/Politics and Journalism, then Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies, and later Masters in Development Studies. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Education focusing on the Spirituality of Education. He also attended Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand graduating with a Diploma in Teaching English as Second Language.



Ms. Elora Sharmeen, a Master's Degree holder in Development Management from Asian Institute of Management, Makati City, Philippines, joined CIRDAP on 19 July 2017 as Programme Officer (Training). She also completed a Graduation Diploma in Development Studies conducted by University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Prior to joining CIRDAP, she worked for the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) under the USAID's Climate-Resilient Ecosystems

and Livelihoods Project as Institutional Capacity Building and Training Specialist; for the Climate Change and Health Promotion Unit (CCHPU), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh as Programme Officer (in a project); for the Wildlife and Nature Conservation Society of Bangladesh (WNCSB) as Programme Officer (Training and Research); for the Mukto Akash Bangladesh as Counselor (in a project). She also served in the Uni Resort Ltd. as Senior Executive (Corporate Affairs), and in the Pentasoft Technologies Ltd. as Academic Counselor.



Dr. Shri J. Rajesh, a PhD holder on Remote Sensing in 2017 from Bharathidasan University, joined CIRDAP from India on 16 July 2017 as Project Scientist under the Centre on Geo-Informatics Applications for Rural Development (CGARD) of CIRDAP. He has obtained his M.Tech in Geographical Information System from Bharathidasan University and M.Sc. in Earth Science from Tamil University, Thanjavur, India. Prior to joining CIRDAP, he worked for the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), India as Senior Project Scientist in a Project on Application of Space Technology in Rural Road Project under PMGSY. He was also involved in a Research Project of the Centre for Remote Sensing, Bharathidasan University as University Research Fellow. His areas of interest are Climate Change Evaluation and Ecological Restoration, Coastal Zone Studies, Natural Resource Management, and Watershed Planning and Management.



An Indian Citizen **Mr. Mohd. Shanawaz Kashif** joined CIRDAP on 16 July 2017 as Project Scientist under CGARD of CIRDAP. He has completed M.Tech Degree in Geospatial Technology from Sambalpur University, Odisha, India. He has also completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Digital Cartography from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Earlier, he worked for the National Institute of Rural Development in several projects as Sr. Project Associate. As GIS Executive, He also served in the Geogrand Consulting Services Pvt Limited, and DSSVM InfoTech Pvt. Ltd. His areas of Interest are Geographical Information System, Remote Sensing and Global Positioning System.

Interns at CIRDAP



A Master's Degree holder in Governance and Development Studies from Jahangirnagar University **Ms. Sadia Afroz** joined CIRDAP on 02 July 2017 as Intern for the duration of three months. She has been assigned to do administration and finance related works.



Ms. Umme Habiba Yeasmin, a recent post graduate student of Linguistics from Dhaka University, joined CRDAP on 02 July 2017 as Intern for the duration of three months. She has been assigned to work under CIRDAP e-Library Project.



Mr. Md. Al-Amin joined CIRDAP on 31 August 2017 as Intern for the duration of three months. He has obtained his BSc (Hon's) and MSc Degrees in Geography and Environment from Jagannath University, Dhaka. He has also completed Post Graduate Diploma in International Relations from University of Dhaka. He has been assigned to work under CIRDAP e-Library Project.

Staff Participation

Ms. Elora Sharmeen, Programme Officer (Training) and Ms. Nishat Farzana, Programme Associate (RPPD) of CIRDAP attended the 27th Annual Planning Conference of the Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra, Bangladesh during 22-23 July 2017 to contribute as to RDA's annual plan of training division.

ITEC Fellowships offered by India

As a kind gesture for regional cooperation in promoting human resource development of CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs), the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, Government of India (GoI) and the Chairperson of the GC-19 declared in the inaugural session of the 19th GC meeting that Government of India would offer 20 Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) fellowships to CMCs every year.

Under the ITEC programmes, CMCs may avail the Civilian Training Programmes offered by various Indian institutes for the financial year 2017-18. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GoI will bear the course fee, board and lodging and out-of-pocket allowance of the qualified nominees. The international air travel cost of participant should be borne by participant or his/her organization. ITEC Training Calendar 2017-18 and the application form are available at <http://itec.mea.gov.in>.

Forthcoming Programmes

Event Calendar

Date	Activities	Venue
11-15 Sept. 2017	Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management in Agriculture	Sri Lanka
25-29 Sept. 2017	CIRDAP-APO-AARDO Collaborative International Workshop on Farm Mechanization on Crop Sector	India
13-22 Nov. 2017	CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Geospatial Information Management in Rural Development	India

Find us on



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