Dr. Tayan Raj Gurung, Senior Programme Specialist (NRM), SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) visited CIRDAP headquarters located in Dhaka on 16 March 2017 and had a meeting with Director General of CIRDAP. They discussed regarding CIRDAP-SAC forthcoming joint programmes.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, an international training programme on ‘Human Resource Development for Rural Development’ was jointly organised by the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and the National...
Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) during 14-23 March 2017 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India. The programme was attended by 14 participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The objectives of the training programme were to identify the parameters of HRD and set performance standards; identify competencies and competency gaps that influence performance; understand role of work environment and culture in motivational sustenance; explain the strategies for positive attitude at work; understand role of communication and conflicts at work environment; understand leadership competencies and change initiations; and discuss individual/organizational blocks which hinder the creativity.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor and Head, Centre on Human Resource Development, NIRD&PR. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, former Director a.i, Training Division, CIRDAP also spoke on the occasion.

As part of the training programme, the participants visited the Rural Technology Park (RTP) of NIRD&PR; Vivekananda Institute of Human Excellence, Hyderabad; and Sri Ramananda Tirtha Rural University and Pochampally Village at Nalgonda District, Telangana State, India. During
the study visit the participants interacted with the resource persons and officials of the institutions. The participants gained knowledge and hands on experience about the institutions related to the subject of the training programme.

PPD Director talks in the APG Forum as Panel Discussant

As invited by OECD KOREA Policy Centre, Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director (Pilot Projects Division) participated as Panel Discussant in the Asian Public Governance (APG) Forum on Regional Development for Inclusive Growth held from 22 to 23 March 2017 in Seoul, Korea.

Ms. Tuzon mentioned in the panel discussions about the significance of CIRDAP which is being able to lead on regional cooperation and rural development, and work for prosperous rural communities in the Asia-Pacific region. For the policy making bodies of CIRDAP, a future replication of the APG Forum in partnership with OECD Korea Policy Centre-Public Governance Programme and OECD Secretariat may be considered.

The field visits to the Compact Smart City [Incheon Urban Planning Center], the IFEZ Center, and the IFEZ U-City Operation Center were worthy -- for consideration as an agenda in time for the meeting on 28 March, 2017 called by the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division (RDCD), Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. If it is considered, RDCD may propose for similar study visit to the IFEZ as part of the capacity building component of the scaling-up of One House One Farm Project in collaboration with
CIRDAP. The visit will definitely provide new insights on understanding better policies on rural-urban planning.

In the programme, Ms. Tuzon symbolically handed-over the CIRDAP crests to OECD Korea Policy Center and OECD Secretariat-Paris with 15 country-flags not just a form of gratitude but carrying the cause of the Centre under the new leadership, Director General, Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau.

CIRDAP celebrates International Day of Forests

CIRDAP celebrated International Day of Forests on 21 March 2017 in order to raise awareness on the importance of forests for ecosystem of the planet. The programme took place at CIRDAP garden in its premises. Director General of CIRDAP along with other professional and general staff attended the programme.

In his remark, Director General of CIRDAP highlighting the theme of 2017 [i.e. Forests & Energy] mentioned that forests pump out the oxygen what we need to live. Forests where nearly all known species live. They are the main source of nature’s powerhouse and a vital resource for renewable-energy demand. They protect us from natural calamities. He also mentioned that forest are the main source of medicine and still a key source of breathable fresh air. Forests were the supermarkets of our forefathers. If we keep forests like before, these will become precious asset for us.

Afterward, the programme followed by tree plantations in the CIRDAP garden and a refreshment.
CIRDAP bade adieu to its professional staff Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director (ICD and Training a.i.). She was separated from the services at the end of her contract on 18 March, 2017. She joined CIRDAP on 29 March, 2011 as Director (ICD). She was from India.

Two nominated persons from CIRDAP viz. Engr. Md. Waliul Hasnat, Computer Programmer and Mr. Pradip Aich, Assistant (Library) participated in a workshop on “Technology Day with Trimble” jointly organised by the Overseas Marketing Corporation (Pvt.) Ltd. and Trimble Inc. USA on 30 March, 2017 at Westin Hotel, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.

Ms. Nishat Farzana, Programme Associate (Pilot Projects Division) participated in a workshop on “Exploring Insurance Programmes for Disaster affected People as an Option of Better Humanitarian Preparedness” organised by the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), University of Dhaka in coordination with Oxfam-Bangladesh on 15 March, 2017.

---

**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.

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the sponsor of the ITEC Fellowships to CMCs for 2017-18, will publish the ITEC Training Courses Brochure for 2017-18. Applicants may be advised to visit the website at [https://www.iteegoi.in](https://www.iteegoi.in).
Regional Workshop on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, 22-26 May 2017 at Bangkok and Chachoengsao Province, Thailand.

Field Visit to Rural Development Academy (RDA) on Agro-tourism, April/May 2017 at RDA, Bogra, Bangladesh.

Workshop Cold Chain and Logistics Management for Agri-Food Products, 14-18 August 2017 at Fiji.

Regional Workshop on Development of a Regional Project on Community based Non-wood Forest Products and Enterprise: A Sustainable Business Model, August 2017 at Bhutan.

For further details, please contact:

Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau
Director General
Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)
Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
E-mail: icd@cirdap.org