



# Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific



## News@CIRDAP

April-May 2017



### Thirty Second CIRDAP Technical Committee Meeting (TC-32)

The three-day-long 32nd Technical committee (TC-32) meeting of CIRDAP was held during 3-5 May 2017 at Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD), Comilla, Bangladesh. This year BARD, the Link Institute of CIRDAP in Bangladesh, is hosting the meeting on behalf of Government of Bangladesh.



H.E. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD&C), Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh inaugurated the Meeting as Chief Guest on 3rd May, 2017. The Meeting was chaired by Mr.

Muhammad Maududur Rashid Safdar, Director General of BARD, where Mr. Ananda Chanrda Biswas, Secretary In-charge of Rural Development and Cooperative Division (RD CD), Ministry of LGRD&C attended as Special Guest.

In his address, Hon'ble Minister stressed that rural development has become a core agendum that touches the premises of most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of United Nations. He urged that CIRDAP Member Countries should work closely with its Secretariat to have collaborative efforts for poverty alleviation and rural development in the region. CIRDAP will also be able to understand the development need of its member countries and work as a center of excellence for people-centric and inclusive development.

Mr. Biswas, Secretary In-charge, highlighted the importance of exchange of views, ideas and expertise in different fields of rural development among the link institutions of CIRDAP.

CIRDAP Director General Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau while welcoming the participants expressed his warm thanks to BARD for hosting the meeting on behalf of Bangladesh, and mentioned that Bangladesh has become a role model for development globally. Ms. Aziza Binti Ahmed, the outgoing Chairperson of CIRDAP Technical Committee [TC-31] expressed gratitude to Bangladesh for warm hospitality. DG BARD, Chairperson of the inaugural session, expressed his commitment for poverty alleviation and rural development. He assured that BARD will continue working with CIRDAP and its member countries.



In the meeting, several agenda were discussed in the Technical Sessions. In these sessions, delegates from CIRDAP member countries shared their experiences and innovative initiatives on rural development. On 06 May 2017, field visit was organized for the participants to the Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) and 'One House One Farm' project area in Comilla, Bangladesh.

## Exposure cum Training Programme on Agro-processing in Malaysia

CIRDAP in collaboration with BIRD and INFRA jointly organised an Exposure cum Training Programme on Agro-processing during 14-20 May 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A total of 28 participants, comprising of Senior Bank Officials from Reserve Bank of India, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Andhra Bank, District Co-operatives Banks and the Additional Secretary, Rural Development along with Mission Director, Nagaland State Livelihood Mission, participated in the programme.



There were presentations and various sessions which are: Agri-business and Agro-processing industries in Malaysia; Empowering Farmers Institutions in Agri-business, Youth Engagement in Agro-entrepreneur Programme; Role of Federal Agricultural Marketing Agency; and the Co-operative Sector in Malaysia.

Field visits were organised for participants to the various projects of District Office of the Department of Agriculture in Cameron Island, Pahang. The field visit also included Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute's (MARDI) Agro-Technology Park where the output of research in agricultural technology is implemented and demonstrated to the farmers and the public. The programme concluded with the valedictory address and distribution of the certificates by the Director of INFRA. The participants expressed immense satisfaction on the learning gained from the programme.



## Visit to Ayesha Abed Foundation in Manikgonj, Bangladesh

A team led by the Director General of CIRDAP visited the Ayesha Abed Foundation's (AAF) Manikgonj project in Bangladesh on 28 May 2017 with a view to seeing the activities of the project on the ground and replicating the most successful NGO's activities to other CIRDAP Member Countries. This is an initiative of BRAC, the largest NGO in the world. The AAF project was set up by Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, the Founder and Chairperson of BRAC for his wife's memory to mainly help women overcome poverty for themselves and their children through their involvement in craft making and other activities.



The production centre visited by the team has 550 makers working with textiles and product design. He was shown round the facilities working with wood making furniture pieces and block prints, and many textile techniques: block printing, dyeing, screen printing, embroidering, sewing the garments, etc. The team also visited the weaving village and a sub-centre.

It may be mentioned here that in the 1970s, BRAC was examining any and all possibilities for alternative forms of productive livelihood, especially for women, and the proper commercialisation of arts and crafts turned out to be a promising option. In 1976, Ayesha Abed, the wife of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, initiated many of the major activities of Aarong—Bengali for ‘village fair’ by identifying and experimenting with various crafts that women could produce at home such as nakshi kantha, embroidered goods, baskets, mats and items made of cane, bamboo and jute. Aarong now has become a most popular lifestyle retail chain in Bangladesh. This ethical brand began in 1978 as a humble means to empower rural artisans to rise above poverty.



Initially the AAF was registered with the government to receive foreign charitable donations and raise funds, but now operates exclusively as a part of Aarong. The AAF board comprises the eight family and friends of the late Ayesha Abed. Its budget is part of the Aarong initiative under BRAC. The AAF workers are all members of BRAC's village organisation groups or the family of the members.

### **DG meets FAO Representative in Bangladesh**

CIRDAP Director General made an official visit to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations' country office located in Dhaka, and had a meeting with Ms. Sue Lautze, FAO Representative in Bangladesh on 16 April 2017. They discussed the possible cooperative efforts between two organisations. In the meeting, DG CIRDAP recalled the FAO's initiatives and contribution in establishing the Centre. He hoped that FAO, as a Mother organization of CIRDAP, would extend its support to add more members for CIRDAP. FAO Representative mentioned that they will expand their support for CIRDAP as earlier.

### **The 25th LOGIN Bangladesh Country Platform Meeting**

The 25th LOGIN Bangladesh Country Platform (BCP) meeting was held on 18 May 2017 at the National Institute of Local Governance (NILG), Agargaon, Dhaka. The Meeting started with the appreciation of DG, NILG Mr. Tapan Kumar Karmaker towards Non-Government Organisations for taking part in the development of Bangladesh. He also expressed warm gratitude to all the member organisations for their excellent contribution and work in various fields of development.

Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Director General of CIRDAP thanked all the platform members and country facilitators for inviting him in this meeting. He also expressed interest to continue CIRDAP participation in future in this platform. Various agenda were discussed in the meeting. The meeting was presided over by DG NILG and facilitated by Mr. Ranjan Karmake and Mr. Samar Roy, Country Facilitators, LOGIN BCP. A total of 18 members participated in this meeting.

## Meeting with DG BARD

DG BARD visited CIRDAP on 13 April 2017 and met Director General of CIRDAP in his office at CIRDAP headquarters, Dhaka. The agenda of the discussion was on the 32nd CIRDAP Technical Committee Meeting to be hosted by BARD on behalf of Government of Bangladesh during 3-5 May 2017.



## PPD Director meets Director of IDMVS, University of Dhaka

Director of Pilot Project Division Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon had a meeting with Dr. Mahbuba Nasrin, Director and Professor of Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka on 27 April 2017. During the meeting, they discussed regarding the forthcoming Rural Development Report of CIRDAP on Climate Change.



## Celebration of 'Pohela Boishakh' at CIRDAP

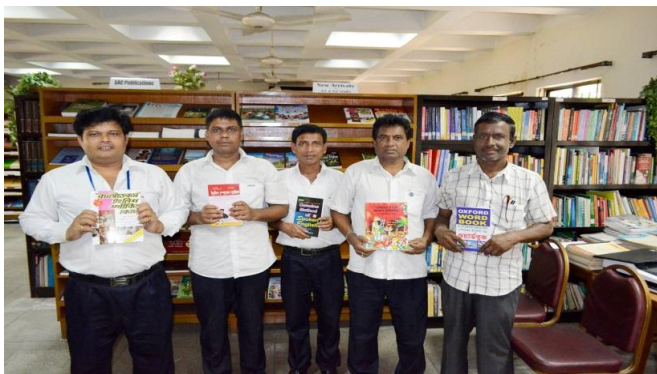
CIRDAP celebrated the first day of Bengali New Year, which is called in Bengali as '*Pohela Boishakh*', in CIRDAP auditorium on 16 April 2017. Director General along with all professional and general staff of CIRDAP were present in the programme. The day '14 April' is the 1st day of Bengali New Year '1424'. It is the traditional New Year day of Bengali people, which is observed as a national holiday in Bangladesh that was introduced by Mughal Emperor Akbar during the tenure of his rule.



## Book Corner for G1 and G2 Staff

CIRDAP set up a new book corner for G1 & G2 staff in the CIRDAP Aziz-ul Haq Library which was inaugurated by the Director General of CIRDAP on 18 May 2017. The main purpose of this initiative is to develop communicative skills among professional and G1&G2 staff. DG CIRDAP said that 'knowledge is power' and library is the hub of knowledge.

Everyone should come in the library to enhance their knowledge and skills.



## New Finance Officer joins CIRDAP



Mr. Wasim Sadab Khan joined CIRDAP on 24 May 2017 as Finance Officer. He has completed his BSc. (Hon's) in Applied Accounting from Oxford Brookes University. He is also an Affiliate of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). Prior to joining CIRDAP, Mr. Sadab Khan has worked in different private organizations and consultancy firms. He also has teaching experience in ACCA institutions. He has expertise in the areas of Financial Management, Reporting, Analysis and Auditing, Accounting, Budgeting and Administration.

## Interns at CIRDAP



Mr. Nadim Miah, a Bachelor (Hon's) and Masters Degrees holder in Public Administration from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, joined CIRDAP on 04 April 2017 as Intern for the duration of three months. He has been assigned to work in the development of CIRDAP e-Library.



Ms. Shabnam Farjana Zerine joined CIRDAP on 10 April 2017 as Intern for the duration of three months. She has obtained her BSc. (Hon's) and MSc. degrees in Clothing and Textile from College of Home Economics. She has also completed Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management from Bangladesh Institute of Management. She has been assigned to do human resource and administration related works in CIRDAP.

## Staff Participation

- Mohammad Abu Saleh Siddique, Publication Assistant (PA) of CIRDAP participated in a six-month-long course on Digital Film Making during November 2016 to April 2017 jointly organised by the Moviyana Film Society and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

- PA also participated in a certificate programme on Disaster Management from 13-17 May 2017 which was jointly organized by the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka and Centre for Women and Children Studies.
- He also attended the workshop on Design Thinking & Design Parameters jointly organized by Belancer, We Design and EMK Centre on 27 May 2017 at EMK Centre, Dhaka.
- Mrs. Nishat Farzana, Programme Associate (PPD) and Mr. Kawser Ruddro, Assistant Information and Communication Officer participated in a Round Table Discussion on “Community Trust, Local Government and SDG achievement” jointly organized by the BRAC Community Empowerment Programme and The Hunger Project-Bangladesh on 25 May, 2017 at BRAC Centre, Mohakhali, Dhaka.

### 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.itecgoi.in>.

### Forthcoming Programmes

#### Event Calendar

- Workshop on Cold Chain and Logistics Management for Agri-Food Products, 14-18 August 2017 in Fiji.
- Regional Workshop on Development of a Regional Project on Community based Non-wood Forest Products and Enterprise: A Sustainable Business Model, 24-26 August 2017 in Bhutan.

Find us on



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