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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:

Activities	Date
Inauguration of the Training Programme on "Project Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation" at HARTI	3.09.2018
Meeting with Secretary, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Director (Projects), MoA	4.09.2018
Meeting with Minister of Agriculture, MoA	5.09.2018
Meeting with Additional Secretary (Technology), MoA	5.09.2018
Field visit to Kandy and Matale Districts of Sri Lanka to observe and collect first-hand information on non-farm small scale food processing operations	06.09.2018
Meeting with Director HARTI and closing ceremony of the training programme	07.09.2018



Meeting with Hon. Minister of Agriculture



Witnessing the production of dry Jack fruit at Ecofeel, Matale



DG delivering speech during Inauguration Ceremony of the training programme at HARTI

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.



Group Photograph.



Discussion during field visit.



Lighting the traditional lamp to inaugurate the programme.

Facilitators:

There were two facilitators in the programme. They are as follows:

Name	Designation	Institution
Dr. Arbinda Kumar Saha	Dairy Consultant	Dairy farming, breeding and nutrition, Bangladesh
Mr. Md. Shafiqur Rahmann	Consultant	Dairy Economics and farming, Bangladesh

Training on Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation in Sri Lanka

Organised by CIRDAP with support from the Hector Kobbekaduwa 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.



Participants in a group photograph.



DG CIRDAP addressing opening remarks.



Participants having group discussion on their assignment.

Key Highlights of the Programme:

- Hon. State Minister of MoA H.E. Mr. Wasantha Aluvithare inaugurated the programme along with the Secretary of MoA Mr. B. Wijayarathne, Secretary of State Ministry Mr. D.V. Bandulasema and Director HARTI Mr. Karunadasa Udage.
- Total 24 mixed group participants from MoA and HARTI attended the programme.
- 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



DG RDA briefing on Char Project

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:

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

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.

Internship Programme for NIRD&PR's Student at CIRDAP

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.

Staff Participation

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

New Intern at CIRDAP

Name	Designation	Date of Joining
Mr. Nawrin Khan Nijhum	Intern	19 September 2018

Forthcoming Programmes

Date	Activities	Venue
29-31 October 2018	CIRDAP – SAC Collaborative Regional Workshop on ICT for Development of Rural Agriculture in South Asia: Policy Concerns	RDA, Bangladesh
01-05 November 2018	Exposure visit for Faculty members and officials of NIRD&PR and SIRDs	Malaysia
03-07 December 2018	CIRDAP – APO Collaborative Workshop on Organic Agriculture 3.0	RGNIYD, India

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Fellowship Programme 2018-19

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

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

For applying in these courses under CIRDAP Secretariat click (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:

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cirdap/>

Web: www.cirdap.org, www.infoRD.org