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CDD

CIRDAP Development Digest



CIRDAP

**Centre on Integrated Rural Development for
Asia and the Pacific**

CIRDAP

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is a regional, intergovernmental, and autonomous institution, established in July 1979 at the initiative of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations with support from several other UN bodies and donors. Its member countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host State), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The main objectives of CIRDAP are to: (i) assist national action; (ii) promote regional cooperation; and (iii) act as a servicing institution for its member countries for promotion of integrated rural development (IRD) through research, action research, pilot project, training, and information dissemination. Amelioration of rural poverty in the Asia-Pacific region has been the prime concern of CIRDAP. The programme priorities of CIRDAP are set under four Areas of Concern: 1) Agrarian Development; 2) Institutional/ Infrastructural; 3) Resource development including human resources; and 4) Employment. Within these Areas of Concern, the thematic areas identified are: Poverty alleviation through participatory approaches with emphasis on social sector development (e.g. health, education and nutrition); Employment generation through microcredit support, infrastructure development and local resource mobilisation; Gender issues; Governance issues; and Environmental concerns for sustainable rural development.

Operating through designated Contact Ministries and Link Institutions in member countries, CIRDAP promotes technical cooperation among nations of the region. It plays a supplementary and reinforcing role in supporting and furthering the effectiveness of integrated rural development programmes in the Asia-Pacific region.

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Cover photo shows the stakeholders of different organisations related to the project titled on "Capacity Development Initiative: Up-valuing Agro-food Enterprise of selected Bank assisted Women's Group" visiting the project area at the permanent campus of Daffodil International University located at Savar, Bangladesh during 19 February 2018 to 05 March 2018.

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Research Note

Malaysian Policies and Strategies for Poverty Eradication

(This research note has been extracted from the paper, namely, "Poverty Reduction for Sustainable Development: Malaysia's Evidence-Based Solution" jointly written by Mrs. Normaliza Abdul Manaf (Science Officer) and Mr. Kamarulazizi Ibrahim of the Centre for Global Sustainability Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia that was published in the Global Journal of Social Sciences Studies in April 2017. The address to reach is Vol. 3, No. 1, 29-42, 2017, and URL: www.onlinesciencepublishing.com.)

Malaysia performed very well in reducing poverty especially in Southeast Asia Countries, having reduced its poverty rate from 49.3% in 1970 to 17% in 1990 to 3.8% in 2008 and only 1.7% in 2012. The Malaysian government has been committed to eradicating poverty through various Malaysian policies since 1957; including Malaysia Plans, New Economic Policy (1970-1990), National Development Policy (NDP, 1991-2000), Vision 2020, Industrial Master Plans, National Agriculture Policies, Privatization Master Plan and the New Economic Model (NEM, 2010). Among the important initiatives that contributed to the success of poverty reductions in Malaysia are: the eKasih system, 1AZAM programme, Federal Land Development Authority of Malaysia (FELDA), and the 1Malaysia concept. Malaysia's poverty eradication and development programmes are underpinned by political stability, inclusiveness, strong political will and the overall importance it attaches to ethnic tolerance and national unity. In conclusion, poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon that extends beyond income poverty, and poverty eradication should remain at the core of transformative development agenda for all times.

The Government is committed to eradicating poverty nationally, and gives priority to efforts in further elevating the philosophy status and quality of life of the lower income group. In Malaysia, the development planning has always been driven by the philosophy of "growth with equity", and this principle has underpinned its efforts in the eradication of poverty. Improving the living conditions of the poor, Malaysia's poverty eradication strategies have always placed emphasis on efforts to enhance income-earning opportunities. Malaysia has been recognized the multidimensional nature of poverty and the need for practical and integrated approaches to effectively eradicate it (Shamsul bahriah and Norma, 2013). In order to achieve this, the development plans of Malaysia are divided into core national policies, with long-term, medium-term, annual implementation timeframes and special sector and industry-specific master plans as described below:

1. New Economic Policy (NEP 1971-1990)

The launching of the New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1971 was a watershed in the history of Malaysian economic policy. The NEP underscored the importance of achieving

socio-economic goals alongside pursuing economic growth objectives as a way of creating harmony and unity in a nation with many ethnic and religious groups. The overriding goal was national unity. To achieve this goal, two major strategies were adopted: 1) Reduce absolute poverty irrespective of race through raising income levels and increase employment opportunities for all Malaysians; and 2) Restructure society to correct economic imbalances to reduce and eventually eliminate the poverty through identification of race with economic function. The NEP which covered the period from 1970 to 1990, managed to reduce poverty from 49.3 per cent in 1970 to 16.5 per cent in 1990 by focus on reduction in poverty and income disparities between ethnic groups, particularly by elevating the position of the Bumiputera and by implementing specific programmes for poverty reduction, directed to specific target groups such as paddy farmers, rubber smallholders, coconut smallholders, fishermen, estate workers, agricultural labourers and indigenous groups. Subsequent development policies such as the National Development Policy (NDP) had continued to incorporate elements of poverty eradication strategies in their implementation.

2. National Development Policy (NDP 1991-2000)

NDP was introduced as a new economic policy in 1991 following the success of the NEP. While the NDP maintained the basic strategies of the NEP, the following were new initiatives: (i) the focus of anti-poverty strategy was shifted to the eradication of hard-core poverty; (ii) an active Bumiputera Commercial and Industrial Community (BCIC) was developed to increase their participation in the modern sectors of the economy; (iii) there was greater reliance on the private sector to generate economic growth and income; and (iv) emphasis was placed on human resource development as a primary instrument for achieving the objectives of growth and distribution.

NDP programmes included loan schemes for small-scale agricultural and commercial development modelled on the Grameen Bank, land consolidation and rehabilitation programmes, commercialization of farms, agricultural productivity enhancement projects, provision and improvement of services for the urban poor, and efforts to promote employment opportunities in manufacturing, construction, and other urban-based industries.

Subsequent development policies such as the Vision 2020 had continued to incorporate elements of poverty eradication strategies in their implementation.

3. Vision 2020

Shortly after the Sixth Malaysia Plan was launched, former Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad outlined a vision of Malaysia that embraced national unity, social cohesion, the economy, social justice, political stability, system of government, quality of life, social and spiritual values, and national pride and confidence as integral parts of a bold new vision.

In moving towards these goals, he stressed the importance of human resource development, export-led growth and industrial diversification, low inflation, and private/public sector partnerships. This vision has since influenced all strategic development plans of Malaysia.

Subsequent development policies such as the National Vision Policy (NVP) had continued to incorporate elements of poverty eradication strategies in their implementation. This led to Vision 2020 when Malaysia would become a developed country.

4. National Vision Policy (NVP 2001–2010)

The main thrust of NVP is that the private sector will spearhead economic growth, while the public sector will provide the enabling environment and ensure the achievement of the socio-economic objectives.

Key strategies of NVP include a knowledge-based economy, human resource development, and the shift of the key economic sectors towards more efficient production processes and high value-added activities. At the same time, further progress towards poverty eradication was expected to result from rapid economic growth, assisted by specific poverty alleviation programmes, consolidated under Skim Pembangunan Kesejahteraan Rakyat (SPKR), targeted towards eradicating poverty from areas and among groups where its incidence is high, such as the Orang Asli and other Bumiputera in Sabah and Sarawak (Madeline, 2003).

5. Government Transformation Programme (GTP)

The Government Transformation Programme (GTP) was introduced by the former Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak in April 2009. The objective of GTP was two-fold – first, to transform the Government to be more effective in its delivery of services and accountable for outcomes that matter most to the Malaysian people; and second, to move Malaysia forward to become an advanced, united, and just society with high standards of living for all. This is in line with the national mission of achieving Vision 2020 – that of Malaysia to become a fully developed nation. The launch of the 1Malaysia concept of “People First, Performance Now” by the Prime Minister in April 2009 had soon progressed into a well mapped out sequel of noteworthy transformation programmes – namely, the Government Transformation

Programme (GTP) and the much anticipated Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), setting Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Both programmes are bringing about positive results in eradicating poverty in Malaysia.

6. New Economic Model (NEM)

Malaysia has reached a defining moment in its development path. Vision 2020 is not possible without economic, social and government transformation. To move the country forward, the government has crafted a framework comprising four pillars to drive change (Figure 1). The New Economic Model (NEM) to be achieved through an Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) constitutes a key pillar which will propel Malaysia to being an advanced nation with inclusiveness and sustainability in line with the goals set forth in Vision 2020. The ETP will be driven by eight Strategic Reform Initiatives (SRIs) which will form the basis of the relevant policy measures. Two other pillars have been launched over the past year. They are the 1Malaysia, People First, Performance Now concept to unite all Malaysians to face the challenges ahead and the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) to strengthen public services in the National Key Result Areas (NKRAs). The last pillar is the 10th Malaysia Plan 2011-2015 and by implication the 11th Malaysia plan to be unveiled in 2015.

The old growth model provided three decades of outstanding performance, permitting Malaysia to provide for the health and education of its people, largely eradicate poverty, build a world-class infrastructure and become a major exporter globally. Our people are wealthier and better educated. They live longer, travel more and have greater access to modern technologies than any previous generation. Inclusive growth in the NEM is about ensuring that every Malaysian has equal access and opportunity to be an active participant of the economic development. The focus is on uplifting the bottom 40% of Malaysian households with an average monthly income of RM 1,500 (US \$484) (National Economic Advisory Council, 2010). This new initiative has started bearing fruits. The NEM will be the catalyst to unleash Malaysia's growth potential. It is designed to drive Malaysia forward from its current situation to be a high income economy which is both inclusive and sustainable.

Although poverty alleviation strategies and programmes in Malaysia have been acclaimed as a success by United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) in its report on “Malaysia: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Success and Challenges”, many problems and challenges still exist especially in the urban area.

New forms of poverty, which include single female headed households, the rural elderly, unskilled workers and migrant workers, have also emerged in the country as a result of rapid economic growth and the development process itself. All indications are that, the eradication of poverty will continue

to be one of the main items in the national agenda to ensure that the poor are not left behind.

Poverty Reduction - Malaysian Initiatives

Policies and plans are one thing, but their effective implementation requires massive human and financial resources. In the next section, we would like to highlight a few such important initiatives. The initiatives such as eKasih, 1Azam, FELDA and 1Malaysia are among those that contributed to poverty reduction in Malaysia.

1. eKasih

The eKasih system is a database system for poor families under the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development. It was created at the national level to help the government to plan, implement and monitor poverty programme. The data in the eKasih system is from the census of poor household conducted by the Department of Statistics. Other than the census, the households who meet the criteria based on the poverty status of household income per capita PLI in 2007 which is less than RM 2300 a month can register themselves through www.ekasih.gov.my.

This innovation was awarded the first prize in the United Nations Public Service Awards and the government has already set up the eKasih mobile team to ensure that all deserving citizens obtain assistance they need.

2. '1Azam'

This programme is managed by the government via Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM) known as 1Azam. The 1Azam provides opportunity for poor families in generating income in five areas, namely:

- (i) Azam Work for opportunity to generate income through work placement,
- (ii) Agro Azam to generate income based on agriculture,
- (iii) Azam Business to generate income through small business,
- (iv) Azam Service to generate income through services, and
- (v) Insurance 1Azam by which about 500,000 members of poor households have been able to enjoy insurance protection since 2011 under Allianz Insurance.

1Azam uses the poor families' database from eKasih system. 1AZAM is being implemented in stages the pilot programme was initiated in the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA), Johor in January and it will be continued in the economic corridors of north, east, Sabah and Sarawak.

3. FELDA Federal Land Development Authority or FELDA was established on July 1, 1956 under the Land Development Ordinance. FELDA functions under the Act by:

- Running and executing land development projects;
- Promoting, facilitating and implementing the development, management and economic, social, agriculture, settlements, industrial and commercial as well as other ancillary activities in the areas where authorized FELDA land development projects or areas owned by FELDA and the company;
- Implementing activities that will help modernize the agriculture sector in areas where FELDA authorized governing, especially in activities related to production, processing and marketing agricultural produce and livestock; and
- Assisting, guiding, advising, managing and coordinating the placement of social activities, agricultural, industrial and commercial development in the FELDA.

FELDA is a flagship programme for government assisted poverty eradication through land use changes involving mainly the cultivation of oil palm and rubber and promoting industrial and economic progress and is a replicated best practice. Since 1990, FELDA is no longer recruiting new settlers. Started as a government supported programme.

FELDA has diversified into a number of private corporate entities, particularly to ensure that the complete value chain of its core activities is promoted. Among the largest is the cooperative capitalization Felda (Felda Cooperative), Felda Global Ventures (FGV) and Felda Investment Corporation (FIC). FELDA's focus is to become an 'Economic Powerhouse' in generating activities through the structured programme with a wide range of human capital potential.

4. '1Malaysia Concept'

At the heart of the 1Malaysia concept is the recognition of the importance of national unity irrespective of race or religious belief. Malaysia's diversity is what makes it unique, but in order to fully benefit from what is undoubtedly a source of strength the nation needs to come together and build upon common values. That is the central goal of 1Malaysia, but it is much more than just an abstract ideology, by delivering real improvements on the ground. More than 1.5 million people have so far passed through the 1Malaysia health clinics, for example, receiving treatment for any condition for just one ringgit. Other focused programmes include Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia (low-cost grocery stores), PR1MA, KARISMA, and AS 1Malaysia and etc.

4.a Kedai Rakyat 1 Malaysia

"Kedai Rakyat 1 Malaysia" is a system of shops operating on a mini market format, which provides various basic necessities at low prices. This initiative was inspired by former Prime Minister YAB Dato Sri Najib Tun Razak for the low income citizens located in the urban areas. This is also in

line with the slogan “Rakyat Didahulukan” which means, “People First”.

The existence of “Kedai Rakyat 1 Malaysia” will also act as the medium for the Government to control prices and lessen the monopolization of products which has long been dominated by the multinational manufacturers. As such, the multinational companies will be constrained from imposing price hikes without due justification.

“Kedai Rakyat 1 Malaysia” will serve the same consumer segment as hypermarkets do, but with emphasis on consumers with basic essential needs. Unlike other regular grocery shops, most of the items sold at “Kedai Rakyat 1 Malaysia” such as rice, cooking oil, milk powder and diapers are packed with the logo of “Kedai Rakyat 1 Malaysia”. Currently, the assortments total almost 250 “Kedai Rakyat 1 Malaysia” grocery items and the list will increase over time.

4.b PRIMA

1Malaysia Housing Programme Corporation will be set up to plan and coordinate projects under the 1Malaysia People’s Housing Scheme (PRIMA) throughout the nation. Amongst others, the corporation will be responsible for distribution of houses under the projects to eligible recipients. An Act governing the new corporation was being formulated and would be tabled in parliament soon and the new policy will provide a wider opportunity for Malaysians to own houses and assure them of a better future. PRIMA programmes are in line with the concept of 1Malaysia, ‘People First, Performance Now’.

4.c KARISMA

KARISMA stands for Kebajikan Rakyat 1Malaysia. Children, senior citizens, the disabled (OKU), police and army widows, and the community can benefit from KARISMA. The programme’s focus is to build the people through a holistic social assistance programme.

4.d ‘AS 1Malaysia’

Amanah Saham 1Malaysia (AS 1Malaysia) is a fund-based initiative launched on August 5, 2009. The “AS 1Malaysia” investment objective is to seek opportunities that generate sustainable income while preserving capital investment unit holders in the long term through a diversified investment portfolio.

5. PEMANDU

The Malaysian government has established the “Performance Management and Delivery Unit (PEMANDU)” under the Prime Minister’s Department in 2009 to supervise the execution, review the progress, assist as well as sustain the delivery and drive the progress of Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and Economic Transformation Programme (ETP). This is an extension of the NEP introduced and implemented in 1970 to 1990. The objectives of GTP to transform the government to be more effective in its delivery services and accountable for outcomes for society; the moves to achieve Vision 2020 that is for Malaysia to become a fully developed nation and for ETP to transform Malaysia into a high-income nation by 2020 (Chua, 2011) are monitored and evaluated by PEMANDU.

Invitation for Articles

Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD), a half-yearly academic journal, is a flagship publication of CIRDAP. It is devoted to the issues and discussions on rural development, primarily in the Asia-Pacific region.

The journal provides a platform for the academicians, policymakers, NGOs, research scholars and others interested in integrated rural development (IRD), to exchange and share ideas, opinions, field observations, and empirical findings on various facets of rural development.

APJORD focuses on poverty issues and rural transformation, keeping in view the programme priorities of the Centre, e.g. agrarian development, institutional/ infrastructural development, resource development including human resources, and employment.

Articles are invited for publication in APJORD. All articles are subject to peer review. Articles between 4000-5000 words are preferred. Articles should be sent by e-mail to apjordan@cirdap.org. Notes to Contributors is available on CIRDAP website: www.cirdap.org

Typescripts should be submitted in duplicate on A4 size paper, type written on one side in double space, with margins of at least 2.54cm. Statistical tables, illustrations and charts should be submitted on separate sheet and their positions indicated in the text.

APJORD follows the Chicago Manual of Style for preparing article. A note to the contributors is available at the back page of any issue of the Journal or can be found at our web site www.cirdap.org.sg. For further details please contact the Editor, APJORD.



Pilot Projects Update

Implementation Report of Capacity Development Project

The proposed pilot project is a follow-up of the project titled “Capacity Development Initiative: Up-valuing Agro-food Enterprise of selected Bank assisted Women’s group” that was completed in April, 2016. After several stakeholders meeting and activity proposal signing, the Multicommodity Solar Tunnel Dryer Technology (MCSTD) fabrication project has been implemented in the permanent campus of Daffodil International University at Savar, Bangladesh. The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for the Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) has implemented the project with the support from Daffodil International University (DIU) and technical expertise from the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) during February 19, 2018 to March 5, 2018.

The objectives of the project were:

- (i) Facilitating a sustainable way of introducing capacity development designed to give the women food processors a holistic understanding on entrepreneurship that will increase productivity, income and create more jobs at the rural areas;
- (ii) Enhancing confidence of women entrepreneurs in setting-up their household and community-based livelihoods using common service facility; and
- (iii) Broadening the knowledge of the women producers in the following fields: production process, marketing practices, financial management and organizational and management system.

The following project outputs have already been achieved:

- (i) Hands-on technology transfer has been conducted during the installation which includes operation and maintenance of the MCSRD based on PhilMech provided transfer of AutoCAD drawing, complete list of materials and so on.
- (ii) Assistance of PhilMech in preparation and facilitation of the orientation on agro-food processing business has been undertaken.
- (iii) MCSTD has been fabricated in partnership with the counterpart focal person from DIU.

The Pilot Project Division of CIRDAP facilitated the formalization of project engagement between and among the stakeholders. A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between CIRDAP-PhilMech has been forged with a project agreement and activity proposal agreement with DIU. Some other implementation mechanisms have been conducted during the project period as follows:

- (i) The MCSTD technology transfer has been conducted by PhilMech and has been installed in the permanent campus of DIU at Ashuaia, Savar.
- (ii) CIRDAP facilitated this action research project by inviting technical expert from PhilMech: Engr. Robelyn Daquila and arranged the round-trip from Manila and borne the expert allowance, while DIU was responsible for accommodation and food of the expert.
- (iii) Engr. Robelyn Daquila, expert from PhilMech installed the machine along with the technical counterpart of Nutrition and Food Science Engineering Department of DIU from February 20, 2018 till March 2, 2018. He also facilitated on-site training and demonstration of the preparation of the food items and drying process in presence of CIRDAP and DIU officials.
- (iv) DIU bore the cost the MCTSD machine fabrication. The fabrication of the technology took two weeks with the accomplishment of on-site training and demonstration on the usage.
- (v) The MCSTD technology was formally inaugurated on April 10, 2018. DG BARD was the Chief Guest of the programme and Mr. Md. Zakaria Rahman, Programme Coordinator attended the programme on behalf of CIRDAP.

It is expected that this project will facilitate the generation of employment for the rural marginalized women and rural youth through encouraging establishment of the agro-food processing enterprise in rural area of Bangladesh. CIRDAP will also engage in facilitation of sustainable initiatives through capacity building relevant to micro-small agro-food processing technology in other CIRDAP Member Countries in coordination with CIRDAP Link Institutes and other potential Development Partners.



Stakeholders visiting the project area in Savar, Bangladesh.



Training Division

International Training Programme on Social Audit for Rural Development Programmes in Myanmar

CIRDAP in collaboration with NIRD&PR organized an international training programme on Social Audit for Rural Development Programme at Nay Pyi Taw in Myanmar during 15-24 January 2018. A total of 21 participants from Bangladesh, Fiji, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar (host country) and four resource/facilitators converged at the My Taw Win hotel where the aforementioned training programme took place. The programme is designed to ensure transparency, good governance, responsiveness and accountability. Social audit is a tool for social accountability mechanism that empowers the people in communities to be able to participate in planning, decision making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects.

The objectives of the programme were to:

- (i) Discuss the need, concept and approaches of social accountability mechanism in general and social audits in particular;
- (ii) Make the participants understand the provisions of different rural develop programmes with reference to social accountability mechanisms;
- (iii) Enable the participants understand and critically review the approach and practice of social audit;
- (iv) Expose the participants to the best practices of social audit in rural development programmes in India; and
- (v) Have hands on experience by conducting one mock social audit in one village.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Tin Htut as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI), Government of Myanmar.

Mr. Tomasi Raiyawa stressed the importance of 'leadership' on behalf of DG CIRDP in the programme. The training began with a presentation from Myanmar's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Department of Rural Development on Poverty Reduction Scenario of Myanmar.



Major training activities were as follows:

- (i) Country representatives presented their individual country reports.
- (ii) Dr. Dheeraja and Mr. Karuna Muthih presented lectures on Social Audit through PPT and video presentations.
- (iii) Towards the end of the programme, participants went to a field trip to discuss with the people through mock exercise on how to conduct social audit.
- (iv) Evaluation of the programme through Pre-test Form and Post-test Form by the participants.

The participants claimed that Social Audit is important for rural development and their organization as well, and they can develop and implement programme or project through implementation of Social Audit. Some of them thought that the training will help them to organize more similar training (on behalf of their organization) on Social Audit in their countries. Apparently, a small portion of participants give statements that Social Audit is important for sustainable rural development as beneficiary can involve in formulating development approach and measure how much benefit they will get from the project. They also said it's important, since the auditing system secure transparency and save public money.



International Forum on Strengthening Food Safety Standards in Sri Lanka

Food safety and quality standards are global concerns as they are important for public health and impact international trade. Consumers are increasingly concerned about the quality and safety of food and are taking unprecedented interest in the way food is produced, processed, and marketed while demanding greater quality and safety assurances from agribusinesses and food companies. Globalization of trade makes food chains longer and more complex and increases the risk of food safety incidents. Food producers and exporters of agri-food products in APO-CIRDAP member countries need to update the standards and requirements for certification. In this connection, CIRDAP organized an International Forum on Strengthening Food Safety Standards from 05-08 March 2018 at HARTI, Colombo, Sri Lanka. It was supported by the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) and HARTI.

The objectives of the programme were:

- (i) To share recent developments, advanced knowledge, and emerging trends in food safety management (FSM) systems in major global markets; and
- (ii) To formulate strategic recommendations for food-industry SMEs to enable them to meet the FSM standards of advanced markets.

This forum was attended by 40 participants (26 overseas & 14 local, where 21 male & 19 female participant) from 15 countries, i.e. Bangladesh, Cambodia, Republic of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. A total of nine (9) resource persons contributed on the forum through their presentations and knowledge sharing. Among them, six were from Thailand, Poland, Italy, Hong Kong, UK and India, and another three were from different renowned university of Sri Lanka.

The programme has been finished successfully through the knowledge session of resource persons, field activities,

country presentations and enthusiastic participation of all participants. At the end of the programme, resources persons along with participants formulate strategic recommendations from four days discussion.



The following content were covered during the programme:

1. Emerging global trends and concepts in food safety
2. New international food safety management standards
3. Key export market regulations of developed countries: EU, UK, USA, Japan
4. Challenges in the food export to developed and emerging food markets
5. Coping with customer food safety requirements in the tea sector
6. Coping with customer food safety requirements for successful export of meat, fruit and vegetables products
7. A global value chain approach to food safety
8. Smart food traceability systems
9. Development and implementation of FSMS in a food processing factory for successful exports: a case study
10. Development and implementation of FSMS at farm level for successful exports: a case study
11. Digital technologies for enhancing food safety culture
12. Novel thermal and non-thermal food processing technologies and their roles in food safety standards
13. Challenges faced by the producers and food-industry SMEs in complying the food safety standards for successful exports
14. Food legislation, food law and relevant aspects of food trade policy
15. Government policies to support food sector: case study of developed European Countries
16. Government policies to support food sector for enhancing its competitiveness in the global food market: case study of Sri Lanka



International Training on Waste to Wealth - Value Recovery from Agro-processing in India

Organised by CIRDAP in collaboration with NIRD&PR, a ten-day long international training programme on Waste to Wealth - Value Recovery from Agro-processing was held during 19-28 March 2018 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India. A total of 18 government officials [Out of 18 participants, 14 were male and seven were female] from 10 CIRDAP member countries (i.e. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Fiji and Iran) participated in the training programme.

The objectives of the training programme were:

- (i) To familiarize with agro-food processing wastes as valuable resources for industrial and domestic application;
- (ii) To identify the opportunities of agro-waste processing for poverty alleviation and sustainability of the rural development;
- (iii) To focus on the Asia-Pacific trends of value recovery from agro-processing, and to introduce different agro-food waste processing technique to address rural livelihood opportunities;
- (iv) To equip participants with the skills of project design, operation and maintenance (O&M), and management of waste management project; and
- (v) To explain the process and importance of information, education and communication (IEC), and Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) in waste management project.

Mr. Tevita G Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Director General of CIRDAP was the Chief Guest, and Dr. W. R. Reddy, Director General of NIRD&PR was the Chairperson of the closing session. Prof. Dr. Siva Ram of NIRD&PR was the Programme Director and Mr. Md. Zakaria of CIRDAP was the Programme Coordinator.

In this training programme, a total of ten country papers were presented focusing on Waste to Wealth Value Recovery from Agro-processing like the followings:



- (i) Waste to Wealth: Value Recovery From Agro Processing
- (ii) Role of Community in Waste to Wealth
- (iii) Convergence of “Waste to Wealth Projects” for Habitat Development
- (iv) Appropriate Rural Technologies for Value Recovery from Agro Processing
- (v) Waste to Wealth and Livelihoods
- (vi) Waste to Wealth: Role of IEC and BCC
- (vii) Integrated Farming: An Option to recycle the Waste
- (viii) Waste to Wealth: Role of GIS
- (ix) Waste to Wealth and Entrepreneurship
- (x) Waste to Wealth: Case studies of Solid Resource Management

Participants learnt different types of waste management technologies and production procedures, such as leather shoes from chicken feet skin, salacca coffee made from snake fruit seed waste, cake made from tofu waste, compost and biogas from kitchen, cow-house & cottage waste etc. At the end of the training programme, every country members presented and discussed what they learnt from this training programme and what should they do for their countries.



International Training Programme on Decentralized Governance and Delivery of Services - Way to Good Governance in India

In Asia and the Pacific region, people affected by palpable poverty are higher than the most other region of the world. To distribute governance services to these rural, poor people on basic civic needs and other sectors (e.g. education, health, water supply, sanitation, roads, communications, power, etc.) decentralization is one of the most effective and straightforward way. It can alter the complexion of distribution and provide institutional support for the delivery of services. In this context, with the support from the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, CIRDAP in collaboration with NIRD&PR organized an international training programme on 'Decentralized Governance and Delivery of Services - Way to Good Governance' to discuss the potentiality of decentralization and share the best practices of good governance so that member countries of CIRDAP can adapt the idea of decentralization to make a good governance system, held during 19-28 March 2018 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India.

The objectives of the programme were:

- (i) To discuss the international perspectives and the Asia-Pacific trends of decentralized governance;
- (ii) To share knowledge of governance, its theory and practices, and share best practices of good governance;
- (iii) To discuss decentralized governance in better service delivery;
- (iv) To develop mock action plan for decentralized governance; and
- (v) To share knowledge on the rural development programmes in India by practicing decentralize governance.

This training was attended by 15 participants (12 male & 03 female) from nine CIRDAP member countries (i.e. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, Islamic Republic of Iran, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam). A total of 14 resource persons from NIRD&PR conducted session on their specialized areas. Each country delegates presented their respective country papers. Field visits were organized for participants to the State Institution of Rural Development

(SIRD) and some Village Panchayat and institution, wherein they were cordially welcomed and gained knowledge and experience from observation and sharing.

According to participants' evaluation, training programme was very effective and useful for them and they are very satisfied with the course contents, training methodology, field visit and overall arrangement. The valedictory session of the programme was chaired by the Director General of CIRDAP and Director General of NIRD&PR. Participants were awarded with certificates and mementos by them.

The following topics were covered during the programme:

1. Sustainable Development Goals Challenges and Achievements in Developing Countries
2. Decentralized Governance as an Expression of Good Governance
3. Rural Development Programmes and its linkage with the Good Governance
4. Social Accountability and Audit
5. Service Delivery through Local Government- Way to Good Governance
6. Watershed Approach to Agricultural Development in drought and desert prone areas
7. Employment Guarantee under MGNREGS: Problems and Challenges
8. Role of ICT in Decentralized Governance
9. Policies and Programmes for Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation: Indian Experience
10. Methodology of Grassroots Planning
11. Strategies for Financial Inclusion for Rural Poor: Micro Credit Experiences
12. CSR Initiatives for Poverty Reduction
13. Application of Geo Information Technology in Rural Development Project
14. Sustainable Rural Livelihoods
15. Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation





Information and Communication

Bangladeshi Student Delegation Exposure Visit-cum-Training Programme in India

Organized by CIRDAP in collaboration with the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), a five day-long Exposure Visit-cum-Training Programme in India for Bangladeshi Student Delegation took place during 02-06 January 2018. The delegation was comprised of a total of 20 students from top leading public and private universities of Bangladesh. The programme started with an inauguration programme, where Prof. Madan Mohan Goel, Director of RGNIYD graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Head, Centre for National and International Collaboration, RGNIYD welcomed the guests and described the programme brief. CIRDAP's Coordinator of the Programme, Mr. Mohammad Abu Saleh Siddique handed over the CIRDAP Crest and a set of recent CIRDAP publications to Mr. Goel on behalf of the Director General of CIRDAP.



The objectives of the programme were:

- (i) To create an international perspective among the youth against the backdrop of the national youth policy objectives, inter-alia; involve them in promoting peace and development understanding in the society; and
- (ii) To promote exchanging of ideas, values and culture as well as to develop international understanding among the youth of Bangladesh and India.

Highlights of the Training and Exposure Visits were as follows:

- On the first day of the programme, presentations were made on RGNIYD, National Youth Policy 2014 and India Youth Development Index 2017 by Prof. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran; on Life Skills by Dr. Kumaravel, Assistant Professor, RGNIYD, on 'CIRDAP – A Centre of Excellence' by Mr. Saleh Siddique, and orientation on Community Radio and Central Library of RGNIYD;
- Visit to the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial;
- Visit to Kuthambakkam Village Panchayat (a model village which is renowned for the role of youth participation in village development and panchayat system, Trust for Village Self Governance as well as Self-sufficiency practice);
- Visit to the Government College of Architecture and Sculpture at Mamallapuram;
- Visit to the Cultural and Heritage Centres at Mahabalipuram including Krishna's Butter Ball, Sea Shore Temple and Mahabalipuram Beach;
- Visit to the Electronic and Multimedia Research Centre

under Anna University (wherein the students had the opportunity to know about the Production of Multi-media Learning Material, E-Learning Content and Community, and Campus Radio Activities);

- Visit to the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (i.e. Centre for Research on Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development);
- Visit to the Marina Sea Beach;
- Visit to the Tidel Park - One of the largest IT parks in Asia;
- Visit to the Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust - A Mentoring Young Entrepreneurs; and
- Visit to the Dakshina Chitra - A Living-History Museum in Tamil Nadu.

Certificate Award Ceremony

A certificate award ceremony for the participants was organised at CIRDAP International Conference Centre in Dhaka on 27 February 2018. Hon'ble Director General of CIRDAP handed over the certificates among the students. Two students shared their experience in the ceremony.



Presentation on CIRDAP e-Library

As mandated with the Vision of CIRDAP to make it Centre of Excellence in Integrated Rural Development, Director General of CIRDAP has initiated some measures with an eye to making a Digital CIRDAP. As part of the process, e-Library project was initiated last year. On 06 February

2018, Ms. Usharani Boruah (Librarian) and Mr. Prodip Kumar Aich (Project Officer) delivered a presentation on the e-Library Project at CIRDAP Auditorium where CIRDAP professional and general staff attended.

Other News

New Staff join CIRDAP



A Sri Lankan Citizen **Mr. Arulappu George Chandra Babu** joined CIRDAP on 22 January 2018 as **Programme Officer (Research)**. He has completed his M.Sc. in Plant Pathology from Punjab Agriculture University, India. Prior to joining CIRDAP, he worked for the Nuwara Eliya as District Director of Agriculture; for the Agricultural Research and Development Centre,

Sita Eliya Nuwara Eliya as Acting Deputy Director (Research); for the Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya as Research Officer; as Visiting Lecturer (Plant Pathology) for the Dept. of Agriculture, Kundasale; and for the International Winged bean Institute, Pallekale as Research Officer. His areas of expertise include research methodology and management of agriculture development projects, organic farming and crop development, and project design, monitoring and evaluation etc. He has attended a lot of national and international workshops/trainings around the globe.



Md. Zakaria, a PhD Fellow in Entomology at Sher-E-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka, and M.Sc. Degree holder on Agricultural Extension Education from Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), joined CIRDAP as **Senior Assistant Programme Officer (Training)** on 05 February 2018. He has 19 years of professional experience and more than

10 years in senior management position in different organizations like FAO, IFPRI, Winrock International, SAARC Agriculture Center, STOP AI/USAID, Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Security Project funded by World Bank and other donor funded projects. During his entire career, he gained knowledge and experience on Capacity Development, Project Management, Monitoring & Evaluation, Impact Study, and Program Budgeting, Fund Raising, Liaison with donors & concern ministries, and engaged with various rural development projects.



Mr. F.A.M Zakirul Huq joined CIRDAP on 01 March 2018 as **Administrative Officer**. He has completed Masters of Business Administration from East West University and graduated in Chemistry from National University. He has also completed Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource

Management (HRM) from the Bangladesh Institute of Management, and ACBA in HRM from the Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka. He has attended a number of trainings pertaining to HRM, Business Communication, Material Planning and Store Management and Safety Security Management from various renowned institutes. Prior to joining CIRDAP, Mr. Zakirul Huq has worked for several organisations like Securex Pvt Ltd, AZIZ Group, Nitol TATA Motors Ltd, Scholastica Ltd, Rangs Group and KMB Ind Ltd. He has expertise on HRM, Administration, Operations Management, Procurement, Safety and Security and Transport Management.



Ms. Bindia Nag, enrolled in PhD and an M. Phil Degree holder in Social Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, joined CIRDAP as **Asst. Programme Officer (Research and Training Division)** on 14 March 2018. Prior to joining CIRDAP, she has worked as National Consultant (Communications) for FAO of the United

Nations in Bangladesh. She has also worked for Jawaharlal Nehru University as Research Analyst, and High Commission of India to Dhaka as Programme Assistant–Coordinator. She has acquired requisite skills and professional experience in research work, communication and liaising with various agencies, administrative issues, project management, report writing, editing, coordinating budget expenditure, public relations and manpower management as well. She is an enlisted dance artist; participated in several dance competitions along with indoor games (Chess & Carom); and won many prizes.

Intern at CIRDAP



Mr. Bikash Halder joined CIRDAP on 14 March 2018 as Intern for the duration of three months to work under ICD on the digitalizing library project of CIRDAP. He has obtained his Bachelor of Science (Hon's) Degree in Pharmacy and Masters of Science Degree in Pharmaceutical Technology from University of Asia Pacific.



Development News

Marshland Farming System in Bangladesh

Pirojpur's unique 'kandi' farming system produces reliable vegetable harvests.

The marshlands of Nazirpur upazila in Pirojpur are under as much as eight feet of water for most of the year. It's not the sort of environment that makes one think of growing vegetables. Yet local farmers do. Employing an Indonesian technique known as sorjan cropping, and locally called the kandi system, Nazirpur's marshlands have provided valuable harvests for generations.



Vegetables grown on specially prepared beds in the marshland at Mugarjhar village in Nazirpur upazila of Pirojpur.

The farming system requires quite a lot of preparation, primarily in winter which is the only season when much of the land is above water. In these months farmers construct long ridges of soil, of up to six feet wide, to serve as raised beds for crops when the waters rise.

It isn't easy to build the ridges for the lack of suitable soil in marshland areas, local farmers say. "We collect water plants like hyacinth to make the kandi ridges higher," explains one farmer, Amir Hossain, 55, from Mugarjhar village.

"The water plants work as a natural fertiliser too," adds his neighbour, Al Amin. They use boats to navigate the area and make their way to and from their kandi.

Once bed preparation is complete, winter crops including brinjal, cucumber, spinach, bitter gourd, cowpea, banana and papaya are planted. A crop such as red spinach will take not more than twenty days to mature on a kandi plot. "Red spinach offers good profit," says one kandi farmer, Masum. "The only cost is the seed." To protect the crops, vines are planted on frames of sticks along the sides of the kandi to prevent erosion should water levels rise.

It's not known when the kandi system was first used in the area, but it's a practice that dates back centuries. "It's certainly an old farming tradition in Nazirpur," says the deputy director of the department of agriculture extension in Pirojpur district, Md Abul Hossain Talukder. "From childhood I have been involved in this type of agriculture," says Ayub Ali, a seventy-year-old farmer, also from Mugarjhar. "I learnt it from my father and grandfather."

This year up to 2,200 hectares of land has been engaged in kandi-method vegetable cultivation.

.By Habibur Rahman and Andrew Eagle. The Daily Star. January 11, 2018. Bangladesh.

Agriculture Modernization Basic Things should be fixed First in Nepal

The Government has launched the Prime Minister Agriculture Modernisation Project (PMAMP) this fiscal. The Ministry of Agricultural Development has identified 30 zones of 500 hectare land and 2,100 small pocket areas of 10 hectares in seven provinces in line with the objective of the Agriculture Development Strategy (2015-2035) to make the country self-reliant on food grain and boost the employment opportunities in agrarian sector, ensuring food and nutrition safety and environmentally friendly agricultural practices. Schemes such as Rs 55,000-Rs 900,000 subsidies for the solar irrigation system also have been there. There is also the provision of 50 per cent subsidy on the purchase of agricultural equipment.

There is nothing wrong with the introduction of multiple projects at once but these programmes will be ineffective if efforts are not made for setting up proper platform for the farmers.

First and foremost, the larger chunk of investment must be dedicated to enhance irrigation mechanism. Programmes on efficient use of available water, especially in drought-prone areas, must be introduced. Further, the groundwater augmentation and management programme for ensuring adequate and timely availability of water through the development of watershed management can be a major driver for addressing the deep-rooted problem of irrigation.

Second, majority of farmers are still exposed to weather-induced risk. The Economic Survey of 2016/17 says excess rain caused damage to paddy, vegetables, maize, fish ponds and fruits of in 127,158 hectares of land area in current in 2016/17. Similarly, it damaged 60,520 hectares of land in previous fiscal 2015/16. Continuous exposure to uncertainty

due to weather-fluctuation makes farming households prone to falling into poverty trap. This negates the effect of many other programmes.

Third, getting the right price for the output produced by the farmer is another necessary condition. Introduction of Minimum Support Price by the government is a welcome intervention. The Cabinet, a few months back, had approved the proposal of the Ministry of Supply (MoS) to fix the minimum support price of paddy. This is an encouraging step, but its restriction to a single crop may discourage farmers from focusing on diverse crop portfolio. So, this should be extended beyond a single crop.

Fourth, focus must be on the sustainability of farming practices such as usage of bio-pesticides and fertilisers in minimising the excessive use of chemical fertiliser. It has been found that there has been an acute negligence on the part of farmers in maintaining soil quality. This arises from the lack of proper training and methods of cultivation. During a visit to the plains of Mahottari, it was found that farmers had the perception that higher usage of fertiliser led to higher yields. Thus, programmes like monitoring and checking of soil quality and then the distribution of soil-quality card can be an effective tool. Programmes related to biodiversity and environmental conservation can be clubbed with the agriculture commercialisation and modernisation project.

The benefits of mechanisation can be realised only after addressing these above issues. Mechanisation in Nepal has been labour complementing technique rather than labour displacing due to the alarming rise of out-migration in recent years.

Efforts from the concerned authority in subsidising heavy and expensive equipment like tractor, thresher and power tiller are another encouraging step. But there seems to be a lack of understanding about ground reality, hence such programmes have failed to yield positive results. The necessary condition set up by the government to have five hectare cultivable land to be eligible for the subsidy in the purchase of the tractor and 1.5 hectare cultivable land in the case of power tiller is not fully justifiable if we consider the scope of the rental market.

Finally, there is an urgent need of establishing monitoring committees at the local level through a participatory approach in order to monitor the farming related activities.

The authorities must ensure the involvement of small farmers and women in the committee. These issues are not certainly sufficient to modernise the agriculture sector in Nepal but are necessary conditions derived from demand-driven study to build a basic platform for the farmer to operate their daily activities.

*By Krishna Sharma. The Himalayan Times.
March 26, 2018. Nepal.*

Helping Smallholders through Disaster Risk Reduction in Pakistan

Nearly 90 per cent farmers have observed that crop pests and diseases have increased owing to change in climatic conditions, particularly because of increasing temperatures. In addition to these long-term climatic changes, the sudden environmental threats like untimely rains and windstorms are frequently found among the farmers' risk matrix. These two can potentially destroy whole crop depending upon their severity.

A fresh feasibility study, entitled 'Risk Management Practices of Small Farmers', for introducing the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative in Punjab unveiled jointly by the World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations and Oxfam finds that the higher incidence of agricultural risks, both climatic and non-climatic, warrants the provision of crop insurance product to farmers for transferring their risks. "Understanding the potential impact of climate change on food and nutrition security, and the populations most likely to be affected by it, allows us to identify what interventions need to be prioritised to help manage and mitigate the risks," says Finbarr Curran, WFP's Country Director in Pakistan.

The study suggests that the Punjab government should link up R4 in its existing initiatives and schemes aimed at reducing risks and complement the micro-insurance initiative by ensuring mandatory coverage of the recipients of micro-insurance under those schemes and initiatives too. To ensure coverage, there is a need for raising awareness among the micro-insurance beneficiaries about risk reducing schemes by the provincial government. The study emphasises that there is a need for trust building between public service providers and the farmers for reducing institutional risks. For that, public-private partnerships should be encouraged. The private sector can support the government in filling the human resource gaps, and it can assist by training the farmers on pest protection, crop diversification and mechanisation. It can also provide agriculture services like pest scouting, livestock check-ups and assisting the uptake of recent agriculture research.

Moreover, the R4 programme should strengthen collaborative efforts by Agriculture Department, Meteorological Department, the private sector, irrigation department and multilateral development agencies so that they can share their experiences, which is essential for integrated risk management.

The study assessed the viability of integrated risk management approaches which could be used to enhance the resilience of smallholder farmers in Punjab. Looking at the relevance of the WFP and Oxfam's global R4 Rural Resilience Initiative, the study found the approach to be relevant to the Punjab context. In particular, strategies relating to risk reduction and risk transfer could significantly augment smallholders' capacities to withstand shocks.

The Dawn. March 26, 2018. Pakistan.

Calendar of CIRDAP Activities from April 2018 to July 2018

Date	Activities	Venue
April 2018 to March 2019	Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme	India
June 2018	Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM)	India
4-6 July 2018	In-country Training Programme on Horizontal Learning Process (HLP)	Nepal
23-26 July 2018	International Training Programme on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and OTOP	Thailand

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