

# ANNUAL REPORT







## CIRDAP MEMBER COUNTRIES



# CIRDAP Annual Report 2023, Number 43 Published by CIRDAP ©CIRDAP 2023

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## **CIRDAP**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

2023

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific



### FOREWORD BY DIRECTOR GENERAL

The year 2023 is one of the most successful years for CIRDAP as there are many activities carried out with their fruitful outcomes and achievements. CIRDAP has implemented various activities to meet its objectives outlined by the vision and mission of the Strategic Plans (2021-2024). These are the policy body meetings (Special Executive Committee meetings – Virtual and the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Technical Committee meeting in Lao PDR); implementation of the work programmes under the Research on Rural Development & Innovation: the 2023 Rural Development Report on "Assessing the Role of Food and Nutrition Security Policies of the CMCs in Helping the Marginalized Poor and Attaining the



Relevant SDGs"; under the Integrated Rural Development Models: showcase best practices on integrated rural development models from CIRDAP member countries; establishment of World Rural Development Day (6 July) and its portal; awards of the Aziz-Ul Haq Rural Development Medals to outstanding individuals and organizations who have contributions to rural development and to CIRDAP; under the Emerging Issues on Integrated Rural Development: contribution to the regional dialogue on climate change mitigation and adaptation in aquaculture practices; under the partnership cooperation and promotion: establishment of cooperation with regional and international organizations and institutes; namely, the International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD); the Supporting Funds of Investment Development in Agriculture (SFIDA), IR Iran; the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO); and the DG of CIRDAP being appointed the Senior Advisor to the Center for Ecological Aquaculture (CEA) under the FAO-Shanghai Ocean University, PR China; under the Training and Education: the 2<sup>nd</sup> flagship training programme on Regional Integrated Rural Development, Governance, Trade and Sustainable Development was carried out successfully; under the Information and Communication: CIRDAP has advanced it Expert Team of Excellence by organizing the webinar series throughout the year; and under the Gender in Integrated Rural Development: implementation of the Women, Youth and Rural Development Programme in consultation with the Programme Committee and Technical Committee of CIRDAP.

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On behalf of the CIRDAP Secretariat, I wish to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Honorable H.E. Capt. Thamanat Prompow, Chairperson of the CIRDAP Governing Council, Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand; and to the Honorable Md. Tajul Islam, Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh, Host country of CIRDAP, for their unwavering support for the organization. I wish to thank the staff members of CIRDAP who have been working on preparing the 2023 Annual Report.

The ongoing contributions and steadfast support from the Government of Bangladesh, respective Governing Council Members, Executive Committee Members, Technical Committee Members, and relevant partners will surely encourage our ongoing and collective commitments to the cooperation and the implementation of CIRDAP's important mission and to the fostering of the collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and partner organizations to provide technical support, collaborative research & development, and capacity building for its member countries for the benefits of rural people and communities in Asia and the Pacific Region.

**Dr. Cherdsak Virapat** 

Director General



### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In the year of 2023, CIRDAP implements its works with the alignment of seven thematic work programmes namely; Research on Rural Development and Innovation; Integrated Rural development models; Emerging issues on integrated rural development including COVID 19 pandemic, natural disaster risk reduction, climate change impacts, & water resource management; Partnership cooperation and promotion; Training & Education; Information & Communication; and Gender in Integrated Rural Development.

The secretariat implemented its works including general administration and staff matters, public relations, fundraising, managing Development Partners, and Link Institutes. Income in 2023 has been derived from membership fees contributed by the CIRDAP member Governments, CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC), and projects. CIRDAP has communicated with the link institutes of CIRDAP member countries and the development partners. The Special Executive Committee meeting (Virtual) was organized on Thursday 25th May 2023. The 38th Session of the Technical Committee meeting was organized on 3rd – 5th October 2023 and the Expert Consultation Workshop on Asia-Pacific Integrated Rural Development and Sustainable Resource Management in the 21st Century: Strategic Actions at the Regional and National Levels, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, 6th – 7th October 2023. The Special Technical Committee Meeting on Programme and Budget and the Self-Assessment Report (SAR) 2021-2022 of CIRDAP was organized through ZOOM meeting on 21st December 2023. CIRDAP organized conferences, forums, and workshops and produces publications.

Under the Research on Rural Development & Innovation, the 2023 Rural Development Report on "Assessing the Role of Food and Nutrition Security Policies of the CMCs in Helping the Marginalized Poor and Attaining the Relevant SDGs" was developed through communication and coordination with CMCs. It has been commencing through literature review and data collection. The DG of CIRDAP signed the Letter of Agreement (LoA) between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific for provision of Revisions to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Aquaculture Questionnaire towards GSA monitoring' and Report for Aquaculture Development in Northern Africa on 7th December 2023.

Under the Integrated Rural Development Models, CIRDAP has followed up with all Technical Committee Members to request information on rural development models to be exhibited at the CIRDAP Exhibitions and Museum on Rural Development (CEMIRD). To date, CIRDAP has installed some posters from Bangladesh, India, IR Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand (including Lao PDR, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam). CIRDAP proposed the Living Land Project as one of the Community Enterprise Practices as the Lao PDR Rural Development Practice for considering by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR on 30th November 2023.



Under the Emerging Issues on Integrated Rural Development including the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disaster risk reduction, climate change impacts, & water resource management, the DG of CIRDAP attended the Ninth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-IX) during 28th – 30th March 2023 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh to address capacity building on ocean governance and multi-hazard early warning and mitigation systems in the Indian Ocean region. A courtesy meeting with Mr. Md. Mijanur Rahman, Director of Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh was made on 3 April 2023. A Webinar on "the United Nations' World Health Day" entitled "Water associated diseases - how to monitor aquatic bodies for ensuring community health?" was presented by Dr. Grinson George Padinjakara, Principal Scientist (Fisheries Resource Management), Fishery Resources Assessment Economics & Extension Division, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, Kerala, India on 13th April 2023. Webinar on the Earth Day (Theme of the year: Invest in Our Planet) was presented by Dr. Muhammad Israr, Secretary and IRD Expert CIRDAP, Agriculture, livestock, fisheries and Cooperative Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan on 18 April 2023. The DG of CIRDAP attended the 2nd International Conference for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM)" with the theme "Advancing Partnership in Climate Action for Sustainable Development under the International Organization on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Management with Isabela State University (ISU) in the ASEAN Region" during 29th May to 2nd June 2023 at the Amari Airport Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. A webinar on World Ocean Day was presented by Prof. Wong Poh Poh on Planting Mangrove for Multiple Benefits to celebrate the World Ocean Day 2023 on 8th June 2023. Meeting for initial discussion on a syllabus design for the regional training programme on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction for Food Security in Asia-Pacific on 2nd December 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Under the Partnership Cooperation and Promotion, CIRDAP signed a Statement of Cooperation with the International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD) on 18th January 2023. CIRDAP signed a MoU with the Supporting Funds of Investment Development in Agriculture (SFIDA), IR Iran for sharing good practices with and from the CIRDAP member countries and SFIDA to celebrate its 44th anniversary on 5th July 2023. The DG of CIRDAP attended the 32nd Governing Council Meeting of NACA during 7th – 10th August 2023 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. CIRDAP signed a MoU with AARDO on 10th September 2023. The DG of CIRDAP was appointed Senior Advisor to the Center for Ecological Aquaculture (CEA) under the FAO-Shanghai Ocean University, PR China on 4th December 2023.

Under the Training & Education, CIRDAP communicated with a former Director General of CIRDAP, Dr. Somporn Hanpongpandh on 22th February 2023 to discuss a revised syllabus of the 2<sup>nd</sup> flagship training programme on IRD, Governance, Trade and Sustainable Development in 2023. The training programme was held successfully on 3rd-27th November 2023. The Report was submitted on 11th December 2023 by the Course Director.



Under the Information & Communication, an expert meeting was organized to discuss the CIRDAP webinar series in 2023 on 9th January 2023. In 2023, CIRDAP organized 18 webinars in different thematic topics. Ms. Hurain Jannat, Communication Officer (CO) developed a portal for World Rural Development Day in collaboration with Dr. Usharani Boruah, Ms. Sittie Khayra Bansuan Fermin, the CIRDAP Alumni from the Philippines and the METAKEV. Mr. Md. Zakaria Haider, Website Consultant joined CIRDAP with effect from June 15th, 2023 and he provided his services in relation to the overall function of the website management of CIRDAP. Some activities had been carried out in the website; these are modification of some parts of the website, redesigned Hall of Fame Database, inserted new page for the application for the Aziz UI Haq Rural Development Medal, arranged through MetaKave basic training for CO and Librarian on E Library and WRDD portal, obtained administrative manual of WRDD and modified the staff profile part.

Under the Gender in Integrated Rural Development, CIRDAP organized the International Women's Day 2023 on 9th March 2022 under the theme: DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality. The webinar was presented by Ms. Hurain Jannat, CO of CIRDAP and Ms. Anju Dhungana, Senior Women Development Officer, Local Development Training Academy, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration of Nepal. CIRDAP participated in a Stakeholder Dialogue to Commemorate International Women's Day 2023 organized by FAO Bangladesh on 13th March 2023 at the Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh to discuss on how women and girls can better benefit from digitalization of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and how to enhance climate change resilience.

The calls for proposal under the Women, Youth and Rural Development Programme was made through the Technical Committee Members of CIRDAP. Nine project proposals were obtained from Bangladesh, India, IR Iran, Nepal, Pakistan (2 proposals), Philippines, Sri Lanka and CIRDAP. Based on the markings and recommendations of the Programme Committee, the secretariat proposed four highest marked project proposals (out of nine proposals) for funding at the TC-38 meeting. These are Capacity Development of Elected Representatives and Officials to Implement Gender Responsive Budget at Selected Local Governments in Nepal; Women and Youth Empowerment Programme for Sustainable Inclusive Rural Development in Sri Lanka: A Bottom-up Approach; Action Lab for Inclusion of Transgender and Gender-Variant Youths in Mainstream Livelihood; and Improving Rural Women's Sustainable Livelihood through Empowerment in Sericulture Value Chain.

The audit of the financial year 2022 by the Auditor from the Cooperative Auditing Department (CAD) and the Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs (BOFAA), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand was carried out during 9th – 18th June 2023 at the CIRDAP HQ.



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## **CIRDAP**

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) was established on 6th July 1979 to promote Integrated Rural Development (IRD) in the Asia-Pacific region. In the early 1970s, IRD emerged after the failure of previous Development Approaches. Rural development policies and programs became important in Government Development Plans and Strategies. Therefore, the idea of promoting IRD through regional cooperation by establishing an intergovernmental organization in the Asia Pacific Region emerged. It was pursued by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), leading to the establishment of CIRDAP, with its headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh. There are 15 member states: Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host State), Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran , Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.



The CIRDAP Secretariat office is a beautiful red-colored English cottage-type building named Chameli House which is famous and located in Dhaka opposite the High Court and Supreme Court building of Bangladesh. Built in 1920, this colonial structure was designated to be the residence of bachelor lady officers of the British Empire working in Dhaka. Although relatively old, this historical building still retains its original architectural form. The building once served as a hostel for girls at the University of Dhaka for some time. During the Pakistan period and for some time after the independence of Bangladesh, it was used as the headquarters of the Public Service Commission. In 1985, the building was handed over to CIRDAP.



## **VISION AND MISSION**

#### **VISION**

To be a Centre of Excellence & multi-level platform for cooperation in knowledge transfer and capacity building for developing countries in integrated rural affairs for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific Region.

#### **MISSION**

Our mission is to provide technical support and promote innovative best practices on sustainable IRD amongst member countries in Asia-Pacific to improve the lives of rural people.

- To utilise state-of-the-art information and communication technology.
- To provide flagship training and capacity development in integrated rural development and related agricultural activities to serve the needs of rural communities in the region and sub-regions.
- To enhance the analytical capability of developing countries in formulating rural development policies and determining appropriate measures corresponding with impacts of globalization, trade liberalization, climate change, and disaster risks in the region and sub-regions, engaging communities by using community-based and adaptive management approaches.
- To foster cooperation on development between countries in the region and sub-regions through collaborative research projects.
- To collaborate with interagency departments, academic institutions, the private sector, research funds, and other national and international organizations to disseminate knowledge gained and transfer innovative technologies to developing countries in the region and sub-regions.



## POLICY BODIES OF CIRDAP

#### The Governing Council (GC)

The highest policy and decision-making body represented by the Ministers of Contact Ministry of CIRDAP Member Countries (CMC's)

#### The Executive Committee (EC)

To make recommendations to GC, and provide guidance, consists of the Secretary of the Contact Ministry of CIRDAP Member Countries (CMC's); and

#### The Technical Committee (TC)

To provide technical advice on professional matters, composed of all CIRDAP Link Institute heads.



### STRATEGIC GOALS & STRATEGIC PLAN

#### **GOAL 1**

Strengthen CIRDAP Systems and processes for Collaboration at the Global, Regional, National and Community levels in order to effectively respond to the changing Rural Development paradigms.

(Policy Dimension)

#### **GOAL 2**

Reposition CIRDAP Secretariat in order to effectively carry out its mandated roles (Institutional Dimension - Secretariat)

#### GOAL 3:

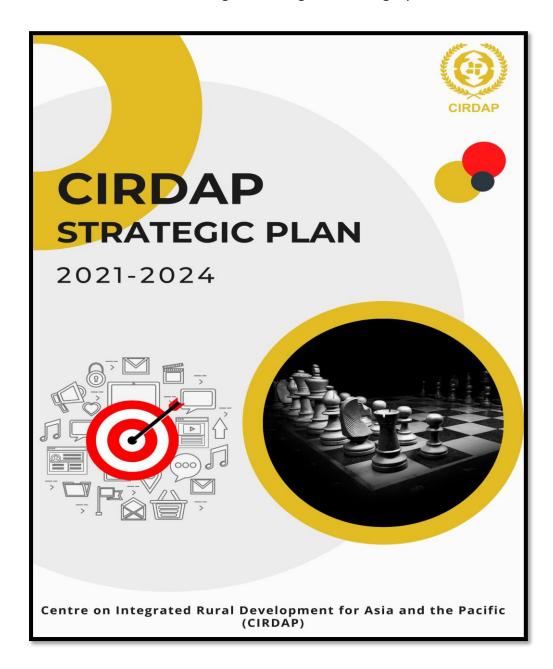
Enhance CIRDAPs visibility and relevance according to CMCs expectations (Programme Dimension)



According to the strategic planning of 2021-2024, CIRDAP is currently taking initiatives for project proposals, training, research and development initiatives, information and communication, gender, and integrated rural development programme.

During the  $23^{rd}$  Governing Council (GC) and  $33^{rd}$  Executive Committee (EC) meeting of CIRDAP on  $19^{th}$  - $21^{st}$  April 2021, the Strategic Plan (2021 – 2024) got approval from the highest policy bodies of CIRDAP.

Before that, the initiative of conducting a SWOT analysis and mid-term review of the previous strategic plans for 2018-2022 was taken due to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic as an external threat to the organization. Under the supervision of Associate Prof. Wasin Ingkapatanakul, CIRDAP Mentor on Strategic Planning, the strategic plan was reviewed.







### POLICY BODY MEETINGS

#### The Special Executive Committee meeting (Virtual)

The Special Session of the Executive Committee (SEC) meeting (Virtual) started at 09:30 am (Bangkok time) on 25th May 2023. The Executive Committee Members from 14 CIRDAP member countries attended the meeting. The opening and welcome address was given by Dr. Vanida Khumnirdpetch, Director of Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, on behalf of Mr. Prayoon Inskul, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Royal Thai Government, Chair of the Executive Committee. In her opening remark, she sincerely thanked the CIRDAP Secretariat for organizing this virtual meeting. The representatives of the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMC) introduced themselves in alphabetical order.

## The 38th Technical Committee Meeting of CIRDAP, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR





The 38th Technical Committee meeting of CIRDAP was held at the Grand Luang Prabang Hotel, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, from 3 – 4 October 2023. The meeting was attended by 40 participants, including 14 CIRDAP member countries. A representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office, Lao PDR; the IRD expert of CIRDAP; the representatives of national and international observers, and CIRDAP experts also attended the meeting. The TC member of Lao PDR, Mr. Anosack Phengthimmavong, Deputy Director General of the Department of Rural Development, chaired the meeting. In his opening remark, Mr. Phengthimmavong sincerely thanked the CIRDAP Secretariat for organizing this face-to-face technical committee meeting. The DG of CIRDAP, Dr. Cherdsak Virapat, sincerely thanked the outgoing Chairman of Thailand for his unwavering support and leadership during the chairmanship. He also presented a small token of appreciation and gratitude to both (the new and outgoing) Chairman.



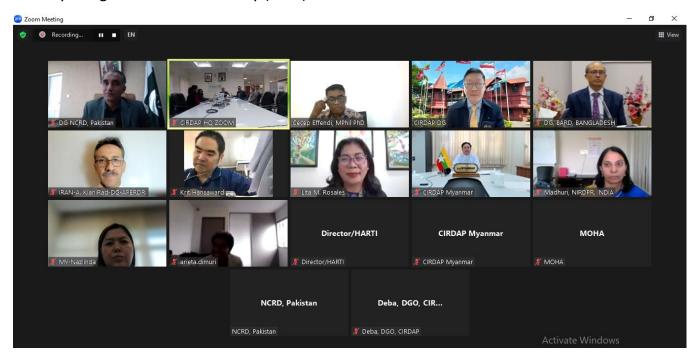
A Study Tour at the Living Land Farm (a Community Enterprise) in Luang Prabang town, Lao PDR, was organized on 5th October 2023. All the participants and observers attended this fantastic field trip to learn and appreciate the traditional Lao rice farming experiences. The participants learned about the ancient process of harvesting, planting methods, and threshing and winnowing rice.





#### The Special Technical Committee Meeting (Virtual)

The Special Technical Committee Meeting on Programme and Budget and the Self-Assessment Report (SAR) 2021-2022 of CIRDAP was organized through ZOOM meeting on 21st December 2023. The Special (virtual) Meeting of the Technical Committee (TC) was held on 21st December, 2023. The TC members and their representatives from 11 CIRDAP member countries (except Afghanistan, Lao PDR, Nepal, and Vietnam) attended the meeting. The Special TC meeting started with a recorded speech from the distinguished Chair of the Technical Committee (TC-38), Mr Anosack Phengthimmavong, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development (DRD), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) of Lao PDR.





#### **KEY EVENTS**

#### Celebration of the 44th Anniversary (Foundation) of CIRDAP

On 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, CIRDAP celebrated its 44th anniversary and the event was presided by the Secretary of the Rural Development and Cooperative Division, Mrs. Mosammat Hamida Begum, as a Chief Guest. Among the invited guests were the members of the Technical Committee of CIRDAP, experts team of excellence, former director generals,



partner organizations including FAO, BIMSTEC, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation (BSFF), BARD, RDA, diplomatic mission in Dhaka, Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), etc.





At the ceremony, the DG of CIRDAP Dr. Cherdsak Virapat welcomed to the distinguished guests

and expressed his sincere appreciation to the CIRDAP Chairman of the Governing Council of Thailand; the Government of Bangladesh, host country of CIRDAP; Governing Council members, Executive Committee members, Technical Committee members and relevant partners for their strong support and cooperation for the organization. After that the honorable secretary of the Rural Development and Cooperative Division, Mrs. Mosammat Hamida Begum gave





her opening address by wishing CIRDAP of its 44 years of journey. In her speech, the secretary stated that the Centre has progressed toward its vision as a Centre of excellence and multi-level platform for cooperation on integrated rural development in Asia and the Pacific Region.

There were two presentations on the World Rural Development Day Portal and the Establishment





of the CIRDAP Exhibitions and Museum on Integrated Rural Development in Asia-Pacific (CEMIRD) and their applications in the event. Ms. Hurain Jannat, Communication Officer and Coordinator of Expert Team of Excellence presented an overview on the World Rural Development Day Portal. Before her presentation, the DG of CIRDAP launched the portal officially. The second presentation "the Establishment of the CIRDAP Exhibitions and Museum on Integrated Rural Development in Asia-Pacific (CEMIRD) and their applications" was made by Prof. Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin, Director Research, CIRDAP.





The Secretary of RDCD inaugurated the CIRDAP Exhibition and Museum on Integrated Rural Development in Asia-Pacific (CEMIRD) by cutting the ribbon. As part of the celebration of the foundation day of CIRDAP, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between CIRDAP and SFIDA (Supporting Funds of Investment Development in Agriculture) of IR Iran on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 in a virtual ceremony. On behalf of CIRDAP the DG of CIRDAP, Dr. Cherdsak Virapat provided a speech on the collaboration. Later, on behalf of SFIDA, the Chair and CEO of SFIDA Mr. Hossein Mahdidoust provided his collaborative speech.



#### The Aziz-ul-Huq Rural Development award Ceremony

On the 3rd of October, CIRDAP and The Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR organized a welcome dinner along with the Aziz-ul-Huq Rural Development award Ceremony at the Grand Ballroom of the Grand Luang Prabang Hotel, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR. CIRDAP honored seven recipients representing individual persons and organizations with the award, those who worked tirelessly to improve the life standards of the marginalized rural people.



#### The names are as follows:

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar: award for 2022
- The Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Myanmar: award for 2022
- The Ministry of Rural and Regional Development Malaysia (MRRD), Malaysia: award for 2023
- The Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development,
   Myanmar: award for 2023
- Asia Ecosystem Institute, Islamic Republic of Iran: award for 2023
- Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), Pakistan: award for 2023
- International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD)Thailand: award for 2023

#### **The Expert Consultation Workshop**

CIRDAP and its partners, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR, organized an Expert Consultation Workshop on Asia-Pacific Integrated Rural Development and Sustainable Resource Management in the 21st Century: Strategic Actions at the Regional and the National levels from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in the Grand Luang Prabang Hotel, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR. The event was inaugurated at 9:00 a.m. Laos's time on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The workshop provided a forum for relevant experts and stakeholders to address the current



challenges of the rural population in Asia and the Pacific, particularly emphasizing Integrated Rural Development and Sustainable Resource Management in the 21st Century.





There were eleven presentations by the Honorable Experts and team of Excellences at the workshop on different thematic topics such as Sustainable Resource Management; Transformation of Global Frameworks, Conventions, and Multilateral Treaties; Climate Change; Disaster Risk Reduction; Agriculture Farm Business and Income Generation; Land and Resource Governance; Upland-Coastal-Ocean Management; Village Administration; Gender Equality; ICT and digitalization; IRD Models in Asia Pacific and their potentials. Mr. Somboon Laoprasert, CIRDAP Expert of the Team of Excellences from Thailand, moderated the panel presentations and Discussion.







#### **CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAYS**

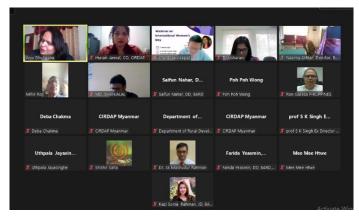
#### **International Women's Day**



The webinar on the International Women's Day was held on 9th March, 2023. Two presentations were made on the topics respectably "Theme of the International Women's day: DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality" and "Violence against the women in Nepal - current situation, challenges and efforts to minimize it".

Before the presentations, the DG of CIRDAP provided a message for the occasion. In his speech, Dr. Cherdsak virapat focused on this day which commemorates the cultural, political, and socio-economic achievements of women. It also addresses women's right's movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality,

reproductive right, and violence and abuse against women. He also said that the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is supporting women's and girls' works and rights in every aspect in the society. CIRDAP works towards gender equality, women's education, and decent jobs, which helps women's to be empowered.



#### **World Oceans Day**



CIRDAP celebrated the World Ocean Day 2023 through webinar at its premise on 8th June, 2023. The title and topic of the webinar is "Planting mangroves for

multiple benefits". As a part of CIRDAP Team of Excellence and Expert, Prof. Poh Poh Wong, Visiting Associate Professor, School of Social Sciences, University of Adelaide, South Australia, Australia provided the presentation. Before the presentation, the DG of



CIRDAP Dr. Cherdsak Virapat read out the World Oceans Day Message of the Honorary President



of the International Ocean Institute (IOI). CIRDAP experts, government officials, students, researcher around the Asia-Pacific region joined the webinar. It was a dynamic presentation with a fruitful discussions amongst the experts and participants.

#### International day for disaster risk reduction



On the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, CIRDAP organized a webinar titled "the Landslide Early Warning and Mitigation in Thailand". Mr. Tinnakorn Tatong, Inspector General, Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand spoke about the topic. He presented briefly on the roles and main activities of the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) such as Geological survey, Geo-conservation and Study, research, develop and publish Knowledge and Data in geohazards (earthquake, tsunami, landslide, & sinkhole). The speaker also talked about the landslide early warning system of DMR along with the creation of landside susceptibility and risk map.

#### **International day of Rural Women**



CIRDAP organized a webinar on the topic of "Rural Women's Organization for Development: A case of BARD Experiment" to celebrating the International Day of Rural Women. Ms. Saifun Nahar, Deputy Director & Project Director: RWSEEDE, Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) was embraced the webinar as speaker and made a presentation on this topic.

Before the presentation, the DG of CIRDAP Dr. Cherdask Virapat provided the speech on this special day. He stated that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), says leaving no one behind. To reach the SDGs, rural women should be empowered so that, they can also improve their living condition and wellbeing.









On behalf of CIRDAP, the DG called for global attention on gender equality commitments and contribution of rural women to development.

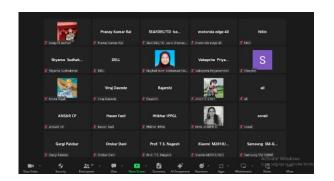
#### **World Fisheries Day**

CIRDAP organized the webinar to celebrate the World Fisheries Day with a very important and burning issue in the world on 27 November, 2023. The thematic topic was "Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: Impact of Climate Change and Mitigation Measures". The speaker was Dr. Grinson George Padinjakara, Principal Scientist & HoD, Marine Biodiversity and Environment Management Division, ICAR- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute Kochi, Kerala, India.

In his presentation, Dr. Grinson briefly talked about the Climate Change Impacts on Ocean and its impact on fisheries; Ocean



Acidification; Green fishing; Coral bleaching; Impacts in Aquatic life; Impact on Fisher man with the issue of migration, loss of income and property, Health problems and debt & management; and etc. The presentation covers the more related issues of climate change and huge impact on fisheries and aquaculture. At the end of the webinar presentation, there was a lively Q&A sessions held amongst the participants





#### The International Day of awareness of food loss and waste

CIRDAP organized a useful and a very important webinar on the International Day of awareness of food loss and waste. Dr. Muhammad Israr, IRD Expert CIRDAP and Secretary, Agriculture, livestock, fisheries and Cooperative Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan gave an informative and constructive presentation on the day celebration.

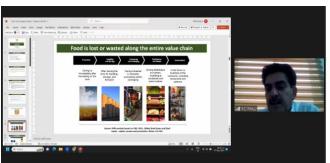
This day is observed by FAO and UNEP jointly on 29th September every day for the purpose to create awareness at all level about the importance of food loss and waste. It is also an effort and collective







action towards sustainable Development Goal Target 12.3. There is a huge loss of food and it has been estimated that globally around 13% of food produced is lost between harvest and retail and together about 17% is wasted in house hold, food service and retail. The purpose of the webinar is to prioritize actions and move ahead with innovation to reduce food loss in the system.



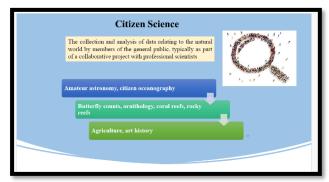


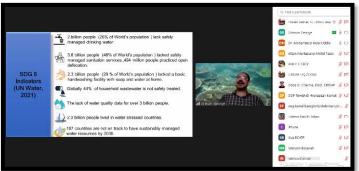
#### The United Nations' World Health Day



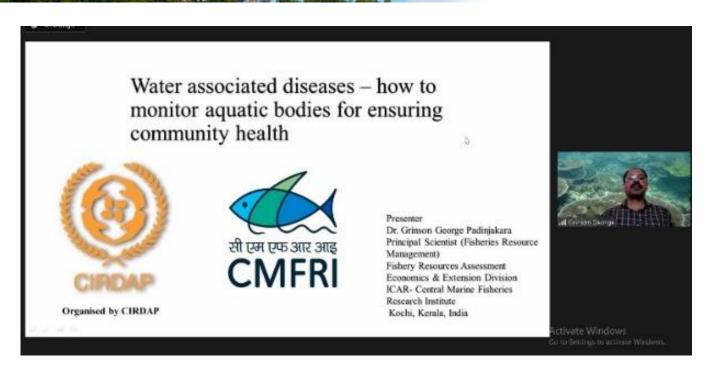
A very comprehensive and important webinar held under the CIRDAP webinar series 2023 for celebrating the United Nation's World Health day - 7th April. The topic is "Water associated diseases – how to monitor aquatic bodies for ensuring community health" by Dr. Grinson George Padinjakara, Principal Scientist (Fisheries Resource Management), Fishery Resources Assessment Economics & Extension Division, ICAR- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, Kerala, India. Around 40 distinguished participants, researchers, government employees joined the webinar.

The webinar showcased the water pollution, contaminated water, water borne diseases and global status of water associated diseases. The presenter also discussed on the linkage Water associated diseases and sustainable development goals.









#### **World Humanitarian Day**



Presenter

MS Rakhi Barua

Cantre for Disability in Development, Bangladesh

lcd@cirpda.org

CIRDAP celebrated the world humanitarian day on 31st August, 2023. This year's campaign is #NoMatterWhat. The title topic of the webinar is "Rohingya issues in Bangladesh and the region. How host communities are being affected due to the Rohingya exodus". Ms. Rakhi Barua, Senior Programme Coordinator, Centre for Disability in Development, Bangladesh presented the topic.

Since 2017, 715,000 Rohingya refugees (Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals-FDMN) have fled to Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh and approximately 860,000 refugees are now residing in 34 camps in Cox's Bazar district. Cox's Bazar is one of the poorest regions in Bangladesh This big number of refugees has added

additional pressure on the host community, disrupting the local economy in the district, and affecting the host communities' income, food security, market access, and employment opportunities. Following the influx, the host community was affected by increased competition in the daily market, leading to lower incomes. The influx of refugees has adversely affected the living standard of the local population by shrinking livelihood opportunities, increase in prices of essential goods due to increased demand, all due to the reduction of agricultural land, environmental destruction. It has created additional pressure on the health infrastructure dedicated to the host community.





#### **RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**

The Research and Pilot Project Division initiatives of 2023 were conducted according to the Strategic Plan and knowledge generation, focusing on specific areas selected by CIRDAP. The Research activities focused on improving rural marginalized people's standard of living. The main purposes of Research and development:

- To carry out interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on integrated rural development and related issues in collaboration with CLIs, development partners and projects to obtain policy advice and recommendations for improving livelihoods, economic and environment aspects and for achieving SDGs and related frameworks.
- The research outcome provides policy advice and recommendations for policy makers in making better informed choices.

Some of the researched programs are in the table below:

#### COMPLETED/ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Title	Funding Agency	Partners	Duratio n	Countries involved
The 2023 Rural Development Report on Assessing the Role of Food and Nutrition Security Policies of the CMCs in Helping the Marginalized Poor and Attaining the Relevant SDGs - To assess the Food and Nutrition Security policies of the CMCs considering the relevant SDGs.	CIRDAP	Link Institutes	2022-23	All CMCs
Identifying major sources of fecal pathogens in Bangladeshi aquaculture value chains and evaluating the effectiveness of various risk reduction strategies.	USAID	ICDDRB, University of Maryland, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC)	2020-23	Bangladesh
Violent Extremism: Impact on the Economy of Bangladesh	Banglades h Governm ent	The Center for Genocide Studies, Dhaka University, Bangladesh	2021-23	Bangladesh



Analyzing the COVID-19 Dynamics and its Impacts on the IRD efforts of the CMCs.	CIRDAP	In house	2023- 24	All CMCs
Identifying the Bottleneck of Agri-food Supply Chains in the CMCs and the Recommended Policy Suggestions.	CIRDAP	In house	2023- 24	All CMCs
Analyzing the Integrated Rural Development Models of CMCs and their Cross-Country Replication Potentials	CIRDAP	In-kind Expert Contributions from CLIs	2024- 25	All CMCs
Selected Problems of CMCs and the Policy Recommendations	CIRDAP	In-kind Expert Contributions from Webinar Presenters	2024- 25	All CMCs
Climate Resilient Rural Development in Asia and Pacific Region: Challenges and the Way Forward	CIRDAP	Link Institutes	2024- 25	All CMCs
Identifying the challenges of Asia Pacific Countries in terms of effective private sector investments, participation in climate actions, and rural development.	CIRDAP	Link Institutes	2024- 25	All CMCs
Status of the Most Marginalized Rural People in CMCs: Policies, Practices, and Alternatives	CIRDAP	In house	2020- 23	All CMCs
Synthesizing Rural Development Policies in CMCs	CIRDAP	In house	2020- 23	All CMCs
Revisions to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Aquaculture Questionnaire towards GSA monitoring" and "Report for Aquaculture Development in Northern Africa	FAO		2023- 24	

The Letter of Agreement (LoA) between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific for provision of Revisions to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Aquaculture Questionnaire towards GSA monitoring' and Report for Aquaculture for Aquaculture Development in Northern Africa on 7th December 2023.





### TRAINING & EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Training & Education programme of CIRDAP has played a key role since its inception in 1979 by organizing different training and programs in CIRDAP member countries (CMCs). The division organizes training programs for capacity building, human resource development, and promoting integrated rural development in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). Till now, more than seven thousand people have received training through workshops, seminars, knowledge-sharing mechanisms, etc.

## CIRDAP covered these diverse and wide thematic issues and topics under the training and education

- Poverty Reduction and Integrated Approach of Poverty Reduction/ Multidimensional Poverty
- International Training Programme on Participatory Rural Development,
- Integrated Rural Development Framework,
- Multi-lateral treaties on Environmental Legal Issues.
- Sustainable Food System & Agriculture Investment
- Rural Natural Resources
- E-commerce and Role of Cooperatives
- Accounting for Community Enterprises
- Blue Economy and Green Economy
- Climate Change Impacts and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Trade and Sustainable Development
- Global Integrated Rural Development and Policy Formulations
- Sustainable Finance for Promoting Green Economy
- Bio Trade, Biodiversity & Genetic Resources, Transfer of Technology, and sustainable trade
- Organizational Behaviour Change Communication
- Management of Rural Employment Projects and Poverty Alleviation
- Natural Resources Management for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods
- Financial Inclusion, Project Management, and Evaluation
- Food and Nutrition security
- Social Audit and Good Governance
- Village Governance



#### THE CIRDAP SECOND FLAGSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME





The Center on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) jointly organized for the second time the regional training course on Integrated Rural Development, Governance, Trade, and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, November 2023. The training programme specifically designed to assist IRD civil servants, mid-career professionals, educators, researchers, media professionals, and civil society members in better performing their IRD - related functions.

In this three-week comprehensive training programme 24 participants from the different nation-states awarded with the certificates. Twelve countries from the Asia-Pacific regions (also CIRDAP member countries) are Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand; and two countries from African nations are Ghana and Mauritius. There were



three modules in the syllabus of the 2<sup>nd</sup> flagship training: **Module 1**: Integrated Rural Development Framework, Trade, Sustainable Development & Multi-lateral treaties on Environmental Legal Issues; **Module 2**: Adaptive Management in Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific Region; and **Module 3**: Policy Formulation and Comprehensive Implementation.

At the opening ceremony held on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 23, the Honorable Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, His Excellency Mr. Md. Tazul Islam, MP embraced as the Chief Guest and he graced the occasion with an inspirational speech that outlined his vision for the programme and encouraged all participants.







At the closing ceremony (held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 23), the respected Senior Secretary of Rural Development & Cooperative division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Ms. Mosammat Hamida Begum embraced as the Chief Guest.





On behalf of the cohort of the 2nd flagship training 2023, two representatives among the successful trainees named Md. Mazharul Anowar from Bangladesh and Ms. Anoutchka Angeera Hinchoo Virginie from Mauritius shared their experiences, appreciations and thoughts on the training programme. The five other representatives respectively from Fiji, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Ghana also provided their testimonials to the audiences via video clips.



Ms. Anoutchka Angeera Hinchoo Virginie, Mauritius



Md. Mazharul Anowar, Bangladesh





### INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT MODELS





## CIRDAP EXHIBITIONS & MUSEUM ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT

CEMIRD: CIRDAP Exhibitions & Museum on Integrated Rural Development is one of the CIRDAP initiatives aiming at presenting successful rural development models implemented by the CIRDAP member Countries. The old library premise was converted into CEMIRD by communicating with all CMCs to send their IRD best practice models.

Integrated rural development (IRD) has been one of the major rural development strategies in Asia and the Pacific countries since the last four decades. Through experimentation with rural development projects pioneered by different countries, characterized by pragmatic adaptation to local conditions, several concepts, philosophies and models have been successfully applied for improving livelihoods, reducing poverty and increasing food security of rural people.

#### **Objective of the CEMIRD**

To bring together the best rural development models from the CIRDAP member countries for exhibiting and showing cases of successful applications of IRD posters that can be replicated in rural areas of member countries.

On the occasion of 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CIRDAP, 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, The Secretary of the Rural Development and Cooperative Division (RDCD), Mrs. Mosammat Hamida Begum inaugurated the CEMIRD.







The CEMIRD will be open for participants of conferences/workshops at CICC, small groups of government agencies, diplomatic missions, private organizations, NGOs, academic institutions and schools, farmer organizations, cooperatives, etc.

### Name of the IRD Models that displayed in CEMIRD in 2023

Name of the Model	Country
<ul> <li>One House One Farm Model,</li> <li>Comilla Model, and</li> <li>Improving the Livelihood of Rural people of Lalmai-Mainamati Hill Areas of Cumilla through Integrated Agricultural Farming (BARD Part of My House My Farm project);</li> </ul>	Bangladesh
Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana– National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY - NRLM)	India
Establishment of Participatory Water Management System in Golestan Province, Aqqala County, Voshmgir district, Peyvand Rural Production Cooperative Company, Tazehabad Anbar Alum District	IR Iran
The Living Land Farm Model	Lao PDR
The 21st Century Village Programme	Malaysia
Evergreen Village Development Project (EVDP)	Myanmar
Benazir Income support Programme (BISP)	Pakistan
Raise the Arcs, the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development Sustainability Programme (ARBDSP)	Philippines
Community Development and Livelihood Improvement Project: A Community-Driven Development Programme	Sri Lanka
The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)	Thailand



- CIRDAP proposed the Living Land Project as one of the Community Enterprise Practices as the Lao PDR Rural Development Practice for considering by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR on 30th November 2023.

# Emerging Issues on Integrated Rural Development, including the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disaster risk reduction, and CLIMATE change impacts & water resource management.

Under the Emerging Issues on Integrated Rural Development including the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disaster risk reduction, climate change impacts, & water resource management, the DG of CIRDAP attended the Ninth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-IX) during 28th – 30th March 2023 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh to address capacity building on ocean governance and multi-hazard early warning and mitigation systems in the Indian Ocean region. A courtesy meeting with Mr. Md. Mijanur Rahman, Director of Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh was made on 3 April 2023. A Webinar on "the United Nations' World Health Day" entitled "Water associated diseases - how to monitor aquatic bodies for ensuring community health?" was presented by Dr. Grinson George Padinjakara, Principal Scientist (Fisheries Resource Management), Fishery Resources Assessment Economics & Extension Division, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, Kerala, India on 13th April 2023. Webinar on the Earth Day (Theme of the year: Invest in Our Planet) was presented by Dr. Muhammad Israr, Secretary and IRD Expert CIRDAP, Agriculture, livestock, fisheries and Cooperative Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan on 18 April 2023. The DG of CIRDAP attended the 2nd International Conference for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM)" with the theme "Advancing Partnership in Climate Action for Sustainable Development under the International Organization on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Management (IO-CCADRRM) with Isabela State University (ISU) in the ASEAN Region" during 29th May to 2nd June 2023 at the Amari Airport Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. A webinar on World Ocean Day was presented by Prof. Wong Poh Poh on Planting Mangrove for Multiple Benefits to celebrate the World Ocean Day 2023 on 8th June 2023. Meeting for initial discussion on a syllabus design for the regional training programme on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction for Food Security in Asia-Pacific on 2nd December 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand.





# **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION**

The Information and Communication of CIRDAP strengthened its role as the focal point of knowledge generation and information dissemination. In 2023, the programme produced various publications, redesigned and developed the CIRDAP website, maintained various information requirements, provided IT and library services, and supported organizing seminars/workshops/training.

- The Programme extends the outputs of the CIRDAP work programmes to the integrated rural development (IRD) in rural community at large and provides a platform for sharing information and experience.
- All news and publications are made available for free download via the CIRDAP website and CIRDAP E-facilities - IRD Knowledge Portal (InfoRD), IRD e-Learning Portal, and state of the art E-Library that houses hundreds of books and publications published by CIRDAP and others.
- The Expert Database has been established and utilized as the CIRDAP resource intelligence for Asia and the Pacific Region.
- The Alumni Database will be established and utilized as part of the CIRDAP contact points of CMCs to implement relevant activities.

#### WORLD RURAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

The World Rural Development Day will be celebrated every 6 July as to inform and to remind everyone on his/her role and responsibility for collaborative actions on integrated rural development as outlined in the SDGs. The date of 6 July has been proposed to UN FAO on 15 December 2020 and to CIRDAP members for establishment. The communication has been made with Dr. Benjamin Davis, Director of Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equity Division, Food, and Agriculture Organization, since 12th January 2021. FAO has advised CIRDAP on formality which can



be made through the FAO line and representatives of CIRDAP Member countries at UN Headquarters in New York for proposing the establishment motion to the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

The Governing Council of CIRDAP at its 23rd Session on 21st April 2022 held in Bangkok, Thailand endorsed the initiative to establish the World Rural Development Day on 6th July 2022 in order that the day can be officially recognized worldwide. CIRDAP launched the World Rural Development Day on 6th July 2022 through the webinar presented by the DG of CIRDAP as well as at the 43rd anniversary of CIRDAP held on 25th July 2022.







In 2023, at the occasion of the 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CIRDAP, the portal of World Rural Development day (<a href="https://worldruraldevelopmentday.org/">https://worldruraldevelopmentday.org/</a>) was launched. Ms. Hurain Jannat, Communication Officer and Coordinator of Expert Team of Excellence presented an overview on the Portal in front of the invited guests, Technical Committee members and partners. This portal serves a vital purpose in promoting and advancing integrated rural development globally, aligning with the objectives of the World Rural Development Day.

# The key purposes of the portal:

#### **Call for Global Attention and Response:**

The portal serves as a platform to highlight the urgency and importance of integrated rural development, urging stakeholders to take collaborative actions towards achieving the SDGs.

#### **Informing and Reminding Responsibility:**

The portal plays a crucial role in informing and reminding individuals of their role and responsibility in fostering integrated rural development as outlined in the SDGs.

#### **Celebration and Appreciation:**

The World Rural Development Day provides an opportunity to celebrate and appreciate the invaluable contributions of rural areas

#### **Ensuring Inclusivity and Shared Responsibility:**

The portal aims to celebrate together and ensure that no one is left behind in the journey of integrated rural development.



Every year a **THEME** will be selected to celebrate the World Rural Development and a **CALL** Day **PARTICIPATION** will placed at the portal. The day will be centered around with a specific thematic topic, highlighting kev aspects,



issues or problems for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

#### WEBINAR SERIES OF 2023 WITH THE TEAM OF EXCELLENCES

In January 2021, CIRDAP Expert Database was launched under the Information & Communication Programme. To date, there are about 102 experts in the database. CIRDAP had already communicated with CMCs and CLIs to nominate their experts and researchers.



Under the team of excellences of the CIRDAP Experts database, the webinar series of 2023 was implemented. CIRDAP has organized 18 webinars on different thematic issues and areas.

Some of the important thematic topics are: Identifying the Gender-Nutrition intersections in India: Quantitative and Qualitative Evidence; Best Practices of IRD/ Rural Development policies; Water associated diseases - how to monitor aquatic bodies for ensuring community health; the idea of registering the World Goat Day is a cultural action with an economic purpose to honor rural and nomadic livelihoods; Strategic Environmental Assessment and sustainable regional development in Bangladesh; Lomani Gau Initiative: Community-based climate change adaptation for Gau; Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: Impact of Climate Change and Mitigation Measures; Webinar on Sustainable Development Goals 'and Rural Development





# Glimpse of some of the webinars in 2023



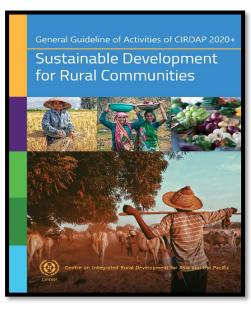




## THE GENERAL GUIDELINE OF ACTIVITIES 2020+ (GGA)

Throughout the year of 2023, the mandate of CIRDAP was addressed through seven thematic work programme which was outlined in the General Guideline of Activities 2020+ (GGA). Three thematic work programmes that support sustainable and integrated rural development and Poverty alleviation through policy formulation and development; and inter-governmental cooperation in the region. Four additional cross-cutting programmes facilitate and support implementation of the thematic work programmes:

The General Guideline of Activities 2020 + (GGA) of CIRDAP was endorsed at the Technical Committee (TC) 36 meeting in November 2021. It is placed on the CIRDAP website, and



based on the GGA, CIRDAP is preparing the plan for the training, workshops, and research activities of the different thematic areas of integrated rural development (IRD). GGA to its partners, stakeholders, development agencies, and other organizations.

#### CIRDAP E-LIBRARY

CIRDAP e-library (<a href="https://library.cirdap.org/">https://library.cirdap.org/</a>) regularly generates IRD Knowledge, compiles and disseminates information and resources on IRD and other development issues to the staff and

CIRDAP member countries. Resources were kept for reference in the library for future studies. This is an online archive for collecting, preserving, disseminating digital copies of CIRDAP Publications, documents, publications for CMCs. These are the CIRDAP Annual reports, Rural Development reports, Study series, Training Series, Documentation Series,



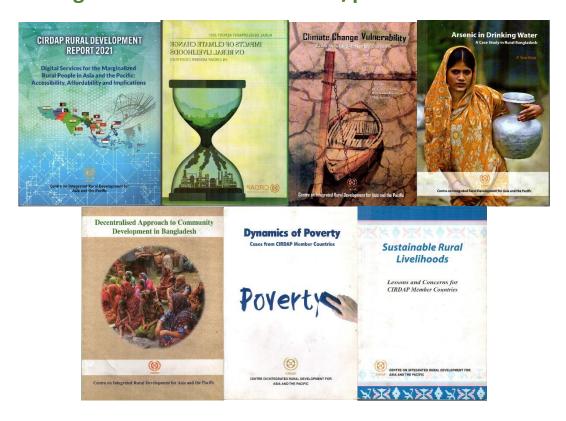
Newsletters, books, etc. CIRDAP staff & CMCs can read library books, reports, and essential & exciting news and current articles related to RD & PA. There are links to various open-access journals and e-books, e-reports, etc.

CIRDAP Regularly enriched its E-Library by collecting free e-books relevant to Integrated Rural Development. Most important documents such as World Development Report (WB), Human Development Report (UNDP), Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), Human Development Index (HDI), Asian Development Outlook (ADB), Key Indicators for Asia and the



Pacific (ADB), Basic Statistics Series (ADB), Global Food Policy Reports (IFPRI) and The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 (FAO) are collected and disseminate through the E-Library.

## Some of the Significant CIRDAP resources/publication at E-Library



#### **CIRDAP InfoRD Portal:**



This is a knowledge repository of information on Integrated Rural Development of CMCs in particular and in the Asia Pacific region in General. Data, Videos, and Best practices of CMCs placed here for knowledge sharing and learning. Best practices of CMCs were documented and disseminated in the Portal. This is

a collaborative portal, and contribution flows from the member countries - Info RD portal Link: <a href="http://inford.org">http://inford.org</a>.



#### **CAL E-Abstract:**

The CEL-E-Abstract is a compendium of newly published articles (Abstracts and Citation) related to poverty reduction, rural development, and other development issues. The collection of articles from various recent journals on IRD and PA factors and articles available on websites and openaccess journals. Quarterly CEL E-Abstract is circulated to the staff, and some were uploaded to the CIRDAP and e-Library websites. Three CEL E-Abstracts have been prepared: January –March 2023; CeL E-Abstracts April - September 2023; and CeL E-Abstracts October –December 2023

# **PUBLICATIONS**

## **Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD)**

APJORD, a bi-annual academic journal, is a flagship publication of CIRDAP which 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 other stakeholders interested in Integrated Rural Development (IRD) to exchange and share ideas, opinions, field observations and empirical findings on various facets of rural development. With this interdisciplinary journal, CIRDAP fulfils its mandate as a service institution to its member countries for promoting sustainable integrated rural development through dissemination of knowledge and promotion of policy dialogue. This journal is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

# Policy Plans and Implementations on Integrated Rural Development from 1979 to 2023

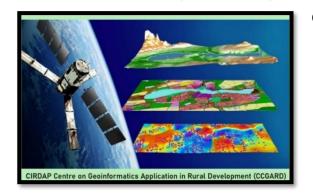
CIRDAP published a document entitled "Policy Plans and Implementations on Integrated Rural Development from 1979 to 2023: Outcome and Benefits of Regional Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific.

The document provides brief information on the CIRDAP's Policy Plans and Implementations on Integrated Rural Development during the last four decades from 1979 to 2018 and the period during the Covid-19 pandemic and the aftermath from 2019 to 2023: Outcome and Benefits of Regional Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific. Through global and regional policies & frameworks & multilateral Treaties and situations, CIRDAP policy bodies have strengthened the position of the developing country members on formulations of policy plans and implementations on a long-term basis, helps in resolving global, regional and local problems and takes an active part in regional and international cooperation.





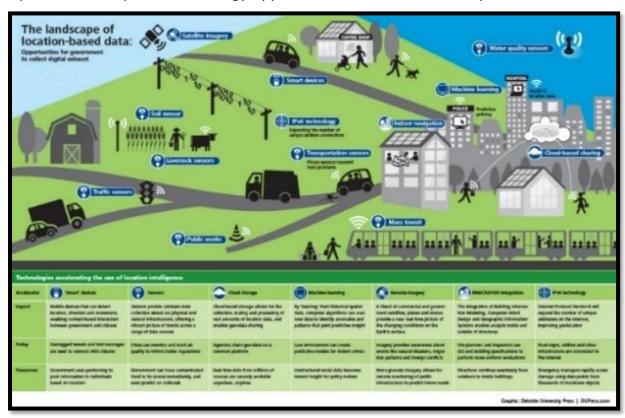
# CIRDAP'S CENTRE ON GEOINFORMATICS APPLICATIONS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (CCGARD)



Geoinformatics application has proved its potential in effective planning, management, monitoring development initiatives, and policy support measures across the world. GIS is proving as a very powerful spatial technology tool for understanding earth features, planning for resource optimization, generation of decision alternatives, real-time monitoring, and a host of related work, which has great

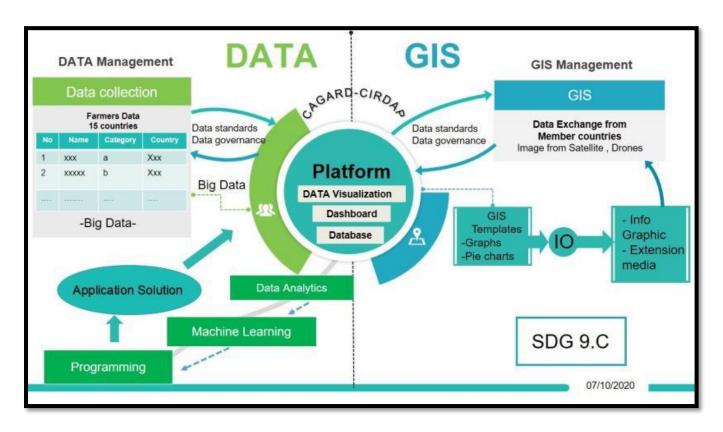
potential in effective planning, management, monitoring of development initiatives, and policy support measures across CMCs.

The Governing Council (GC-19) resolution in 2013 approved the establishment of the CIRDAP Information Centre, known as the Centre on Geoinformatics Applications in Rural Development (CGARD). This centre was established in 2017 with generous support from the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), India, to support the government of CIRDAP Member countries to use GIS as a tool for informed decision making, better planning, and management of resources to achieve socio-economic growth, besides engaging in research, designing, modeling and application development of Geospatial Technology Applications for the rural development sector.





Mr. Supawat Komolmarl, an Expert of CIRDAP, prepared a strategic plan of CCGARD and the presented at the Technical Committee (TC-36) meeting, 2021 and the strategic plan was endorsed at the Executive Committee (EC-33) and Governing Council (GC-23) meeting in 2022, respectively. This CGARD Strategic Plan is intended to serve as guidance for moving from initial stage to advance stage. This plan clearly outlines the mission, objectives and goals of this initiative as well as strategies on how it will be achieved. This plan will allow the CIRDAP to better leverage its GIS/MIS investments and ensure that priorities for GIS/MIS technology and related business processes are aligned with CIRDAP's objectives. The scope of this document is targeted primarily at the 2020-2024 calendar years. At the end of this period a comprehensive review will be done to assess progress-to-date and for future direction.







Gender equality and Youth empowerment is essential to the rural development in Asia Pacific region, and it contributes to the achievement of SDGs Goals 1, 2, 5 & 8. CIRDAP works on gender equality (SDG5) and empowerment of rural women and girls is aligned with the heart of the 2030 Agenda: leaving no one behind

Four UN Day that reflects the Role of Rural Women and recognizes their invaluable contribution for development (International Women's Day, Int. day for the Rural Women; World Food Day and Int. Day for the Eradication of Poverty). In 2023, CIRDAP celebrated the days by recognizing the contribution of women to the society.

The International Women's Day celebrated through a webinar on 9 March 2023. Under the theme: *DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality*, Ms.Hurain Jannant, Communication Officer, has presented a paper on the topic: "DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality: Perspective of Bangladesh". Ms. Anju Dhungana, Senior Women Development Officer, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Nepal has presented the topic "Violence against the women in Nepal- current situation, challenges and efforts to minimize it". After the webinar, a vibrant discussion session among CIRDAP staff on the importance of the International Women's day and sensitizing the staff on Women contribution was held.





DG, CIRDAP, Ms. Hurain Jannat, Communication Officer, CIRDAP and Dr. Usharani Boruah, Librarian and Gender Coordinator of CIRDAP participated in a Stakeholder Dialogue to Commemorate International Women's Day 2023 organized by FAO Bangladesh on 13 March 2023 at the Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The agenda of the dialogue to discuss on how women



and girls can better benefit from digitalization of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and how to enhance climate change resilience.

The webinar on the International Day of Rural Women's day organized on 15 October 2023 on the topics: "Rural Women's Organization for Development: A Case of BARD Experiment". Ms. Saifun Nahar, Deputy Director of BARD, Bangladesh presented the topic.

#### CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS ON WOMEN AND YOUTH

CIRDAP called for research proposals focusing on women, youth empowerment and rural development from the CIRDAP member states and its networks. Nine proposals with budgets and action plans were obtained from Bangladesh, India, IR Iran, Nepal, Pakistan (2 proposals), Philippines, Sri Lanka and CIRDAP. A programme committee consisting three members namely Prof. Rossukhon Makaramani, CIRDAP expert on Gender and youth from Thailand; Ms. Anju Dhungana, CIRDAP expert on Gender and youth from Nepal; and Ms. Rakhi Barua, CIRDAP expert on Gender and youth from Bangladesh was established for screening the proposals in July 2023. The Project Proposals were discussed at the Technical Committee (TC-38) Meeting, Luang prabang, LAO PDR.

The four best-selected proposals (Highest marked proposals by the Programme Committee Members) of the Women, Youth, and Rural Development were selected for the CIRDAP funding. The highest marked proposals will be submitted for the EC and GC meeting for approval of the budget in 2024.

- Nepal: Capacity Development of Elected Representatives and Officials to Implement Gender Responsive Budget at Selected Local Governments in Nepal
- 2) **Sri Lanka:** Women and Youth Empowerment Programme for Sustainable Inclusive Rural Development in Sri Lanka: A Bottom-up Approach
- 3) **India:** Action Lab for Inclusion of Transgender and Gender-Variant Youths in Mainstream Livelihood
- 4) IR Iran: Improving Rural Women's Sustainable Livelihood through Empowerment in Sericulture Value Chain.

The Programme Committee recommended to revise the less marked Project Proposals from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Philippines and suggested to submit for the External Funding Agencies. CIRDAP will also carry out a fundraising campaign of \$ 30,000 US from external sources of funding.





# PARTNERSHIP & COOPERATION

- The signing ceremony on Statement of Cooperation between CIRDAP and International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD) at ITD, Ministry of Commerce on 18th January 2023. CIRDAP has been collaborated with ITD since 2020 on various activities such as preparation of project proposals for the EU Horizon 2020 funding, co-organized World Ocean Day, and obtained lecturers for the CIRDAP-BARD flagship training programmes in 2022 and 2023.
- A MoU was signed with the *Supporting Funds of Investment Development in Agriculture* (*SFIDA*), IR Iran for sharing good practices with and from the CIRDAP member countries and SFIDA to celebrate its 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023. .
- The DG of CIRDAP was appointed Senior Advisor to the *Center for Ecological Aquaculture* (*CEA*) under the FAO-Shanghai Ocean University, PR China on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
- The DG of CIRDAP and senior staff visited African-Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO), India on 8th May 2023 to discuss future cooperation between the two organization. CIRDAP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AARDO on 10th September 2023 to collaborate in areas related to agricultural and rural development. CIRDAP and AARDO share common goal to improve self-reliance, economic resilience, and social well-being of rural communities by promoting the spirit of South-South cooperation.
- The DG of CIRDAP, Dr. Usharani Boruah and Ms. Hurain Jannat attended the stakeholder dialogue to celebrate the International Women's Day organized by *FAO Bangladesh* on 13 March 2023 at the Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The DG of CIRDAP communicated with *FAO Headquarters* on the amendment of the Agreement of the Establishment of CIRDAP on 3rd April 2023.
- A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the *Korea Legislation Research Institute* (*KLRI*), Republic of Korea on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 for jointly organizing and/or hosting academic and capacity building activities, such as legislative advice and support, training courses, conferences, seminars/webinars, symposia, or lectures; participating in each Party's events; and exchanging publications and other materials of common interests for three years (<a href="http://www.klri.re.kr">http://www.klri.re.kr</a>). KLRI advised CIRDAP on several legal issues in 2023.
- CIRDAP has been collaborated with Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) since 2020 on various activities such as preparation of project proposals for the EU Horizon 2020 funding, pledge of commitment for climate change adaptation in agriculture and aquaculture at the GCA+20, Shanghai, PR China, co-organizing World Ocean Day, co-author article in the FAO Aquaculture Newsletter, etc. The DG of CIRDAP attended the 32<sup>nd</sup> Governing Council Meeting of NACA during 7th 10th August 2023 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.





# **ADMINISTRATION**

CIRDAP Administration Unit provides administrative support to all units/divisions of the CIRDAP in achieving the objectives in an effective, efficient, and economical manner. The unit is responsible for administering the staff, Human Resource Management, Legal activities, Protocol, Security, Safety, Space Management & Maintenance, Procurement, Store management, Transport management, and services, including supporting and arranging meetings of the CIRDAP Policy Bodies and implementation of the decisions. The CICC unit manages the International Conferences Centre, looks after the event and catering management, and significantly supports CIRDAP finance.

#### **CIRDAP Auditorium and CICC**



After the inauguration of CICC, every year, the dimension of the program increased till the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020. The total programmes at CICC during January — December 2023 were 245.

In 1995, the Government of Bangladesh provided all support for the construction of the CIRDAP Auditorium with seating facilities. Since then,

CIRDAP Auditorium has been a famous and busy one in Dhaka City. Over the years, the activities of CIRDAP have increased, and in the context of a felt need commensurate with the new outlook of CIRDAP, GOB, took the initiative to construct a multi-storied building for CIRDAP with

International Conference facilities. The purpose of CICC and Auditorium is to organize more international and national training, workshop, conferences, and official meetings, extend facilities to national & international organizations for conducting training, workshop, conferences, and official meetings, establish an international communication Technology ICT center with support from all CIRDAP member countries to make it a regional hub of ICT.





# **FINANCE**

#### **Sources of funds**

- I. **General Fund (GF)** Regular contribution from the CMCs for the administrative and programme support budget;
- II. Trust Fund (TF) Grants from the donor countries/agencies for programmatic activities;
- III. **Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF)** Voluntary Contribution of Member Countries for specific programme purposes; and
- IV. **Corpus Fund (CF)** Generated from Auditorium and Cafeteria income. Only interest earned is utilized for programme purposes.
- V. **Working Capital Fund (WCF)** The fund established by the Governing Council to finance budgetary appropriations pending receipt of Member's Contributions and for such other purposes as may be authorized.
- VI. **Special Reserve Fund (SRF)** Funded out of interest earned on investment of Trust Funds to finance projects for which funds cannot be arranged from other sources.
- VII. **Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF)** Established for replacement of old furniture, equipment, vehicles, etc.

#### **Audit of the Accounts**

The audit of the interim Financial Statement of CIRDAP of the year 2022 of the 22nd Biennium (2022 and 2023) was conducted by Cooperative Auditing Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand. The auditor also expressed that "The accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the CIRDAP as at December 31, 2022, and its financial performance for the year ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and CIRDAP's financial regulation."

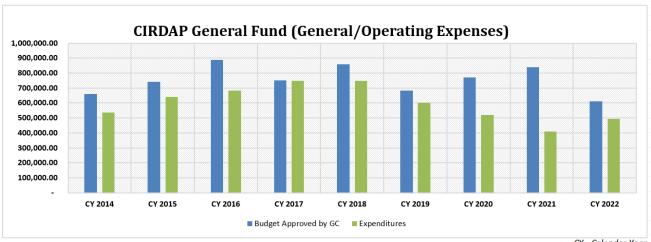


### **Fund Raising**

The DG of CIRDAP had a courtesy meeting with Mr. Md. Mijanur Rahman, Director of Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023. The main purpose for the meeting is to request DDM to send a letter with a project proposal entitled "Building Earthquake and Natural Disasters Resilient Communities and Societies: Mitigation, Preparedness and Response in Bangladesh (BENDER) to the Embassy of the United States of America in Dhaka for their consideration for funding support. The project will be a collaboration between CIRDAP, Department of Disaster Management, Bangladesh, BUET, EMI, Philippines and the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), U.S.A. The DG of CIRDAP signed the Letter of Agreement (LoA) between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific for provision of Revisions to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Aquaculture Questionnaire towards GSA monitoring' and Report for Aquaculture Development in Northern Africa on 7th December 2023. The project provides financial liability of \$72,250 US.

#### **FUND & OPERATING EXPENSES**

CIRDAP General Fund  (General/Operating Expenses)  Amount in US\$									
Audited									
	CY 2014	CY 2015	CY 2016	CY 2017	CY 2018	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022
Budget Approved by GC	659,570.00	742,256.00	888,012.00	750,327.00	859,431.00	684,057.00	770,833.00	838,748.00	609,663.00
Expenditures	535,085.00	641,389.00	683,742.00	748,077.00	746,431.00	602,599.00	520,516.00	409,312.00	495,258.00

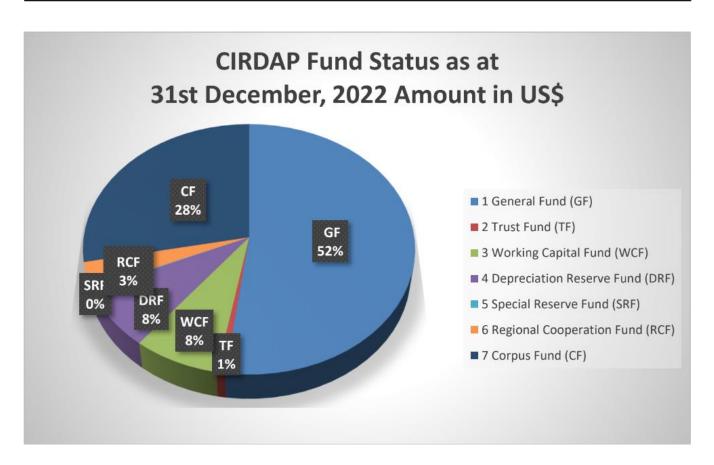


CY - Calender Year



#### **Fund Balance**

CIRDAP Fund Status as at 31st December, 2022				
SL	Name of Fund Amount in USS			
1	General Fund (GF)	882,628.47		
2	Trust Fund (TF)	13,029.96		
3	Working Capital Fund (WCF)	130,317.00		
4	Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF)	133,292.12		
5	Special Reserve Fund (SRF)	2,229.12		
6	Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF)	56,553.63		
7	Corpus Fund (CF)	476,888.99		
	TOTAL	1,694,939.29		





# ANNEX: CIRDAP STAFF PROFILE

#### PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL SERVICE STAFF MEMBERS IN 2023

Name	Designation	Joining Date	Separation Date
Dr. Cherdsak Virapat	Director General	10.09.2020	
Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin	Director Research	01.01.2020	
Mr. F.A.M Zakirul Huq	Administrative Officer	01.03.2018	
Ms. Hurain Jannat	Communication Officer	01.12.2019	
Mr. Shishir Gobinda Saha	Finance Officer	15.12.2016	
Dr. Usharani Boruah	Librarian	10.07.2007	
Mr. Deba Datta Chakma	Sr. Secretary, DG	17.06.2010	
Ms. Najma Yeasmin	Assistant Administrative Officer (HR)	02.10.2011	
Mr. Haripada Bhowmik	Executive Officer Finance	15.09.1996	
Ms. Tahsina Tabassum Sajuti	Executive Assistant (Research)	01.12.2020	
Mr. Shankar Chandra Das	Technical Operator	18.08.1980	
Mr. Shimul Barua	Driver	13.06.2007	
Mr. Kallol Barua	Driver	27.12.2009	
Mr. Biplob Kumar Dhar	Driver	07.08.2012	
Mr. Swapan Kumar Sarker	Machine Operator	07.08.2012	
Mr. Bishu Chandra Das	Technical Operator	01.06.1992	
Mr. Kazi Sharif Ahmed	Messenger	01.07.1998	
Mr. Md. Jahangir Alam	Bearer-Cook	01.05.2000	
Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Molla	Gardener	17.10.2007	
Mr. Sujit Chandra Das	Janitor	07.08.2012	
Mr. Md. Delwar Hossain	Janitor	07.08.2012	
Mr. Martin Dores	Watchman	07.08.2012	

#### **SHORT-TERM STAFF MEMBERS IN 2023**

The following staff were recruited from time to time to assist in various positions and to provide support to workers.



Name	Designation	Joining Date	Separation Date
Mr. Saiful Islam	Medical Consultant (Part-time)	02.07.2006	
Mr. Shahariar Haque	Executive Officer (CICC)	02.07.2020	
Mr. Md. Mustafa Kamal	Administrative Assistant	02.07.2020	
Mr. Md. Monir Hossain	Technician	02.07.2020	05.02.2024
Mr. Md. Raju Ahmed	Cook	01.11.2021	
Mr. Minhazul Bari Ahmed	Assistant Administrative Officer (Admin)	01.02.2022	
Mr. Md. Zakaria Haider	Website Consultant	15.06.2023	15.01.2024
Mr. Md. Shahinur Rahman	Research Assistant	18.07.2023	
Ms. Aklima Akter	Research Assistant	20.07.2022	28.02.2023
Md. Niaj Morshed	VAT Management Service Officer	01.10.2022	31.01.2023

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