



# Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific



## News@CIRDAP

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### CIRDAP GIS Centre inaugurated

A Centre on Geo-informatics Applications in Rural Development (CGARD) was inaugurated in CIRDAP on 21 January 2016 at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre, CIRDAP headquarters, Dhaka. The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has sponsored the establishment of this state-of-the-art Geospatial Application Centre at CIRDAP.



The CGARD, widely known as GIS centre, is expected to support the governments of CIRDAP Member countries including Bangladesh and India to use GIS as a tool for informed decision making, better planning and management of resources to achieve socio-economic growth.

In the inauguration programme, Mr. Amarjeet Sinha, IAS, Secretary (RD), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, graced the occasion as Chief Guest while Mr. Ananda Chandra Biswas, Additional Secretary, Rural Development & Cooperative Division, Ministry of LGRD&C, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) was present as Special Guest. Mr. Atal Dulloo, IAS, Joint Secretary (IC), Government of India and Dr. W.R. Reddy, Director General of National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), India and a number of officials from Government of Bangladesh and Government of India were also present.



The CGARD was inaugurated by Mr. Amarjeet Sinha. A training programme on Geo-informatics Applications for Rural Development for Officials of Ministry of LGRD&C, GoB and Re-designed web Portal for rural development ([www.infoRD.org](http://www.infoRD.org)) were also inaugurated by Mr. Ananda Chandra Biswas, and Mr. Atal Dulloo respectively.

### Study Visit to Barefoot College, India



A four member team, led by Mr. Akber Hossain, Project Director [Joint Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division (RDCD), Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD&C), Government of Bangladesh] of the One House One



Farm and accompanied by Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director (Pilot Projects Division), CIRDAP, Mr. Nazir Ahmad, Deputy Project Director [Deputy Secretary, RDCD] and Mr. Bipine Chandra Biswas, Assistant Chief, RDCD, visited Barefoot College located in Tirona, India during 27 February-3 March 2017. The study visit was supported by the Government of Bangladesh in collaboration with CIRDAP and Barefoot College. The purpose of the visit was to assess the impact of access to energy.

The study visit provided the team an empirical knowledge how solar energy can bring positive impacts on social, economic and environment aspects of sustainable development. It was also observed through the activities of Barefoot College that poverty can be overcome through alternative capacity building where instinctive desire to learn can be drawn out among people.

### **Exposure Visit to Vietnam**

CIRDAP DG Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau together with Dr. W.R. Reddy, Director General of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), India made an exposure visit to Vietnam during 22-24 February 2017. It was the first visit of present DG CIRDAP to the Link Institution and Contact Ministry of CIRDAP located in Vietnam.

The objective of the exposure visit was to be familiarized with the best practices of Vietnam in livestock, agriculture and enterprises. During exposure visit, they had meetings with Senior Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department for Processing of Agro-Forestry-Fishery Products and Salt Industry, and Institute of Policy and Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development. During meetings, DG CIRDAP also briefed about activities undertaken by CIRDAP, including resetting platform for change and updating actions for strengthening CIRDAP: Vision 2017-2020. There were two field visits organised for them to Big C and Metro in Vietnam.

### **International Round Table Meeting on Agricultural Insurance - A Climate Change Adaptation Tool in the African, Asian and Pacific Regions**

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) in collaboration with African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) and Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) organised an international round table meeting on “Agricultural Insurance - A Climate Change Adaptation Tool in the African, Asian and Pacific Regions” at MARDI, Selangor, Malaysia during 06-10 February 2017.

The meeting was attended by a total of 34 participants with diverse experiences from AARDO and CIRDAP member countries. The objectives of the programme were to review and assess different models, share the experiences of



insurance programmes, and formulate guidelines and recommendations for policy-makers through introducing agricultural insurance programmes in the Africa, Asia and Pacific regions. The roundtable meeting culminated with a set of recommendations applicable for participating countries of African, Asian and the Pacific regions based on their experiences.



At the inaugural session on 7 February 2017, Dr. Sharif bin Haron, Director General, MARDI welcomed the delegates and guests, wherein addresses were delivered by Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Director General, CIRDAP and Eng. Wassfi Hassan El-Sreihin, Secretary General, AARDO.

### **CIRDAP-NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Rural Technologies for Inclusive Growth**

CIRDAP in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) organised an international training programme on Rural Technologies for Inclusive Growth from 12-22 February 2017 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India. The purpose of the programme was to familiarize and equip the participants with the strategies



and approaches relevant to the promotion of rural technologies for livelihoods enhancement, especially in CIRDAP member countries. The programme was attended by 17 mid and senior level officials from 11 CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs).



The training included a combination of lectures-cum-discussions, panel and case discussions, appropriate mix of various participatory training methods through mock exercises and audio-visual presentations, inter and intra group discussions and experience sharing. Later on, a study visit was organized to expose the participants to the best practices in rural technologies including entrepreneurship development.



The Director General of NIRD&PR Dr. W.R. Reddy and the Director General of CIRDAP Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau were present in the valedictory session. In his speech, Mr. Tevita thanked the Government of India for its generosity in organising relevant training programmes every year for the benefit of CMCs.

### **CIRDAP-RGNIYD Collaborative International Exposure Visit cum Training on Disaster Management, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, 10-14 January 2017**

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) jointly organised an International Exposure Visit cum Training on Disaster Management for a group of students of Dhaka University at RGNIYD Campus in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India from 10 to 14 January 2017.



The training was attended by a total of 18 participants comprising of 16 students and two faculties Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), University of Dhaka. Mr. M.H Kawsar Rudro, AICO, CIRDAP also accompanied the team as CIRDAP representative.

The main objectives of the programme were to enhance the knowledge of the participants on the concepts and critical issues of disaster management and mitigation through presentation, discussion and exposures visits; and to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing and thus exchange cross-cultural understanding on disaster risk management between Bangladesh and India so that disaster risk management is integrated into community, local, and rural development strategies.

In the technical session, the participants attended expert's lectures on 'disaster vulnerability assessment and risk reduction' by Mr. Vignesh, PhD Scholar, Centre for Natural Hazards and Disaster Studies, University of Madras; 'Institutionalizing the risk reduction and management' by Dr. P. H Kalesh, Asst. Professor, RGNIYD; 'role of local government in disaster management' by Dr. K. Gireesan, Associate Professor, RGNIYD; 'youth engagement in disaster risk reduction' by Dr. R. Anitha, Faculty, RGNIYD; 'community-based disaster risk reduction' and 'climate change induced disasters' by Dr. R. R. Krishnamurthy, Professor, Department of Applied Geology, University of Madras.

Participants were taken to several field visits including 'Irula Tribe Women's Welfare Society' (ITWWS) to understand role of women in disaster management; 'Indian Institute of Madras' (IITM) to know the importance of ICT for Streamlining Disaster Response Management; and 'Nemmeli Panchayat' to get exposure on effective Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM). On the third day, the participants attended practical Session at National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) which is a specialised para-military force constituted for the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation.

### Meeting with Chief Executive Officer, TFNet, Malaysia

A team led by Dr. Mohd Desa Haji Hassim, Chief Executive Officer, International Tropical Fruits Network (TFNet), Malaysia, visited CIRDAP on 09 February 2017 and had a meeting with the Director General of CIRDAP, where Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director (Pilot Projects Division) was also present. In the meeting, they discussed possible collaboration between two organizations in mutually agreed areas.



TFNet is an independent and self-financing global network established under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (FAO) with the mandate and role to promote sustainable global development of the tropical fruit industry in relation to production, consumption and trade.



## Special Lecture by DG CIRDAP at University of Dhaka

DG CIRDAP Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau delivered a special lecture for the Students of Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), University of Dhaka (DU) on 13 February, 2017.

IDMVS, which is one of the leading institute offering Graduate and Postgraduate degree in Disaster Risk Management in Bangladesh, organised the special lecture and orientation programme for a new batch of students. In his remarks, DG CIRDAP stressed the importance of youth in national building. He urged the students to improve their knowledge and skills in order to work for the people and contribute for a just inclusive world.

The programme was attended by Professor Dr. Nasreen Ahmad, Pro-vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Farid Uddin Ahmed, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Dhaka, while Professor Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen, Director of Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies chaired the programme which was followed by a cultural event.



Students, who participated in CIRDAP-RGNIYD Collaborative International Exposure cum Training on Disaster Management on 10-15 January 2017 in Tamil Nadu, India, shared their experience and thanked CIRDAP and RGNIYD for organising such programme.

Later, DG, CIRDAP called on DU Vice-chancellor Professor Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique at his office. During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest, especially about the possibilities of undertaking joint collaborative programmes. DG, CIRDAP exchanged views regarding how to strengthen the existing friendly ties between Bangladesh and member countries of CIRDAP. The vice-chancellor thanked DG, CIRDAP for his visit to Dhaka University.

## Review Committee Meeting on Strategic Plan for CIRDAP

The Review Committee on Strategic Plan for CIRDAP: Vision 2017-2020 met for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time during 15-16 January 2017 at CIRDAP headquarters, Dhaka. After extensive discussion, the Committee finalised the report and handed over to the DG, CIRDAP.



## Two Programme Associates join CIRDAP



Ms. Farhana Yasmin joined CIRDAP as Programme Associate (Training Division) on 26 February 2017. She has obtained her Masters degree in Sociology from University of Dhaka. Prior to joining CIRDAP, she served in BRAC above four years as Associate (Human Resource and Learning Division) and worked for the Orascom Telecom Ltd. (Banglalink) as Care Line Officer. She has experience on training management, research methodology and data analysis.



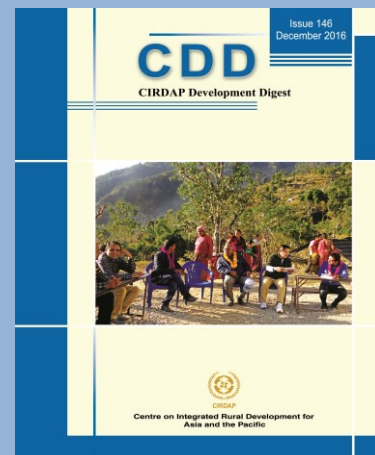
Ms. Nishat Farzana, a Masters degree holder in Development Studies from University of Dhaka, joined CIRDAP as Programme Associate (Pilot Project Division) on 26 February 2017. Before joining CIRDAP, she worked for the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) of BRAC University as Researcher. She has experience on research methodology as well as skills in using various statistical tools of quantitative social science research, economic analysis and randomized evaluation.

### ITEC Fellowships offered by India

As a kind gesture for regional cooperation in promoting human resource development of CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs), the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, Government of India (GoI) and the Chairperson of the GC-19 declared in the inaugural session of the 19<sup>th</sup> GC meeting that Government of India would offer 20 Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) fellowships to CMCs every year.

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the sponsor of the ITEC Fellowships to CMCs for 2017-18, will publish the ITEC Training Courses Brochure for 2017-18. Applicants may be advised to visit the website at <https://www.itecgoi.in>.

### Recent Publication





**Forthcoming Programmes**

- CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Human Resource Development for Rural Development, 14-23 March 2017 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India.
- Regional Workshop on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, 22 - 26 May 2017 at Bangkok and Chachoengsao Province, Thailand.

**Find us on****For further details, please contact:****Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau**

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