

# VOICE OF CIRDAP

Empowering The Rural Communities



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Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)  
An Intergovernmental and Autonomous Organisation Working For  
Strengthening Integrated Rural Development Systems in  
15 Asian and The Pacific Countries

 [WWW.cirdap.org](http://WWW.cirdap.org)

## CIRDAP–Voice of Rural Communities

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is a Regional, Intergovernmental and Autonomous organisation. It was established on 6 July 1979 at the initiative of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations with support from several other UN bodies and donors. The Centre came into being to meet the felt needs of the developing countries at that time as an institution for promoting Integrated Rural Development in the region.

From the original six members, CIRDAP has now grown up as a Centre of 15 member countries. The member-countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host Country), Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The main objectives of CIRDAP are to:

- (i) assist national action;
- (ii) Promote regional cooperation; and
- (iii) Act as a servicing institution for its member countries for promotion: integrated rural development (IRD) through research, action research, pilot project, training, and information dissemination. Amelioration of rural poverty in the Asia-Pacific region has been the prime concern of CIRDAP.

The programme priorities of CIRDAP are set under four Areas of Concern:

- 1) Agrarian Development;
- 2) Institutional/ Infrastructural;
- 3) Resource development including human resources; and
- 4) Employment.

Within these Areas of Concern, the thematic areas identified are: Poverty alleviation through participatory approaches with emphasis on social sector development (e.g. health, education and nutrition); Employment generation through microcredit support, infrastructure development and local resource mobilisation; Gender issues; Governance issues; and Environmental concerns for sustainable rural development.

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

## Voice of CIRDAP – Monthly e-Bulletin of CIRDAP

Voice of CIRDAP (VoC) is a monthly newsletter published by CIRDAP. The purpose of the VoC is to highlight various facets of IRD in the Asia-Pacific region and activities of CIRDAP with stakeholders.

The designations employed and the presentation of materials in VoC do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of CIRDAP concerning the legal status of any country, city or area, or of its authorities or boundaries. News items, viewpoints on IRD and related issues are welcome. All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor.

## Rural Heartbeat

**Dear Partners,**

I am happy to share the Second Edition of Voice of CIRDAP with you all. Rural Development depends on prosperity of villages. Agriculture development is central to village prosperity. Unabated fragmentation of land due to legal and social reasons, making Agriculture poorer and unprofitable. The problem is aggravated by raising cost of inputs and laborers. This development is discouraging young and educated to stay back in villages. The migration of rural youth to urban areas in search of jobs is turning villages as old age homes. This migration has also affected urban development.

Bringing smart technologies to Agriculture and Creating urban facilities in rural areas is expected to reduce the migration of youth from rural areas. Social mobilization of youth into groups, introducing high production technologies to Agriculture, Skilling Youths and linking them to urban market directly may be effective in this direction. Food processing not only create jobs for rural population, reduce the wastage, ensure the profitability in Agriculture and acceptability of rural products in urban areas. Rural Women can greatly contribute in this sector. Rural Tourism of Malaysia, rich handicraft of Iran like additional income generating activities definitely attract and retain youth in village. Slowly, it may lead to reverse migration relieving costly and congested cities. Malaysia made a mark in promoting urban facilities in rural areas and removing the rural tag gradually has significantly contributed for retention of youth in villages. Can we provide urban facilities in rural areas?

Wish you wonderful month.

**Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General**



## CIRDAP and IR Iran Strengthen Collaboration in the Tehran Meeting



Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of CIRDAP, met with the Honorable Gholamreza Nouri Ghezaljah, Agriculture Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran on October 14, 2024. The meeting focused on strengthening linkages between Iran and CIRDAP. H.E Minister Ghezaljah expressed his full support for the CIRDAP's initiatives, including the celebration of World Rural Development Day, exposure visits, and technology transfers.

During the meeting, Dr. Chandra Shekara presented the Aziz Ul Huq Medal for Rural Development to Minister Ghezaljah. The meeting was attended by Dr. Ali KianiRad, a member of CIRDAP's Executive and Technical Committees, along with other senior officials from the Ministry.

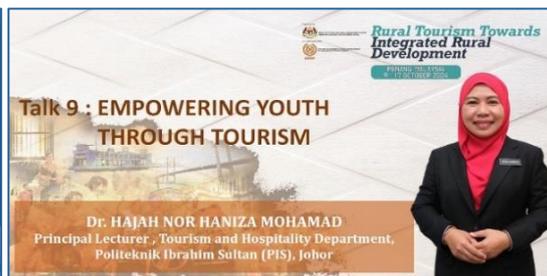
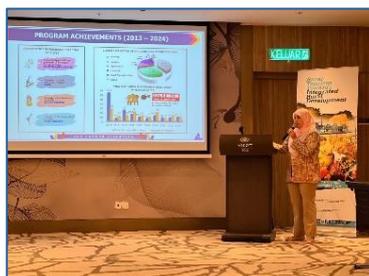


## CIRDAP-Infra International Training Programme on Rural Tourism in Penang, Malaysia



On October 9, 2024, the DG of CIRDAP Dr. P. Chandra Shekara inaugurated the International Training Programme on Rural Tourism towards Integrated Rural Development in Penang, Malaysia organized by CIRDAP in collaboration with the Institute for Rural Advancement (INFRA) of Malaysia held during 9-17 October 2024. At the inaugural ceremony, Ms. Annie Liaw, Deputy Director (Training) of INFRA welcomed the participants.

The officials of the Contact Ministries from CIRDAP member countries (CMCs) namely Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam; and the Government and Non-Government Institute of CMCs along with the participants of the host country – Malaysia were participated on the training.



## Women in Silk value chain: CIRDAP – APERDI, IR Iran Collaborative Research to come up

The Director General (Head) and Associate Professor Dr. Ali KianiRad along with the faculty members of Agricultural Planning, Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDI), Tehran, IR Iran had detailed discussion with the visiting Director General of CIRDAP Dr. P. Chandra Shekara in APERDRI office on October 13, 2024.

Dr. Ali Kiani Rad explained the activities of APERDRI on the other hand the DG of CIRDAP elucidated the initiatives of CIRDAP and requested for greater participation of APERDRI in CIRDAP activities. The DG of CIRDAP also had discussions with Dr. Soltani, Faculty of APERDRI and the lead of CIRDAP sponsored Research project on Women in Silk value chain under the Women, Youth and Rural Development programme of CIRDAP



## CIRDAP joins celebration of the International Day of Rural women in IR Iran



The Director General of CIRDAP Dr. P. Chandra Shekara addressed the programme on celebration of International Day of Rural women organized by Ministry of Agriculture, IR Iran held at Tehran, Iran on October 15, 2024. DG CIRDAP delivered a talk on the Mainstreaming Rural Women in Policies and Programs during the celebration. The programme was attended by Ambassadors, Policy makers and diverse groups of rural women of IR Iran.

## Integrated Rural Development (IRD) Model of Fiji: A Good Practice for future



The *Lomani Gau* project was created over a decade ago in the fifth largest island in Fiji, Gau which is in the Lomaiviti Archipelago and is a biodiversity hot spot. This initiative coordinated community-led conservation, sustainable development and regenerative management efforts - to strengthen their custodianship responsibilities to the land and its surrounding marine environment, which they hold in trust for future generations.

The main objectives of the *Lomani Gau* project are to make Gau Island a model for climate change adaptation in small islands in transition from subsistence to commercial and economically viable rural development; and to conduct participatory learning and action training workshops and meetings to raise climate change awareness and stimulate self-determined climate change adaptation responses.

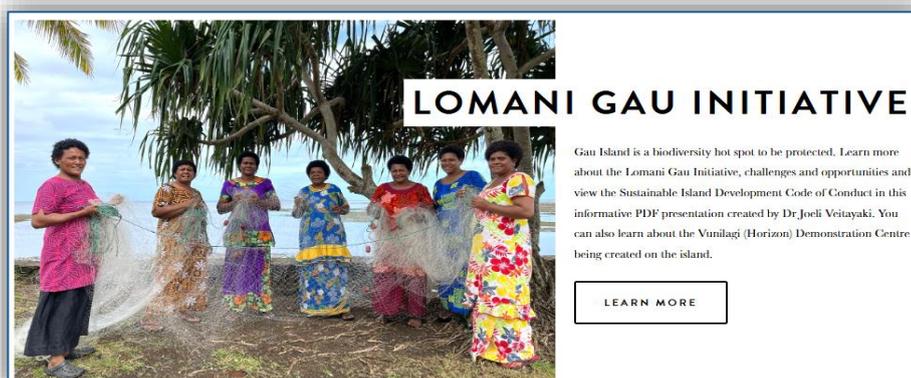
- Formulate and implement Gau Island climate change adaptation and sustainable development guidelines;
- Rehabilitate important natural habitats under increasing threat from human activities;
- Reduce environmental degradation of natural habitats;
- Use science and appropriate technologies to determine sustainable

use of island resources;

- Build capacity and promote good environmental resource use practices within Gau;
- Promote integrated resource management and iterative learning;
- Facilitate development of alternative sources of livelihood and income, monitoring and enforcement through regular follow-up and applied research activities;
- Publicise the villagers, their flora and fauna, local culture, traditions, and way of life in Gau, and their importance;
- Promote project features through publications and the production of visual aids.

### Rural Development Approach

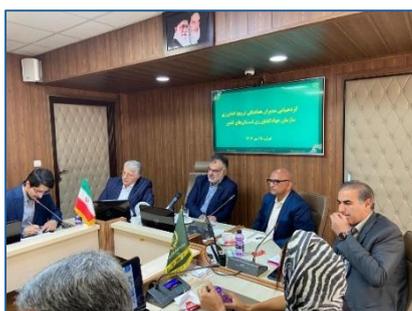
Improve governance; Empower and support local communities; Meet people's development aspiration; Articulate 'measurable sustainable development'; Integrate customary and modern sustainable development practices; Enhance economic prosperity; Properly use and protect natural resources; Rehabilitate degraded environment resources; Improve 'the quality of life for all'; Promote innovation in sustainable rural development.



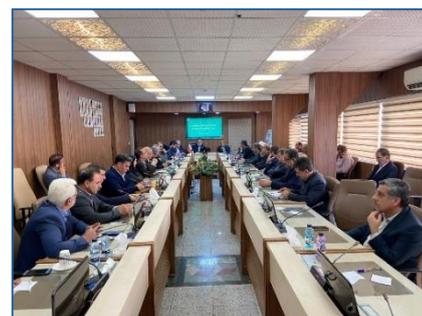
### Accomplishments in Gau

- Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) in all 16 villages;
- People empowered, supported and organised – Lomani Gau, youth, women, rural development and livelihood initiatives, ban destructive fishing practices and wildfires, rehabilitation of coastal and riverine vegetation;
- Enhanced human capacity through training;
- Set up institutions and support champions and role models;
- Support self-helped activities;
- Enhance community-based effort through financial and technical advice;
- Get people to invest in the future;
- Secure external funding for community development;
- Promote sustainable technologies; and
- Publicize, share and promote the experience.

## Empowering farmers is the Primary responsibility of Extension: DG, CIRDAP address to the agricultural Extension professionals of IR Iran



Dr. P. Chandra Shekara the Director General (DG) of CIRDAP addressed National gathering of Iran Agriculture Extension Professionals at Extension headquarter of Agriculture Ministry at Tehran on 16 th October, 2024. The DG of the department and senior officials from all provinces took part in the discussion. The DG of CIRDAP



explained Importance, Opportunities and Challenges of Agricultural Extension followed by interesting interaction. The discussion ended with mutual resolve to work in partnership.

## CIRDAP Knowledge Series (34)

### October 14, 2024: CIRDAP celebrated the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction



CIRDAP organized a webinar to celebrate the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on October 14, 2024. The Honorable speaker Dr. Nuanchan Singkran, Associate Professor, Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies Mahidol University, Thailand delivered her talk on the topic of *“Natural disaster reduction and a proposed management framework”*.

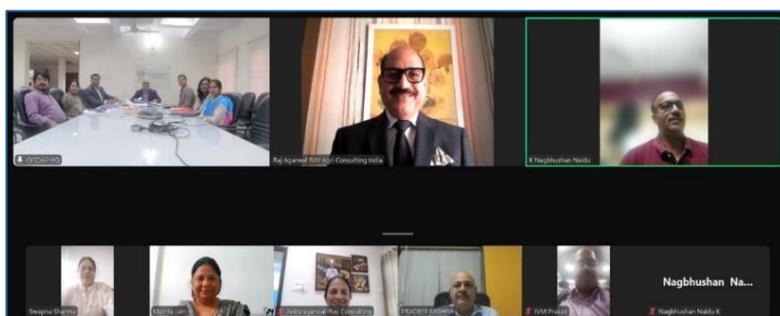
In her presentation, Dr. Singkran talked briefly about the Natural disaster along with the world disaster statistics of 2023; Disaster management processes; National disaster prevention and mitigation plans of Thailand; and A proposed flood risk management framework. After the presentation, a lively and interactive discussion and Q/A sessions was organized.

As a part of the international community, CIRDAP is also committed to achieve the goal of the Sendai Framework of reducing global disaster risks and losses by focusing on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

## Announcements: Forthcoming International Training in Pakistan

International Training Programme on *“Climate Change and Disaster Management”* will be organized in Pakistan during January 12th – 19th, 2025 in collaboration with Akhter Hammed Khan National Centre for Rural Development, Islamabad, Pakistan

## CIRDAP's partnership with the RAY Consulting



On October 21, 2024, CIRDAP and RAY One Agri Consulting LLP (RACI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen their collaboration in promoting rural development.

RACI, a leader in Agriculture, Social, and Rural Entrepreneurship Development, offers a wide range of services focused on capacity building,

research, consultancy, skilling, training, education, and extension. This partnership aims to enhance cooperative action and share valuable experiences and information to tackle challenges in rural areas. Both the organizations will work on innovative technological solutions and interventions to empower and uplift rural communities. Stay tuned for updates on this impactful collaboration!



## DG CIRDAP meeting with the Excellency Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Dhaka



In a courtesy meeting, the DG of CIRDAP Dr. P. Chandra Shekara met with H.E Dharmapala Weerakkody, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh.

## Special attraction of the CIRDAP-INFRA International Training on Rural Tourism: The Homestay



As a part of field visit, the participants of the training programme visited several homestays in Malaysia. Homestay programme is a community-based programme where the hosts and the visitors interact each other during the stay of the guests on day-to-day basis exchanging knowledge, culture and experience. It offers different types of activities, depending on the culture, food, economic activity as well as location.

Every state in Malaysia has its own uniqueness in terms of culture, ranging from the nasi dagang in Kelantan to the sumazau dance in Sabah, as well as the long houses in Sarawak. The Homestay day started with a class room session from INFRA on empowering rural homestay entrepreneurs. The day also featured hands-on field activities, adding a rewarding experience! Time to time participants were sharing their knowledge and experiences. The program ended with an exciting cultural program and dinner with exclusive local foods.



## Attention of the CIRDAP Experts

CIRDAP would like to seek the support of the Experts for their greater involvement in enriching the lives of rural communities on CIRDAP platform. The response will be treated as the Experts' willingness in their association with CIRDAP.

**You are invited to contribute in the following ways:**

**1. Please provide updated information as indicated below. *This reply will be treated as Experts renewed interest in CIRDAP Activities.***

- i. Name, Designation, Office, Contact details
- ii. Photo
- iii. Country
- iv. No of years of Experience
- v. Areas of Expertise in Integrated Rural Development (Mention only FIVE important areas)
- vi. Complete CV

**2. CIRDAP knowledge series** (the Webinar series) involves the Experts Covering Member Countries as audiences. It is a great opportunity to share your Expertise with member countries. Hence, please indicate

- \* A Topic for Webinar – Any topic of your Expertise in Rural Development and related subject.
- \* Convenient month and date (please provide during 2025 and preferably on any Tuesday to Thursday of a week)

**3. A monthly e-bulletin "Voice of CIRDAP"** has been started by CIRDAP which is reaching 1.11 lakh stakeholders covering member countries every month. Experts are requested to give at least one (more would be appreciated) Innovation on Rural Development with good photos in not more than 2-3 pages. These articles will also be compiled as an "international publication on Innovation on Rural Development "

**4. Please provide 2-3 minutes video on any innovation, experience in Rural Development** which would be added to newly created CIRDAP YouTube Channel.

**5. CIRDAP will be very happy to process/forward any of your national/International projects on Rural Development to funding agencies through **Project Facilitation Centre** of CIRDAP. If approved, the project will be led by the expert who prepare the project.**

**6. CIRDAP is planning to bring out an **International Publication** on "Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation in Asia and Pacific". You are requested to give an article of around 10 pages. The authorship will be appropriately acknowledged. The article may be sent before 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

**7. CIRDAP is also preparing of an **International publication** on "Rural Tourism". You are requested to share the article around 10 pages. The article may reach CIRDAP by November 30, 2024.**

You are requested to send all the above information to Ms. Hurain Jannat, Communication Officer, CIRDAP Email : communication\_officer@cirdap.org with keeping cc to DG Dr. P. Chandra Shekara : chandradgcirdap@cirdap.org

## CIRDAP Member Countries



Chameli House  
The Headquarter of CIRDAP



## Editorial Board

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