



Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific



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Policy Body Meetings

Thirty-first Meeting of the CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-31)

The Thirty-first Meeting of the CIRDAP Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as EC-31) was held during 09-10 October 2017 at Metro Manila, Philippines. It was attended by delegates from its member states, i.e. Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand.



Ms. Evelyn G. Laviña, Undersecretary for High Value Crops and Rural Credit under the Department of Agriculture, Government of the Philippines read the Keynote Speech of Chief Guest Hon. Secretary Emmanuel F Piñol. The Undersecretary Ms. Laviña delivered the message of the Secretary emphasizing

on “unity while doing differently” and up valuing regional cooperation effectiveness addressing poverty through implementation of national development policies. Further, the speech of the Special Guest, Ms. Mafruha Sultana, Secretary of the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD&C), Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, suggested some ways making CIRDAP more relevant to CMCs. Mr. Setareki Tale, the Chairperson of Executive Committee and also the Deputy Secretary/Divisional Commissioner (Central), Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Natural Disaster Management and Meteorological Service, Government of Fiji hoped that the members will actively participate in the meeting to make it successful.

Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Director General (DG) of CIRDAP delivered his speech warm welcoming to everyone and thanking to the Government of Philippines for hosting the EC and GC meeting in a short notice. He expressed high hope that EC meeting will be the platform where delegates can take advantage to forge friendship and establish networks amongst member countries.

The EC Members of the Philippines and Fiji were unanimously elected as the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of EC-31 respectively for the period starting from EC-31 Meeting till the election of new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson at the next EC meeting (EC-32).

Twenty-first Meeting of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-21)

The Twenty-first Meeting of the CIRDAP Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as GC-21) was held on 13th October 2017 at Metro Manila, Philippines. The Meeting was attended by the delegates from its member countries, i.e. Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand.

The keynote speech, on behalf of the Chief Guest H.E. Hon. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, the President of the Republic of the Philippines, was delivered by the Hon. Rosalina L. Bistoyong, OIC Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Government of the Philippines. The inaugural programme began with welcome remark by Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, DG, CIRDAP. He hoped that valuable advice shared by the GC members in the meeting will provide direction to CIRDAP Secretariat to advance CIRDAP as a Centre of Excellence in integrated Rural Development in Asia-Pacific region.



The Opening Statement was delivered by the GC-20 Chairperson H.E. Joeli Cawaki, Asst. Minister for Rural Development and Maritime, Government of Fiji, while H.E. Engr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh also made a speech as Special Guest. Atty. Luis Pangulayan, Undersecretary for Legal Affairs Office, DAR, introduced the Chief Guest, wherein Ms. Ma Celestina Manlangit-Tam, Director, Bureau of Agrarian Legal Assistance, DAR delivered the vote of thanks.

GC Members of the Philippines and Fiji were unanimously elected as the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of GC-21 respectively for the period starting from GC-21 Meeting till the election of new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson at the next GC meeting (GC-22).

International Workshop on Cold Chain and Logistics Management for Agri-food Products in Fiji



As an effort to reduce postharvest losses and maintain the quality and safety of agri-food products in Asia-Pacific region, the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) in association with Japan based Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Fijian Ministry of Agriculture and National Training and Productivity Centre, and Fiji National University organised a five day International Workshop on Cold Chain and Logistics Management for Agri-food Products during 11-15 December 2017 in Nadi, Fiji. The objectives of the workshop were to assess the recent developments in cold chain and logistics management for agri-food products; share knowledge on new technologies and best practices in cold chain and logistics management systems; and formulate action plans for the participants to disseminate and utilize the knowledge, techniques, and technologies learnt to promote efficient and effective cold chains and logistics management in respective member countries.

The opening session was attended by the Permanent Secretary of the Fijian Ministry of Agriculture Mr. Jitendra Singh, Director General of CIRDAP Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, and Program Officer of the Agriculture Department, APO Secretariat Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Hossain. Mr. Taginavulau emphasised on the significance of leadership using the Rushmorean Model to encourage participants that human values contribute to social development leading to economic growth.

A total of 22 participants from 15 member countries and observers attended the workshop. During the workshop, it was learnt that food loss and waste not only have global socioeconomic and environmental consequences, they also have negative impacts on farmers and traders' incomes and the volume of food reaching consumers.

International Training Programme on Geospatial Information Management in Rural Development in India

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) have successfully conducted the international training programme on 'Geospatial Information Management in Rural Development' during 13-22 November 2017 at Hyderabad, India. This training was organized to focus on the Asia-Pacific trends of Geospatial Information Management (GIM); to study the GIM best practices, pilot projects and programmes in India; and to identify the potential areas where the GIM applications can play a key role in CIRDAP member countries from India's experiences. It was attended by a total of seventeen participants from CIRDAP member countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, Iran, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Bhutan). As part of the training programme, the participants visited many relevant fields and site areas of different organisations in Hyderabad, Bangalore and Mysore. Resource persons were from many renowned institutions of India including NIRD&PR. Participants also shared their country experience on GIS and GIM through their country paper presentation.



Focus Group Discussion on the Project of Livelihood Enhancement of the Small Farmers in SAARC Region

With the support from the SAARC Development Fund (SDF), CIRDAP and SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) are now on the process of initiating and implementing a research project on "Livelihood Enhancement of the Small Farmers in SAARC Region through Small Scale Agro-business focusing on Value Chain Development". A Focus Group Discussion for the aforementioned project was organized via video conference on 25 November 2017, where Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Director General and Mr. Shafiqur Rahman, National Officer (Research) from CIRDAP participated virtually.

SDF opened the meeting by welcoming the participants to the virtual meeting and briefed them on the objectives of the meeting. SAC presented the overview of the project, logical framework

and the role of SAC. The presentation was followed by discussion and feedback from the participants. At the same time, CIRDAP presented its views and role. At the end, the discussion was wrapped up with work plan for next steps and recommendations for agreement.

CIRDAP GIS Team visits BARD, Comilla

Two Project Scientists of the GIS Centre of CIRDAP Dr. J Rajesh and Mohd Shanawaz Kashif along with Mr. Waliul Hasnat (Computer Programmer) visited the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) on 03 November 2017 to get the information of BARD infrastructure, its activities and uses of technologies in the divisions, i.e. Research, Pilot Project, Training and programme Implementation Unit, and know about the rules and policies of the divisions. They had meetings with the Senior Officials of aforementioned divisions of BARD. CIRDAP team found that some projects are mostly suitable to use GIS Technologies for monitoring and evaluation that could be valuable for the rural livelihood management.



Cleaning Day at CIRDAP

An in-house cleaning day in CIRDAP was arranged on 02 November 2017 to keep campus premise neat and clean. All professional and general staff of CIRDAP participated in the cleaning spontaneously. After cleaning works, different sports were also organized. At the beginning of cleaning, briefing the importance of green and clean campus, Director General of CIRDAP gave instructions to staff [right photo shows] what should be followed during cleaning.



Forthcoming Programmes

Date	Activities	Venue
15-24 January 2018	International Training Programme on Social Audit in Rural Development Programmes	Myanmar
09-18 March 2018	International Training Programme on Waste to Wealth - Value Recovery from Agro Processing	NIRD&PR, India
12-21 March 2018	International Training Programme on Decentralised Governance and Delivery of Services - Way to Good Governance	Myanmar



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