

News@CIRDAP

October 2018



MOU Signing Ceremony between CIRDAP and APO

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and Asian Productivity Organization (APO) formally continued partnership with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a further three years to bolster the bilateral affiliation and support the collaborative capacity-building initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region.

The MOU was signed after a bilateral meeting during the 59th Workshop Meeting (WSM) of Heads of National Productivity Organizations in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 2-4 October 2018. The agreement was officially signed by APO Secretary-General Dr. Santhi and CIRDAP Director General Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau. In essence, CIRDAP acknowledged and expressed its deep gratitude to APO for having the trust and confidence in CIRDAP to continue working in collaboration.



APO and CIRDAP have been working in collaboration particularly through International Training Programme on thematic topics under *SDG1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere* and *SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture* over the last three years.

DG CIRDAP, in his speech, delivered that “we are proud to confidently say that we have achieved the common objectives as specified in the last MOU basically by fulfilling the agreed contributions to each programme activity. We reaffirmed our commitment towards the achievement of SDG 1 and SDG 2, amongst others and our own institutions’ mandated roles by renewing the partnership through MOU. In addition, he further stated that “we have been certainly governed by the spirit of SDG 17: Strengthen the areas of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”.

CIRDAP has more to gain from this partnership with more opportunities to broaden its visibility to the seven APO member countries those are not CIRDAP member countries.

It is, therefore, evident that this MOU will set the platform to explore other areas of collaboration apart from International Training Programme with more successes.

Regional Expert Consultation Meeting on ICT for Development of Rural Agriculture in South Asia – Policy Concerns

CIRDAP in collaboration with the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) and the Rural Development Academy (RDA) organized a Regional Expert Consultation Meeting on “ICT for Development of Rural Agriculture in South Asia – Policy Concerns” held from 29-31 October 2018 at RDA, Bogura, Bangladesh. In the technical sessions, delegates from eight (8) CIRDAP member countries (of which, six are also common of SAARC member countries) and participants had presented their respective countries on ICT practices in terms of Rural Agriculture Development. On behalf of CIRDAP, two staffs namely Mr. Tomasi V. Raiyawa, OIC (Training) and Ms. Mahjabin Monika, Executive Asst. (Training) had attended in the meeting as a part of organizer team.



Objectives

The objectives of the Consultation Meeting were:

- (i) To learn current status of application of ICTs in rural agriculture;
- (ii) To facilitate the establishment of regional agri-information platform for converting data into information;
- (iii) To identify the lack capacity and opportunities for capacity development;
- (iv) To promote networking, linkages and exchanges between experts in ICT in agriculture;
- (v) To review prevailing policies for use of ICT in rural agriculture; and
- (vi) To propose policies and strategies for sustainable use of ICT in rural agriculture development.

Facilitators

The invitee expert facilitators were as follows:

Name	Designation	Organisation
Ms. Fatema Mohammad	Deputy Manager	Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID)
Ms. Syeda Farzana Morshed	Managing Director	Center for Development and Competitive Strategies Limited (CDCS)
Mr. Md. Shahjahan Ali	Seed Technologist and Seed Regulation Specialist	



Participants during field visits

Recommended Policies

In the technical sessions, the participants were divided into three groups to discuss on policies, initiatives and strategies, and to prescribe policies and actions needed. Some policies were prescribed by the participants.

Substantial Outcomes

- (i) Throughout the programme CIRDAP team build up a good relationship with all the participants and guests. They have showed their interest to work with CIRDAP in future.
- (ii) Participants from Lao PDR, Afghanistan and Pakistan have showed their interest to organize in-country programme on ICT Development/Agricultural Thematic Area.
- (iii) SAC has showed their interest to work collaboratively in future for arranging such type of programme again.
- (iv) The guest speaker from Center for Development and Competitive Strategies Limited (CDCS) shows her interest to work collaboratively in the field of Non-farm Non-agriculture, especially on Post-harvest losses.
- (v) Another speaker Mr. Md. Shahjahan Ali (Seed Technologist and Seed Regulation Specialist) has showed his interest to work with CIRDAP on Potato Seed Development.

Exposure cum Study Visit to RDA, Bogura

A visit was arranged to Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogura, Bangladesh during 7-10 October 2018 coinciding with exposure visit of NIRD&PR students from India. Mohd Shanawaz Kashif (Project Scientist - GIS) Mrs. Najiba Rashid (Executive Assistant – Research), Mr. L. Raghu Vamsi, Mr. Shivam Khandelwal, Ms. K. Sahithi (interns at CIRDAP from NIRD&PR) participated in this visit.

Objectives

The objectives of the visit were as follows:

- (i) To discuss with RDA Officials on different issues, particularly on RDA projects; and
- (ii) To observe and learn about the RDA's research and action research in rural development.



Meeting with RDA Officials

Highlights of the Exposure Visit

- (i) Formal meeting with RDA officials and CIRDAP team on programme plan;
- (ii) Dr. Nazrul Islam Khan gave a detailed presentation on RDA projects and its programmes;
- (iii) The team observed the following projects in the RDA campus area:
 - RDA dairy production unit;
 - Food processing unit;
 - Palli water bottling project;
 - Yogurt by incubation method (also called as digital yogurt);
 - pickle manufacturing unit; and
 - biscuits and sweet making unit
- (iv) Visit to community-based Multi-Storied Rural Housing (Palli Janapad) Project;
- (v) Visit to Water Saving Project, Juanpur;
- (vi) Visit to Women Entrepreneurship Model: Developing Livelihood by Poultry Farming (Desi chicken poultry project), Ranabirbala;
- (vii) Visit to Maria Seed Technology Model to study the indigenous technology on seed production;
- (viii) Visit to Community Bio-Gas Model Plant Model, Bamunia;
- (ix) Visit to Integrated Water Management Model;
- (x) Visit to historical site Mahasthangarh; and
- (xi) Visit to historical site Behula Lakshindarer Basar Ghar.



During study visit to a RDA project

Lessons learnt

Throughout their exposure cum study visit, they have observed and learnt how RDA is doing action research projects, and seen how those projects (e.g. Integrated Water Management Model project, Developing Livelihood by Poultry Farming Project and Maria Seed technology Model) are making tremendous impacts on rural people by which rural poor people's income levels increased and living standards improved.

Farewell Ceremonies at CIRDAP

CIRDAP bade adieu to its Executive Officer and three interns from India in separate programmes held at CIRDAP auditorium. Farewell ceremonies were organized for the following staff and interns:

Type	Name	Venue	Date
CIRDAP Staff	Mr. Nazib Neaz (Executive Officer)	CIRDAP Auditorium	21 October 2018
Indian Interns from NIRD&PR	Mr. L. Raghu Vamsi, Mr. Shivam Khandelwal, and Ms. K. Sahithi	CIRDAP Auditorium	15 October 2018

Staff Participation

Staff	Programme Title	Organised by	Date	Lessons learnt on
Dr. Usharani Boruah (Librarian) and Mr. M.H. Kawsar Rudro (Communication Officer)	Conclave on Academic and Research Integrity 2018	BRAC University and Turnitindia Private Ltd.	11 October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding academic integrity and misconduct, and academic integrity in research and publications etc. - Building and maintaining a culture of academic integrity in education; - Shaping ethics in academia and society; - Research integrity and social commitment; - Question of data integrity in research; - Contract cheating and educational technologies; and - Ethics and misconduct in arts publications.
Mr. George Chandra Babu (Programme Officer-Research) and Mr. Md. Zakaria (Programme Coordinator)	Value Chain Strengthening with New and Improved Potato Varieties for Domestic and Markets	International Potato Centre (CIP)	25 October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weak spots in the current supply chain that weaken yield quality, safety and consumption of dominant potato varieties in Bangladesh; - How new potato varieties and technologies can be used to improve the value chain; and - Identifying the barriers and how to overcome those barriers by identifying 'big wins'.

New Staff at CIRDAP

Name	Designation	Date of Joining
Ms. Salma Hossain	Senior Secretary (DG Office)	10 October 2018
Ms. Nawrin Khan Nijhum	Project Officer (Research Division)	21 October 2018

Forthcoming Programmes

Date	Activities	Venue
23 November 2018	Certificate Course on GIS and its Application	CIRDAP HQ, Bangladesh
12-16 November 2018	In-country Training Programme on Financial Inclusion and Economic Empowerment for Poverty Alleviation	Pakistan
03-07 December 2018	CIRDAP – APO Collaborative Workshop on Organic Agriculture 3.0	RGNIYD, India
09-13 December 2018	Training cum Exposure visit on Promotion on Enterprise Development and Sustainable Livelihood through Microfinance in Bangladesh for NABARD Officials, India	Bangladesh
December 2018	Self-funded International Training cum Exposure visit in collaboration with RDA	Bangladesh

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Fellowship Programme 2018-19

The Indian Government has sponsored twenty (20) slots of this fellowship under CIRDAP Secretariat. For applying in the following courses under CIRDAP Secretariat, visit the link (https://www.itecgoi.in/stream_list.php), or visit CIRDAP website (www.cirdap.org).

Sl.	Institute	Course Name	Start Date	End Date
1.	IIPA	Climate Change and Governance	22-10-2018	02-11-2018
2.	NIRD	Good Governance for Management of Rural Development Programmes	22-10-2018	18-11-2018
3.	CIFT	Extension Management Techniques for up-scaling Technology Dissemination on Fisheries	09-11-2018	22-11-2018
4.	RISDC	Development Partnership: Learning South-South Cooperation (LSSC)	12-11-2018	23-11-2018
5.	NIRD	Community Driven Rural Development	19-11-2018	16-12-2018
6.	NISE	International Training Programme on Solar Technologies and Applications	26-11-2018	14-12-2018
7.	GSITI	Geographic Information System for Geoscientists	10-01-2019	06-02-2019
8.	NIRD	Participatory Planning for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development	18-02-2019	17-03-2019
9.	NIRD	Sustainable Agriculture Strategies for Rural Development	21-01-2019	17-02-2019
10.	NIRD	Training Methodology for Development Professionals	21-01-2019	17-02-2019

For further details, please contact:

Director General

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)

Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

E-mail: icd@cirdap.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cirdap/>

Web: www.cirdap.org, www.infoRD.org