

Statement by Mr. Md. Mashiur Rahman
Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperative Division,
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
At the 43rd Anniversary of CIRDAP and the Launch of
The World Rural Development Day (6th July 2022)
Monday 25th July 2022

Dr. Cherdsak Virapat, Director General, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)

Representatives of the Embassies of CIRDAP Member States in Bangladesh

Heads and Representatives of CIRDAP Partners, CIRDAP Mentor, Distinguished participants, Ladies & Gentlemen

I have my great honor and pleasure on behalf of the Rural Development and Cooperative Division (RDGD), Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives to be invited to the 43rd anniversary of CIRDAP and the launch of the World Rural Development Day (6th July 2022).

I would like to extend my best wishes and heartiest congratulations to CIRDAP on the occasion of its 43rd anniversary. 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.

Bangladesh is the host of CIRDAP and supported the idea of the establishment of the Centre in 1979 as a regional organization to promote regional cooperation in the field of rural development in the Asia-Pacific Region. This region has a wide range of potentials and opportunities to flourish further through regional cooperation to promote rural community livelihoods to improve the quality of life of the far-reaching marginalized rural people and economic development of the rural areas. CIRDAP is mandated to facilitate services that will influence policy formulation and programme development towards rural development and poverty alleviation through a network of CIRDAP contact ministries and link institutions. CIRDAP has incorporated the core values of recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that envisage a more inclusive and sustainable world leaving no one behind. CIRDAP through its various programmes continued to work to address various issues of the region and for implementing efficient and effective social support programmes.

Bangladesh always prioritizes rural development as a key strategy for the overall development of the country where about 63 percent of the people live in the rural areas. In the area of gradual economic growth, increase of literacy rate, and poverty alleviation, etc., Bangladesh is considered as role models for many developing countries. Despite the unfavorable circumstances and constraints on resources, Bangladesh has made spectacular economic and social progress.

The Honorable Prime Minister of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, H.E. Ms. Sheikh Hasina and her Cabinet has initiated and approved Bangladesh's National Rural Development Policy (NRDP) in 2001 to develop human resources and bring about positive changes in the standard of living of the people who live in the rural areas of Bangladesh and are dependent on natural resources therein.

On 27th January 2010, she inaugurated the 2nd Ministerial meeting on Rural Development in Asia-Pacific in Dhaka, Bangladesh when she addressed that the Government of Bangladesh has undertaken different initiatives at national and international levels with poverty alleviation has been given utmost important in the national strategy called Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). She also informed that the Government has been implemented a massive rural development programme known as "Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar" or One House One Farm with the objectives of optimal and sustainable utilization of land and

other resources as well as employment generation in rural areas. During her time, she along with her cabinet always supported all activities of CIRDAP. Bangladesh Government has given not only the permanent campus of CIRDAP in a prime location, on 2013 an international conference center for CIRDAP was fully contributed to CIRDAP by Bangladesh and it was inaugurated on 11th March 2013 by the Honorable Prime Minister, H.E Sheikh Hasina.

Excellency, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

With regard to the establishment of the World Rural Development Day, the Governing Council of CIRDAP at its 23rd Session held in Bangkok, Thailand on 21 April 2022, endorsed the initiative to establish the World Rural Development Day at CIRDAP on 6th July 2022. In order that the day can be officially recognized worldwide, the CIRDAP Secretariat will need to start the process of submitting a proposal through the UN mechanism for the UN General Assembly meeting in New York, U.S.A. This will normally take a minimum time of 4 years.

To accelerate the process, the proposal can also be submitted to the UN General Assembly directly by the member states of CIRDAP through their country representatives at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. As the host state of CIRDAP, the government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh will do its best effort to support this initiative.

To this end, I wish all the best and prosperous future of the Centre.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.