

# CIRDAP

## Annual Report 2011



**Centre on Integrated Rural Development for  
Asia and the Pacific**





## CIRDAP

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 Organisation (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 State), Fiji Islands, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The main objectives of the Centre are to: (i) assist national action, (ii) promote regional cooperation, and (iii) act as a servicing institution for its member countries for promotion of integrated rural development through research, action research/pilot projects, 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/infrastructure development; (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; GO-NGO collaboration; Gender issues; Governance issues; and Environmental concerns for sustainable rural development.

Operating through designated contact ministries and link institutions in member countries, CIRDAP promotes regional cooperation. It plays a supplementary and reinforcing role in supporting and furthering the effectiveness of integrated rural development programmes in Asia and the Pacific.

### Vision

Prosperous rural communities enjoying improved living conditions as a result of collaborative efforts of CMCs working together and learning from each other.

### Mission

CIRDAP is an intergovernmental organisation mandated to facilitate the provision of services that will influence policy formulation and programme action towards rural development and poverty alleviation through a network of CIRDAP contact ministries and link institutions.

# **CIRDAP**

## **Annual Report 2011**



**CIRDAP**



**Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific**

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## 2011 in Review Director General's Report

2011 for CIRDAP was a year of reflection and carrying forward the achievements of the previous years, mainly the Second Ministerial Meeting held in 2010. There were many steps taken by the Centre which would carry it forward to a bigger future. Government of Iran hosted the GC-18, EC-28 and Policy Dialogue Meetings with utmost efficiency and hospitality. The GC-18 and EC-28 meetings saw the increase in staff salary and most importantly have chosen a new Director General to lead the Centre in the coming years. Government of India has continued its strong support in sponsoring several training courses as well as providing support for establishing a new ICT Centre. It also allotted course slots for CIRDAP countries in the post graduate diploma courses offered by NIRD, India, where country participation is increasing. Government of Bangladesh has continued its support and has contributed towards completing the International Conference Centre at the Centre's premises. CIRDAP signed MoU with IJSG for collaboration. Teams of senior officials from Iran and Yemen participated in study visit programmes in Bangladesh through CIRDAP, which shows that West-Asian countries are increasingly getting interested in CIRDAP. The concept of the Regional Cooperation Fund has taken some shape and efforts were made to generate interest from the countries.

The divisions of CIRDAP tried their best in generating new programmes while carrying out the work of the existing ones, despite shortage of donor funding. Two new directors of Research and Information Communication divisions joined the Centre in 2011.



*EC-28 meeting in Tehran*



Following are the highlights of the programmes and activities of the Centre in 2011.

### **Fifth Regional Policy Dialogue on Decentralisation**

Following up on the decision of TC-26 to set 'Decentralisation' as the key concept for the Rural Development Report and focus of Research, the Fifth Regional Policy Dialogue of CIRDAP was also held on the theme of 'Decentralised Approach to Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation'. The Policy Dialogue was held back to back with the GC-18 and EC-28 Meetings, on 12 December 2011 in Tehran, Iran. We received country reports from Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka. The findings were presented and discussed in the Fifth Regional Policy Dialogue. The Policy Dialogue was enriched through participation of the Hon'ble members of CIRDAP Governing Council (Cabinet Ministers) and of the Executive Committee which comprise of Secretaries from respective ministries of the CMCs, experts, policymakers, researches, academics etc. H.E. Dr. Jahangir Porhemat, Deputy Minister for Research, Education and Extension Organisation, Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was the chairperson in the Dialogue while Dr. Ahmad Akbari, Head of Iranian Research Organisation for Science and Technology and Dr. Mosayeb Pahlavani, Dean, Faculty of Economics, University of Sistan and Baluchestan, Iran, were present as Special Guests. Four thematic papers prepared by CIRDAP professionals were presented at the Policy Dialogue.

The CIRDAP study showed that decentralised approach to development seemed to be suited for its Member Countries. CIRDAP's main challenges include addressing the diversity among member countries, soliciting unity in its diversity, focusing on the livelihoods of rural people amidst changing economic, social and environmental scenarios, adding value to current good practices-enabling dialogue and creating a platform for dissemination. Above all, it is imperative for this organisation to act as a catalyst for generating commitment of member countries to projects that are undertaken and implemented, across boundaries, with firm convictions of positive outcomes.



*Fifth regional policy dialogue*

### **Rural Development Report 2011**

The Biennial Rural Development Report is CIRDAP's signature report and a major contribution to rural development in the region. For the 2010-11 biennium report, the 26th Technical Committee Meeting (TC-26) of CIRDAP held in Kabul, Afghanistan in December 2010, suggested the theme 'Decentralised Approach to Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation: A Comparative Assessment among CIRDAP Member Countries'. A brief conceptual framework and study outline of the research was developed and communicated to the CMCs and accordingly eight CMCs prepared their reports. The report is expected to be published in 2012.

### **Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on Access to Land and other Natural Resources**

The IFAD funded research study on Access to Land and other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor conducted in 2007-2009 identified issues which determine improved access to land and other natural resources by the rural poor people, particularly women and indigenous groups in four Asian countries namely, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines. The findings of the study, including from the regional consultation held in 2009, was circulated during the Second Ministerial Meeting and was extensively used for preparing the Dhaka Declaration 2010. Based on the suggestions of the regional consultation, CIRDAP has developed an action research proposal to be initiated in Bangladesh, as a follow up of the project. The proposal was further fine-tuned, in consultation with ALRD, a local NGO engaged in land related issues.

### **Proposal for Strengthening Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development**

Following a decision taken in TC-26 meeting, CIRDAP prepared a comprehensive proposal to provide technical support to the Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development (AIRD), to equip them with professional services and policy inputs, and also to forge a long-term partnership with CIRDAP link institutions. CIRDAP Research Division prepared the proposal incorporating basic



principles of rural development, such as, Preparation of a Community Development Strategy; Policy Development, People's Participation, Human Resource Development, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Mechanism, Development of an Action Research Base at AIRD and Preparation of Biennial Rural Development Report, etc. The proposal was presented at the CIRDAP in-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar held in March 2011 at the presence of the Executive Director of AIRD. The proposal is being finalised.

#### **Anniversary Seminar on Revisiting CIRDAP Perspective: Challenges and Opportunities**

To celebrate its 32nd founding anniversary CIRDAP organised a half day seminar on 25th July 2011 at the Centre's Headquarters in Dhaka. The Seminar focused on identifying areas where mutually reinforcing and complementary collaboration between CIRDAP and CMCs, could be promoted by effectively addressing the needs and demands of the rural people. Following an introduction by the Director General of CIRDAP, the keynote paper of the seminar was presented by Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri, Director General of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). Dr. Mujeri is also the former Director (Research) of CIRDAP who worked for about a decade at CIRDAP and is well-conversant with CIRDAP's mandate.

#### **CIRDAP In-House Review Seminar**

The two-day CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar (CIARPS) - 2010 was held at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka on 28-29 March 2011. The CIARPS seminar reviews the Centre's activities, programmes/projects carried out in the previous year, and formulate the Centre's work plan for the current year, reviews suggestions/recommendations of the earlier CIARPS and latest policy body meetings. Chairperson of EC-27 and Secretary RDCD, Government of Bangladesh, Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder inaugurated the seminar as the chief guest. Mr. A Rahman Shekib, Chairman TC-26 and the Executive Director, AIRD, Afghanistan and Mr. Ataur Rahman, Director General, BARD, Comilla, attended the meeting as special guests. All professional and general staff-members were present in the seminar. The seminar made various suggestions regarding the programme and administrative works of the Centre.

#### **Evaluation of Performance of Capacity Building of People's Organisation**

The Pilot Project on 'Capacity Building of Peoples' Organisations (CBPO) under Model Village Rural Development (MVRD)' implemented in two villages, Ratnabati and Shimpur of Comilla Sadar Thana, was taken up in 1999 with the experiences gained from previous action research projects of CIRDAP. The project experimented the concept of comprehensive approach of rural development, as well as utilising the potentialities efficaciously. The project aimed to bring about a qualitative change in lifestyle of the villagers by increasing their socio-economic conditions. To assess the efficacy of the CBPO project at the beneficiary level an evaluation was carried out by selected faculty members of BARD.

To disseminate the findings, a workshop on 'Performance of Capacity Building of People's Organisation Project' was organised jointly by CIRDAP and BARD on 1 June 2011 at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka. A keynote paper evaluating the performance of people's organisation was presented by Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Joint Director and Team leader of the three-members



Founding anniversary seminar



Workshop on performance of CBPO



Evaluation Team of BARD. A thorough discussion and understanding of the issues involved led to some concrete suggestions on how to improve the project performance. The workshop was participated by policy makers, senior government officials and CIRDAP professionals, rural development practitioners, academics, researchers and development partners in Bangladesh.

### **Field Workshops on Seed Processing for Rural Farmers**

Pilot Projects division organised four field workshops on Seed Processing for rural farmers in collaboration with farmers of Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) programme in 2011. These workshops were conducted as follow-up of the national workshop on Reduction of Post harvest Losses to address food security (2009). A total of 254 farmers from six villages participated in the field workshops during 2010-2011, in which 146 were male (57%) and 108 were female (43%). After organising the field workshops on seed processing, PPD team visited the farmers groups in respective CVDPs and received feedback from them.

As an outcome of these workshops, PPD has developed a new model: Bridging the Gap between Public, Private and Farmers (PPF) in Agricultural Development - A Case of Seed, which was also presented during the fifth Regional Policy Dialogue.



*Field workshop in Shimpur village in Comilla*

From the experiences of the field workshops it was found that there is a gap between the receivers (farmers) and For Profit Service Providers (FPSP) in the village or grass root level. There is lack of operational mechanism regarding follow-up with service providers in favour of farmers, as buyers or receivers in decentralised manner. It is therefore, felt that there should be a follow up and coordination mechanism at the field level, which can get the farmers to service providers and to establish their rights as seed consumers.

### **Collaboration with other Development Partners**

#### ***Exposure visit on Best Practices of Rural Development in Bangladesh for Yemen Officials***

CIRDAP received a request from Social Development Fund (SFD) in Yemen, which is an autonomous State Organisation under a Board of Directors Chaired by the Honourable Prime Minister of Yemen to organise an exposure-cum-study visit on best practices of rural development projects in Bangladesh. Accordingly CIRDAP and Social Development Fund (SFD) Yemen, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 24 January 2011 at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka. The MoU is signed to work together in collaboration for implementing the 'Exposure-cum-Study Visit on Best Practices of RD Projects in Bangladesh by Five Yemen Officials from 25 January to 5 February 2011. The MoU may further be extended as and when required for mutual benefits in the field of rural development. The five senior participants were from the Agriculture and Rural Development Unit, SFD. The project was funded by the World Bank.

#### ***Exposure-cum-Study Visit for Officials from Housing Foundation of Iran***

CIRDAP has been collaborating with the Housing Foundation of the Islamic Republic of Iran since 2010. Director, Pilot Projects Division (PPD), and Director (Training) CIRDAP attended The First International Conference on Rural Settlements: Housing and Fabrics organised by the Housing Foundation in Tehran in May 2010. Also, PPD arranged an exposure visit to the selected members of Housing Foundation, Iran to visit Malaysia in collaboration with INFRA, the CIRDAP Link Institution in Malaysia in 2011. In response to another request from Housing Foundation of Iran, PPD organised an exposure-cum-study visit on best practices of rural development and housing in Bangladesh for seven senior officials from the Housing Foundation. They participated in the Exposure-cum-Study visit to Bangladesh 28 October to 4 November 2011.



### ***MoU signing between CIRDAP and IJSG***

CIRDAP and the International Jute Study Group (IJSG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding of Cooperation (MoUC) on 27 July 2011 at the IJSG headquarters in Dhaka in presence of professionals from both organisations. IJSG, like CIRDAP, is also, an intergovernmental body set up under the aegis of a UN body, i.e. UNCTAD to function as the International Commodity Body (ICB) for Jute, Kenaf and other Allied Fibers. IJSG, the legal successor to the erstwhile International Jute Organisation (IJO), was established on 27 April 2002 in Dhaka Bangladesh.



*Signing ceremony of MoUC*

The MoUC would help undertake researches to promote production and use of jute in efforts to help in minimising the rural poverty. Under the MoUC, these organisations may

conduct a joint study and action research or undertake pilot projects. The organisations would also work for capacity building, undertaking study visits and sharing information and experience of ideas. In fact, both CIRDAP and IJSG recognised that promoting and generating rural income generation, entrepreneurship and employment would help in developing the rural areas of the Asia-Pacific region, particularly through promoting production and use of jute and other natural fibres to improve the rural livelihood.

Under this agreement pilot projects division plans to conduct an Action Research Project for women beneficiaries at the grassroots level by pertaining skill development training on handicrafts and providing guidance towards marketing of rural handicrafts products.

### **Training Programmes Sponsored by Government of India**

During the year 2011, CIRDAP Training Division conducted four Regional Training programmes sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (GOI) and coordinated by the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), India, in collaboration with link institutions. GOI sponsored these international training programmes as a kind gesture to promote regional cooperation and capacity building of rural development functionaries of the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). These regional programmes were focused, thematic and of topical interest. Training topics were identified on the basis of training need assessment and requirements of the member countries as suggested by the sponsoring agency.

#### **Geo-informatics Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices**

CIRDAP in collaboration with NIRD, organised an International Training Programme on "Geo-informatics Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and test Practices" at NIRD, Hyderabad, India from 24 January to 4 February 2011. The training prorogramme aimed to study the Geo-informatics Best practices, pilots, projects Programmes in India, and to identify the potential areas where the GIS applications can play a key role in CIRDAP Member Countries, CMCs. To exchange ideas and experiences in formulating and implementing the GIS technologies, assess the feasibility of meeting the regional needs based on existing manpower, software, hardware and data availability and assess the training needs and resources requirements at the CIRDAP country level. The programme was attended by 22 senior/middle level officers dealing with ICT/GIS from 12 CMCs.

#### **Decentralised Governance: Pro-Poor Initiatives**

An International Training Programme on Decentralised Governance: Pro-Poor Initiatives" was held from 14 - 23 February 2011 at the NIRD, Hyderabad, India. The programme aimed to share knowledge of Decentralised Governance systems in participating countries and Innovative Methods



watershed management among policy makers, administrators, social scientists, extension personnel so as to evolve appropriate strategies to meet the emerging challenges. The specific objectives of the programme were : to know the effectiveness of integrated watershed management on agricultural growth and environmental conservation; to analyse and assess the linkages between agricultural growth, poverty and sustainable economic development ; to develop skills in participatory planning and management of sustainable agriculture growth through watershed approach for environmental conservation on a sustainable basis; to expose participants to diverse rural institutional settings to gain insight into various research and development activities and HRD interventions to enhance the managerial skills of participants. There were 16 participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

### **Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management Sponsored by Government of India**

As a goodwill gesture and to promote Regional Cooperation, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (GoI) has sponsored five slots to CIRDAP to recommend suitable in-service candidates from member countries in the one year Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM)(Batch - IV: 2011) being conducted by the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India. GoI has been sponsoring these course slots for CIRDAP in the recent years. As per the prescribed norms and eligible criteria of the programme, five candidates were selected from member countries. The candidates are from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and Philippines. The Ministry of Rural Development will meet the course fee and other expenses of CIRDAP nominated candidates. The PGDRDM 3<sup>rd</sup> Batch - 2010 concluded at the end of July 2011. For the next PGDRDM programme for the year 2012-13 (one year) (Batch - V: 2012-13), CIRDAP has announced the programme, and it will begin from August 2012.

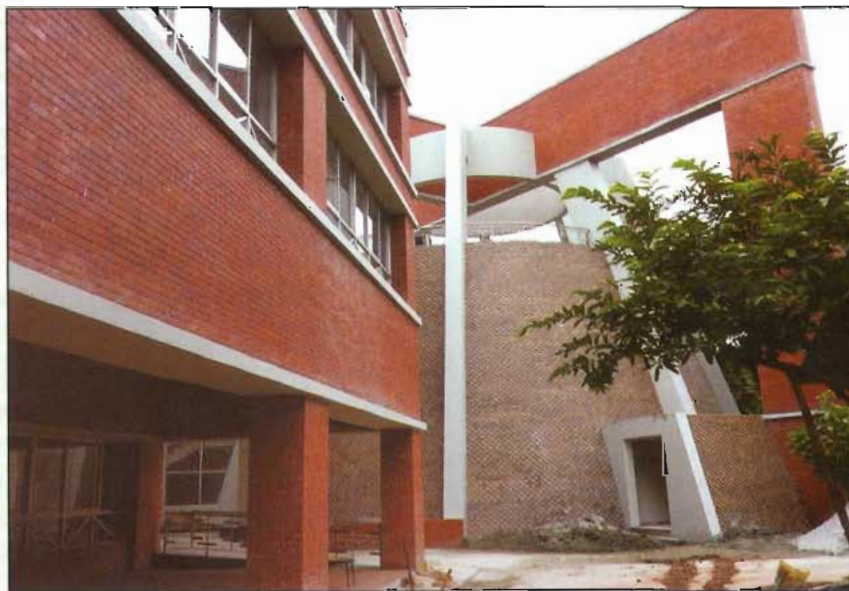
### **Regional Cooperation Fund**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Governing Council (GC) of CIRDAP, 2005 decided to establish Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF) at CIRDAP through voluntary contribution from member countries with a view to have more vibrant regional / bilateral cooperation among the member countries, and to enhance and build capabilities of the available human resources and link organisations with various instrumentalities, viz., Internship, Sabbatical, Short Term Research Studies, etc. Such effort will give fillip to academic endeavours, intellectual dialogue and better institutional relationship among the member countries.

The purpose of RCF is to create suitable academic ambiance, facilitate cross fertilisation of ideas and encourage member countries by providing financial, technical and administrative support so that officers / faculty from CIRDAP Contact Ministries (CCMs)/CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs) can take up such academic activities for generating knowledge base which can be utilised by the member countries and link institutions. The concept of the RCF was further fine tuned and circulated to the CMCs. A few member countries have sent proposals.

### **Construction of CIRDAP International Conference Centre by GoB**

The Government of Bangladesh has constructed the CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) at the CIRDAP Headquarter premises in Dhaka. However due to some revisions in the plan and subsequent budget increase, the work is yet to be completed and handed over to CIRDAP. Two meetings were held on 6 March 2011 and 2 August 2011 at the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division (RDCCD) of Ministry of LGRDC of Bangladesh and



*CICC under construction*





*Visiting Nepalese delegates interacting with CIRDAP professionals*

CIRDAP HQs presided over by Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder, Secretary, RDCD to discuss the completion of CICC. The proposal of Public Works Department (PWD) was approved by MoLGRDC and the required fund amounting Tk. 158.35 lakh was released from Finance Division by RDCD. The completion and handing over of the CICC is expected by June 2012.

#### **Establishment of CIRDAP ICT Centre**

Establishing an Information Communication Technology (ICT) Centre sponsored by the Government of India, is underway at the newly built CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) at

the Centre's headquarters in Dhaka. In line with the proposition of the Delhi Declaration on Rural Development, 2008 which pledged leveraging benefits of Information Communication Technology (ICT) to improve the lives of rural poor across the Asia-Pacific region, the Government of India sanctioned an amount of Rupees 86 lakh for establishing the ICT Centre at the CICC, CIRDAP in Dhaka in 2010. In this connection, the Director General and Senior Officials from NIRD, visited the proposed premises of the ICT Centre at CIRDAP and met with the Director General and other Senior CIRDAP officials during 8-9 May 2011. They discussed at length the technicalities of establishing the ICT Centre. The procurement process for computer equipments is being carried out by CIRDAP and is expected to be complete by early 2012.

The ICT Centre is expected to spread the benefits of ICT applications, ensure proper usage of ICT and exchange ideas, share experiences and best practices and disseminate information and knowledge to the CIRDAP member countries.

#### **New CIRDAP Website and Intranet**

A new upgraded Website of CIRDAP was formally launched during the GC-18 meeting held in Iran in December 2011 by H.E. Dr. Sadegh Khalilian, Minister for Jihad-e-Agriculture in Iran and Chairperson of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-18). The new address of the site is [www.cirdap.org](http://www.cirdap.org). The new website is fully dynamic (i.e. it is more interactive and user-friendly) and language translator is added. Earlier this year the CIRDAP Intranet was launched on 16 November 2011 at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka. CIRDAP Intranet provides the latest information of CIRDAP for internal users only. With these new features the ICT base of CIRDAP is further strengthened to provide better service to the member countries.

#### **CIRDAP Publications**

In 2011, the Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD) continued to be one of the signature publications of the Centre and maintained its good reputation during the year. The regular publications brought out this year by the Information and Communication division (ICD) were: two issues of APJORD (July and December 2011), four issues of the quarterly CIRDAP Development Digest (123, 124, 125 and 126) and Annual Report 2010. The colour layout of the CDD and the design, layout and colour of the APJORD were changed, giving them a more appealing look. Two editorial board meetings for the CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD) and one Editorial board meeting for APJORD were held. The Centre also participated in the National Press Club Book Fair of Bangladesh in December 2011.

#### **Appointment of next Director General for 2012 - 2016**

CIRDAP's Director General is appointed by the Governing Council for a term of four years. My tenure as Director General will expire on 5 July 2012. For appointing the next Director General for 2012-2016, a vacancy announcement was sent to all CIRDAP Member Countries by the Chairperson of the CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-17) on 27 February 2011.

As decided by the GC-17, the four member Screening Committee consisting of Mr. K. E. Karunatilake, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Sri Lanka; H. E. Mr. Zet Mirzal



Zainuddin, Ambassador of Indonesia in Bangladesh; Professor Yoshihiro Kaida, IRD Expert and Dr. Nouredin Mona, FAO Representative in Iran met in July 2011 at the CIRDAP Headquarters, Dhaka to review and evaluate the particulars of all 9 candidates (from 8 CMCs). The committee decided to call 3 applicants from Bangladesh, Indonesia and Philippines for personal interview on 30 July 2011.

Based on the interviews the Screening Committee recommended two candidates for appointment of Director General, to the next Governing Council Meeting (GC-18) of CIRDAP. The GC-18 held in Iran during 13-14 December 2011, unanimously elected Dr. Cecep Effendi of Indonesia for the post of Director General, CIRDAP for 2012-2016.

### **Future Perspective**


In the recent years emerging policy issues of RD and PA were debated and talked about in the five policy dialogues and the Second Ministerial Meeting (SMM) of CIRDAP. The SMM adopted a historical Dhaka Declaration which reiterated the need for integrated rural development (IRD) as a holistic approach to address the basic needs of the poor and generating productive employment on a wider scale through decentralised planned development.

In this context, we request CMCs to take these issues forward. In doing so, CIRDAP could be developed as a regional level resources centre for generating research knowledge on critical issues of RD and PA and organising regional policy dialogues more frequently. For the capacity building of RD functionaries of CMCs, the CLIs and CIRDAP should join hands in needs identification and development of national and regional level training programmes, to complement each other. Similarly, CIRDAP should disseminate innovative best practices in CMCs through publications of books, RD Journals, newsletters and ICT services. Within this broader framework specific roles of CIRDAP are identified which need further support from CMCs.

As the Director General, this will be the last annual report to be published during my tenure. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the CIRDAP Member Countries for giving me an opportunity to serve in CIRDAP from 2004 to 2012.

During my tenure in this august institution (2004-2012), several remarkable achievements were made in promoting regional cooperation and, on exchanging expertise and experiences among CMCs on rural development and poverty alleviation. There were important milestones that we achieved and lessons learnt during this course.

I am confident that my successor in office would carry on the task of taking CIRDAP forward successfully to the next level.



Dr. Durga P. Paudyal  
Director General  
CIRDAP



# Policy Body Meetings

## Executive Committee (EC-28) Meeting

The Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-28) was held in Tehran, Iran during 10-11 December 2011. Delegates from all CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) except Myanmar attended the Meeting. The Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture of Government of Islamic Republic of Iran organised the meeting in collaboration with CIRDAP. It was held back to back with the GC-18 Meeting and the 5th Regional Policy Dialogue.

The EC-28 Meeting was inaugurated on 10 December 2012 by Dr. Sadegh Khalilian, Minister for Jihad-e-Agriculture of Government of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Vice-Chairperson of GC-17, in Tehran. Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Government of Bangladesh and Chair of EC-27 was also present at the inaugural function. The delegates from the attending CMCs, the Ambassadors of some CMCs in Iran like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, senior government officials from the Government of Iran, researchers and academicians were also present at the inaugural session of the EC-28 Meeting. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP, headed the team from the Secretariat.



Group photograph of delegates



During the Business Session, the delegates unanimously elected Iran and India as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of EC-28 Meeting respectively. The Director General presented a report on the activities of CIRDAP for the period of 2010-11. The following are the results of agenda-wise discussions during the EC meeting:

### **Suggestions/Decisions/Recommendations:**

#### *Director General's Report on the Activities of CIRDAP*

##### **Recommendation: 1/EC-28/2011**

- The available best practices among member countries should be captured and shared with all member countries to link up and emulate these best practices in CIRDAP member countries. A strong and interactive MIS is necessary.
- EC-28 recommended GC-18 to thank the Government of Bangladesh for its support in constructing the International Conference Centre.
- EC-28 also recommended thanking the Government of India for extending its support for establishing an ICT in CIRDAP international conference Building.
- EC-28 appreciated Bangladesh, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand for their contribution to regional cooperation fund. EC also recommended that the remaining countries should make their voluntary contribution. CIRDAP should further follow it up.
- CIRDAP should make efforts for best utilisation of the Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF).
- Sub-office of the Centre needs to be proactive and operational and it should play a positive role in the region.
- It would be appropriate to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of SOCWA. It is also suggested to assess the performance of SOCSEA.
- It is recommended that the Report of the Director General be placed for approval of the Governing Council.

#### *Follow-up actions on previous EC/GC meetings*

##### **Recommendation: 2/EC-28/2011**

- The Agenda Item No. 4 is adopted and recommended to GC for approval.

#### *Report of EC-27 Sub-Committee meeting including PWB of the Sixteenth Biennium (2010- 2011)*

##### **Recommendation: 3/EC-28/2011**

- It is recommended to strengthen the Technical Committee and focus on technical/professional aspects, which, in turn, would enhance professionalism of Link Institutes and CIRDAP. The Technical Committee meeting will be organised separately. In view of this, the EC and GC will continue to meet back-to-back.
- Specialised courses for training of faculty members of CLIs and resource persons may be organised.
- In the Technical Committee meeting, experts and scientists including primary stakeholders may be invited to present and discuss path breaking technologies of regional concerns like new agricultural practices. This will provide an opportunity to evolve and use new technologies.
- EC took note of the Evaluation Committee report and suggested publishing and circulating the report.
- Rural development reports and any other reports should be submitted by the member countries on time.
- The EC accepted the report and recommended to GC-18 for approval.

#### *Reports of the 25th and 26th Technical Committee Meetings*

##### **Recommendation: 4/EC-28/2011**

- EC-28 considered the reports of TC 25 and 26 and recommended for acceptance of GC-18.



*Selection of Members of TC Accordance with Paragraph 3 of Article-VII of the Agreement*

**Recommendation: 5/EC-28/2011**

It is recommended that GC-18 may approve the following:

- The Commonwealth Secretariat, IDRC, NAM CSSTC, AARDO, BRAC, IJSG, and UNCRD from among the reputed professional institutions in the Asia Pacific region as observers.
- An expert of outstanding professional eminence in Integrated Rural Development to be identified as a member of the Technical Committee.



*Meeting in session*

- Meanwhile, Prof. Yoshihiro Kaide may continue as the IRD Expert for another two years.
- CIRDAP may interact with UNFCCC and TERI being relevant international bodies for climate change and UNDP and ECO to involve them as observers for the Technical Committee meetings to integrate climate change in rural development.
  - CIRDAP may find a mechanism to gain appropriate position in international bodies dealing with important subjects and events like climate change, food security.

*Proposals for enhancing engagement among CIRDAP & CMCs*

**Recommendation: 6/EC-28/2011**

1. Accelerating core activities and professional services:
  - i) It was agreed to fund one training programme or one research/action research project every year to be implemented jointly by CLI - CIRDAP collaboration.
2. Regional Cooperation Fund:
  - ii) CMCs who have not contributed to the Regional Cooperative Fund (RCF) till now may kindly consider voluntary contribution.
  - iii) EC/GC may direct the CLIs to submit proposals under the scheme in order to avail opportunity and get benefited by the scheme.
  - iv) The guidelines of the RCF have been accepted, except the out of pocket allowance may be considered to be paid out of RCF fund, not by the host country.
3. Capacity building of CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLI):
  - v) CIRDAP may conduct a scoping study to examine various facets of CLIs, present capacity, gaps and desired capacities in order to meet the development objectives of the country and present with viable alternatives in the next EC/GC meeting.
4. Human Resources Development and Training of IRD Functionaries:
  - vi) A need assessment study of CMCs will be conducted by CIRDAP so as to find out how CMCs could sponsor training programmes and collaborate with CIRDAP. DG will submit a report in next EC-GC meeting.
5. Corpus Fund :
  - vii) EC-28 agreed to establish Corpus Fund. The proposal for providing 'Seed Money' to CIRDAP for its 'Core Activities', which could be placed in the 'Corpus Fund'. The interest accruing by the Fund would be used to support the core activities of CIRDAP and to which 50 per cent of the receipts from the infrastructural facilities being hired out and the fixed deposit of \$102,000 would be credited. The DG, CIRDAP will prepare appropriate Corpus Fund Rules and present for discussion in the next TC meeting. Based on comments and suggestions the report will be placed in the next meeting of EC/GC for approval.
  - viii) The DG, CIRDAP is requested to engage with National/Multinational Corporations to mobilise their funds for corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). DG, CIRDAP will submit his report to the next EC/GC meeting. DG, CIRDAP also should write to CMCs to make their one-time contribution on voluntary basis.



**Recommendation: 7/EC-28/2011**

- The Auditors Report of the Centre along with the Statement of the Final Accounts for the biennium 2008-2009 and interim report for 2010 be recommended to the GC-18 for approval.

*Revised Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the Sixteenth Biennium (2010 - 2011)*

**Recommendation: 8/EC-28/2011**

- Revised Administrative Budget (General Fund) and Revised Programme Budget (Trust Fund) for the biennium 2010-2011 be recommended to the GC-18 for approval.

*Proposed PWB for Seventeenth Biennium (2012 - 2013)*

The members suggested that CIRDAP Secretariat should prepare a working programme of CIRDAP for 3 years focusing in the areas of interest and strength of the member countries regarding vision of CIRDAP as an outcome of the discussion in the Technical Committee and it should be proposed in next EC and included in the PWB.

**Recommendation: 9/EC-28/2011**

After discussion, the EC-28 adopted the Proposed Programme of Work and Budget (PWB); for the Seventeenth Biennium for approval of GC-18.

*Administrative Matters*

**Recommendation: 10/EC-28/2011**

- In principle, all CMCs agreed the need for enhancing salary of CIRDAP staff.
- Out of CIRDAP Auditorium and CICC Income every year, 50% will be put in the Corpus Fund and the rest will be allocated to increase the salary of GS and Professionals and maintenance of the conference centre.
- Increase in the salary should be made from savings. It is suggested that salary of General Staff may be increased to 15% and Professional Staff by 8% with effect from January 2012. There will be no provision for house rent allowance to the GS staff for the present.
- It was also suggested that CIRDAP should hire management consultant to assess and evolve performance link incentive for CIRDAP.

With this note, the Agenda (number 12) is recommended to GC-18 for approval.

*Dates and Venue of the Next Meeting of the Executive Committee*

EC approved with thanks the proposal of India to host the next EC and GC meeting in India. The exact date and venue of the meeting will be finalised in consultation with CIRDAP Secretariat.

After adoption of the meeting report, EC-28 placed on record its sincere appreciation to Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, the current Director General, for his commitment, leadership and steering the affairs of CIRDAP under the most trying circumstances during his term of office, which expires on 5 July 2012.

## **Governing Council (GC-18) Meeting**

Dr Mohammad Reza Rahimi, First-Vice President, Government of Islamic Republic of Iran inaugurated the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-18) held in Tehran on 13-14 December 2011.

Delegates from most of the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) attended the meeting. Ambassadors/High Commissioners of several CIRDAP member countries were also present during the inaugural session of the meeting. H.E. Dr Sadegh Khalilian, Hon'ble Minister for Jihad-e-Agriculture of Iran and Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh, and the Chairperson of the outgoing EC-27 were also present in the inaugural session.

At the Business Session of the meeting, Iran and India were unanimously elected as the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of GC-18 respectively. Director General, CIRDAP





*Inauguration of GC-18 meeting by Chief Guest*

presented the report on the activities of CIRDAP. The following are the decisions and discussion by the GC-18 according to the meeting agenda:

*Report of the EC - 28 Meeting*

**Decision: 1/GC-18/2011**

GC-18 has adopted the Report of the EC -28.

*Appointment of the next Director General, CIRDAP*

**Decision: 2/GC-18/2011**

1. The candidature of Dr. Cecep Effendi for the post of Director General, CIRDAP for 2012-2016 was unanimously elected.
2. The number of members of the Screening Committee be raised from 4 to 5. The DG, CIRDAP will identify highly qualified woman candidate to the Governing Council for inclusion in the Screening Committee.
3. In order to attract highly experienced professionals for the position of Director General, the age limit be raised from 56 to 62.
4. The CIRDAP will develop performance indicators for periodic monitoring of the performance of the Director General, which will be discussed in the next Technical Committee for recommendation to EC and GC for consideration.
5. It was decided that in order to familiarise the new DG, he/she will join office one month before the expiry of the tenure of the outgoing DG.

Honourable GC members presented respective country statements including policy interventions and development pertaining to rural development and poverty alleviation subsequent to the Dhaka Declaration- 2010. Following are the briefs of presentations:

**AFGHANISTAN**

After several decades of war, Afghanistan embarked on rehabilitation, reconstruction and now development. The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) is the guiding document for the development of Afghanistan. The ANDS focuses and mainly reflects Afghanistan's long-term goals, which include the elimination of poverty through the emergence of a vibrant middle class, an efficient and stable democratic political environment and security throughout the country. ANDS is Afghanistan's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

The Afghan population is overwhelmingly rural: 74 per cent (around 18.5 million people) live in rural areas and only 20 per cent (5.0 million) in urban areas (NRVA 2007/8). Hence, developing



Afghanistan means developing its villages on a sustainable basis. ANDS has envisaged a 'Comprehensive Agriculture and Rural Development' (CARD) approach, known in the region as IRD, to ensure that the development process is inclusive and sustainable. The Afghan Government has increasingly been promoting Community-led Development in the country; the community and its institutions provide a robust platform which makes development both inclusive and sustainable.

As a result, over 28000 Community Development Councils (CDCs) at the Village Level and around 288 District Development Assemblies (DDAs) at the District Level have been established through the MRRD National Solidarity Programme (NSP) and National Area-based Development Programme (NABDP) respectively.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan seeks and encourages increased engagement with CIRDAP and the CMCs in its efforts to bring about community based integrated rural development in the country.

## **BANGLADESH**

The report on Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2005 published by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) shows downward trend in income poverty. According to the Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) method used in the survey, the incidence of poverty at the national level declined from 48.9 per cent in 2000 to 40.0 per cent in 2005. The poverty level has come to 31.5 per cent as per recent study. Although poverty still remains a formidable challenge, the country has graduated from low human development to medium human development group (UNDP 2005). Bangladesh is the pioneer in microcredit concept for poverty reduction and practice of microcredit dominates the poverty alleviation activities. Alongside microcredit, other factors like - improving access to education, health, nutrition, marketing, involvement in decision making at the local level and reducing all kinds of deprivation need to be considered. Poverty alleviation, therefore, needs a combined and concerted efforts to address those issues alongside microcredit which may be called Microcredit Plus in short.

Poor people are poor in economic capital and they are poor in human capital to some extent. But their social capital, social and moral values, is very rich. Considering the notable human potentials of poor people mainly the social capital, Bangladesh is implementing 'One House One Farm (Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar) Programme' with contributory Microsavings, human capital development activities, cooperative marketing and other related components to alleviate rural poverty.

Bangladesh has already achieved three targets of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) such as: (1) removing gender disparity in primary and secondary education; (2) ensuring almost universal access to primary education; and (3) ensuring access to safe drinking water. Progress of the sanitation programme is also impressive. Around 50 per cent of the population has been using safe latrines in 2009 (Bangladesh Economic Review 2011). Performance in curbing infant mortality rate and population growth rate are also some of the major successes. But the achievements and successes are being challenged by Climate Change impact. Bangladesh is facing the increased frequencies and intensities of natural disasters. The Government has taken several initiatives including integration of Climate Change issue in development programme. Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation programme is, therefore, taking a Climate sensitive shape, in Bangladesh

## **FIJI**

Fiji needs to curb both rural to urban drift and the incidence of increased poverty in Fiji's rural areas. In 2011, government implemented sixteen programmes worth approx USD \$37.8 million (FJD \$70million) to provide social protection and security for all categories of the poor. These included programmes such as the family assistance scheme, bus fare subsidy for underprivileged children, food voucher programmes, housing assistance to deserving families, price order controls and other related programmes.

Government is also working closely on improving the links between domestic agriculture and tourism. The Integrated Rural Development Framework implemented in early 2010, has contributed to improved coordination between stakeholders in Fiji's rural sector consistent with the aims of the Dhaka Declaration on Rural Development.

The government has committed to continue investment in Fiji's Rural Sector and also venture into new areas such as providing access to the Internet and free telecentres. In addition the government



hopes to continue to work on improving service delivery by upgrading the professional capacity and skills of officers working in Fiji's rural areas to ensure robustness in the delivery of development services.

#### INDIA

The Indian experience in Rural Development and poverty alleviation through the flagship programmes of rural employment, self-employment in the rural areas, social security programmes for the aged, disabled, widows and the indigents, rural roads and infrastructure and housing were presented in the meeting. India invests significant proportion of its budget for inclusive and sustainable development of its rural areas and capacity development of the local self-government institutions. India has evolved powerful models for grassroots planning. India has launched an innovative programme of Bharat Nirman Volunteers to impart knowledge of the programme structures at the household and individual levels to ensure participation of the rural masses in the development process, and to ensure transparency and accountability in implementation of welfare and development programmes. Training is imparted to volunteers who in turn educate their neighbouring families about their rights, entitlements and remedies and handhold the process for the households allotted to them. Government Departments allocate resources as per the needs articulated with the support of volunteers. The Bharat Nirman Volunteers, thus act as a critical link in involving the rural masses with the development process for accelerated reduction of rural poverty and promotion of equity, growth and empowerment.

The presentation emphasised that the sustainable rural development should encompass enhancement of the livelihoods of the rural poor, increase in their productive capacity, generation of durable community assets, assimilation of new technologies in production and marketing, access to sub-national, national and global markets to the rural producers and artisans, creation of sensitivity towards sustainable harvesting of natural resources and development of sustaining models in Public-Private Partnership for canalising of consumer preferences towards items produced by the rural producers. India has rich experience in this field. CMCs may achieve this by strengthening inter-governmental cooperation and promoting dissemination of good practices in rural development for mutual gains.

#### INDONESIA

In order to accelerate poverty alleviation and to create employment opportunity in the rural areas, the Indonesian Government has been undertaking a rural people-centred programme called National Programme for Community Empowerment (Rural PNPM). This programme is currently the largest community empowerment programme in the country and focused its activities on the rural poorest. The programme facilitates development through community empowerment by forming and strengthening local institutions, direct facilitation, capacity building, and providing block grants directly to communities ranging from Rp.1 billion to Rp.3 billion per sub-district (Kecamatan). As community empowerment programme, Rural PNPM has proven to succeed in empowering rural communities by improving the capacity of individuals, local institutions, increasing household welfare and felling basic infrastructures in the rural areas.

#### IRAN

Over the last 3 decades the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has successfully implemented a wide range of policies, programmes and activities with the aim of rural development and poverty alleviation, and enhancing the participation of the rural population in decision-making process inter-alia, through:

- i) Entrusting government functionaries in the field of planning and execution for ensuring local authority.
- ii) Shaping provincial planning development councils.



*Session in progress*



- iii) Formation of Islamic Rural Councils and its affiliated sub-sectoral disciplines for execution purposes.
- iv) Development agri-based cooperatives and community-based organisations.
- v) Promotion of non-government organisations.
- vi) Adoption and execution of certain policies to enhance rural development indices and providing modernised services
- vii) Development or setting local markets with a priority attached to rural districts
- viii) Adoption and execution of multi-lateral projects and activities and towards improvement, rehabilitation and enhancing the safety presidential structure.

In this connection, formation of rural Islamic councils was a cutting edge strategy for establishing decentralisation systems. It also mobilised local public participation in decision-making forum. The sizable investment in the rural infrastructure of Iran has created an increasing better living conditions for the rural population. Currently most of the villages have access tap water, all villages with a population of over 20 household have access to electricity. Health centres with resident physicians have been established in 37 per cent of the villages. Natural gas reticulation system has reached about 24 per cent of rural homes. About 81 per cent of villages have access to telephone.

#### **LAO PDR**

Lao PDR's Rural Development Policy continues to invest in farmers, but it is needed to be done in a sustainable and balanced manner, emphasising both hardware and software investments and accelerating the alliances and cooperation with the private business. Thus, Lao PDR will continue to assist farmers to connect to markets, make sure that farmers have secured land tenure, fair contracts, access to information, and improved basic infrastructure and the reach of services, including social services in health and education for most basic needs at grassroots levels. There will be increase in the use of foreign direct investments in developing the rural areas and also in accelerating private investments in the rural areas; creating even more business friendly environment for major local and foreign investors. Lao PDR was successful in attracting large investments for industrial crops and tree plantations. Under the present Five-Year Plan, 2011-2015 the Government has prioritised to support the development of more sustainable agricultural practice is the creation of different forms and levels of farmers organisations, which would serve as key institutions to realise government policies to engage in a more viable and environment friendly agricultural systems practice. The Ministry has set first priority in the next 10 Years Plan for our farming communities to engage in sustainable framing systems, should it be for small, medium or large scale. With these new policies and institutional changes the government is hopeful to achieve a greater advancement of sustainable agriculture and proper use of our natural resources in the next decade.

#### **MALAYSIA**

The Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) of Malaysia provides strong focus on a few key growth engines through 12 National Key Economic Areas (NKEAs). NKEAs are expected to make substantial contributions to Malaysia's economic performance, and will receive prioritised public investment and policy support. The ETP is led by the private sector; while the Government plays the role of a facilitator. Most of the funding comes from the private sector (92%) with public sector investment being used as a catalyst to spark private sector participation.

Malaysia has achieved remarkable progress in the provision of rural infrastructure and other basic utilities. In 2010, rural electricity coverage was 93.5 per cent and rural water coverage was 72.67 per cent throughout Malaysia. Rural road coverage grew from 18,927 kilometres in 2000 to 45,905 kilometres in 2009.

#### **NEPAL**

Decentralisation has been accepted as a main means of enhancing good governance, and a process of administrative, political, social, economic and development works in Nepal. It has been accepted as a strategy for promoting people's participation in the decision-making process, formulation and implementation of plan, and empowering women, children and disadvantaged group of the society. To give impetus to rural development, the Ministry of Local Development (MLD) is acting as a catalyst for development of rural areas by providing opportunities to the rural poor, utilising of resources available in the local level optimally and empowering the rural people.



Community mobilisation and social inclusion are given high priority as drivers of rural development.

Formula based grant system has been introduced for making balanced, justifiable and equitable resource allocation and mobilisation to local bodies and distribution of the outcomes of development. Minimum condition and performance measure (MCPM) tools have been introduced to examine compliance with local governance act, its regulation, directive and other policies. Both the tools could be a good model for the other CIRDAP member countries in order to transfer resource and its proper use.

## **PAKISTAN**

Seventy per cent of Pakistan consists of rural areas which have remained under-developed for a long time. However, during the last 3 decades successive governments launched a number of programmes and adopted different strategies for the uplift of rural areas. The introduction of Local Government System led to the development of various infrastructures at the grassroots level which improved the living standard. The provision of electricity, gas, television network and mobile phone communication has largely bridged the gap between the rural and urban Pakistan. There was a big leap forward in the development of rural areas, but War on Terror that started in 2005 adversely impacted and retarded the development process. Attending to the internally displaced persons from terror zones in FATA and Swat, earthquake of 2005 in Southern AJK and vast areas of Pakistan around Islamabad and Abbottabad and unprecedented floods of 2010 and 2011 that caused huge damage to life and property particularly agriculture in southern Punjab and Sindh was a gigantic effort. Effective measures taken by government greatly helped the population in rural areas to recoil and stand on their feet.

Government's initiatives for poverty reduction in the rural areas across Pakistan have helped in addressing the basic needs of the poorest of the poor. Role played by Benazir Income Support Programme, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, important NGOs like AKRSP and NRSP and other social groups have also strengthened the process.

BISP was explained in detail as to how it is helping in the poverty alleviation. This programme is based on information technology and is replicable in other developing countries. Main programmes of BISP are Waseda-i Hoque, vocational training to enable poor families to set by their business for enhancing livelihoods. Health and general insurance are its important ingredients. Transparency and non-political nature of BISP are its hallmark.

## **PHILIPPINES**

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL), passed in 1988, mandated the delivery of support services to Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) and created the Support Services Office under the DAR. The Agricultural support programmes, including the development of agrarian reform communities (ARCs), were launched in order to complement land transfer in reducing poverty and improving ARBs' quality of life. Effectiveness of the development formula of combining land tenure improvement, beneficiaries' development and agrarian justice. Hence, the passage of the Republic Act 9700, as a continuing state policy with further policy reform (CARPER).

The DAR recently developed the Agrarian Reform Community Connectivity & Economic Support Services (ARCESS) as another project with the objectives of understanding the current situations and addressing the most obvious perceived desired economies of scale. ARCESS is hinged on the Philippine Development Plan (2011-2016) and the strategy of the Benigno Aquino presidency supporting public-private partnerships (PPPs). ARCESS has two core strategies- the first is the provision of business development services to ARB organisations by engaging community-based enterprise organisers (CBEOs), second is the provision of common service facilities such as farm implements and equipment to ARB organisations for closing the gaps on production and processing. Further, incentive-based subsidy, access to credit, and rural infrastructure are considered in improving rural enterprise competitiveness. The Philippines shall continue to collaborate with CIRDAP on the matter of capacity development of CIRDAP member countries and pilot-testing of relevant models in alleviating poverty and promoting rural development.

## **SRI LANKA**

With the aim of 'winning the economic war' and the achieving 'Wonder of Asia' status the Government of Sri Lanka is designing, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating several agricultural and rural development policies and programmes. These are:



- A self-reliant rural household development programme called as 'Divineguma' with the objective of improving livelihood, achieving food security, nutritional improvement and poverty alleviation, is being implemented covering 2.5 million households in 14000 villages in Sri Lanka.
- Developing infrastructure facilities that make a direct impact on rural and urban livelihood development.
- Sustainable infrastructure development for income generation of people, economic development and basic human needs.
- Empowering the rural masses by livelihood development programmes.
- Creating a healthy and cultured society free of drugs, liquor and smoking. Providing shelter for homeless or low-income people.
- Offering services to all Sri Lankans by opening, special kind of banks called Samurdhi Prosperity Banks throughout the island.

#### **THAILAND**

Thailand has made the rural development a top agenda as reflected in the first National Economic and Social Development Plan since 1961 till the recent 11th plan which is due to start from 2012-2016. Over the decades, the National Economic and Social Development Plans have uplifted Thailand to an advanced developing country with better income, quality of life longevity, and education. Since the adoption of the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy bestowed by His Majesty King Bhumipol Adulyadej in 2002, the Thai society has become more resilient to shocks.

To date, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, fosters a model for self-sufficiency economy village in almost every provinces in Thailand. In addition, learning centres have also been established throughout the country to exchange and preserve local knowledge as well as to support the agricultural creative economy.

To further promote rural development, Thailand enacted the National Farmers Council Act in 2010. The Council will be a firm foundation for democratic development, since it involves a great number of people who are connected with agriculture. The National Farmers Council is responsible for addressing farmers' problems and offering suggestions to the Cabinet on guidelines to tackle the problems. It will also work out a master plan for agricultural development, while empowering farmers and agricultural organisations. The election of the first-ever National Farmers Council, (February 2011), was in June this year, whereby, Council representatives at village, district and national level were elected to run the operations.

#### *Any other matter*

The delegate from India lauded the contributions of Dr. Durga Prasad Paudyal and highlighted his excellent personal qualities. The Chairperson of the meeting also echoed this opinion and while appreciating Dr. Paudyal's valuable contributions to CIRDAP during his tenure for eight years, he wished him success and hoped that with his capabilities he continues to provide his guidance to CIRDAP. With these words, he presented a plaque of appreciation to Dr. Durga P. Paudyal.

The Delegate from India offered to host the next EC and GC meetings in the city of Hyderabad, India and the house unanimously accepted the proposal. The date will be decided in consultation with CIRDAP. The report of GC-18 was adopted after thorough discussion by the members.



# Annual Review and Planning Seminar

The two-day CIRDAP In-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar (CIARPS) - 2010 was held at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka on 28-29 March 2011. The CIARPS seminar reviews the Centre's activities, programmes/projects carried out in the previous year, and formulate the Centre's work plan for the current year, reviews suggestions/recommendations of the earlier CIARPS and immediate last policy body meetings.

## Inaugural Session

Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder, Secretary of RDCD, Government of Bangladesh and Chairperson of Twenty-Seventh Executive

Committee of CIRDAP (EC-27) inaugurated the seminar as the chief guest. Mr. A Rahman Shekib, Executive Director of Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development (AIRD) and Chairperson of Technical Committee of CIRDAP (TC-26) and Mr. Ataur Rahman, Director General, BARD, Comilla, attended the meeting as special guests. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP chaired the inaugural session while all professional and general staff-members were present.

Dr. Majibar Rahman, CIARPS Coordinator, welcomed the participants and highlighted the objectives of the meeting. He put emphasis on possible potential areas of cooperation between CIRDAP and the Contact Ministry in Bangladesh.

Mr. A. Rahman Shekib focused on the potential areas and possible ways of cooperation between CIRDAP and AIRD and also suggested exploring bi-lateral and multi-lateral relations among the CLIs. He also mentioned that he was working on the decisions of TC-26 Meeting held in Afghanistan in order to establish better linkage between AIRD and CIRDAP based on the project proposal received from CIRDAP.

Mr. Ataur Rahman, Director General, BARD commended the past and ongoing contribution of CIRDAP in combating the issues of rural development and poverty alleviation, but reminded participants of the challenges that remained ahead of CIRDAP. He suggested CIRDAP to concentrate on its mandates and also to act based on the needs of the member countries.

Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder, in his inaugural speech, highlighted economic growth, rural development, microcredit, micro-savings and poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability as the most critical inter-related aspects of rural development. He pointed out that rural development in most of the countries in Asia and the Pacific is characterised by the prevalence of small farmers, landless labourers, and the marginalised poor. Economic growth, therefore, must be pro-poor, broad-based and sustainable. He assured all kinds of support and assistance from his Ministry in order to have more engagement with the Government of Bangladesh.



*Inauguration of CIARPS-2010*



Dr. Durga P. Paudyal drew the attention of the chief guest for his active support in completing the CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC). He also drew the attention of Chairperson TC-26 on the project 'Strengthening Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development (AIRD)' and also requested him discuss with his government on the possibilities to do it in collaboration with CIRDAP. Dr. Paudyal also urged the host country (Bangladesh) to take more interest in CIRDAP. He mentioned the next GC and EC meeting would be held in Iran in the later part of this year where Bangladesh will chair the first session. He invited all staff to actively participate in the following sessions to make the CIARPS a success and fruitful.

### **Business Session**

The Business Session of CIARPS-2010 was chaired and moderated by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP and participated by all CIRDAP staff-members. Major decisions/recommendations/suggestions by the seminar are given below, division-wise:

#### *Research Division*

- Recommended preparing a keynote paper by the Research Division for the next Regional Policy Dialogue to be held in Iran in 2011.
- Suggested the Division to mention the sources of fund and status of approval while preparing any project.
- Suggested identifying a few celebrities, well-known in the field of rural development and local government and organising workshop and seminars with their presence as the resource persons/ keynote paper presenters to make CIRDAP familiar in the member countries.
- Requested to contact international donors seeking for technical and financial assistance for the projects wherever possible.

#### *Pilot Project Division*

- Recommended documenting and publishing report on action research activities implemented under the Division.

#### *Training Division*

- Suggested that training materials of the Division may be distributed among the CLIs/ CMCs.
- Suggested that Government of India be requested to allow CIRDAP to use a part of the training budget for the development of the training materials.
- Suggested the Division to maintain a roster of good resource persons.

#### *Information and Communication Division*

- Suggested that CIRDAP may participate in the book fairs in Bangladesh.
- Suggested that 3 publications, instead of 5 copies for CIRDAP may be kept in CIRDAP archive and also suggested scanning of the publications and putting it in digital format for future use.

#### *Administration and Finance*

- Suggested developing the PWB with adequate information before the next EC/ GC meeting.
- Suggested working on the issues of enhancement of salary and house rent of CIRDAP General Staff to be placed before the next EC/GC members.
- Suggested improving staff-contract system, renewing contract for three years instead of one year or less.
- Recommended the Division to verify CIRDAP insurance premium system to JBC, Bangladesh and reimbursement system of the company, and also suggested that family members of the staff should get general medical facilities. Finance should look for better insurance company with better terms and conditions to draw more benefits out of insurance scheme.

#### *Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia (SOCSEA)*

- Suggested looking into the SOCSEA issues to develop the sub-regional office and make it standard.
- Suggested developing a functional relationship with SOCSEA.

#### *Planning and Resource Mobilisation Unit*

- PRMU would continue to maintain liaison with the Contact Ministry in Bangladesh and Get the Letter signed by the GC Chairperson, relating to EC-27 Sub-Committee meeting, and ensure circulation of the report to all GC and ensure circulation of the report to all GC members for approval.



# Research

- Fifth Regional Policy Dialogue
- Rural Development Report
- Anniversary Seminar on Revisiting CIRDAP Perspective
- Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on Access to Land

## Focused Areas

Decentralised Approach to RD and PA  
Access to Land and other Natural Resources  
Revisiting CIRDAP Perspective  
Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue  
Rural Unemployment and Underemployment  
Informed Policy Support for Overseas Migration





In line with the strategic priorities of rural development endeavour in the CMCs, and in accordance with the CIRDAP mandate towards poverty reduction, the Research Division, has consistently focused on furthering the effectiveness of integrated rural development programmes in the member countries. The guidelines of the policy bodies of CIRDAP, i.e. the Governing Council, the Executive Committee and the Technical Committee, are the basis for formulating the research agenda of the Centre. Recently completed and ongoing research projects address specific issues in these areas.

A brief review of the research activities undertaken during 2011 is given below:

## **Decentralised Approach to RD and PA**

### *Fifth Regional Policy Dialogue of CIRDAP*

In most of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the highly centralised planning approach was introduced during the 1950s in an attempt to utilise the scarce resources available for development, most effectively. Clearly, it has failed to achieve the desired goals. The economies of the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) are mostly market-oriented with the dominance of private sector. The share of public expenditure in GDP has in general been on increase in many CMCs to emphasise the economic growth, bypassing other important dimensions such as the administrative and organisational capacity of the government necessary to spread development activities to the grassroots level. Local bodies of administration are only marginally involved in the planning and implementation processes.

Within the CMCs, there exists a heterogeneous and dynamic region. It exhibits variety in economic, climatic and socio-cultural milieu. Juxtaposed alongside its uneven distribution of wealth, remittances, successes in social business, maternal mortality, health etc. are the pockets of poverty, inequality, ecological vulnerability, unemployment and underemployment. It is also abode to two-thirds of the people who are struggling to sustain livelihoods amidst climate change, floods and droughts including global crisis.

The response to this situation translated into strategic pro-poor policies. The growing trend in some of the countries in this region exhibited and ensured the growth process which is pro-poor, pro-women, pro-nature and pro-jobs. Thus, realising the importance, the policy body of CIRDAP declared the theme of 'Decentralisation' for in-depth analysis for the year 2011. Accordingly, a study on 'Decentralised Approach to Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation: A Comparative Assessment among CIRDAP Member Countries' was commissioned in all CIRDAP member countries, as per decision of the CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC-26) held in Afghanistan in 2010 and CIRDAP Link Institutes (CLIs), were engaged to prepare a status report pertaining to their country.

The decentralised approach to development seems to be suited for CIRDAP member countries. CIRDAP's main challenges include addressing the diversity among member countries, soliciting unity in its diversity, focusing on the livelihoods of rural people amidst changing economic, social and environmental scenarios, adding value to current good practices-enabling dialogue and creating a platform for dissemination. Above all, it is imperative for this organisation to act as a catalyst for generating commitment of member countries to projects that are undertaken and implemented, across boundaries, with firm convictions of positive outcomes.

Eight countries (Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka), out of fifteen member countries, submitted their reports to CIRDAP. CIRDAP professionals analysed the country findings thoroughly and each division prepared four thematic papers to address the country needs. The four papers were presented and discussed in the Fifth Regional Policy Dialogue of CIRDAP held in Tehran, Iran on 12 December 2012. The Policy Dialogue was enriched through participation of the Hon'ble members



*Inaugural session of the policy dialogue*





*Dialogue going on*

of CIRDAP Governing Council (Cabinet Ministers) and of the Executive Committee which comprises Secretaries from respective ministries of the CMCs, experts, policymakers, researchers, academics etc. H.E. Dr. Jahangir Porhemat, Deputy Minister for Research, Education and Extension Organisation, Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was present in the Dialogue as the Chairperson, while Dr. Ahmad Akbari, Head of Iranian Research Organisation for Science and Technology,

and Dr. Mosayeb Pahlavani, Dean, Faculty of Economics, University of Sistan and Baluchestan, Iran, were present as the Special Guests.

The first of the four thematic papers attempted to take into cognisance, the conceptual framework of decentralisation. It also set the tone for delineating decentralisation and its main components, the ramifications of disaggregated policy programmes and the coordination mechanisms. It also set the context for articulation of the subsequent papers, i.e., capacity building of local governance framework, the country and area specific new models and products and last but most relevant, the connection of people with the market through the 'Weightless Economy', in other words, information technology and its optimum utilisation by communities. The four themes of the papers are as follows:

- a) Conceptual Framework of Decentralised Development
- b) Capacity Building for Local Governance: A Suggestive Framework for Select Member Countries of CIRDAP
- c) Decentralised Approach to Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation: Experimentation of New Models and Products
- d) ICT in Decentralised Approach to Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation

The Dialogue was highly appreciated by the participants for stimulating active deliberations, discussions and lively participation by the members who provided academic underpinnings and insights to policy formulation of their countries.

#### *The Way Forward*

The review of the decentralisation process and the associated macro and other policy dimensions in the CIRDAP Member Countries points to a number of aspects that need to be accommodated within a comprehensive decentralisation agenda in the countries. Any piecemeal effort is unlikely to gather the required momentum to initiate a process of cumulative causation that could accelerate rural development and poverty alleviating growth in the countries. The identification of the major elements of such a process and their implications are important in the context of evolving an adequate decentralisation framework.

The process can be reinforced by taking several measures within the decentralisation efforts in the countries:

- Identify the constraints in the evolution of self-governing local government institutions in the past;
- Realise that the declaration of a specific tier (e.g. Union Parishad) as the focal point of local government institutions is necessary but not sufficient for promoting bottom-up rural development planning. It is also necessary to:
  - i) promote devolution of decision making power in favour of the local government institutions and making them accountable to their electorates;
  - ii) support the process through a system of social development efforts that would enable the people at the grassroots to prepare and implement the bottom-up plans based on participation of the people and community organisations;
  - iii) provide a mechanism through which the process of preparing and implementing the bottom-up plan can be linked/integrated with different tiers of development administration so that the local level development plans can be integrated with the national plan.



- Provide increased financial allocations to the reoriented local government institutions from development budget with focus on human resource development and poverty alleviation;
- Reorient financial institutions and relevant government and NGO projects/programmes in favour of the poor;
- Implement effective training programmes for government officials, people's representatives and others in participatory bottom-up planning;
- Strengthen the process of local level participatory planning by linking micro with macro policies to facilitate achieving short term stabilisation and long term growth;
- Institutionalise the process of conflict resolution particularly in important fields e.g. top down versus bottom up processes of planning; deconcentration versus devolution of power in favour of the local government institutions; allocation of development funds; and incentive structures and growth with social integration. To ensure the process, the issues of civil liberty and good governance beginning from the grassroots through self-reliant local government institutions assume crucial importance.

In order to address the above issues, actions are needed in three broad areas:

- **System of Decentralisation:** Identify the processes through which a local level structure and a system of decentralised planning structure can be institutionalised that are consistent with national concerns and priorities and support effective decision making towards sustainable rural development. The above requires the design of a framework to achieve sectoral, spatial and operational balances in the context of integrated rural development;
- **Processes of Planning and Implementation:** Develop mechanisms for efficient and effective operation of the decentralised system. For the purpose, enhancing planning capabilities at the local level is a critical element that requires training, resources, institutional and human development;
- **Monitoring and Evaluation of Impact of Decentralised Framework on Rural Development:** Evolve a framework of M&E mechanism taking into account the impact of all tiers of the decentralised system for continuous and regular feedback on status and impact.

## **Rural Development Report 2011**

CIRDAP prepares report on Rural Development of member countries every biennium and ten thematic reports have been prepared so far. For the Rural Development Report of 2010-11 biennium, the Technical Committee (TC-26) in its meeting held in Afghanistan in 2010, suggested the theme of 'Decentralised Approach to Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation: A Comparative Assessment among CIRDAP Member Countries'. Following the suggestion, a brief conceptual framework and study outline of the research was developed and circulated to the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). Accordingly eight CMCs (Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Philippines) submitted their reports. The consolidated report is expected to be published in 2012.

Based on the country findings, four thematic papers were prepared and presented in the Fifth Regional Policy Dialogue held in Tehran, Iran, on 12 December 2011. In line with this theme research division also prepared a concept note for holding a 'Sanglap'(dialogue) on Decentralised Approach to Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation in Bangladesh. CIRDAP envisaged holding this dialogue in association with BBC and Bangladesh Television, attempting to solicit the varied opinion of different stakeholders. It could bring alive the issues and merge the theoretical with the practical.

CIRDAP's plans to organise a dialogue in association with BBC, attempting to solicit the varied opinion of different stakeholders, have thus been envisaged. It could bring alive the issues that have been mentioned in this concept note and merge the theoretical with the practical.

### ***Concept Note on BBC Sanglap on Decentralised Approach to Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation in Bangladesh***

In Bangladesh, like many of the countries in Asia-Pacific region, the highly centralised planning approach was introduced during the 1950s, in an attempt to utilise the scarce resources available for development most effectively. Clearly, it has failed to achieve the desired goals. The economy



now is mostly market-oriented with the dominance of the private sector. The share of public expenditure in GDP has, in general, been on the increase to emphasise the economic growth, bypassing other important dimensions such as the administrative and organisational capacity of the government necessary to spread development activities to the grassroots level. Local bodies of administration are only marginally involved in the planning and implementation processes.

Over time, organisational structures to promote administrative decentralisation at the local level have evolved in Bangladesh. But decentralisation of powers, functions and finances to the locally elected governing units have been found less effective in direct interventions in the process of local development. Institutional innovation is an integral part of local or area based development, since creation and restructuring of institutions are necessary pre-requisites for success and sustainability in the development efforts. In many cases, the forms of administrative structure differ in terms of institutional linkages to perform local development activities e.g. there exist line ministries, state and local governments, specialised agencies, coordinating bodies, non-government organisations, and grassroots level institutions. The inter-linkages between decentralisation and development and development stakeholders are bypassed in policies and programmes.

This requires strengthening of the institutional framework at the local level with focus on two aspects: (i) reorientation in the delivery system at the local level to function properly and respond to the local needs and requirements to meet aspirations of the people, and (ii) re-organisation of receiving systems at local and community levels so that the people at the grassroots level can effectively participate in planning and implementation of local development programmes.

Decentralisation itself does not result in poverty removal, without political commitment, local level capacity building and empowerment. In this context, it may be stated that the conceptual framework for decentralisation generally excludes agriculture sector, on which a majority of rural poor depend for their livelihoods. The agricultural extension machinery is often de-linked from technical and financial resources at local and grassroots levels. Strengthening these interlinkages by strengthening local governance, which is pro-poor and participatory, is a missing element and hence the need for advocacy and mobilisation and to promote positive aspects of decentralisation. Demand driven service delivery can only come from decentralised layers of administration.

### **Anniversary Seminar on 'Revisiting CIRDAP Perspective: Opportunities and Challenges'**

To celebrate its 32nd founding anniversary CIRDAP organised a half day seminar on 'Revisiting CIRDAP Perspective: Opportunities and Challenges' on 25th July 2011 at the Centre's Headquarters, in Dhaka. The Seminar focused on identifying areas where mutually reinforcing and complementary collaboration between CIRDAP and CMCs, could be promoted by effectively addressing the needs and demands of the rural people. Specifically, the proceedings of the seminar could be used to prepare policy papers to be presented in the Fifth Regional Policy Dialogue to be held in Tehran, in December 2011. The seminar was attended by experts, researchers, policy makers, and senior government officials, representatives of the donor community, international organisations and NGOs.

The introductory statement in the seminar was given by Director General, CIRDAP. The Director General noted that the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

(WCARRD), 1979, had adopted a broad based strategy for national progress based on growth with equity and participation. He mentioned that for implementation of WCARRD, the role of the regional level inter-government organisations were envisioned and, accordingly, CIRDAP was established under the aegis of FAO in 1979. The objectives of the Centre were laid down as to assist national action, promote regional cooperation and act as a servicing institution for RD and PA policies of its member countries through



*Dr. Mujeri speaking at the seminar*



research, action research, training, and documentation and information dissemination. Presently, it has 15 member countries namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. Over the last 30 years, CIRDAP has been playing an important role in bringing about meaningful collaboration among policy makers, with intensified advocacy on integrated, systematic



*Discussants of the seminar*

and relevant knowledge development and dissemination in the area of rural development (RD) and poverty alleviation (PA) in its member countries. It has been functioning as a regional level think tank for its member countries by contributing inputs for policy formulation pertaining to RD and PA. However, there has been a sea change in the policy contexts and institutional infrastructure in the concept of Integrated Rural Development (IRD) at both country and regional levels since the inception of CIRDAP in 1979. Thus, CIRDAP should revisit its mission to accommodate the needs of the member countries.

Director General, CIRDAP reminded that one of the unintended consequences of the development pattern in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region has been an uneven socio-economic impact across countries as well as between the rural and urban areas. Impressive gains have been achieved in many countries, but these have not been shared equitably by different socio-economic groups or by geographic regions. The literacy rate in rural areas is only half of that in urban areas in Pakistan. Similarly, glaring disparities exist in terms of access to basic facilities between rural and urban areas in most countries. Such diversity in the development experience, both among and within countries, reflects that the poor and the vulnerable groups particularly in the rural areas have been receiving disproportionately smaller shares of the benefits of development while often bearing the major burden of the associated costs. On the institutional front, area-specific problems and potentials required decentralised framework with a participatory mode, while institutional strengthening and empowerment and participation of the rural people continue to remain formidable challenges towards achieving equitable and sustained rural development. Despite several models of decentralisation practised in Asian countries, effective policy with local capacity building is yet to emerge. In order to address the above and related issues, Director General hoped that the distinguished participants would discuss analytically, within the present context, and provide useful suggestions so that CIRDAP can convey the messages to its policy makers.

Following this introduction by the Director General of CIRDAP, the keynote paper was presented 'extempore,' by Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and former Director (Research), CIRDAP. He had worked for about a decade at CIRDAP and is well-conversant with CIRDAP's mandate.

Dr. Mujeri mentioned that he observed the scenario of CMCs while implementing various types of projects by CIRDAP as Director, Research in early 90's. He noted that CIRDAP should revisit and find the challenges of the present day as an inter-governmental regional organisation by addressing the felt need of CMCs/CLIs as clients. He emphasised on promotion of the concept of integrated rural development concept (IRD) and opined that the concept remains relevant for the CMCs. Citing the mandate and objectives of CIRDAP, Dr. Mujeri suggested that CIRDAP should explore to create rural employment and reduction of rural poverty through IRD promotion. According to Dr. Mujeri, CIRDAP has some in-built strengths, such as, close partnership with CMCs and CLIs; glorious past activities and effective networking could further make it a Centre of excellence in the region.

Regarding Challenges in the present context, he warned that CIRDAP should be aware of the socio-economic and political changes in countries of the region, identity and mandate compulsion in terms adaptability with the situation and resource scarcity and scope of interventions as regional organisation.



Dr. Mujeri forwarded some suggestions, encapsulated below:

- CIRDAP in-house capacity building to be enhanced to address professional as well as administrative challenges;
- Develop effective M& E system;
- Coordination and linkages with other development partners;
- Identify the new role of CIRDAP as regional organisation ( with context of paradigm shift of RD & PA) in consultation with CMCs/CLIs and stakeholders;
- Use the comparative advantages of CIRDAP in policy making level by creating regional data base of RD & PA;
- Identify the desired expectation between means and end;
- Issue of decentralisation for IRD should be focused;
- promote good governance at local level by developing research/ action research model;
- Relationship between micro vs. macro and social policies;
- Rural macro level phenomenon and micro level impact;
- Capacity building of Institution;
- Develop comprehensive and effective approach of RD with present context;

The presentation was followed by discussions by designated discussants. The discussants included Dr. S.I Khan, Gram Bangla, Dr. Mahabub Hossain-Executive Director, BRAC, Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed, Professor, Dhaka University and Former Director(R) CIRDAP, Mr. Ataur Rahman, Director General, BARD, Prof. Md. Abdul Hye, East West University, Dhaka.

*Important suggestions from the discussants:*

- Importance of fund mobilisation emphasised as resource is scarce;
- CMCs fund availability towards CIRDAP depends on the benefit received from CIRDAP;
- CIRDAP should focus on its comparative advantages in the areas of RD & PA;
- Players from the development field should be complementary to each other rather than being competitive;
- CIRDAP being an inter-governmental organisation needs to identify the priority areas of government;
- PA & RD should be focused within present context;
- Importance of continuous M& E for new projects or activities;
- Develop the model of decentralisation;
- New success stories of other countries (CMCs) may be studied, subject to consideration of the country context. Promote 'best practices' or 'Success Stories' from the CMCs;

Dr. Anwara Begum, Director (Research), wrapped up the discussion. She said that the distinguished presenter and participants at the seminar have put forth, important avenues for CIRDAP, even within the evolving dynamics of the global scenario. Based on this, CIRDAP should be able to reposition, revisit and rethink its' perspectives. It may now identify its challenges and opportunities to chalk out its agenda very effectively, to change the fate of the one quarter of the world's poor living in the rural areas in the CMCs. In her summing up, dwelled on the aspects that would positively inspire and benefit CIRDAP in the long run. Limited institutional space, appropriate strategies, needs and priorities of CMCs, country specific characteristics, are some of the challenges, and CIRDAP must grow despite these challenges. Its view should be pragmatic and realistic, cognisant of different contexts of member countries, which may not fit into the popular IRD paradigms.

Director (Research) also mentioned the points about importance of resource mobilisation, achieving synergy by collaborating with others, identifying 'niche', where GoB is not playing a role especially non-farm where infrastructure assumes paramount importance. She mentioned the remarks about the evolving and dynamic changes (tracking difficult global agenda) and, ownership of CIRDAP by member countries. Also the emphasis upon the shift in paradigm from Rural Development to poverty alleviation, the role of policy makers, capacity building of the rural poor, Strengthening of Integrated Rural Development programmes, making CIRDAP more visible, etc. were recounted in essence.

CIRDAP should have specific role in the changing context of rural development. In this context, CIRDAP has to develop its image and create a 'niche' in the macro scenario including obtaining recognition from others. CIRDAP will also put emphasis on the capacity building of its HQs. With



this guidance, Research Division plans to put forward several papers on various issues, mostly focusing on decentralised approach to rural development and the role of CIRDAP.

### **Follow-up on Knowledge Generation and Policy Dialogue on Access to Land and other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor in four Asian Countries**

The Research Division, in collaboration with IFAD, conducted a research study on Access to Land and other Natural Resources by the Rural Poor, in 2007-2009 period. The aim of the study was to identify issues which determine improved access to land and other natural resources by the rural poor people, particularly women and indigenous groups in four Asian countries namely, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines. The country reports were finalised based on the comments/ feedback received from the country workshops, organised during the period September to November 2008, and subsequently, from the concerned experts. CIRDAP also organised a regional consultation in July 2009 to discuss and formulate policy issues for the Second Ministerial Meeting. The findings of the study, including regional consultation, was circulated during the Second Ministerial Meeting and was extensively used for preparing the Dhaka Declaration.

Recently, as a follow-up of the project based on the suggestion of the regional consultation, CIRDAP has developed an action research proposal to be initiated in Bangladesh. The proposal was further fine-tuned, in consultation with ALRD, a local NGO engaged in land related issues. A Comprehensive Proposal on Strengthening Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development (AIRD)

It was decided in TC-26 that CIRDAP will prepare a proposal for providing services to ongoing RD programmes of Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development (AIRD), which has already launched several programmes, such as, training of 500 social/extension workers and 3000 members of various organisations. Implementing research on livelihoods and land mines and prepared report on National Rural Development. It has already completed 18 such topics since its inception in 2006. The AIRD should be equipped with professional services and policy inputs, for which they may like to gain technical support from CIRDAP, as well as forging a long-term partnership with CIRDAP link institutions. Following the decision, CIRDAP Research Division prepared a comprehensive proposal incorporating basic principles of rural development, such as, Preparation of a Community Development Strategy; Policy Development, People's Participation, Human Resource Development, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Mechanism, Development of an Action Research Base at AIRD and Preparation of Biennial Rural Development Report, etc. The proposal was presented at the CIRDAP in-house Annual Review and Planning Seminar which was held in 28-29 March 2011 at CIRDAP HQs where the Executive Director of AIRD was present as Chief Guest. The proposal awaits finalisation, based on the comments of seminar participants.

### **Rural Unemployment and Underemployment in IDB Member Countries in Asia: Causes and Consequences**

Director General, CIRDAP participated in an Expert Group Meeting during 9-10 May 2011 in International Development Bank (IDB) HQs, Jeddah for sharing CIRDAP experience on unemployment and underemployment problem in CIRDAP member countries in Asia-Pacific Region. He presented a paper titled 'Rural Unemployment and Underemployment in IDB Member Countries in Asia: Causes and Consequences'. Research Division facilitated preparation of the paper. The topics included in the paper were: Trends of Unemployment Rates among Countries, Labour Migration, Major causes of Rural unemployment and underemployment, consequences of Rural unemployment and underemployment, Scope of Regional organisation like CIRDAP and IDB and Conclusions and Recommendations.



## *Pilot Projects*

- Evaluation of Performance of CBPO
- Field Workshop on Seed Processing
- MoU Signing between CIRDAP and IJSG
- Exposure-cum-Study Visit for Iranian Officials

### **Focused Areas**

Performance evaluation of action research project

Seed Processing and reducing post-harvest losses

New Models and Case Study: Bridging the Gap between Public, Private and Farmers

Institutional capacity building through collaboration

Exposure-cum-Study visit





As a follow-up of the Evaluation of CIRDAP Projects in 1995, the Action Research Division (ARD) was renamed as Pilot Projects Division (PPD). The pilot projects are designed to meet the felt-needs of the community by undertaking innovative experimental projects and replicating them over wider regions. Promotion of participation of poor rural community to mitigate their own problems and ensure their socio-economic upliftment is the overriding objective of designing and implementing the pilot projects in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). They serve two objectives. One is to generate field level knowledge and the other is for interventions which would lead to mitigating the sufferings of the given community. Participatory philosophy remains the basic concept of implementation mechanism of action research/pilot projects of CIRDAP. The Centre has done a basic work in evolving the Community Information and Planning System (CIPS), a pioneering methodology for rural and community development. Because of the successful application of CIPS methodology in CIRDAP pilot projects, CIPS methodology was applied to national rural development programme of Lao PDR. CIPS village in Malaysia was evolved as a model village in the country. The CIRDAP Approach to Rural Development (CARD) methodology improved and revised CIPS by integrating some elements of Project Cycle Management (PCM).

The highlights of some of the activities of Pilot Projects during 2011:

### **Evaluation of Performance of Capacity Building of People's Organisation (CBPO) Project**

The Pilot Project on 'Capacity Building of Peoples' Organisations (CBPO) under Model Village Rural Development (MVRD)' implemented in two villages namely, Ratnabati and Shimpur of Comilla Sadar Thana, was taken up in 1999 with the experiences gained from previous action research projects of CIRDAP. The project experimented the concept of comprehensive approach of rural development, as well as utilising the potentialities efficaciously. The project aimed to bring about a qualitative change in lifestyle of the villagers by increasing their socio-economic conditions. At this stage of CBPO project, it became necessary to assess the efficacy of the project at the beneficiary level through an evaluation. Such an evaluation was carried out by selected faculty members of BARD.

In this context, a workshop on 'Performance of Capacity Building of People's Organisation Project' was organised jointly by CIRDAP and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) on 1 June 2011 at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka. Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumdar, Secretary of Rural Development and Cooperatives Division (RDCD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives of Bangladesh and Chairperson of the Executive Committee (EC-27) of CIRDAP, inaugurated the workshop. Mr. Ataur Rahman, Director General, BARD and Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP were also present in the workshop. A keynote paper evaluating the performance of people's organisation was presented by Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Joint Director and Team leader of the three-members Evaluation Team of BARD. Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Deputy Director and Project Director of CPBO, BARD gave a briefing on the project. The workshop was participated by policy makers, senior government officials and CIRDAP professionals, rural Development practitioners, academics, researchers and development partners in Bangladesh.

In the inaugural session, the Chief Guest Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumdar mentioned that Poverty Alleviation is linked with issues like micro credit, health, policy and planning etc. Thus comprehensive model for rural development (RD), which includes many issues and factors, should be carried out in a coordinated manner. He requested CIRDAP and BARD to develop an RD model from their experiences and practices, which can be replicable everywhere in Bangladesh and in



other developing countries. Director General, CIRDAP while welcoming the distinguished participants in the workshop expressed hopes that the workshop would guide us to initiate the next threshold of RD as imagined by Late Akhter Hameed Khan in 1960s. Director General, BARD also spoke in the inaugural session while Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Director, Pilot Projects Division of CIRDAP delivered the vote of thanks.



*Workshop in progress*

Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, in his keynote presentation, mentioned that rural women are capable of contributing to their households' economy by being involved with income generating activities for resource generation. A thorough discussion and understanding of the issues involved led to some concrete suggestions on how to improve the project performance.

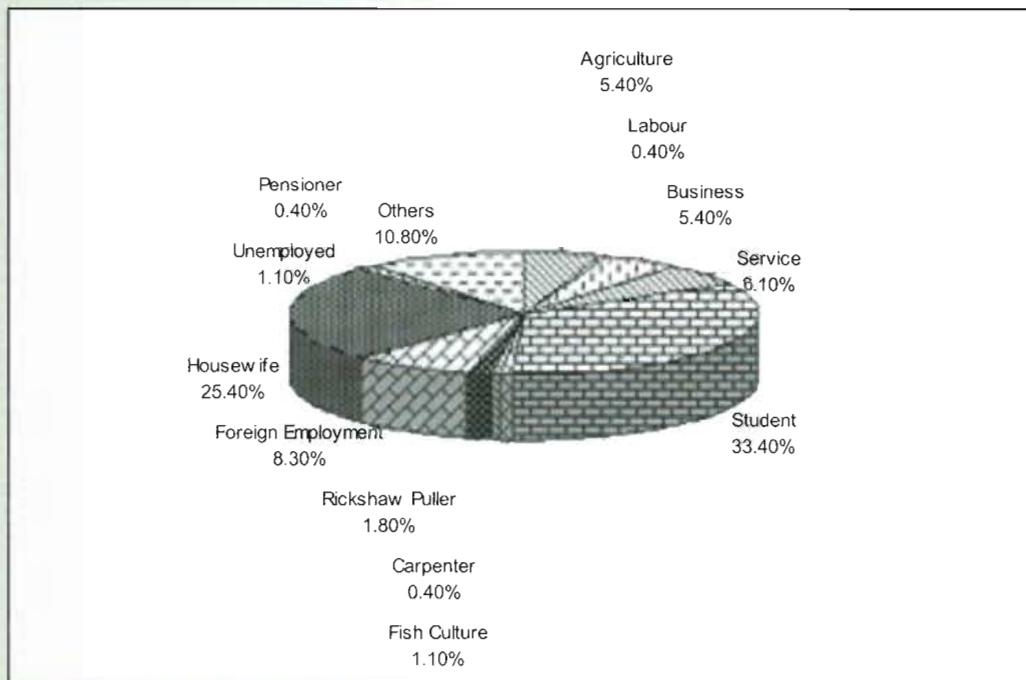
#### *Some of CBPO Evaluation Findings*

The CBPO project was taken up to experiment the concept of comprehensive approach of rural development as well as utilising its potentialities efficaciously. It also aimed to bring about a qualitative change in the lifestyles of the villagers by increasing the socio-economic condition of the villages (PCP, 2004). After more than a decade, it is imperative to assess the efficacy of the project at the beneficiary level.

The evaluation examined how far the project objectives have been achieved and was carried out in the village Shimpur of Comilla Sadar Upazila where the project is still ongoing. There are currently six groups in the project and ten members from each group were selected. Data were collected in mid 2010. Along with questionnaire survey, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were conducted with the beneficiaries of six groups of the project. The team members also consulted the bank documents. The Project Director was interviewed to assess the operational and financial aspects as well as future prospects of the project. Moreover, personal observations of the evaluation team have also been incorporated in analysing and interpreting the data.

*Profession:* About one-third of the respondents' household members' were students and the second highest were housewives. The percentage of unemployed persons was quite less. Foreign employment also occupies a sizeable portion of the respondents' household members. It was observed that the percentage of agriculture based profession was not much, even the members engaged with fisheries were also less (only 1.1 per cent). It reveals that the occupational pattern in the study villages has been changed from agriculture to non-agriculture sector. Moreover, some of them are capable to send their children overseas for higher income earning jobs.



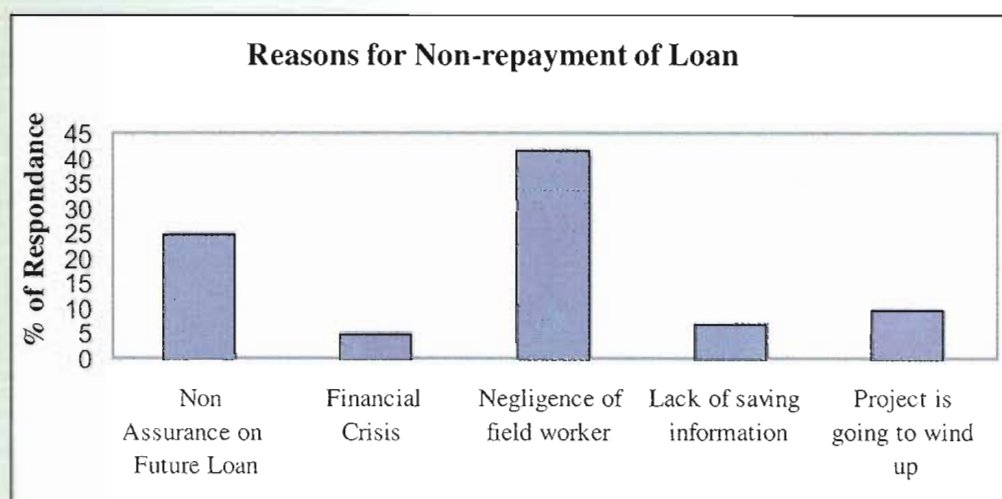


*Main profession of the respondents household members*

Regarding the secondary profession, it was found that majority (88.5%) of the respondents' household members had no secondary profession. But about six per cent and around two per cent members were involved with agriculture and cattle rearing respectively, though the numbers were not encouraging.

**Loan Repayment Nature:** It was found that ninety eight per cent of the respondents repaid their loan at a time and the rest two per cent repaid it in different instalments. Tk. 750.00 was found to be amount of instalments. Maximum of the respondents (60%) repaid their loan in Sonali Bank, Kotbari branch, which is about 15 km away from their village. Presently, all the group savings are deposited in Krishi Bank, Rasulpur branch, Comilla which is adjacent to their village. The loans that are being disbursed from the project are collateral free.

**Laps and Gaps of the Project:** Respondents had mentioned seven different types of laps and gaps of the project. The highest percentage of the respondents (52%) highlighted that the inadequate monitoring of the Project authority is one of the serious bottlenecks of the project followed by





absence of field worker in the village (48%). Forty five per cent of the respondents mentioned that stopping the loan distribution of the project is another critical problem of the project right now. *Comments on Continuation of Project Activities:* Ninety five per cent of the respondents opined that the project activities should be continued. They had mentioned five arguments in favour of continuation of the project activities. These are: project creates employment opportunity through providing loan; accelerate force savings by the beneficiaries; develop unity and integrity through group activities; facilitates easy access of loan; and provides training and advice.

From the findings, the following conclusions can be made:

- a) Though the project was too small in terms of fund, capital formation, area of operation, number of staff as well as activities, the scope of the objectives were too big and setting was also faulty.
- b) The institutional set up through the active participation of all members as well as making them self reliant has been partially achieved by the project, rather more synchronised effort with regular monitoring from project management is needed.
- c) The second objective of the project was to equip the villagers with various skill training and thus ensuring self-employment and engaging the villagers in various income generating activities (IGAs) through micro-credit and this objective is partially fulfilled. The first part of the objective regarding impart skill training to the beneficiaries is totally unexplored or unachieved. The loan disbursement, utilisation, and generation of self-employment have been achieved at an acceptable level.
- d) Regarding the third objective it was found that the project has failed miserably to achieve the institutional capacity to develop the group to make their own plan at the group level and execute it accordingly. The group members' effort rather restricted to micro-credit disbursement and realisation only.
- e) It appears from the data that there was a potential for using vegetable cultivation as a source of income. But the respondents cultivate vegetables without having the aim of increasing their family income or raising their nutritional status. Attempts could be taken from the project for fulfilling the fourth objective.
- f) The fifth objective of the project is yet to be achieved. For achieving this objective, arrangement should be made for skill training to the project beneficiaries; strong communication network should be developed between project authority and the beneficiaries, between bank and the beneficiaries, between nation building departments and the beneficiaries. Various development related information should be provided through project activities.

From the evaluation report the following recommendations may be summed up: i) The project activities could be continued; ii) The project activities should be directed towards the vision of fulfilling the objectives set in the project document; iii) For better execution of the project activities, the groups' loan may be revitalised with the renewed contract with Sonali Bank or any other scheduled Bank functioning in the locality; iv) The project staff may be increased with more social responsibility to the groups and the project; v) Regular monitoring from the project needs to be strengthened to expedite the better credit utilisation package and vi) Special emphasis should be given on providing skill training to the beneficiaries.

### **Field Workshops on Seed Processing for Rural Farmers**

Pilot Projects division organised four field workshops on Seed Processing for rural farmers in collaboration with farmers of Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) programme in 2011. These workshops were conducted as follow-up of the national workshop on Reduction of Post harvest Losses to address food security (2009). Two such field workshops were also conducted in 2010 on Seed Processing for rural farmers. The Field Workshops in 2011 were



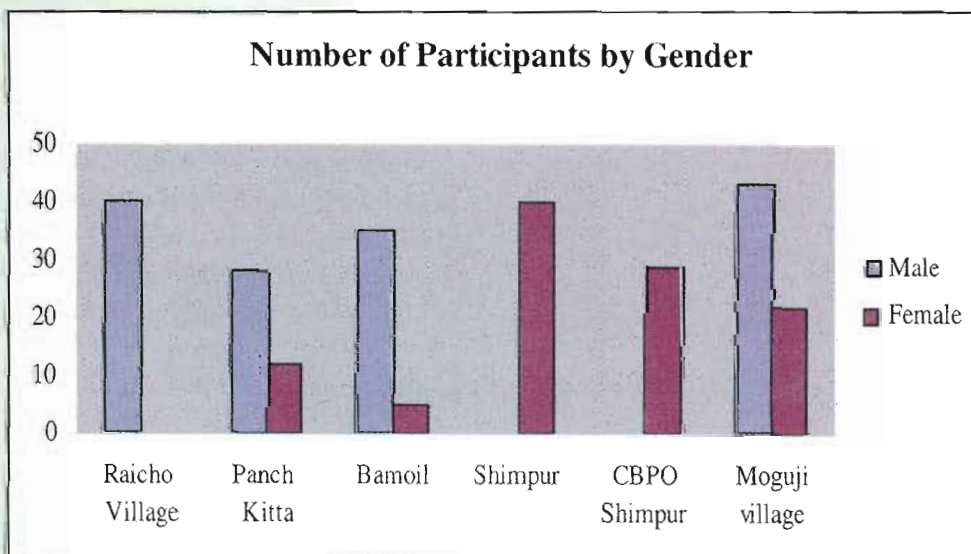
carried out in: a) Bamoil CVD Society, Comilla on 19 January 2011 with 40 farmers; b) CBPO programme, Shimpur, Comilla on 1 March 2011 with 40 women involved in kitchen gardening as well with farming activities with their husbands/male family members; c) CBPO, Shimpur, Ratnabati, Comilla on 4 May 2011 with 29 women; and d) Moguji Village under Khusbus Union, Barura, Comilla on 18 May 2011 with 65 farmers.

A total of 254 farmers from six villages of rural Bangladesh under Comilla district participated in the field workshops during 2010-2011, in which 146 were male (57%) and 108 were female (43%). In rural Bangladesh, women play a vital role in seed processing and kitchen gardening, which made PPD to address the gender issue by inclusion of women participants from Shimpur and Ratnabaty villages in Comilla District. The objectives and activities of the Field Workshop on Seed Processing for rural farmers were to increase awareness and knowledge building on Seed Processing from modern technologies and learn from each other's 'best practices', considering the context of respective country and identifying fake seeds in the market. Through this field workshop various activities beneficial for rural farmers would be generated. These are:

- Reduce or bridging the gap between service providers and rural farmers;
- knowledge generation for farmers and other stakeholders like practitioners, researchers, academics and policy makers;
- get to know the field situation problems which could be inputs for further 'National Workshop', aiming to address the limitations;
- disseminate the seed technology training through organising field workshop by seed expert/resource persons;
- make available inputs like sample of seed to the trained farmers; and
- practical guidance and demonstration by the seed expert to the selected farmers.



Field workshop in Bamoil Village, Comilla





After organising the field workshops on seed processing, PPD team visited the farmers groups in respective CVDPs and interviewed and received feedback from Mr. Jahirul Islam Bhuiya, Manager, CVDP, Panchkitta, Mr. Aminul Islam, Manager, CVDP, Raicho and Ms. Piyara Begum, Member, Shimpur CVD. Society.

As an outcome of these workshops, PPD has developed a new model as case study 'Bridging the Gap between Public, Private and Farmers (PPF) in Agricultural Development - A Case of Seed.' This new model of development at field level was presented at the 5th Regional Policy Dialogue held in December 2011.

From the experiences of the field workshops it was found that there is a gap between the receivers (farmers) and For Profit Service Providers (FPSP) in the village or grass root level. There is lack of operational mechanism regarding follow-up with service providers in favour of farmers, as buyers or, receivers in decentralised manner. Sometimes,



*The grass-roots level beneficiaries*

farmers are not aware of their rights and follow-up procedures with the service providers to get the best available services against the money they usually spent. In fact, there should be two-way communication between two parties, which is often not found in rural project areas. So, it is the poor farmers, who often become the losers and are exploited by the agricultural service providers/dealers. For example, they pay for a seed packet produced by FPSP for at least 80% germination, but often it is found that the germination rate is nominal, sometime being as low as 30%. It has not only negative impact on farmers income on but also food security and GDP. It is therefore, felt that there should be a follow up and coordination mechanism at the field level, which can get the farmers to service providers and to establish their rights as seed consumers.

## **Collaboration with other Development Partners**

### **Exchange on Best Practices of Rural Development in Bangladesh for Yemen Officials**

CIRDAP received a request from Social Development Fund (SFD) in Yemen, which is an autonomous State Organisation under a Board of Directors, Chaired by the Honourable Prime Minister of Yemen to organise an exposure-cum-study visit on best practices of rural development projects in Bangladesh. Accordingly CIRDAP and Social Development Fund (SFD) Yemen, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 24 January 2011 at the CIRDAP headquarters in Dhaka. The MoU is signed to work together in collaboration for implementing the 'Exposure-cum-Study Visit on Best Practices of RD Projects in Bangladesh by Five Yemen Officials from 25 January to 5 February 2011. The MoU may further be extended as and when required for mutual benefits in the field of rural development. The five senior participants were from the Agriculture and Rural Development Unit, SFD. The project was funded by World Bank. The objectives of the Exposure-cum-Study Visit were to enable the participants to gather knowledge and 'know how' regarding various multi sectorial interventions addressing PA and RD by different stakeholders (i.e. GO, NGOs and private sectors) in rural Bangladesh. The programme contents were: a) The concept, principles and features of 'Comilla Model' based on Integrated Rural Development





*Visit to seed processing factory*



*Group photograph of participants with CIRDAP officials*

(IRD); b) The evolution of CARD on the basis of CIPS and its application as methodology in CIRDAP Pilot Projects/Action Research; c) Institutions, Mechanisms, Policies and tools for Agriculture Extension, Local Government, Cooperatives and Rural Development, Self -help Groups and Community Organisations; d) The activities based on best practices of RD and PA by the national institutions under GoB and Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the field of Social Mobilisations, cooperatives, micro credit and income generating activities, sustainable rural development and child focused school based community level planning and implementation on hygiene and sanitation programme; and e) Knowledge of replication of the models based on success stories (i.e. CVDP based on IRD Model, Low-cost irrigation and multipurpose deep tube well, Plant Clinic model, Maria Seed processing model, Link Model for rural development by decentralisation, research in agriculture extension and Community model focusing on Children) in participants own country, considering the country context and proper feasibility study.

The methodology of the exposure-cum-study visit included lectures and interactive discussions both at office and during field visits. Exposure visits and field visits were made in order to demonstrate the participatory tools and techniques as well as community interventions. Lectures, interpretations and translations were delivered by CIRDAP staff and sometimes by project staff and visits were made to relevant departments and organisations. Handouts, brochures, copy of presentations, CDs were made available to the participants for their reference and use.

### **MoU Signing between CIRDAP and IJSG**

CIRDAP and the International Jute Study Group (IJSG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding of Cooperation (MoUC) on 27 July 2011 at the IJSG headquarters in Dhaka in presence of professionals from both organisations. The two regional inter-governmental bodies' headquarters are situated in Dhaka, the Director, Pilot Projects, CIRDAP and Consultant, Operations IJSG made several discussions and arranged a meeting to identify the areas of mutual cooperation, addressing common areas of interest. IJSG, like CIRDAP, is also, an intergovernmental body set up under the aegis of a UN body, i.e. UNCTAD to function as the International Commodity Body (ICB) for Jute, Kenaf and other Allied Fibers. The International Jute Study Group (IJSG), the legal successor to the erstwhile International Jute Organisation (IJO), was established on 27 April 2002 in Dhaka Bangladesh. IJSG is a promoter of international trade in jute and jute products. The 30-member state organisation is also engaged in introducing new products from jute and other natural fibers to boost trade of environmental friendly products. The cooperation deal under MOUC would help to undertake researches to promote production and use of jute in efforts to help in minimising the rural poverty. Under the MoUC, these organisations may conduct a



joint study and action research or undertake pilot projects. The organisations would also, work for capacity building, undertake study visits and share information and experience. In fact, both CIRDAP and IJSG recognised that promoting and generating rural income generation, entrepreneurship and employment would help in developing the rural areas of the Asia-Pacific region, particularly through promoting production and use of jute and other natural fibres to improve the rural livelihood. Both organisations are expected to submit joint proposals and implement action research projects in different areas of development, poverty reduction and rural development.

#### *Action Research Project on Rural Women Artisan*

Under the Memorandum of Understanding of Cooperation (MOUC), signed between CIRDAP and IJSG, pilot projects division plans to conduct an Action Research Project for women beneficiaries at the grassroots level by pertaining skill development training on handicrafts and providing guidance towards marketing of rural handicrafts products. This skill development training can supplement the ongoing project namely, Capacity Building of People's Organisation (CBPO) to improve the women's livelihood. This is an Action Research Project of CIRDAP with thirty eligible women beneficiaries in Shimpur Village under Comilla district, in collaboration with Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD).

#### **Exposure-cum-Study Visit for Officials from Housing Foundation of Iran**

CIRDAP has been collaborating with the Housing Foundation of the Islamic Republic of Iran since 2010. The Housing Foundation of Iran was established in 1980 to provide shelter and housing for the poor in urban and rural areas and are responsible for development of villages and cities to build residential units in the framework of government policies and programmes of Iran.

Director, Pilot Projects Division (PPD), CIRDAP attended The First International Conference on Rural Settlements: Housing and Fabrics organised by the Housing Foundation in Tehran during 17-18 May 2010 and made a presentation on Rural Local Government in Bangladesh. Director Training, CIRDAP also participated in the conference. Also, PPD arranged an exposure visit to the selected members of Housing Foundation, Iran to visit Malaysia in collaboration with INFRA, the CIRDAP Link Institution in Malaysia in 2011. In response to another request from Housing Foundation of Iran, PPD organised an exposure-cum-study visit on best practices of rural development and housing in Bangladesh for seven senior officials from the Housing Foundation. They participated in the Exposure-cum-Study visit to Bangladesh 28 October to 4 November 2011. Pilot Projects Division, Headed by Director, Pilot Projects, led the visiting team to the various successful selected Rural Development, Poverty Alleviation and low cost housing projects focused on integrated interventions in Rural Development of Bangladesh. The team from Iran visited the following places:



*Meeting between CIRDAP and IJSG professionals*



*Visit to Rural Plant Clinic, RDA, Bogra*



- a) Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra, Demonstration Farm: i) RDA Bio-gas Plant in RDA Campus ii) Dairy Unit iii) Poultry Unit iv) Fisheries Unit v) and vi) Crop Unit;
- b) Rural Plant Clinic in Radha Nagor, Shajahanpur;
- c) Action Research Project on Community based Low-cost Multipurpose Rural Housing for Restoration of Agricultural Land.
- d) BRAC: i) Area Office, Sreepur Upazila, Gazipur district; ii) BRAC's Housing Programme in Faridpur village under Sreepur Union/Thana, Gazipur district;
- e) Ramu village in the Ramu district in Cox's Bazaar District to find out the Housing Construction Style and maintaining the historical buildings in the village; and
- f) Umkhali village located in Cox's Bazaar District to find the maintenance of village.

The methodology of the exposure-cum-study visit consisted of lectures and interactive discussions, sharing both at office and during field visits. Exposure visits and field visits were made in order to demonstrate the participatory tools and techniques as well as community and government, NGO interventions. Lectures, interpretations and translations were delivered by CIRDAP staff and sometimes by project staff and visits were made to relevant departments and organisations. Handouts, brochures, copy of presentations, CDs were made available to the participants for their reference and use. Participations of the project officials and beneficiaries were routed through both way communications with proper facilitation by PPD staff and other concerned stakeholders.

The Housing Foundation of Iran was established on 21 March 1980 by decree of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide poor shelter and housing not only in urban area but also in rural areas and also responsible for development of villages and cities to build residential units in the framework of government policies and programmes of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Housing Foundation offices are located in the capital (Tehran) and 31 sub-branches in provincial capitals and more than 278 sub-branches in cities across the country. The main duties of the Islamic Revolution's Housing Foundation are: a) Study in the diagnosis and determine the housing needs of disadvantaged rural and urban; b) Conductor design and modification of roads in rural areas; and c) Monitor consumer loans and rural housing loan.

### **Project Proposals**

Some proposals were prepared by Pilot Projects Division (PPD) and submitted to international development partners in the year 2011.

*Social Safety Net, Livelihood Patterns and Coping Strategies of the Hardcore Poor in Coastal Regions of Bangladesh*, submitted to FAO, Bangladesh under a bidding process.

*Developing Village Community by Integrated Basic Needs and Ecological Resource Perspective (BNE) Phase-III*, submitted to Toyota Foundation under a bidding process.

*School Focused Sanitation Improvement through EcoSan Toilet in Rural Areas of Bangladesh*, submitted to JICA Bangladesh and JICA-Japan through discussion.

**Visit CIRDAP Website at**  
**[www.cirdap.org](http://www.cirdap.org)**



# Training

## Regional Training Programmes

- *Geo-informatics Applications in RD*
- *Decentralised Governance: Pro-Poor Initiatives*
- *Results Based Management: Performance Indicators M&E*
- *Watershed Management for Agriculture Growth and Environmental Conservation*

Post-Graduate Diploma Programme

Regional Cooperation Fund

## Focused Areas

Geo-informatics Applications in RD

Sharing Innovative and Best Practices

Decentralised Governance: Pro-Poor Initiatives

Results Based Management

Watershed Management

Agriculture Growth and Environmental Conservation





Training Division (TD) has been vibrant in achieving the main objectives of the Centre by developing Human Resources and building capabilities of rural development functionaries of member countries. Currently the Division is conducting and coordinating two types of training programmes: Conducting Regional Training Programmes and coordinating CMC participation in Post Graduate Diploma Programmes on Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) of NIRD, India.

## **Regional Programmes**

During the year 2011, TD has conducted four Regional Training programmes in collaboration with link institutes. These regional programmes were focused, thematic and of topical interest. All programmes were sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and coordinated by the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), India. The Government of India sponsored these international training programmes as a kind gesture to promote regional cooperation and capacity building of rural development functionaries of the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). Training topics were identified on the basis of training need assessment and requirements of the member countries as also suggested by the sponsoring agency.

- Geo-informatics Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices
- Decentralised Governance: Pro-Poor Initiatives
- Results Based Management: Performance Indicators Monitoring and Evaluation
- Watershed Management for Agriculture Growth and Environmental Conservation

All the above International Training Programme were collaborative programmes of CIRDAP and NIRD.

## **Geo-informatics Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices**

In recent times, the Geoinformatic System has emerged as an important spatial technological tool for understanding earth features, planning for resource optimisation, generation of decision alternatives, real-time monitoring and a host of related work. Moreover, such information has great potential in disaster management. The GIS is an accessibility, affordability and ease of use tool which has been applied widely in various projects and programmes in the Asia-Pacific countries by all stakeholders including Research Organisations and International Bodies in spatial planning of all development efforts, particularly in disaster management.

In India and some other Asian countries, Geographic Information System (GIS) is being utilised very effectively in designing rural development programmes, with focus on sustainable poverty reduction and environmental conservation. The recent trend is to move towards convergence of Remote Sensing, Geographic Information System and Global Positioning System for better managing the natural resources and the environment for achieving economic and social goals. With rapid advances, these technologies are now widely accessible at affordable costs. The GIS, has already created an enormous impact on virtually every field of activity that requires management and analysis of spatially distributed data.



*Group photograph of the participants*



CIRDAP has been sharing such rich experiences, best practices, process methodologies and demonstrative models designed and developed in India, to its member countries in Asia and the Pacific. CMCs member countries avail these opportunities through participating in such programme held at NIRD, Hyderabad sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development of the Government of India. These programmes are widely acclaimed and there is a desire to have more such programmes for the benefits of developing countries. The policy thrust by Governments' of CIRDAP member countries to build capability of functionaries dealing with ICT has been taken up by CIRDAP and the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has been generous in sponsoring training programmes for the benefit of other countries to get exposed to various software packages.

Keeping in view training requirements of CIRDAP member countries, CIRDAP in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India organised an International Training Programme on 'Geo-informatics Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices' at NIRD, Hyderabad, India during 24 January to 4 February 2011.

The specific objectives of the training programme were: to study the Geo-informatics Best Practices, Pilots, Projects and Programmes in India, and to identify the potential areas where the GIS applications can play a key role in CIRDAP Member Countries, from India's experiences; to exchange ideas and experiences in formulating and implementing the GIS technologies, assess the feasibility of meeting the regional needs based on existing manpower, software, hardware and data availability and assess the training needs and resources requirements at the CIRDAP country level. The general objectives of the programme were: to promote effective networking among the relevant institutions in the countries of the region and to address common challenges, mitigation and issues and promote information sharing and for South-South cooperation; to present case studies on application of the Geo-informatics in rural development, natural resources, disaster management and governance and disseminate the same at the regional level; and to strengthen capacity building efforts of member countries through training so as to accelerate application of Geo-informatics application in the region to achieve MDGs.

The programme was attended by 22 senior/middle level officers dealing with ICT/GIS from 12 member countries. The programme had various technical inputs, such as, concept and application of GIS in rural development; application of remote sensing, natural resource management, soil resource management, water resource management, its application in disaster management, etc. Besides, these inputs, participants presented country papers delineating status of GIS/ICT in respective countries. Participants had hands on experience by visiting various specialised institutions and they had study visit to Bangalore and Mysore where they had exposure to various software packages developed by specialised organisations.

During inaugural session, Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP, expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, for sponsoring this programme. He emphasised the importance of GIS and its utility in the present context. He expressed hope that programme will provide more learning experience and useful to participants and it will be translated into advantage in their work back home.

The valedictory address was delivered by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP. During valedictory session, participants expressed satisfaction over learning from the programme and had hands on experience on various new software packages which will be quiet useful for their country. The Director General mentioned that CIRDAP will get ICT Centre funded by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and once it is commissioned, it will be developed as information hub for member countries. He requested NIRD to provide all technical support in development this centre.



(CPR), NIRD, briefly mentioned about the structure of the training programme and requested the participants for their cooperation. Dr. Y. Bhaskar Rao, Associate Professor, Centre for Panchayati Raj (CPR), NIRD, proposed vote of thanks.

Various inputs given in the training programme were - concept and practice of decentralisation, types and structure of decentralisation, the importance of the digital world, the role of IT in Good Governance, Poverty Reduction and for effective delivery of services, etc. To strengthen the knowledge base of the participants and to have hands on experience, participants were taken for study visit to understand as to how the Decentralised Governance can deliver better services like education, health, protected water supply, sanitation, roads, communications, public distribution system, and other basic civic services on demand driven basis. The participants presented respective countries local government system. There were lively interaction between the participants and resource persons on the subject.

To demonstrate how the decentralised governance comes to the heart of the poor rural people, the

participants were taken to different tiers of local administration in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Participants visited the District Administration of Medak where the District Commissioner and other government officials of the district briefly informed their activities. They visited the Rudraram Gram (Village) Panchayat of Medak District where they were shown e-panchayat activities and had interaction with the Gram Panchayat elected officials. It mentioned here that Osmanagar Gram Panchayat is awarded Nirmal Village (best Gram Panchayat) means it has achieved 100% literacy, 100% sanitation, 100% tax collected, 100% family planning.



*Field visit to Local Administration*

During study visit in the state of Karnataka, the participants had interaction with the Executive Director and faculty members of Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency (Myrada). Myrada is a well known NGO in India, which is working for the welfare of the weaker section of the country. To explain the participants about the training activities of the local government functionaries in India, a visit was organised to Abdul Nazir Sub - State Institute of Rural Development (ANS-SIRD), Mysore. For large coverage of training, the institute is using latest methods of audio-visual for training of grass-root level elected representatives. Video-conferencing is one of the part of their training.

In the evaluation of the programme, participants expressed satisfaction for successful conduct of the programme. They thanked CIRDAP and NIRD for conducting such an important training programme for the benefit of the member countries of CIRDAP.

### **Results Based Management: Performance Indicators Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has sponsored a Training Programme on "Results Based Management: Performance Indicators Monitoring and Evaluation" under regional cooperation to CIRDAP. This programme was conducted in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India, the link institution of CIRDAP in India. This is an important programme to build the capabilities of rural development practitioners from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs).

The programme is meant to orient participants towards the identification of performance indicators and the monitoring and evaluation of the rural development projects' results within a result-based management context. It has been experienced that a rural development project





*Group photograph*

consists of a combination of resources and management skills in order to deliver products, poverty and services or equipments to meet specific needs. The project monitoring system will allow the verification of whether the objectives identified in the project were or will be effectively achieved. The participants were exposed to understand and apply result-based management principles, tools and techniques and develop a logical framework to analyse the project impacts and effects. The programme was attended by 28 senior officers drawn from 13 member countries, viz., Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. M.V. Rao, IAS, Deputy Director General of NIRD, Hyderabad, India. While welcoming the distinguished participants and guests during inauguration session, Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP, expressed grateful thanks to the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for funding such important thematic programme for the benefit of CIRDAP member countries in promoting regional cooperation. He mentioned that level of development among member countries are at variance. Nevertheless, rural development and poverty alleviation is high on the national agenda of member countries and portfolio of rural development has multiplied substantially in terms of allocation of funds, policies and programmes. Dr. Singh mentioned that recently Oxford Poverty and Human Development Institute along with UNDP have brought out very revealing critical analysis of rural related issues using Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for 104 countries. He pointed out that this is for the first time MPI has been estimated using micro data-base covering 78% of world's population. It is startling to know that this new method reflects deprivations in very rudimentary services and core human functioning for people across 104 countries. This reveals different patterns of poverty than traditional method of income poverty. This illuminate a different set of deprivation. These finds have several ramifications and area of concern for policy makers of many countries of Asia-Pacific region. It essentially calls for suitable policy intervention. He suggested that during the training programme these issues will be discussed for the benefit of esteemed participants.

During the programme, the participants presented their country paper on the theme that provided an opportunity to know about each other countries strategies and approaches towards monitoring and evaluation system. Besides, important academic inputs were given to the participants such as, the concept, methods and techniques of monitoring and evaluation. The participants were also provided with geo-spatial technologies and how it can be utilised for monitoring and evaluation of projects.

As a part of the programme the participants were taken for study visit to have hand on experience about the ground realities. The study visits were organised in Andhra Pradesh where the programme was conducted and subsequently, the participants were taken to another state of India, namely, Goa. These study visits were organised to interact with the rural development functionaries that includes officials and elected representatives who are engaged in implementation



of rural development programmes as well as monitoring of the programme. The participants also had interaction with the cross section of the society to gauge the perception of the people about their involvement in the planning of rural development programme, its implementation and monitoring. In India a new tool to monitor developmental programmes has emerged, namely, social audit. The social audit is conducted by the villagers themselves to find out whether the project has been properly implemented and the benefits accrued from the scheme is properly distributed to the people.

The programme concluded at Goa after the study visit. The study visit was arranged by the Goa Institute of Rural Development and Administration (GIRDA). The participants were taken Ponda Taluka where they met women SHGs and interacted with them and saw their products. The Goa study visit was coordinated by Ms. Rekha Joshi and Ms. Seema Fernandes of GIRDA. The valedictory address was delivered by Mr. V.P. Rao, IAS, Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Government of Goa at GIRDA. During valedictory session, participants expressed usefulness of the programme and they could learn new techniques of data collection and measurement of performance. They observed that they understood how logical framework will be developed to analyse project impact and effect. The programme was Directed by Dr. B. Chakravarty, Professor and Head, CPME, NIRD and Dr. R. Chinnadurai, Asst. Professor, CPME and Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP.

### **Watershed Management for Agriculture Growth and Environmental Conservation**

The multi-faceted potential benefits through watershed initiation brought attractive dividend in arid and semi-arid areas in several countries in Asia-Pacific region. For example, in India, more than 60 per cent area falls under arid and semi-arid zone where watershed intervention taken as a panacea. Given the socioeconomic context of the areas, the key programme beneficiaries are the landed gentry, small and marginal farmers. However, the landless and other section of the poor are having fewer stakes in the watershed area. A pertinent question arises, how to increase the sustained gainful benefits in equitable manner to them is posing great challenge. Government of India has launched various programmes for livelihood generation and poverty alleviation through wage employment. Simultaneously, the conversion of wasteland and degraded land into arable land under the watershed programme is also going on, which brought about some visible changes. But the effectiveness of these programmes on the poor is still a big challenge to drastically reduce the poverty in rural segments. Convergence is one of the approaches which Government of India is effectively trying to bring in various programmes.

In the Green Revolution approach higher growth has been associated with increase in the environmental degradation and decline in the factor productivity in most of the developing countries. Declining factor productivity is the major reason for instability in agricultural production. This has resulted into fast depletion and degradation of natural resources such as land, water and forest. Hence, it is necessary that the developing countries should adopt suitable strategies that can make their agriculture sustainable to ensure food security as well as protect natural resources by way of watershed management from further degradation.



*Group photograph of participants with DG, NIRD*



- Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) (3rd Batch - 2010-11)
- Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) (4rd Batch - 2011-12)
- Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) (5th Batch - 2012-13)

### **Completion of Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management 3<sup>rd</sup> Batch in NIRD**

Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) (3<sup>rd</sup> Batch - 2010) conducted by National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), India was concluded at the end of July, 2011. Where as CIRDAP nominated candidates from four member countries, namely: Fiji Island, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, have successfully completed and they were awarded Diploma certificates on 29th July 2011 at the convocation ceremony of NIRD.

Under the regional cooperation, five slots for CIRDAP member countries was allotted by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and the course fee and other expenses of CIRDAP candidates are to be met by the Ministry. CIRDAP has recommended five candidates selected upon the eligibility criteria. Out of five, four candidates joined the programme as one year residential students in NIRD. While they are young and active rural development professional from respective countries, they have done well in their studies. As per the information received from Centre for Post Graduate Studies (CGPS), NIRD, they got high score and their performance record was quite good. Recently, all candidates left for their own countries, we understand that Mr Thi Ha Soe from Myanmar is being promoted in his work due to completion of the programme.

The one year residential PGDRDM programme attempts to build the capabilities of rural development managers engaged in

rural development and poverty alleviation work and it will enable to develop a committed and competent cadre of professionals who can manage rural development in a better way. The CIRDAP member countries do require to build the capability of their professionals and such programme will benefit the member countries. The programme has been designed in such a way that it can provide the conceptual framework through class-room teaching and interactive learning and simultaneously the professional will gain hands on experience and insights from field work and attachment in the field. Besides the class-room teaching, the candidates are sent to the villages for at least a month and study various aspects of rural development and its ramifications on socio-economic life of the villagers. This experience will help the practitioner to develop the skill of planning and implementation of rural development projects and replicate such experience in their respective countries.

The course and the related project work cover the essentials of rural society, economics, people and organisations, good governance, natural and human resources development, rural development management principles and practices, project planning and management, it and ICD, rural credit, microfinance, rural product marketing, etc.



*PGDRM course participants of Batch III*



This programme will be continuously offered to CIRDAP to assist the member countries not only in the area of capacity building but also for developing RD and PA at the ground level. CIRDAP would like to encourage its member countries to avail such kind of opportunity for strengthening competency of their functionaries.

#### **PGDRDM Batch - IV 2011-12**

Five slots are offered to CIRDAP to recommend suitable in-service candidates from member countries for the one year Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) (Batch - IV: 2011) being conducted by the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India. As per the prescribed norms and eligible criteria of the programme, five candidates were selected from member countries. The candidates are from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and Philippines. The one year PGDRDM Batch-IV (2011) started from August 2011. The Ministry of Rural Development will meet the course fee and other expenses of CIRDAP nominated candidates.

#### **PGDRDM Batch - V 2012-2013**

For the year 2012-13 for one year PGDRDM (Batch - V: 2012-13), CIRDAP has announced the programme and it will commence from August 2012.

The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, is kind enough to cover course fee, board and lodging charges, subsistence allowance, and to and fro air travel by shortest route in economy class from respective countries to Hyderabad, India. CIRDAP is soliciting nominations from its member countries and it will be scrutinised on the prescribed criteria. On the basis of eligibility criteria and suitability of the candidature, nominations will be forwarded to NIRD for consideration for admission in the programme.

### **Regional Cooperation Fund**

#### **The Backdrop**

The 15th Governing Council (GC) of CIRDAP, 2005 decided to establish Regional Cooperation Fund (RCF) at CIRDAP through voluntary contribution from member countries with a view to have more vibrant regional / bilateral cooperation among the member countries, and to enhance and build capabilities of the available human resources and link organisations with various instrumentalities, viz., Internship, Sabbatical, Short Term Research Studies, etc. Such effort will give fillip to academic endeavours, intellectual dialogue and better institutional relationship among the member countries.

Evidently, Asia-Pacific region has enormous successful and innovative experiments in rural development and poverty alleviation that needs to be captured, documented and disseminated for better understanding and appreciation of rural development and poverty alleviation policies and efforts, which, in turn, will facilitate exchange of expertise and enhancing individual and institutional capabilities. Thus, the rationale behind creation of RCF is to create suitable academic ambience, facilitate cross fertilisation of ideas and encourage member countries by providing financial, technical and administrative support so that officers / faculty from CIRDAP Contact Ministries (CCMs)/CIRDAP Link Institutions (CLIs) can take up such academic activities for generating knowledge base which can be utilised by the member countries and link institutions.

#### **A. Internship Programme**

The basic premise of 'Internship Programme' is to build individual's research capability and strengthen academic pursuits, in turn, it will build institutional capabilities. The internees will conduct research study and prepare report and share experiences on critical aspects of poverty alleviation and rural development. Such academic contribution will be documented and disseminated to utilise that knowledge.

-The internship programme is open for nominees, particularly young officers from CCMs and faculty from CLIs, who will be deputed at the CIRDAP Headquarters, Dhaka to take up short term thematic research study and prepare the report.

*Contd.*



- Salary and other admissible perks of such officials will be borne by the respective country.
- International travel cost and local hospitality at Dhaka, Bangladesh will be covered under RCF.
- CIRDAP will provide technical and academic support. The research report will be submitted to CIRDAP, which will be circulated to all member countries to utilise it.
- The period for internship shall not be more than three months.
- This is not a cross country programme. It is only available at the CIRDAP Headquarters.

### **B. Sabbatical Programme**

The purpose of 'Sabbatical Programme' is to have faculty exchange and intellectual dialogue, which will eventually create a group of experts in the region and such expertise could be utilised by CLIs. This programme is open from one CIRDAP member country to another. Since CIRDAP has limited number of professional positions, so representation from all member countries can not be accommodated. If such unrepresented countries would like to have academic engagement with CIRDAP, then the Sabbatical Programme can be utilised. Moreover, the expertise and specialisation of the person can also be utilised by the host institution during his/her stay.

- A member country may depute official to attend short-term training programme (not less than one month) being organised by other link institute.
- CMCs / CLIs may depute officers / faculty under short term sabbatical exchange to work at CIRDAP Headquarters.
- CLI may have faculty exchange by deputing faculty member for short term work at another CLI.
- Salary and other admissible perks of such officials will be borne by the respective country.
- International air travel will be covered under RCF.
- The host country will provide local hospitality that includes board and lodging, local transportation and some pocket allowance.
- The reports will be submitted to CIRDAP, which will be circulated to all member countries to utilise it.

### **C. Short Term Research Study**

The objective of 'Short Term Research Study' is to capture the available innovative and best practices in rural development and poverty alleviation among member countries. For the purpose, CCMs / CLIs may have to submit a short term research proposal within the scope of the scheme. The research study report will be documented and disseminated by CIRDAP. Such study will provide inputs in the policy formulation and enhance research capabilities.

- CLIs have to develop and prepare a list of available innovative and best practices in their respective countries. The list will be shared among CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) to take up research study.
- CMCs / CLIs are required to prepare Research Proposals within the scope of the scheme and submit it to CIRDAP.
- The short term study will be country specific ( not more than one country) as a particular innovative programme may not be available in other countries
- This scheme is not open to persons to study within their own country rather one has to take up research study in other country.
- Salary and other admissible perks of the researcher / officer will be borne by the respective country.
- International travel cost will be covered under RCF.
- The host country will provide local hospitality that includes board and lodging, local transportation and some pocket allowance.
- A short term research study shall not be more than three months.
- The research reports will be submitted to CIRDAP, which will be circulated to all member countries to utilise it.

Only few member countries have sent project proposals. It has been scrutinised and informed to all concerned.



# Information and Communication

- Knowledge Generation, Management and Dissemination
- New Website & Intranet
- ICT Support and Services
- Internal Staff Training
- Establishment of ICT Centre
- Library Services
- Audio-Visual Services
- Public Relations

## Focused Areas

- Strengthening ICT Support
- Knowledge Generation, Dissemination
- Sharing Experiences
- Capacity Building
- Enhancing Centre's Image





In 2011, the Information and Communication Division (ICD) of CIRDAP strengthened its role as the focal point for Information Dissemination for the Centre. The division gained new momentum with the joining of a new professional Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran from NIRD, India as its Director in March 2011. The highlights of the activities of the division for 2011 were the beginning of the establishment of CIRDAP ICT Centre, sponsored by Government of India, revamping the CIRDAP website and launching of the intranet, giving impetus and a new look for the Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD), strengthening collaboration between several organisations and bodies for the cause of ICT, participation in book fairs and various international forums like e-Asia etc.

The activities of ICD can be broadly categorised into following types:

- Knowledge Generation, Management and Dissemination
- CIRDAP Website
- ICT Support and Services
- Establishment of ICT Centre
- Library Services
- Audio-Visual Services
- Public Relations

### **Knowledge Generation, Management and Dissemination**

In 2011, ICD made a good effort in knowledge generation, management and dissemination. Although the number of publications generated by the Centre were less, emphasis was given on the qualitative aspects of the publications. Improvements were made in terms of contents, editing, printing, designing and layout etc.

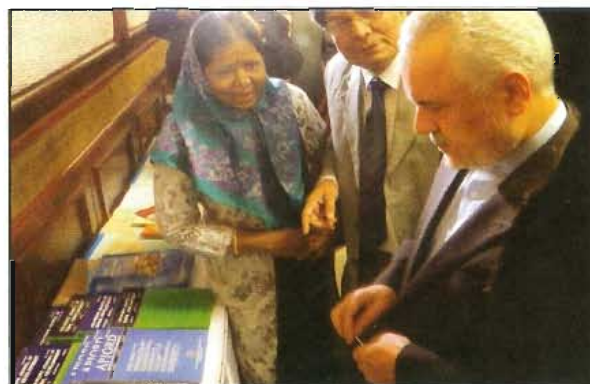
Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD) continued to be one of the signature publications of the Centre and maintained its good reputation during the year. Full text and/or abstracts of APJORD articles can be downloaded from several international websites. Efforts have been taken to popularise the journal and increase its subscription.

The regular publications brought out this year by ICD were two issues of APJORD (July and December 2011), four issues of the quarterly CIRDAP Development Digest (123, 124, 125 and 126) and Annual Report 2010. The design, layout and colour of the CDD and APJORD were changed, giving them a more appealing look. ICD also carried out other editing/printing works that included reports / folders for policy body meetings and other occasional reports, publications etc. The division disseminated all the products to the different channels concerned and the target groups. Exchange of publications with reputed institutions was strengthened.

Suggestions of the several committees constituted the previous year were followed up. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met in September 2011 to clear two publications for printing. Two editorial board meetings for the CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD) were held on 4 and 10 October 2011 chaired by the Director General of CIRDAP. The meetings suggested ways and means to improve the content and quality of the CDD.

#### ***Meeting of APJORD Editorial Board***

The 41st Meeting of the Editorial Board of CIRDAP's Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD) was held on 28 November. Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP and Chairperson, APJORD Editorial Board, chaired



*First Vice-President of Iran visiting CIRDAP publications display during EC/GC meetings in Iran*



the meeting while APJORD Editorial Board members Ms. Tahrunessa Abdullah, Development Consultant, Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed, Professor, University of Dhaka, Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Director, PPD, CIRDAP, and Dr. Anwara Begum, Director, Research, CIRDAP, were present. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Information and Communication Division, CIRDAP and Editor, APJORD, convened the Meeting.

Chairperson of the Board proposed that a special issue of APJORD focusing on Decentralisation can be brought out on occasion of the CIRDAP Policy Dialogue in Iran on Decentralisation to be held in December 2011, which can carry the five presentation papers. He also suggested that Climate Change can be also be taken up for a special issue in near future. While explaining the necessity of expanding the Editorial Board the Editor mentioned that inclusion of experts from the member countries and beyond would bring the journal to an international standard and they can be corresponding members, availing the facilities of e-communication. It was suggested that the Editor will review and prepare a list of experts for possible inclusion which can be finalised by the Editorial Board later. Some names who are associated with IDS Sussex, Oxford University, Michigan State University, Columbia University, Asian Journal of Economics etc., were suggested.

The members also discussed at length a proposal of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) to enhance the scope of APJORD by expanding the editorial board with international panel, reviewing of articles by international referees, publishing the journal through reputed professional publishers etc.

The Editorial Board approved of the list of articles for December 2011 issue. Dr. Mahbub Hossain, Executive Director of BRAC, was requested to be a member of APJORD Editorial Board as discussed in the previous meeting and he has given his consent. It was suggested to make an effort to increase subscription of APJORD in the member countries. The members suggested that an 'email addresses bank' should be created where addresses of relevant institutions/experts will be kept, to facilitate publicity of the Journal and increase subscriptions.

## **New CIRDAP Website and Intranet**

A new Website of CIRDAP was launched during the GC-18 meeting held in Iran in December 2011. H.E. Dr. Sadegh Khalilian, Minister for Jihad-e-Agriculture in Iran and Chairperson, of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-18) formally launched the website on 14 December 2011. The new address of the site is [www.cirdap.org](http://www.cirdap.org). Some new features were added to the site while some of the important links and features of the previous site were kept. ICD also uploaded all recent CIRDAP publications on the website. Many visitors to the website regularly download some of those. The publications were made available on the website in PDF format. The database on 'APJORD Abstracts' has been maintained.

### **Features of the new website**

- New website is fully dynamic (i.e. it is more interactive and user-friendly)
- Visitors can register as subscribers of the site and give their comments/feedbacks
- Language translator: helps to convert in different languages (click the translator and select a language, and the website content will be automatically converted to the selected language)
- Visitors statistics is shown country-wise
- FAQ builder / Archives

### **Future Plans**

- E-newsletter (post/event/news would automatically go to e-mail inbox of registered users)
- Social Networking Pages (like Facebook, Twitter, Digg, Flickr etc.)
- More Language Translators (All member countries' languages)
- User password for CIRDAP Contact Ministries (CCMs) and Link Institutions (CLIs) from the



*Launching of CIRDAP Intranet*



- member countries; CCMs/CLIs can update/upload desired information in the site from their end.
- Online Payment Gateway (e-payment for publication sale)

### ***CIRDAP Intranet***

The CIRDAP Intranet was launched on 16 November 2011 by Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General of CIRDAP at the CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka. CIRDAP Intranet provides the latest information of CIRDAP for internal users only. The insiders can have access to it through Local Area Network (LAN).

### **ICT Support and Services**

During 2011, ICD efficiently rendered a good ICT support service to the organisation. Internal trainings were arranged for staff members and guidance were provided to new and old users on various computer applications and usage.

Five new laser printers and one additional scanner were added to the Centre's existing computer network system. The Local Area Network (LAN) system functioned through structure cabling. Almost all the users got access to the core facilities (e.g. file-sharing, internet browsing, e-mail, web mail, e-learning etc.). Regular trouble-shooting work and supply of computer peripherals were also maintained throughout the year without any hindrance.

CIRDAP has been operating its web-based activities under two domains namely [www.cirdap.org.sg](http://www.cirdap.org.sg) and [www.cirdap.org](http://www.cirdap.org). From December 2011, only the address [www.cirdap.org](http://www.cirdap.org) is operational. About 40 e-mail accounts of CIRDAP professionals are being maintained. CIRDAP run its online setup in collaboration with Google and Accesstel (BD) Ltd.

### **Internal Staff Training**

ICD organised an internal staff training on various office applications during 6-13 February 2011 at the CIRDAP Headquarters. Mr. Waliul Hasnat, Computer Programmer was the main resource person in the training. Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Director PPD also took one session. Several general staff-members of CIRDAP took part in this hands-on training.



*A training session*

### **Establishment of CIRDAP ICT Centre**

Establishing an Information Communication Technology (ICT) Centre sponsored by the Government of India, is underway at the newly built CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) at the Centre's headquarters in Dhaka.

In line with the proposition of the Delhi Declaration on Rural Development, 2008 which pledged leveraging benefits of Information Communication Technology (ICT) to improve the lives of rural poor across the Asia-Pacific region, the Government of India sanctioned an amount of Rupees 86 lakh for establishing the ICT Centre at the CICC, CIRDAP in Dhaka in 2010.

The ICT Centre is expected to spread the benefits of ICT applications, ensure proper usage of ICT and exchange ideas, share experiences and best practices and disseminate information and knowledge to the CIRDAP member countries.

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development of India initiated the preparation of the ICT Centre during the Second Ministerial Meeting (SMM) on Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific during 24-28 January 2010. The Ministry of Rural Development of India sanctioned the amount to the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), which is CIRDAP's Link institution in India and also the focal point for this activity from Govt. of India's side.



In this connection, the Director General and Senior Officials from NIRD, visited the proposed premises of the ICT Centre at CIRDAP and met with the Director General and other Senior CIRDAP officials during 8-9 May 2011. During the meeting Director Information and Communication, CIRDAP made a presentation about the background, rationale and usage of the ICT Centre. Head of C-GARD and Professor & Head of CIT, I/C, NIRD made a presentation on the genesis of the ICT Centre and briefed about the proposed action plan. The agenda of the meeting was set forth as follows:

- To finalise specifications for hardware and software components and other peripherals;
- To finalise the modalities of procurement of hardware and software;
- To get details on UN concessions/ Duty Drawbacks/ Customs Exemptions/ waivers for CIRDAP purchases from international markets on IT products;
- Inspection, survey of site, and estimation of requirement for preparation of site including false ceiling, electrical work, LAN, connectivity, networking etc;
- To finalise agencies to be involved by CIRDAP for site preparation and development works.

During discussion, it was suggested that the ICT Centre needs policy support from the member countries to make the centre functional. which in turn, can support the member countries, for example, assisting in the activities of 'Digital Bangladesh'. It was suggested to develop a proposal for sustaining the ICT Centre after it is established with financial and technical support from Government of India and other CMCs. It was also suggested to assess the human resources requirements for the ICT centre and to incorporate them in CIRDAP's regular work plan for the sake of long run sustenance. It was decided that suitable professionals from the member countries would be identified for the purpose of pertaining training on how to mobilise the ICT Centre's resources. It was mentioned that digitisation of land records, a major area where Bangladesh can gain valuable knowledge from India, and this can be thought of as an activity of the ICT Centre. It was stated that the training needs can be assessed now and the necessary software and other requirements can be incorporated in the budget.

The NIRD professionals mentioned that open source software would be used as much as possible for operationalising the ICT Centre. It was suggested to form a core committee within CIRDAP to actually do or supervise the activities, especially, selection of vendors, procurements, installation and furnishing work. The committee would also be responsible for calling and finalising tenders/ quotations and would ensure transparency at all levels and monitor the activities regarding the establishment of ICT Centre.

DG NIRD mentioned that NIRD is a national institution in India which leverages the benefits of ICT at the national level, through its rural development institute at state level. Now NIRD can also do the same at regional level through CIRDAP - at the Asia-Pacific region. To make the countries interested, CIRDAP should continuously interact with them either bilaterally or collectively.

The first meeting of the Core Committee was held in CIRDAP on 20 June 2011. The Committee discussed issues on Finalising Open Tender Notice (OTN); Identifying the local newspapers for issuing OTN; Lay-out design for ICT Centre Accommodation for NIRD technical persons for 15 days; Arranging multi-entry visa for NIRD team; Name for the ICT Centre; Follow-up with PWD/local agencies; Furnishing of ICT Centre etc.

As discussed in the meeting the specifications were later finalised by the NIRD team and sent to CIRDAP. After finalisation of the tender documents, an international tender was called to purchase the computer hardware, equipments and peripherals. The e-tender notice was uploaded at the CIRDAP website. CIRDAP is now in the process of finalising the tender



*DG, NIRD interacting with CIRDAP professionals*



### **Other Meetings and Field Visits of NIRD Team**

During their visit to CIRDAP on 8-9 May 2011, the DG NIRD and NIRD Officials met with a number of people and visited places, as follows:

- DG NIRD and NIRD team along with Director ICD and APO CIRDAP called on the Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division (RD CD), Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C) of Bangladesh on 8 May 2011 at the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka. They discussed matters of mutual collaboration, particularly regarding the establishment of ICT Centre at CIRDAP. The secretary assured his government's full cooperation in this regard and mentioned that the second floor of the CICC will immediately be made available for setting up the ICT Centre.
- DG NIRD along with the team from NIRD also visited PKSF and had discussions on the micro-finance with the CEO and other officials.
- DG NIRD along with Dr. Majibar Rahman, SO. PRMU, CIRDAP, visited Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Comilla on 9 May 2011. He met with Mr. Ataur Rahman, Director General, BARD and other senior faculty members and discussed matters of mutual collaboration. Later DG NIRD was taken for a field visit to a project site of BARD in Comilla area.
- The NIRD team along with CIRDAP team called on Mr. Anir Chowdhury, Senior Policy Advisor of the Access to Information (A2I) project of Government of Bangladesh at the Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka on 9 May 2011. Funded by UNDP, the A2I project is a major initiative by the Government to fulfil its promise of building a Digital Bangladesh by 2021. They discussed areas of possible mutual collaboration.
- The NIRD-CIRDAP team visited Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (SPARRSO) at Agargaon in Dhaka on 9 May 2011. They met with the Chief Scientific Officer of SPARRSO and discussed the possibilities of mutual collaboration.

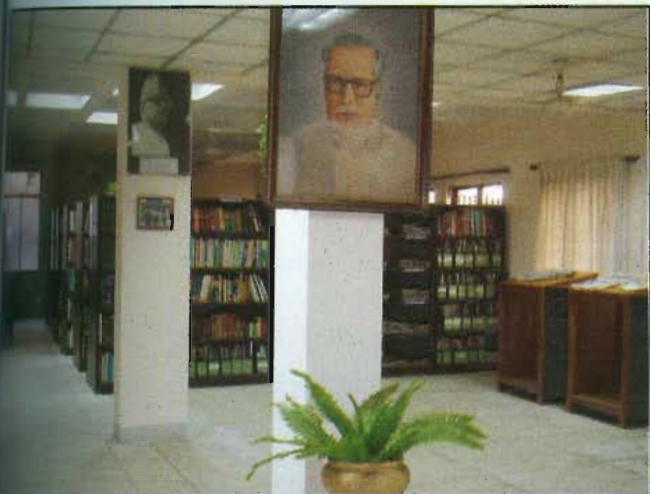
### **Library Services**

The CIRDAP library continued to be the window for information exchange for the Centre. The library section put in an all out effort to make the Aziz-ul Haq Library vibrant and attractive to the readers.

In 2011, the library acquired several books on many different subjects from publishers around the world. In addition to hard copies, e-books are regularly downloaded and kept in the library database for easy access to the readers. The library continues to maintain separate folders for articles on various issues pertaining to Rural Development and contemporary development issues like 'Climate Change and Global Warning', and regularly the latest articles were being collected. A compiled volume of Newspaper clippings from the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) was released by the Director General on 16 November 2012.

The publication exchange programme was expanded. More important institutes were added to the list. It also continued to maintain databases of Census and Statistics Departments and Central Banks of the CMCs on the website. The reference section was updated to include all CIRDAP publications. Action was taken to maintain continent-wise folders of rural development materials. Regular library activities (e.g. processing, accessioning, database entry, shelving books/periodicals/newspaper clipping etc.) were carried out





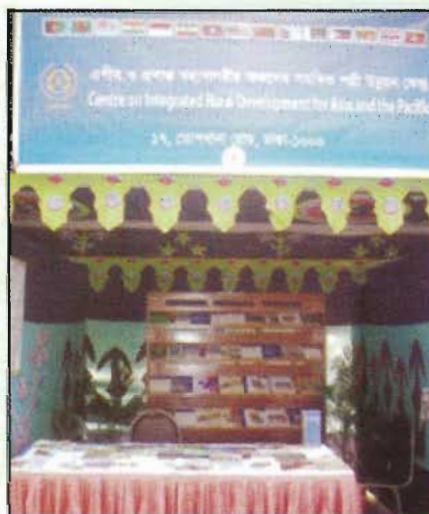
According to the suggestions of the Library Committee formed in late 2010, the CIRDAP Aziz-ul Haq Library was rearranged to accommodate more books and make it more reader-friendly.

### *Participation in the National Press Club Book Fair-2011*

CIRDAP participated in the National Press Club Book Fair-2011 held during 6-16 December 2011, at the National Press Club premises in Topkhana Road, Dhaka. This provided a good opportunity to help build image of CIRDAP and disseminate to the visitors a good knowledge about the Centre activities and its publications.

### *Presentation on Open Access Software*

Director (ICD) and Library Assistant of CIRDAP attended a workshop on Open Access as part of Open Access Week Celebration 2011 organised by BRAC University, Dhaka on 30 October 2011. Open Access Week is a global celebration to raise awareness of open access in scholarship and research. The main purpose of the workshop was to promote and raise awareness on the importance of Institutional Repository (IR) and open access initiatives. The workshop mainly focused on what is open access, why open access, what are the advantages, vehicles of open access, current statistics of open access etc.



*Librarian of BRAC University making a presentation*

Subsequent to this workshop, CIRDAP invited Ms. Hasina Afroz, Librarian of BRAC University to demonstrate the advantages of Open Access software for CIRDAP and also to help CIRDAP adopt the KOHA library management system. Ms. Hasina Afroz gave a presentation on KOHA software (Integrated Library Management Software) at CIRDAP on 24 November 2012. Director General, professionals and other staff-members of CIRDAP attended the presentation.



## Audio- Visual Services

All major events in CIRDAP were photographed by professional photographers. Photographs of trainings / visits / meetings within and outside of Bangladesh were well documented. Some selected photographs were posted on CIRDAP website. In December 2011, a semi-professional digital camera (point and shoot) was bought to aid the photographic documentation work. Multi-media services were provided to CIRDAP events. Records and preservation of audio-visuals were maintained.

## Public Relations

In 2011 ICD maintained its public relations programmes and ensured visibility of the Centre. Press releases on important events were regularly sent to the mass media, including the local daily and periodical newspapers, local TV channels and news agencies etc. Newspapers in Bangladesh, both English and Bangla have covered these events.

ICD maintained a good rapport with the media throughout the year. Key media contacts were invited to the special events.

### *TV Interview: Discussion on Way Forward for CIRDAP*

On the occasion of 32nd Anniversary of CIRDAP in July 2011, a discussion programme was telecast by Bangladesh Television on 25 August 2011. The discussion was held between Dr. Durga P. Paudyal, Director General, CIRDAP and Dr. Mahbub Hossain, Executive Director, BRAC, and was moderated by Ms. Anamika Azmee. The discussion centred on making CIRDAP more interactive and more vibrant. The Interview was coordinated by ICD.

Director General CIRDAP briefly mentioned the history, background and focus of CIRDAP. He also mentioned that since the poor are scattered and disorganised, rural development must happen in distinct levels or thresholds. The first threshold requires the rural poor to be organised into groups, institutes or communities. The second threshold which is rural industrialisation can only occur if the institutions are utilised. The latter threshold is difficult to reach and the progression is very difficult, even after CIRDAP manages to cross the first level, and thus Dr. Paudyal humbly requested experts in the field of rural development like Dr. Mahbub Hossain to recommend how to utilise rural institutes for rural development.

Dr. Mahbub Hossain acknowledged the need for regional organisations like CIRDAP since the Asia-Pacific region has a large rural population which demands much international attention. Such organisations would assist the rural poor to lead more productive lives, and regional cooperation will introduce innovative trends which can be borrowed from member states. Also, learning from the mistakes of other states is necessary. He also identified the rise in non-farm activities of the rural regions about which accurate and reliable data are required. He recommended the publication of an annual rural development report under the authority of CIRDAP which would create awareness and help distribution of funds in the rural areas. He also suggested that in order to prevent the influx of the rural population in the urban areas infrastructural changes must be made. Better healthcare facilities, economic advantages, education opportunities in the rural areas would create incentives for the rural poor to remain stable and lead productive lives.



*Discussion programme on BTV*



## Other Activities

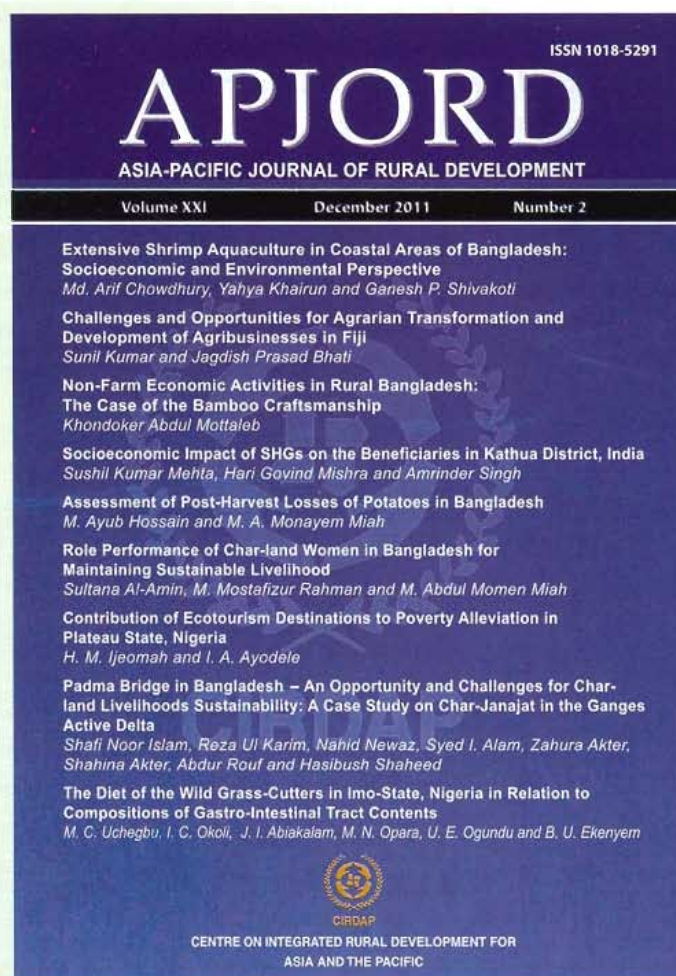
In addition to the regular and planned work, ICD has been involved in a number of other activities. Following are some of the Highlights:

- In September 2011, discussed with Bangladesh Television (BTV) regarding the possibilities of: A dialogue on decentralisation, on occasion of the Regional Policy Dialogue in October; and a sensitisation programme (training) on rural development for concerned producers of BTV
- ICD participated in different forums of e-Asia held in Dhaka on first week of December 2011.
- In October 2011 a student from the Department of International Relations, DU worked with ICD as an intern. She worked on the theme of Youth Policies in Asia Pacific region.
- ICD facilitated collaboration with RGNIYD and MoYAS, GoI:
- Arranged for a meeting of DG with the Director, RGNIYD and Minister, MoYAS, GoI. in October 2011.
- Corresponded with TISS for collaboration on Regional Youth Development Index.
- In November 2011, DICD had a meeting with Access to Information (a2i) (Digital Bangladesh) project of Government of Bangladesh for possible collaboration.
- ICD prepared the paper for ICT for the fifth regional policy dialogue on Decentralisation held in Iran in December 2011.

## Recent CIRDAP Publications

1. Sustainable Rural Livelihoods: Lessons and Concerns for CIRDAP Member Countries. Policy Dialogue Report-4. CIRDAP 2010. Price US\$7 for CMCs and US\$10 for Others.
2. Dialogue with Development Partners. Study Series No. 219. CIRDAP 2010. Price US\$3 for CMCs and US\$5 for Others.
3. Second Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific. Special Report 1. Price US\$5 for CMCs and US\$7 for Others.
4. Changing Rural Livelihoods in CIRDAP Member Countries: Constraints and Opportunities. Study Series No. 218. CIRDAP 2010. Price US\$5 for CMCs and US\$7 for Others.
5. CIRDAP Country Study Series: Assessing Rural Development Initiatives Exploring Future Opportunities (13 Volumes), CIRDAP 2009. Each Publications Price US\$5 for CMCs and US\$7 for Others.
6. Policy Briefs of CIRDAP Country Studies on Assessing Rural Development Initiatives Exploring Future Opportunities. CIRDAP 2009. (Folder containing 12 briefs).
7. Rural Development Report 2009. Study Series No. 217. CIRDAP 2009. Price US\$10 for CMCs and US\$15 for Others.
8. Poverty Focussed Rural Good Governance in Asian Commonwealth Countries. Training Series No. 75. CIRDAP 2008.
9. Appropriate Technology for Rural Women. Study Series No. 203. CIRDAP 2008.
10. Agrarian Reform and Rural Development: Sharing Experiences from the Philippines. Policy Dialogue Report 2. CIRDAP 2007.
11. Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD), ISSN1018-5291, Volume XXI, Numbers 1 & 2, July & December 2011.





## Invitation for Articles

Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD), a half-yearly academic journal, is a flagship publication of CIRDAP. It is devoted to the issues and discussions on rural development, primarily in the Asia-Pacific region.

The journal provides a platform for the academicians, policymakers, NGOs, research scholars and others interested in integrated rural development (IRD), to exchange and share ideas, opinions, field observations, and empirical findings on various facets of rural development.

APJORD focuses on poverty issues and rural transformation, keeping in view the programme priorities of the Centre, e.g. Agrarian development, institutional/infrastructural development, resource development including human resources, and employment.

Articles are invited for publication in APJORD. All articles are subject to peer review. Articles between 4000-5000 words are preferred. They might be submitted on CDs (along with a hard copy) and/or can be sent by e-mail: [infocom@cirdap.org](mailto:infocom@cirdap.org).

Typescripts should be submitted in duplicate, on A4 size paper, typewritten on one side in double space, with margins of at least 2.54 cm. Statistical tables, illustrations and charts should be submitted on separate sheets and their positions indicated in the text.

APJORD follows the Chicago Manual of Style for preparing articles. A note to the contributors is available at the back pages of any issue of the Journal or can be found at our website at [www.cirdap.org.sg](http://www.cirdap.org.sg). For further details, please contact the Editor.

### **APJORD Annual Subscription (Two Issues)**

Bangladesh: Tk.300  
Asia-Pacific Countries: US\$20  
Other Countries: US\$35

### **For Copies please write to:**

Director, Information and Communication Division  
CIRDAP  
E-mail: [infocom@cirdap.org](mailto:infocom@cirdap.org)



# *Administration and Finance*

- Construction of CICC
- Policy Body Meetings
- Programmes
- Appointments
- Committees
- Support Services
- Audit of Accounts





The main activities of the Administration and Finance Division are to provide appropriate administrative support services to the Office of Director General in accomplishing his task and to provide the required facilities to all Programme Divisions to achieve the Centre's objectives in the most efficient and economic manner. The services include, among others, arranging meetings of CIRDAP Policy Bodies viz. Technical Committee (TC), Executive Committee (EC) and Governing Council (GC), implementation of the decisions of the above meetings related to the administration and financial matters, arranging recruitment of general and professional staff as per operational manual, developing/managing/utilising personnel, extension of tenure/increment of the staff members, procurement, maintenance of office premises/properties/campus & arrangement of residential accommodation for professional staff members, protocol duties, management of CIRDAP auditorium/cafeteria, liaison with Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, LGRD & Cooperatives, Housing & Public Works and concerned departments for ensuring all diplomatic facilities, maintenance of the garden in a befitting manner, construction and renovation work of CIRDAP Complex etc.

The Division recommends and administers financial policies/procedure, manages financial affairs including arranging interim and final audit work of the Centre and of the projects of Programme Divisions and prepares Programme of Works and Budget (PWB), designs for improving financial systems and procedures to provide management information etc.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### ***Construction of CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC)***

CIRDAP regularly conducts seminars/ conferences/ workshops/ exposure visits/ training programmes etc. where delegates from different CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) participate. But, there is no medium size conference centre of international standard in Dhaka, Bangladesh, available for this purpose. The need for this type of conference facilities was felt while organising the CIRDAP Governing Council meeting and regional level policy dialogue in 2005 in Dhaka, Bangladesh where ministers and secretaries of 14 countries participated.

In this background, Public Works Department (PWD) of Ministry of Housing & Public Works was entrusted to execute the construction work of CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) by Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives in May 2007. During 2007-08 & 2008-09 financial years, Government of Bangladesh (Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives) allocated and released an amount of Tk. 999.45 lakh (US\$ 1.4 million) for this purpose. Later, due to various factor like, increase of floor area, making Auditorium wall by RCC, changes in Architectural design, inclusion of few new items in the estimate and to have machineries, fittings, furniture and other materials of international standard, PWD submitted a revised estimate for allocation of an additional amount of Tk. 835.42 lakh to RDCD in December 2008. However, Ministry of Finance approved an amount of Tk. 452.00 lakh for construction of CICC in 2008-2009 financial year.

As a follow up of the Delhi Declaration in 2008 and as per decision of GC-17 (January 2010) the government of India expressed interest in establishing an ICT centre in CIRDAP ICC building and released an amount of Rs. 86,00,000 lakh (US\$ 188,100) in favour of National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) for this purpose. Government of Malaysia sent 21 items/artifacts for CIRDAP International Conference Centre. The total value of the decoration items is about Tk. 46.69 lakh (RM 200,340.00).

Meanwhile, to make the CICC functional, PWD submitted one proposal amounting Tk.158.35 lakh to the Secretary, RDCD for administrative approval and to allocate the fund for completion of construction of CICC. It was decided that the cost of the remaining furnishing items will be resolved by inter-head adjustment of the estimate.



For carrying the policy body activities, it is important that the completion of the ICC building and handing over the same to CIRDAP is done as early as possible. Meetings were held on 6 March 2011 and 2 August 2011 at RDCD and CIRDAP HQs to discuss completion of CICC which were presided over by Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division. It was decided in the meetings to approve the proposal of PWD by LGRD and Cooperatives and to take necessary action to release the fund amounting Tk. 158.35 lakh from Finance Division by RDCD.

Later Ministry of Finance approved allocation of Tk.158.33 lakh in November 2011 for completion of the work of CIRDAP International Conference Centre with the condition that the allotted amount of Tk.158.33 lakh is to be spent by 30 June 2012.

### *Policy Body Meetings*

The Twenty-Eighth Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-28) and Eighteenth Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-18) and Fifth Regional Policy Dialogue were held in Tehran, Iran during 10-14 December 2011. High level delegation of policy makers comprising of Ministers, State Ministers, Secretaries of the line Ministries of the CMCs, participants from non-CMCs, and distinguished guests attended the meetings. On the occasion of the above meetings, all administrative, logistic, protocol and financial activities were done by the Administration and Finance Division. Administration and Finance Division also gave inputs to working papers for EC-28 and GC-18.

### *Enhancement of salary of CIRDAP Staff Members*

In the EC-28 and GC-18 meetings, 15% increase in the salary scale of General Service Staff and 8% increase in the salary scale of professional Staff Members of CIRDAP were approved with effect from January 2012.

### *Appointment of next Director General for 2012 - 2016*

As per CIRDAP Agreement, the Director General is appointed by the Governing Council for a term of four years. The tenure of the present Director General, CIRDAP Dr. Durga P. Paudyal will expire on 5 July 2012. In order to appoint the next Director General for the period 2012-2016, necessary arrangements were made to send the vacancy announcement to all CIRDAP Member Countries by the Chairperson of the CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-17) on 27 February 2011.

As per decision of the GC-17, the four member Screening Committee consisting of Mr. K. E. Karunatilake, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Sri Lanka; H. E. Mr. Zet Mirzal Zainuddin, Ambassador of Indonesia in Bangladesh; Professor Yoshihiro Kaida, IRD Expert and Dr. Nouredin Mona, FAO Representative in Iran met on 9 July 2011 at CIRDAP HQs, Dhaka and reviewed and evaluated particulars of all 9 candidates (8 CMCs) who applied for the post of Director General, CIRDAP. The Committee decided to call 3 applicants, one each from Bangladesh, Indonesia and Philippines for personal interview on 30 July 2011.

Accordingly, the Screening Committee met again on 30 July 2011 at CIRDAP HQs, undertook interview of the 3 short listed candidates and recommended two candidates in order of merit for appointment of Director General.

In the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-18) held in Iran during 13-14 December 2011, Dr. Cecep Effendi of Indonesia was unanimously elected for the post of Director General, CIRDAP for the tenure 2012-2016.



### *Appointment of other Staff Members*

During 2011, 2 Professional Staff Members - Director (ICD) and Director (Research) and 4 GS Staff Members - Secretary (ICD), Library Assistant, Personnel Assistant and Research Assistant were recruited in the vacant posts. One Temporary Cook and one Temporary Driver were also appointed.

### *Personnel Advisory Committee*

The Personnel Advisory Committee (PAC) of CIRDAP advises the Director General regarding all appointment, promotion, renewal of tenure, confirmation of appointment, separation/termination etc. of the staff members and other HR related matters. During 2011, 19 PAC meetings were convened for recruitment and renewal of CIRDAP staff members.

### *Purchase and Maintenance Committee*

The Purchase and Maintenance Committee of CIRDAP considers the cost, quality, necessity etc. regarding any purchase/maintenance of property/supply/ equipment etc. of the Centre and provide impartial & fair suggestion/ recommendation/comment in order to take decision by the Authority and Management. A total of 51 meetings of Purchase and Maintenance Committee were held during 2011.

### *Transportation*

CIRDAP imported one new Toyota Hiace 12 seated Microbus from Toyota Co. Japan through M/s. Navana Ltd., Dhaka and disposed of two old vehicles - one Hiace Microbus and one Minibus. Authorities arranged necessary repairing, maintenance, and regular servicing work of all the vehicles of CIRDAP from the service centre of Toyota Co. in Bangladesh.

### *Protocol Support*

Administration provided required protocol support services for Organising CIRDAP programmes during 2011. e.g. arranging ticket and PTA attending airport to receive and see-off, arranging accommodation, lunch, dinner, transport etc, contacting embassies located in Dhaka and other CMCs for visas. Protocol services were also extended to the expatriate staff of CIRDAP in getting renewal of their passport/ visa, arrangement for accommodation along with required maintenance, renewal of agreements with the land lord etc.

### *CIRDAP Auditorium*

To maintain uninterrupted power supply in the Auditorium during Seminar / Workshop / Conferences, Public Works Department (PWD) connected the 200 KVA generator of CIRDAP International Conference Centre with the CIRDAP Auditorium in January 2011.

Arrangements were made to increase the rent of CIRDAP Auditorium by about 60% in February 2011. Necessary arrangements were also made to keep the Auditorium in good condition round the year.

### *Foundation Day Programme*

Organised 32<sup>nd</sup> Founding Anniversary programme in July 2011 in CIRDAP Headquarters. On this occasion, a reception followed by a cultural show and dinner was organised in CIRDAP Auditorium where Secretaries of Government of Bangladesh, Ambassadors from different Embassies, other Senior officials, researchers, academicians, RD practitioners, and former CIRDAP staff members attended.

### *Renovation / Maintenance Work*

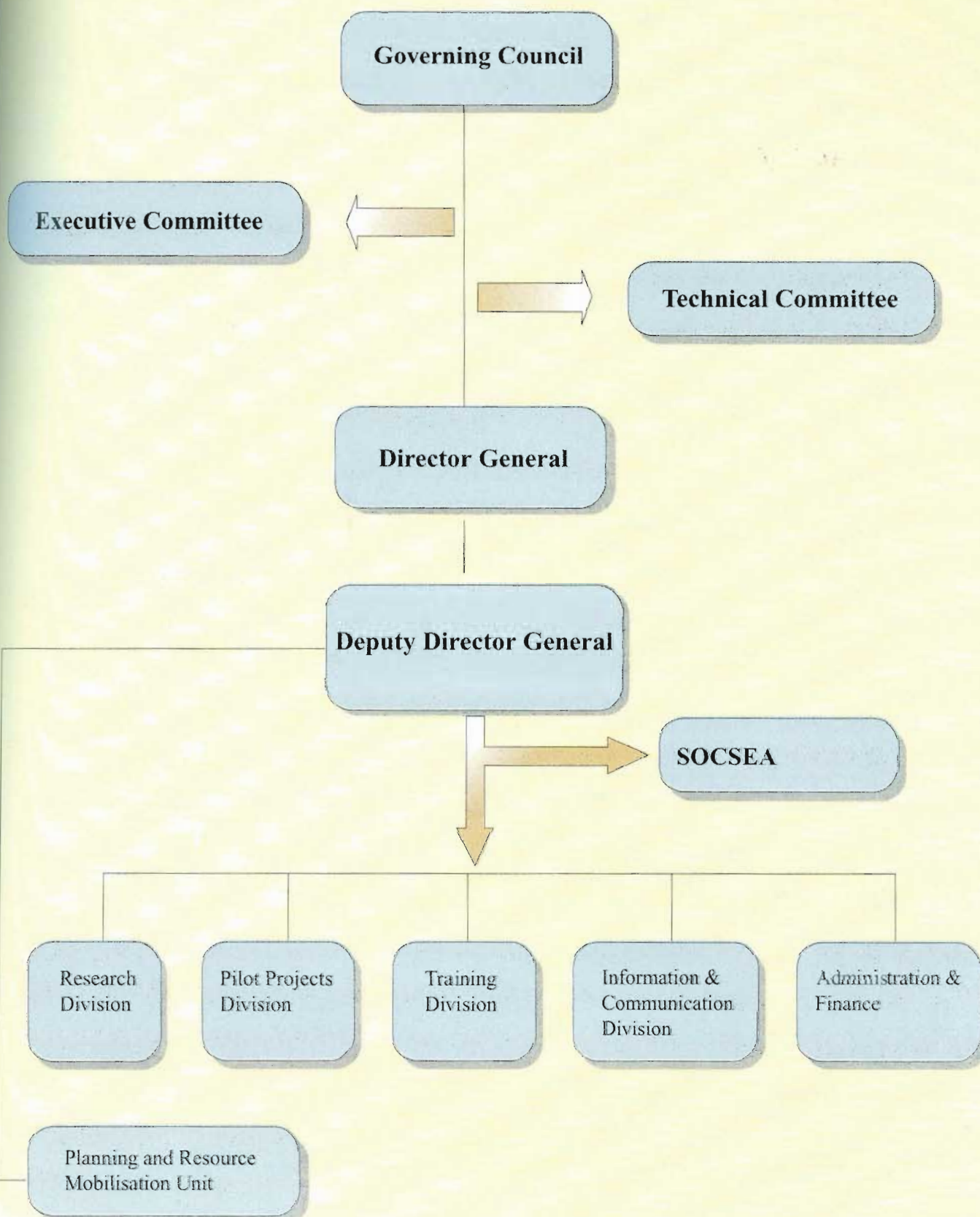
Public Works Department made necessary renovation and maintenance work in the campus during 2011.

### *Legal Matters*

Made liaison with the lawyers, prepared papers containing necessary information for the lawyers in connection with legal matters of CIRDAP.



## ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE





## FINANCE

CIRDAP has two main sources of funding: (i) regular contributions from the CMCs for the administrative budget (General Fund), and (ii) contributions from the donor countries/agencies for programme activities (Trust Fund).

Income & Expenditure of General fund during 2010 were US\$1,215,942.80 and US\$570,392.01 respectively. Income & Expenditure of Trust fund for the year 2010 were US\$440,007.76 and US\$277,155.43 respectively.

### *Audit of the Accounts*

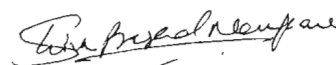
The Interim accounts of the Centre for the year 2010 was audited by Mr. Shiva Prasad Neupane, Assistant Auditor General, Office of the Auditor General, Nepal, from 23rd April 2011 to 2nd May 2011. The auditor found that the accounts were being maintained and presented satisfactorily. The Auditor's Report and the financial statements for the year 2010 is given below:

**AUDITOR'S REPORT  
ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF CIRDAP  
FOR THE INTERIM YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 2010 FOR THE 16<sup>th</sup>  
BIENNIUM (2010-2011)**

I have examined the financial statements of CIRDAP (Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific) for the Interim year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2010 for the sixteenth biennium (2010-2011) and related statements. I have obtained all the information and explanations that I have required.

I conducted my audit on generally accepted auditing standards and CIRDAP's financial regulation. The audit is designed to provide reasonable assurance that CIRDAP's financial statements taken as a whole are free from material misstatements. The audit includes examining the records, on a test basis and ensuring adequate disclosures in the financial statements.

I certify as a result of the audit, that, in my opinion, the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, subject to the auditor's observations attached herewith.

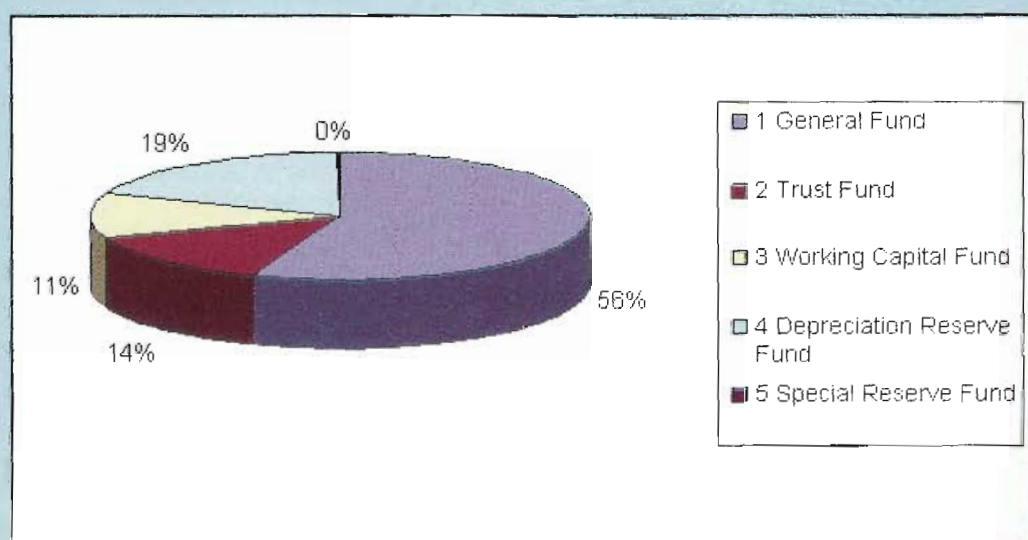


**SHIVA PRASAD NEUPANE**  
Assistant Auditor General  
Office of the Auditor General  
Nepal  
Dhaka, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011



# **CIRDAP Fund Status As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010**

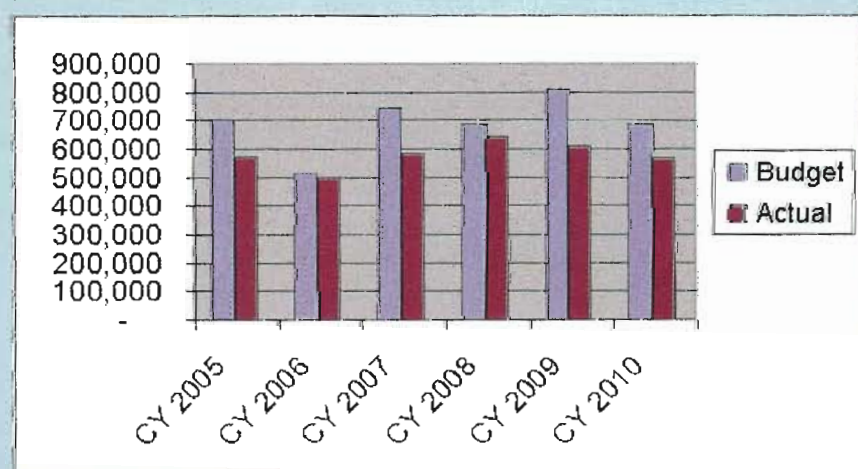
SI	Name of Fund	Amount in US\$
1	General Fund	645,550
2	Trust Fund	162,852
3	Working Capital Fund	130,317
4	Depreciation Reserve Fund	220,294
5	Special Reserve Fund	3,425
	Total	1,162,438



## **CIRDAP General Fund**

Amount in US\$

	CY 2005	CY 2006	CY 2007	CY 2008	CY 2009	CY 2010
Budget	702,024	513,323	742,692	685,425	810,568	685,425
Actual	575,848	498,763	583,873	640,328	608,325	570,392





**CIRDAP**  
**Consolidated Assets and Liabilities ( S/AL )**  
Final Accounts as on December 31, 2010

Account		2010	Notes	2008-2009
Code	Assets	Amount in US\$		15th Biennium Amount in US\$
40100	Cash in Hand	5,599.54		5177.05
40200	Cash in Banks	287,743.77	1	179360.76
40300	Investment in Banks	690,100.51	1.A	698521.56
40000	<b>Subtotal of Cash in Hand and Banks</b>	<b>983,443.82</b>		<b>883,059.37</b>
40401	CMC Contribution Receivables	279,865.20	2	150303.29
40402	Advance to Staff	23,394.60	4	15399.06
40403	Prepayments and Deposits	6,699.51	5	6314.24
40404	Other Accounts Receivables			239.94
40000	<b>Subtotal of Receivables</b>	<b>309,959.31</b>		<b>172,256.53</b>
80000	Fixed Assets	12,617.87	3	18844.57
80005	Asset - auditorium/conference room	14,074.11	3	19791.93
80006	asset purchased from project account	12,603.41	3	15611.69
80007	asset purchased from DRF	1,662.46	3	2078.07
80000	<b>Subtotal of Fixed Assets</b>	<b>40,957.85</b>		<b>56,326.26</b>
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,334,360.98</b>		<b>1,111,642.16</b>
	<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>			
10101	Accrued Salary and allowances	-		-
10102	Other Accounts Payable	15,047.44	6	12340.37
10103	Clearing and Suspense Account	-		-
	<b>Sub Total of Total Liabilities</b>	<b>15,047.44</b>		<b>12,340.37</b>
	<b>Net Assets</b>			
20100	General Fund ( GF )	645,550.79		482103.07
80000	Fixed Assets	-		0
	<b>Subtotal of General Fund</b>	<b>645,550.79</b>		<b>482,103.07</b>
20200	Trust Fund ( TF )	162,852.33		173257.35
20300	Working Capital Fund ( WCF )	130,317.00		130,317.00
20400	Depreciation Reserve Fund ( DRF )	220,294.09		220030.47
20500	Special Reserve Fund ( SRF )	3,425.63		3,842.20
20600	Reg. Co-ope Fund (RCF)	156,873.70		89,751.70
	<b>Subtotal of Other Funds</b>	<b>673,762.75</b>		<b>617,198.72</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>1,334,360.98</b>		<b>1,111,642.16</b>

The annexed schedules, statements and working notes form an integral part of these statements



**Finance Officer**  
Dhaka, December 31, 2010



**Head of Admin. and Finance**  
Dhaka, December 31, 2010



**Director General**  
Dhaka, December 31, 2010





**CIRDAP**  
**General Fund (GF)**  
**Statement of Income and Expenditure**  
**For the year ended on 31 December 2010**

Account Code	Income	2010 Amount in US\$	2008-2009 15th Biennium Amount in US\$
20100	Opening Balance of Fund Less : Assets retained per contra as on 31 December 2010 Less : Amount transferred to DRF	482,103.07	411,159.56
		<b>482,103.07</b>	<b>411,159.56</b>
20400	Temporary Loan from DRF Less : Refund during 2010		
70101	CIRDAP Member Country Contribution	<b>686,057.58</b>	<b>1,233,594.60</b>
70200	Miscellaneous Income	<b>47,782.15</b>	<b>86,002.52</b>
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,215,942.80</b>	<b>1,730,756.68</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
80101	Professional Staff Salary	127672.25	295,911.84
80102	General Staff Salary	154463.92	308,901.43
80104	General Staff Overtime	2,559.20	5,004.05
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>284,695.37</b>	<b>609,817.32</b>
80200	Common Staff Cost	<b>70,107.38</b>	<b>148,366.51</b>
80300	Official Travels	<b>50,387.18</b>	<b>163,537.79</b>
80400	External Audit	<b>3,300.00</b>	<b>6,836.21</b>
80600	General Operating Expenses	<b>153,982.14</b>	<b>297,691.07</b>
80700	Supplies and Materials	<b>7,919.94</b>	<b>22,404.71</b>
80800	Acquisition of Assets		
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>570,392.01</b>	<b>1,248,653.61</b>
	Fund Balance carried to the Statement of of Assets and Liabilities ( S/AL)	<b>645,550.79</b>	<b>482,103.07</b>

The annexed schedules, statements and working notes form an integral part of these statements

  
**Finance Officer**  
Dhaka, December 31, 2010

  
**Head of Admin. and Finance**  
Dhaka, December 31, 2010

  
**Director General**  
Dhaka, December 31, 2010



## *Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in Southeast Asia*



Since its establishment, the Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in Southeast Asia (SOCSEA) has successfully undertaken more than 72 programmes covering training, research, workshop, seminar and inter regional information exchange on rural development and poverty alleviation collaboration with various institutions/ organisations/ agencies i.e. NIRD India, NAM CSSTC, CIFOR, APO, University, Regional Government & Department in Indonesia etc.

SOCSEA has also participated and facilitated some Regional Training Programmes participated by all CIRDAP member countries such as six regional training programmes undertaken by CIRDAP/SOCSEA in collaboration Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC), in this regards SOCSEA has also facilitated the signing of the MOU between CIRDAP and NAM CSSTC.

SOCSEA has also participated in/and facilitated the holding of four CIRDAP regional training programmes in cooperation with National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), India. Moreover SOCSEA has successfully published East Asia Expert Database in cooperation with Inter American Development Bank (IADB).

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia appointed Mr. Nuryanto as Head of SOCSEA in January 2011 succeeding Dr. Almuktabar. Following are the activities of SOCSEA during 2011.

### **SOCSEA-ICCO Collaboration**

Inter Church Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO) is a Netherland-based Non Government Organisation (NGO), with its Southeast Asia and the Pacific Regional Office located in Bali, Indonesia. In February 2011 the ICCO Regional Office had a brainstorming meeting with SOCSEA in Jakarta and explored possible areas of cooperation between SOCSEA and ICCO in organising training/workshop for government officials from CIRDAP member countries. As a follow-up, SOCSEA prepared and sent the following project proposals to ICCO on May 2011:

- 1) International Training Programme on Sustainable Village Development and Community Empowerment for Poverty Alleviation.
- 2) Training Workshop on Renewable Source of Energy: Micro Hydro Power for Village Development.

ICCO positively responded to the proposals, with a possibility of providing a total fund of EUR 20,000 or US\$ 28,200 from the proposed total budget of US\$51,800 for implementing the International Training Programme on Sustainable Village Development and Community Empowerment for Poverty Alleviation. ICCO requests CIRDAP/SOCSEA to provide matching funds or to approach other donor agencies for the rest of fund by US\$ 23,600. Once the funds are secured, this training would be organised in Bali, Indonesia sometime in 2011/2012.

### **Training on the Utilisation of Cassava Waste to Produce Biogas**

A training programme on the Utilisation of Cassava Waste to Produce Biogas for Establishing Energy Self Supporting Village was held on 7 - 8 March 2011 in Purbalingga, Central Java,



Indonesia. The training was jointly organised by SOCSEA and the Regional Government of Purbalingga Regency c.q. Agency for Community Empowerment (BAPPERMAS) of Purbalingga. The training was the sixth CIRDAP/SOCSEA undertaking in collaboration with the Regional Government of Purbalingga Regency. The objectives of the programme were: a) Enhancing value added for increasing community income; b) Enhancing the human resource development; and c) Creation of job opportunities and employment.

The training was attended by 76 participants representing local Centres on Integrated Woman Empowerment (CIWA), member of Mugi Lestari Community Empowerment Post (POSDAYA) of Karangjoho Village, Pengadegan Sub District; Regional Office of Trade Industry and Cooperatives of Purbalingga.

Mr. Sukento Rido Marhaendrianto, Vice Regent of Purbalingga representing Regent of Purbalingga inaugurated the programme. The technical session was conducted by resource persons / facilitators from Regional Office of Environment, Purbalingga Regency; Student Young Care Environment (PEPELING); Regional Office of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives (ITCS), Purbalingga Regency; and Women Welfare Association (PKK), Purbalingga Regency.

### **Meeting between SOCSEA/CIRDAP and Government of Indonesia**

A meeting between SOCSEA/CIRDAP and the Government of Indonesia was held on 18 April 2011, in Jakarta regarding funding SOCSEA's operations. The source of fund for operation of SOCSEA at present is from the 30% increase of Indonesia's contribution to CIRDAP to the tune of US\$ 16,333, - which is not sufficient to support the operation of SOCSEA. In an effort to increase the support of Indonesia to SOCSEA, it has sent a letter to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) being the CIRDAP Contact Ministry in Indonesia with cc to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) requesting the enhancement of contribution of Indonesia to CIRDAP/SOCSEA. In response to this letter, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised the said meeting in April 2011. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance Affairs, State Secretariat and SOCSEA. Based on SOCSEA's request, the Government of Indonesia is considering enhancing the support to SOCSEA.

### **Meeting Between SOCSEA and Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Some preliminary discussions are being held for possible undertaking of joint programme by SOCSEA, UNDP and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia under its programme of Technical Cooperation Among Development Countries (TCDC). In April 2011 SOCSEA preparing project proposal 'Regional Training Programme on Entrepreneurship and Micro-enterprise Building in Rural/Semi-Urban Areas'. SOCSEA submitted the proposal to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Perez Guerero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group 77 for possible funding assistance. Response is being sought from PGTF in this regards.

*[Taken from Progress Report of SOCSEA prepared by Mr. Nuryanto, Head of SOCSEA for the EC-28 and GC-18 Meetings of CIRDAP in December 2011.]*



## *CIRDAP Staff Profile*



**Dr. Durga Prasad Paudyal, Nepal**

[Master's in Social Planning, University College of Swansea, U.K.; Ph.D. in Local Level Planning, Wageningen Agricultural University, The Netherlands]

Director General

With the expertise on local governance and decentralisation, Dr. Paudyal has extensive research experience on rural development issues across the Asia-Pacific region. He worked as Executive Director of Rural Self-Reliance Development Centre (1999 to 2004), Nepal. A Consulting Specialist, Dr. Paudyal served several national and international organisations in Nepal. He was also a professional staff-member of CIRDAP from 1986 to 1995. He has contributed a lot to the policy-making process of Nepal as a member of the High Level Decentralisation Coordination Committee (1997) with the Chair of the Prime Minister of Nepal, and as a Member-Secretary of the High Level Committee to Strengthen Local Bodies (2003) constituted under the Chair of Minister of Local Development. Several papers and articles have been published to his credit, in both Nepali and English, in leading national and international newspapers and journals. Dr. Paudyal has assumed the position of the Director General of CIRDAP from 6 July 2004.



**Dr. S. K. Singh, India**

[Ph.D. in Political Science, India]

Director, Training Division

A well-known academic, Dr Singh has been a professional Trainer and Researcher of long standing. Prior to joining CIRDAP, he was Professor and Head, NIRD, Government of India, Hyderabad and worked with International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, India. His areas of interest are Rural Development, Decentralised Democratic Governance, Good Governance, Rural Local Government Systems, Service Delivery, Local Finance, Disaster Management, Family Welfare, Capacity Building, etc.

To his credit, he has published five books as sole author and three as co-author. He has edited a six volume series on Self-Governance for Tribals, a policy research studies sponsored by UNDP. He has published more than hundred research papers/articles in reputed national/international journals and national dailies. During his stay for more than two and a half decades at NIRD, India, he has conducted about 200 training programmes for national and international participants on various facets of rural development and local governance for senior officers and elected representatives. He has participated in several national/international conferences/workshops and presented papers. Also, participated in a long-term programme at the School of Public Policy, University of Birmingham, U.K., on



Planning and Management of Rural Development Programme. He is academically associated with several national/international bodies. He has immensely contributed to strengthening local government system in India and designed National Capacity Building Framework for elected and official functionaries of Panchayati Raj and served as member of several high level national committees dealing with rural local government and rural development. He is also on the Editorial Board of several professional journals/periodicals. Dr. Singh joined CIRDAP in February 2009.



**Mr. Hossein Shahbaz, Iran**

[Master's in Natural Resources, Tehran University]

Director, Pilot Projects

Prior to joining CIRDAP, he was the Head of Supporting and Servicing Office for Agro-based Industries located in the rural areas, which was also the focal point of country for running a pilot project sharing with UNIDO to reduce post-harvest fruit and vegetable wastes on farm lands by training how to use drying technology. Accordingly, he had a closer cooperation with two NGOs as the executive manager of Iranian Wood and Furniture Industries Committee and the consultant of Home and Office Furniture Exporters' Union.

He had been working for about 18 years for Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, in the offices which basically were involved on rural development, especially by leading small-scale industries (SSIs) to be established in rural areas and supporting them through offering facilities. He has written many manuals of small and medium industrial projects containing feasibility studies, market research, suitable technology for rural areas, economical and financial indexes such as BEP, IRR, Production Cost, Gant Chart and so on, with a view to helping the people who are going to invest in and establish SSIs in the rural areas.

He is an expert on rural development qualified by international/national institutes and organisations such as Gulef University of Canada, APO, ECO and NIRD. He is an UNIDO qualified auditor of Industrial Clusters development projects running by CDA. He has participated in several national/international conferences and workshops and presented papers on RD and SSIs. He is a member of Supreme Council of Iranian Official Experts (SCIOE). Mr. Shahbaz joined CIRDAP in March 2009.



**Dr. Anwara Begum, Bangladesh**

[Ph. D in Urban and Regional Planning, U.K.]

Director, Research Division

A specialist on the dynamics of internal and international migration, Dr. Anwara Begum has been an active researcher, for the last 21 years, on regional development with policy implications for rural poverty eradication, evaluation of mid-level NGOs with microcredit operations, skills education, etc. Prior to joining CIRDAP, she worked in Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) as Senior Research Fellow. She has gathered considerable experience, being Consultant for the World Bank, UNDP, UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, ESCAP, EU, NORAD, SDC, IOM, ILO, ACTION AID, RMMRU, IDS Sussex and DFID, and National Consultant for the Government of Bangladesh. She has worked as Senior Consultant for



evaluation of training and monitoring programmes and gender issues. She is also a member of National and International Review and Expert Committees, Member of the Senior Fellows of BIDS, and Board Member of three regionally reputed organisations, based in Dhaka.

As an International Consultant, Dr. Anwara worked on Regional Development Strategy, Inequality and Poverty, Health, Water and Sanitation, Urban Development Strategy, Migration, Global Conferences, EFA, Reproductive and Sexual Behaviour. She has written technical papers for PRSP I, II, and the Sixth Five-Year Plan, for six sectors of Bangladesh, and authored the first Global MDG Report for Bangladesh, 2004. She has published many articles in reputed journals and written academic papers on formal and informal industry workers, climate change and socio-economic deprivation of urban and rural poor, women entrepreneurs and SMEs, housing, Post-MFA, etc. Dr. Anwara joined CIRDAP in March 2011.



**Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, India**

[Master's in Economics, University of Madras, India; Ph.D in Economics, Osmania University, India; Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism and Communication, BVB, India]

Director, Information & Communication Division

An Information, Education and Communication (IEC) expert, Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran has contributed to strengthening youth and rural development documentation in India. Prior to joining CIRDAP, she worked at Centre for Media and Rural Documentation, National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad, India. She also worked as Faculty Head, Research, Evaluation, Documentation and Dissemination Division with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Tamil Nadu, India. Her areas of interest are Rural Wage Employment, Development Communication, Women in Governance and Youth Development.

Dr. Vasanthi has edited over 300 books on rural and youth development and published several articles in reputed journals. During her stay for two and a half decades at NIRD and RGNIYD India, she has conducted over 100 training programmes for national and international participants on various facets of Rural Communication and Youth Development. She participates regularly as a Resource person in South Asian Regional Conferences on 'Promoting Gender Responsive Politics', organised by South Asia Partnership International (SAPI).

Dr. Vasanthi initiated and coordinated the first ever Youth Development Index Project for India and the Indian Youth in New Millennium Study. She also developed India's exclusive Youth Portal and started the first ever Journal of Youth Development 'Endeavour'. She has designed several Capacity Building Modules for Youth viz, on Right to Information, Environment, Poverty Alleviation, Career Counselling etc. and conducted several research studies on youth issues besides compiling a Statistical Profile of Youth in India. Dr. Vasanthi joined CIRDAP in March 2011.





**Dr. Majibar Rahman, Bangladesh**

[Master's in Rural Social Development, University of Reading, U.K.; M.Com. in Management, Dhaka University; Ph.D., Preston University, U.S.A.]

Special Officer, PRMU

Dr. Rahman served as a counterpart to expatriate/international advisors in several SIDA/NORAD/UNDP/JICA/EU-assisted projects devoted to rural development, poverty alleviation and livelihood improvement of the poor in Bangladesh. Before joining CIRDAP, he worked in the capacity of Project Director, in Char Livelihood Programme implemented by RDCD with financial and technical support from DFID. His areas of specialisations include: Local governance, microfinance, promotion of income-generating activities, microenterprise development, flood proofing, participatory rural development and poverty alleviation, participatory planning, gender development, project preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Dr. Rahman got National Award for his outstanding performance and contribution in the field of Co-operatives and Rural Development in 1986. He received training in U.K., Greece, India and Japan in the field of Rural and Social Development; Co-operatives; Microfinance; Human Security; Participatory Rural Development and Local Government in Japan; Rural Regional Development Planning etc. Dr. Rahman joined CIRDAP in June 2006.



**Ms. Khin Mar Oo, Myanmar**

[M.Sc. Agricultural Extension, University of Agricultural Science, Dharwad, India]

Programme Officer, Training

Prior to joining CIRDAP she has served as a Programme Officer in the International Division, Department of Agricultural Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Myanmar for 11 years. She was particularly involved in activities pertaining to bilateral cooperation with Regional, International and UN organisations, INGOs and NGOs for rural development and agricultural cooperation. Also she has participated in preparation of MoUs; Work Plans; Agricultural and Rural Development Project Planning, Management and Evaluation; and Disaster Preparedness Plan for the Agricultural Sector in Myanmar.

She has served as a Lecturer of the Agronomy Department in the State Agriculture Institute in Myanmar for 13 years. She also supervised the paddy farming project in her Institute, and has successful experience in producing HYV paddy and transferring technologies to students as well as to farmers. She has participated in several seminars, workshops and training programmes at national and international level. Ms Khin Mar Oo joined CIRDAP in January 2010.





**Mr. Muhammad Anisuzzaman, Bangladesh**

[B.A (Hons), M.A. in History, M.A. in International Relations, L.L.B., Dhaka University; Certificate in Management, Soviet Union (USSR)]

Head of Administration and Finance

As an Officer of the Administrative service of Bangladesh, Mr. Anisuzzaman worked in different Ministries and Organisations for 30 years including the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives - Contact Ministry of CIRDAP. Though his expertise is on Administration and Management, he has developed knowledge and expertise on rural development of Bangladesh while he worked as Upazila Nirbahi Officer (Head of a small Administrative Unit under district) and Deputy Project Director under the Ministry of LGRD and Co-operatives. Mr. Anisuzzaman joined CIRDAP in February 2005.



**Mr. Shafiqur Rahman, Bangladesh**

[Master's in Statistics, Dhaka University]

Assistant Programme Officer

Mr. Rahman gained wide experience in the field of sustainable development and environment and related issues, with his active involvement in the multidisciplinary research/action research projects of CIRDAP. An expert-trainer of participatory development programmes and a resource person in a number of seminars/workshops, Mr. Rahman is trained in statistical methods; community nutrition; research methodology and management of rural development projects; project design, monitoring and evaluation; poverty measurement and analysis; social accounting matrix; general algebraic modelling system; computerised information system; spreadsheet analysis; and programming on Cobol and Foxpro. He has authored/coauthored a number of research articles and publications of the Centre. Mr. Rahman worked as a project staff in the project 'Food Control Drainage and Irrigation (FCDI)' since 1986 prior to his formal joining in CIRDAP in 1991.



**Mr. David Hilton, Bangladesh**

[B.S.S. (Hons.), M.S.S. in Govt. & Politics, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh; M.S. in Economic Development, Eastern University, U.S.A.]

Assistant Programme Officer

His areas of expertise include project feasibility, baseline survey, management, participatory monitoring and evaluation, and preparing project proposals. Experienced as facilitator in Participatory Project Cycle Management and PRA exercises both at home and abroad. Prior to joining CIRDAP, Mr. David served as Training Officer for two years and later on Research and Evaluation Officer for three years in World Vision of Bangladesh. He also worked as an Intern Consultant in two non-profit organisations, viz. Olde Kensington Redevelopment Corporation and St. Simeon's Community Centre, Philadelphia, USA, and assisted in developing their strategic plan, funding strategy, organisational development etc. He participated in several workshops, trainings at national and international level. He has Co-authored number of articles based on action research projects. Mr. David Joined CIRDAP in March 1998.





**Muhammad Shahadat Hossain, Bangladesh**

[M.Com in Accounting; MBA in Finance- EWU, CA (cc)]

Finance Officer

Mr. Muhammad Shahadat Hossain has intensive experience in budgeting, financial planning and reporting, ratio analysis, fund management, company law, local TAX & VAT Laws. He has eleven years job experience in Accounts & Finance section. He worked in Asian Consumer Care, a multinational and a joint venture of Dabur International & ACI Ltd., and in PRAN-RFL Group, a large food manufacturing company in Bangladesh, as Assistant Manager (Accounts & Fund Management). He also worked as local agent of Malaysia International Shipping Corporation Bhd. (MISC). Mr. Hossain joined CIRDAP in April 2008.



**Engr. Md. Waliul Hasnat, Bangladesh**

[B.Sc. in Computer Science & Engg., DUET; M. Sc in Computer Science & Engg., DIU]

Computer Programmer

Mr. Md. Waliul Hasnat is an IT professional with comprehensive technical skills and expertise on Information Technology, Computer Hardware and Network Management. He is conversant with most of the computer software packages along with essential utility software programmes. Before joining CIRDAP, he has worked in SAARC Agriculture Centre in Dhaka as an IT Manager. He also worked at the Prime Minister's Office, Bangladesh as an IT Engineer. He has carried out numerous IT projects and assignments in national and international organisations. He has also experience in preparing Specifications, Tender Documents and Procurement as per Public Procurement Regulation (PPR). Mr. Hasnat joined CIRDAP in August 2008.



**Mr. Safiul Azam, Bangladesh**

[B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc. in Statistics, Chittagong University]

Assistant Protocol Officer

He has a good experience in organising travel and tour related to international seminar, workshop, conference etc. To accomplish his protocol duties, he has to get in touch with the high-ranking officials and dignitaries at home and abroad. Mr. Azam has to arrange travel facilities for the CIRDAP staff as well as CMC dignitaries. He also has to contact the diplomatic missions in Dhaka for passports, visas and other travel documents for the CIRDAP delegates coming from abroad. Mr. Azam joined CIRDAP in March 1991.





**Ms. Zeenat Ahmed, Bangladesh**

[B.S.S (Hon.) and M.S.S. in Economics, Dhaka University]

Assistant Information and Communication Officer

She has experience in project management, monitoring and evaluation, information management, designing communication strategies, media relations and publishing & printing. Ms. Zeenat is also trained in economic modelling, growth and poverty issues. She was a Associate at the Research Division for five years and was particularly involved with the IDRC-funded 'Monitoring Adjustment and Poverty' project. Since April 2000, she has been serving as Assistant Information and Communications Officer. Ms. Zeenat joined CIRDAP in August 1994.



**Dr. Usharani Boruah, India**

[Ph.D. in Library Science, Moscow State University of Arts and Culture, Russia]

Librarian

Dr. Usharani Boruah served as a Librarian in various organisations for more than eight years. She worked as Librarian in the Indian Embassy, Moscow and Indian International School, Moscow. She worked as Librarian of the University of Development Alternative, Dhaka and also as Medical Librarian in Apollo Hospital, Dhaka. Dr. Usharani has vast experience in Library Development Education Programmes, Community Development Education Programme, Ethnic Development Educations Programme through Library Education and Policy. Dr. Usharani joined CIRDAP in July 2007.



**Mr. S. M. Saifuddin, Bangladesh**

[B.A (Hons), M.A in Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University; M.Phil. in English Studies, National University, Bangladesh]

Publication Assistant

With his primary background in the field of communications and journalism, Mr. Saifuddin developed his expertise on information, education & communication (IEC), writing & editing, proof-reading and page designing. He has edited a number of high-profile CIRDAP publications. Equipped with knowledge on DTP software packages, he has good experience in printing and publishing line. As a journalist, he worked in the English daily, The Daily Star, for about eight years. Mr. Saifuddin has joined CIRDAP in December 2000.

**The staff-members who left CIRDAP during the year 2011**

- Mr. Sardar Ali Khan, Pakistan
- Mr. M. Mahbub Alam, Bangladesh
- Mr. M. Kabir Ahmed Siddiqui, Bangladesh
- Mr. Raju Ahmed, Bangladesh



## Other Staff-members

Mr. Md. Mohiuddin Ahmed	:	Finance Assistant
Mr. Samir Kumar Roy	:	Senior Secretary (Training)
Mr. M. Shahjahan Patwary	:	Secretary (Pilot Projects)
Mr. Nasim Al-Rashid	:	Secretary (Research)
Mr. Shidhartha Sen Gupta	:	Property & Supply Assistant
Mr. Md. Shahjada Masud A Haque	:	Library Assistant
Mr. A.F.M. Azim Uddin	:	Research Assistant
Mr. Md. Akram Ullah	:	Cashier
Mr. ABM Rezaul Hasan	:	Secretary (Administration)
Mr. Deba Datta Chakma	:	Secretary to DG
Ms. Laila Nasrin	:	Secretary (ICD)
Ms. Najma Yeasmin	:	Personnel Assistant
Mr. Minhazul Bari Ahmed	:	Computer Operator
Mr. Haripada Bhowmik	:	Clerk-Typist (Finance)
Mr. Md. Mustafa Kamal	:	Typist
Mr. Mofizul Islam Sarkar	:	Driver
Mr. Mohd. Manzoor	:	Driver
Mr. Shankar Ch. Das	:	Technical Operator
Mr. Bishu Ch. Das	:	Janitor
Ms. Rezia Begum	:	Messenger
Mr. Kazi Sharif Ahmed	:	Messenger
Mr. Jahangir Alam	:	Bearer-Cook
Mr. Md. Ramjan Ali	:	Watchman
Mr. Md. Dianat Khan	:	Watchman
Mr. Narayan Ch. Mondal	:	Janitor
Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Mollah	:	Gardener
Mr. Shimul Barua	:	Driver
Mr. Kallol Barua	:	Driver

## Temporary Staff-members

Mr. Khairul Hasan	:	Supervisor (Auditorium)
Mr. Sujit Ch. Das	:	Temporary Janitor
Mr. Md. Delwar Hossain	:	Temporary Janitor-cum-Messenger
Mr. Swapan Kumar Sarker	:	Temporary Janitor-cum-Messenger
Mr. Martin Does	:	Temporary Messenger
Mr. Monir Hossain	:	Temporary Electrician
Mr. Md. Roman Khan	:	Temporary Cook
Mr. Biplob K. Dhar	:	Temporary Driver
Mr. Md. Jamal	:	Temporary Driver
Ms. Parveen Begum	:	Temporary Cook

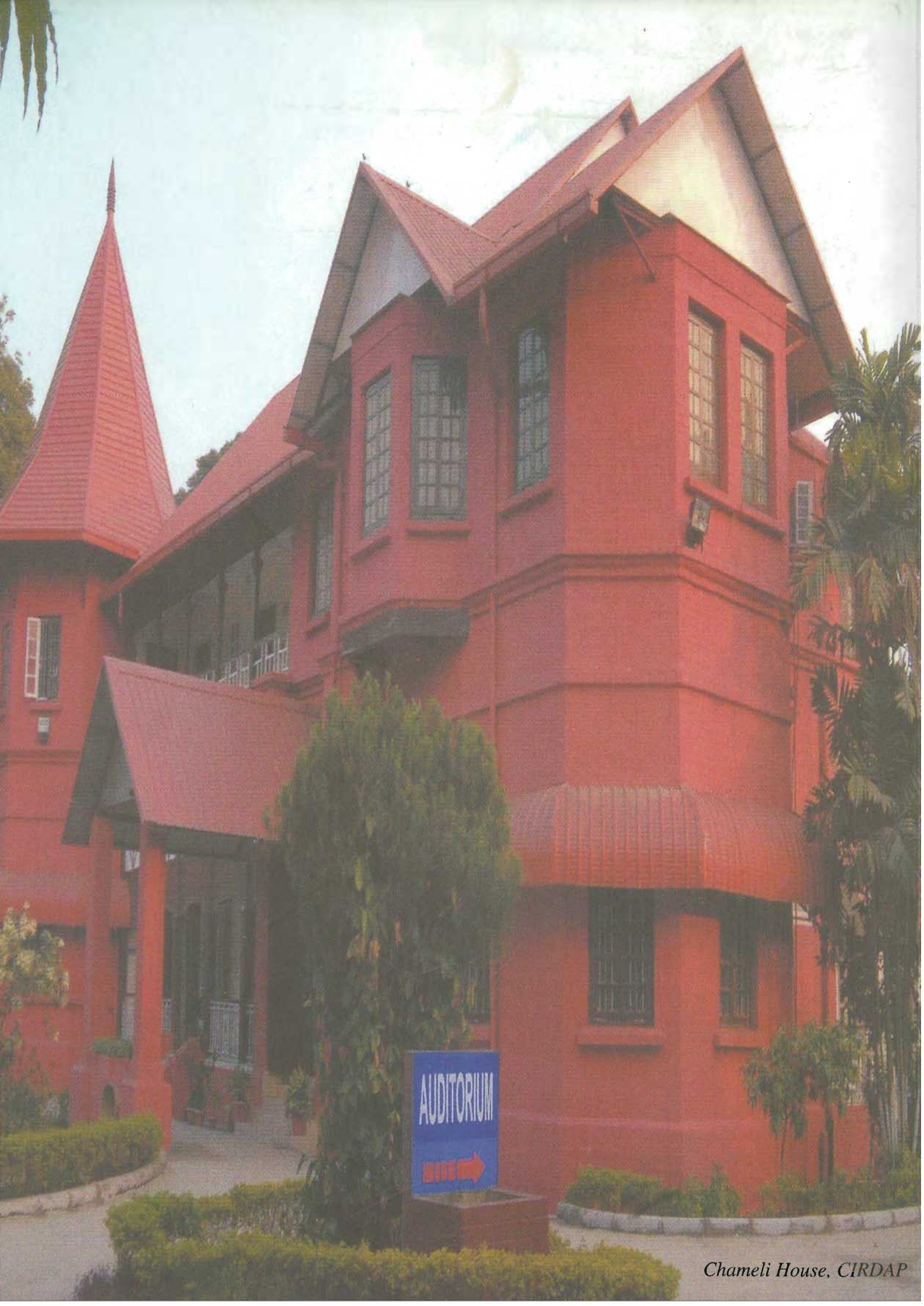


# REGIONAL IRD NETWORK

## Link Institutions and Contact Ministries of CIRDAP

<i>Country</i>	<i>Link Institutions</i>	<i>Contact Ministries</i>
Afghanistan	Afghanistan Institute for Rural Dev. Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Dev., Nela Bagh Street, Darul Aman, Kabul	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development Nela Bagh Street, Darul Aman, Kabul
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development Kotbari, Comilla	Rural Dev. & Cooperatives Div. Ministry of Local Govt., Rural Dev. & Cooperatives, Dhaka
Fiji	Provincial Dev., Multi Ethnic Affairs National Disaster Management and Sugar Knolly Street, Suva	Provincial Dev., Multi Ethnic Affairs National Disaster Management & Sugar Knolly Street, Suva
India	National Institute of Rural Development, Rajendranagar Hyderabad	Ministry of Rural Development Krishi Bhavan New Delhi
Indonesia	Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment Ministry of Home Affairs, Jakarta	Ministry of Home Affairs Medan Merdeka Utara 7 Jakarta
Iran	Agricultural Planning Economic and Rural Dev. Research Institute Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture Tehran	Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture Jihad-e-Agriculture Building Keshavars Boulevard Tehran
Lao PDR	National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Services Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry Vientiane	Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, P.O. Box 811 Vientiane
Malaysia	Institute of Rural Advancement Ministry of Rural & Regional Dev. Kajang, Selangor Darul Eshan	Ministry of Rural & Regional Dev. Federal Govt. Administrative Centre 62606 Putrajaya
Myanmar	Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Nay Pyi Taw	Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation Nay Pyi Taw
Nepal	Local Development Training Academy Jawalakhel, Lalitpur	Ministry of Local Development Shri Mahal, Pulchowk, Lalitpur
Pakistan	Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Dev. & Municipal Administration Park Road, Chak Shahzad, Islamabad	Ministry of Professional & Technical Training, Block C, Pakistan Secretariat Islamabad
Philippines	Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Department Department of Agrarian Reform Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City	Department of Agrarian Reform DAR Building, Elliptical Road Diliman, Quezon City
Sri Lanka	Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo	Ministry of Agriculture Govijana Mandiraya Rajamalwatta Avenue, Battaramulla
Thailand	National FAO Committee Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Rajadamnern Nok Avenue Bangkok	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok
Vietnam	International Cooperation Dept. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Dev. Bach Thao, Hanoi	International Cooperation Dept. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Dev. Ba Dinh, Hanoi





*Chameli House, CIRDAP*