

# CIRDAP

*Annual Report 2015*



**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, 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**

**2015**



**CIRDAP**

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



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## 2015 *in Review* *Director General's Report*

As Director General of CIRDAP, this is my last report as my four year tenure comes to an end in July 2016. During my tenure CIRDAP continued to focus on three core areas;

First, to expand its partnership with a number of international organisations in order to create a wider impact in CIRDAP's activities. CIRDAP's partnership with national and international organisations also help CIRDAP to efficiently manage its budget for its activities. Second, CIRDAP's programme seriously attempts at reaching out to its member countries. CIRDAP has undertaken activities in all of its member countries.

Third, CIRDAP continues to search for a better way to promote knowledge sharing by strengthening Knowledge Management.

### Deepening and Expanding CIRDAP's Partnership

CIRDAP continues to expand its partnership with other regional organisations, especially where memberships of these organisations are countries who are also members of CIRDAP which are as follows:

CIRDAP expanded its partnership with Local Governance Initiative and Network – Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC-LOGIN). Partnership with LOGIN-SDC paved the way for CIRDAP to organise two important events in 2015 with sponsorship with SDC-LOGIN Sponsorship. First event is to organise International Workshop of National Local Government Institutes from CIRDAP and LOGIN Member Countries organised in Manila, the Philippines from 27-29 July 2015 where National Centre of Public



*DG, CIRDAP delivering his speech in the EC-30 Meeting*



Administration and Good Government of University of the Philippines, Dilliman Campus was the host of the event. This event was followed by International Workshop on Functional Assignment (FA) for the representatives from government ministries and departments engaged in FA at the policy and implementation level, decentralisation and local governance training institutions and national level non-governmental/non-state/civil society actors working on strengthening public service delivery organised by SDC LOGIN in Bangkok, Thailand.

Coordinating with the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), CIRDAP will organise a programme on “Organic Agro-industry Development Leadership Course in Asia” to be held at the Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra, Bangladesh from 28 May to 03 June 2016. This collaborative project will be implemented in collaboration with the National Productivity Organisation (NPO), Bangladesh and sponsored by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM), Germany, CIRDAP and RDA.

“One of the main lessons I have learned during my five years as Secretary-General is that broad partnerships are the key to solving broad challenges. When governments, the United Nations, businesses, philanthropies and civil society work hand-in-hand, we can achieve great things.”

**Ban Ki-moon**

In partnership with Asian Productivity Organisation in Tokyo and Ministry of Agriculture, CIRDAP has agreed to organise Training Course for Women on Productivity Tools and Techniques for Improving Productivity of Micro and Small Agro-food Processing Business in Indonesia in 2016-2017. CIRDAP has also agreed to organise Workshop on Agricultural Insurance, and Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference: Greening the Food Supply Chain in the Philippines in 2016. In 2017, CIRDAP and APO have agreed to focus their joint partnership in promoting E-Business for women entrepreneurs.

CIRDAP has recently developed partnership with agriculture university network called Rural Research and Planning Working Group which consist of agriculture universities from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, and India. CIRDAP became co-partners in engaging its link institutes to participate in the Conference on Managing Rural Transition at Urban Fringe toward Sustainability held at Bogor in Indonesia from 28-29 September 2015.

“Creating a better world requires teamwork, partnerships, and collaboration, as we need an entire army of companies to work together to build a better world within the next few decades.”

**Simon Mainwaring**

I visited the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka on 12 March 2015 and urged SAC senior officials to identify the common platform for Agriculture and Rural Development in South Asia, especially in the mutual areas where both organisations can work jointly. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Director of SAC

agreed to work in collaboration, and in the meeting some issues/agenda were identified related to agriculture and rural development for further collaborative programmes by SAC and CIRDAP in SAARC Member Countries.

Subsequently, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Mr. Arjun B Thapa, SAARC Secretary-General at the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu on 02 December 2015, replacing the



erstwhile MoU that was signed in 2007 and expired in 2010. I believe this will open up the prospective areas of cooperation in rural development and women empowerment through agro-processing, promoting inter-regional trade in agricultural products, adopting techniques of climate smart agriculture, generating user-friendly database on rural statistics, establishing a virtual and multi-stakeholder supported rural development information system, formulating and implementing strategic action plan for rural development in the region and adopting an Integrated Rural Development Policy for South Asia.

As per the MoU signed between Non Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) and CIRDAP, CIRDAP deputed a resource person Mr. Madhusudhan Adhikari, National Advisor, Community Electrification Sub Component, National Rural and Renewable Energy Programme, Alternative Energy Promotion Center, Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal specialised on Micro Hydro Power to deliver lecture in an international training programme on Micro Hydro Power.

NAM CSSTC, Jakarta, Indonesia in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia and CIRDAP organised an International Training Programme on Micro Hydro Power for Rural Development during 24 to 31 March 2015 at Padang, West Sumatera, Indonesia. There were 17 participants from nine developing countries, namely, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cuba, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand.

## ***Building Bridges***



*With Dr. Ajit Kumar, Vice Chancellor, National Institute of Food Technology and Entrepreneurship Management, India in January*



*DG, CIRDAP participated in the CAPSA-ESCAP Meeting in Indonesia in February*



*Meeting with Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri, DG, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies in February*



*DG, CIRDAP met Dr. Ramkrishna, Director, NAARM, Hyderabad in March*



A delegation from OECD-KPC led by Mr. Kong Bumsuk, Director of Public Governance Programme, visited CIRDAP headquarters in Dhaka from 17 to 19 December 2015 to discuss possible partnership between CIRDAP and OECD-KPC which would lead these two organisations to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to promote public governance, capacity building and other related themes on sustainable development goals. Mr. Bumsuk expressed his aspiration that the meeting outcome will result to build cooperation between the two organisations. He appreciated CIRDAP's effort in rural development in the region saying that his organisation would like to contribute in building regional partnership across the Asia-Pacific region.

## Reaching out to CIRDAP Member Countries

One of the objectives of the establishment of CIRDAP is to assist national action and promote regional cooperation relating to integrated rural development through a network of national institutions in member states. Taking objective into account, CIRDAP has during the year adopted a policy to reach out to member countries through various activities:

In Lao's People Democratic Republic CIRDAP organised collaborative knowledge sharing workshop on Bamboo Value Chain in selected CIRDAP Member Countries in July 7-8 in Vientiane. CIRDAP was fully aware that bamboo tree is the most common natural resources that integrated with rural life people could find in most of Southeast Asia and some part of South Asia. However, with the exception of Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines, bamboo has not yet become very important component in converting bamboo tree as a value added product that can help generating income from the rural poor.



*Meeting with Mr. J.K. Mohapatra, Secretary (RD), Ministry of Rural Development, India in March*



*DG, CIRDAP met Dr. Hiroyuki Konuma, Chief of the FAO Asia Pacific Office in Bangkok in April*



*DG with Secretary General of APO Dr. Mari Amano at Asian Productivity Organisation in Bangkok in April*



*DG with Dr. Celistio at Asian Productivity Organisation in Bangkok in April*



In partnership with Forestry Research Center of the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Agro Forestry Consultant Ltd (AFC) in Lao PDR, CIRDAP engaged bamboo experts from Vietnam's Polymer Centre of Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST) Dr. Nguyen Van Duy Linh and expert from Natural Resources Ecosystem Research Institute of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Philippines Dr. Gregorio Santos.

The collaborative workshop was a success in encouraging participants who were mostly government of Lao PDR's officials and private sectors to have a larger goal of setting a road map on bamboo value chain in the country. The exchange experiences shared by the two experts from Vietnam and Philippine have helped the Lao PDR's government officials the highly value of bamboo once it can be transformed as a value added product as an instrument of income generating activity using the most common product in rural Lao PDR.

A high level delegation Director General, CIRDAP visited small agro-processing industry in Indonesia from 09 to 12 October 2015. The delegation included Dr. Azeem, Director General, National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), Pakistan, and Dr. M.A. Matin, Director General, Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra, Bangladesh. The purpose of the visit was to gain practical knowledge on how the smallholders are contributing towards the agro-processing industry in Indonesia.. It may be mentioned here that CIRDAP in collaboration with the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) developed a project and going to submit to the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) for funding to promote small scale agro-processing for the smallholders in South Asia region in light of the experiences of the South-east Asia.



*H.E. Pema Choden, Ambassador, Royal Bhutanese Embassy to Bangladesh visited CIRDAP in May*



*With Dr. Watcharas, Director, the Mekhong Institute at Khon Khaen University Campus, Thailand in May*



*H.E. Mr. Hari Kumar Shrestha, Ambassador, Embassy of Nepal to Bangladesh visited CIRDAP in June*



*Meeting with delegates from OECD KOREA Policy Centre led by Mr. Kong Bumsuk, Director of Public Governance Programme in CIRDAP in December*



Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand organised a workshop on 'Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and the New Theory' in May 2015 at Bangkok and Petchaburi Province, Thailand. A field visit was organised to Chang-Hua-Mua Royal Initiative Project to have hands on experience about the implementation process and understand the ground realities. Seven participants attended the workshop from various CIRDAP countries.

To sensitise and familiarise with the approaches and practices adopted by the successful micro-finance institutions of Bangladesh since the country is treated the birth places of micro credit through evolution from successful cooperative model like 'Comilla Model', CIRDAP organised a Training-cum-Exposure Visit on Micro-Finance in Bangladesh for Indian Officials from 17 to 24 January 2015 in collaboration with Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, India. The delegates attended the briefing sessions on ASA, BRAC, Grameen Bank, Institute of Microfinance (InM), BURO Bangladesh, Proshika, Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Bangladesh Bank, Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA) etc. to understand the micro credit operation in Bangladesh following a field visit to BRAC's micro finance and non-formal school.

The Government of India continued to provide funding for CIRDAP to organise 4 (four) international training programmes in partnership with National Institute of Rural Development in Hyderabad for the benefit of CIRDAP Member Countries and 5 (five) seats every year allocated to CIRDAP Member Countries for those who want join Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management conducted by National Institute of Rural Development. In addition, the Government of India also allocates 20 (twenty) training seats in its International Technical Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme for the benefit of



*Meeting with H.E. Yeshey Dorji, Minister along with Senior Officials of Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan in July*



*Meeting with Mr. Dorji Norbu, DG, Dept. of Local Governance, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan in July*



*Meeting with Mr. Karma Tshering, Director General, Royal Institute of Management, Bhutan in July*



*DG with Mr. Kencho Thinley, Chief, Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, Bhutan in July*



CIRDAP Member Countries. During the year training programmes were organised on Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, ICT Applications for Rural Development, Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development and Local Governance and Delivery of Services.

Under the MOU with RGNIYD, CIRDAP organised a Special Lecture on “Turning Unemployment to Entrepreneurship: Motivating Indian Youth for Social Business” by Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank, early developer and implementer of the social business concept on 1st September, 2015. The participants of the workshop were given a platform to interact and discuss with Professor Yunus on how to nourish and scale up their social business and respond to impinging needs of our society.

As follow up of the 29th Technical Committee Meeting organised in Hanoi, Vietnam from 17-18th September 2014, CIRDAP Research Division initiated a programme for the biennium 2014-15 titled “Efficacy of Initiatives/Programme on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation: Way Forward”. Eleven countries out of fifteen submitted their report and the findings were presented and discussed in the Regional Workshop held at NCRD in Kistna during 5-6 May 2015. The synthesis report through compilation of the eleven country reports was presented in the Seventh Regional Policy Dialogue in August 2015 in Fiji. The study provides a guideline to the policy makers of CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) concerning the future rural development policy. The result of the workshop was presented to the 30th Executive Committee and Governing Council Meeting in Fiji as Rural Development Report and the Report will be disseminated to all CIRDAP Member Countries.

CIRDAP proposed a pilot project titled “Financial Inclusion Initiative Mainstreaming Interest-Free Microfinance: Zero-Carbon Footprints-Rickshaw Pullers Innovation Challenge to Poverty Eradication” in Keraniganj and Savar, Dhaka as initial areas of operation for the project. In the meeting, it was agreed that CIRDAP, IPA and ASA will discuss further about the initiative to prepare the project concept describing methodology and institutional arrangements. IPA was tasked to prepare the project proposal which will be shared to ASA.

As per recommendation of EC-29 and decision of GC-19 that, “CIRDAP may work out a plan to undertake the visit to other prospective Asian countries such as Bhutan, Yemen, Cambodia and Tajikistan to bring them into its fold”, CIRDAP invited the Chairperson of EC-29 and GC-19 to visit Bhutan and Cambodia to request them to become a member of CIRDAP. The Chairperson of the EC-29 and GC-19 had scheduled to visit but later cancelled due to his inability and busy-schedule and therefore DG CIRDAP along with Director, ICD visited Bhutan on 17 July 2015 and had a meeting with H.E. Yeshey Dorji, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF), Government of Bhutan, Secretary, MoAF, Director General, Department of Forests, Director, Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives, Chief, Department of Livestock, Chief, Department of Agriculture, Chief, Policy and Planning Division, and Planning Officer, PPD (Mission Coordinator). The Hon’ble Minister informed that the Ministry of Agriculture & Forests has already informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about CIRDAP membership of Bhutan. Further he informed that the Ministry will discuss with the government and as per their direction they will inform CIRDAP about Bhutan joining CIRDAP.

During the visit, we had the opportunity to discuss with Mr. Dorji Norbu, Director General, Department of Local Governance, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Karma Tshering, Director General, Royal Institute of Management, and Ms. Roseleen Gurung, Senior Programme Officer, Tarayana Foundation.

For the first time CIRDAP organised an Internship Programme on rural development in Bangladesh for the five top merited students of VIII Batch – PGDRDM from 02 March to 15 April 2015. The main objective of the programme was to sensitize and familiarize the students with the approaches and practices adopted by well known institutions in Bangladesh.



## **CIRDAP continues to search for a Better Way to promote Knowledge Sharing by strengthening Knowledge Management at CIRDAP Secretariat**

CIRDAP continues to search for a better way to promote knowledge sharing for the benefit of its member countries. One of the critical programmes for this is the establishment of Virtual Learning Centre and Geo-Informatics Information Centre at CIRDAP Secretariat. The purpose of the two projects are to develop a system that enables academic, research, training and outreach awareness, sensitization and skill development and knowledge dissemination among rural development functionaries among CIRDAP Member Countries. With full support from Government of India, CIRDAP will be able to develop within CIRDAP Member Countries through a virtual learning environment and through technologies of ICT and GIS for easy access, interactivity and knowledge sharing.

The main objective of GIS Centre Project is to establish a state of the art Geospatial Application Centre called Centre for Geo-informatics Application in Rural Development at the International Convention Centre at the CIRDAP Secretariat in Dhaka. The Centre would aim to help in consolidating the information on all the socio-economic, demographic, including natural resources availability of the selected areas and their potentially besides planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of various rural development programmes.

CIRDAP Aziz-Ul Haq has now embarked on a new partnership with Bangladesh Associations of Librarians, Information Scientists and Documentalists to organise a number of training programmes for the benefit of Librarians in Bangladesh. The ICD Division has initiated steps to establish Digital Institutional Repositories for CIRDAP publications. Digitizing all CIRDAP publications will help CIRDAP Member Countries easy access CIRDAP publications and Reports for sharing knowledge and information. It will help future rural development researchers by providing a platform for sharing knowledge among all CIRDAP Member Countries.

Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID) agreed to collaborate with CIRDAP in the identified major areas and inked the MoU. As a part of MoU, a preparatory meeting for developing a Rural Development Knowledge Repository was held. Through this project, it was expected that CIRDAP in collaboration with BIID will organise a number of trainings and workshops to train and engage stakeholders and will be able to ensure maximum use of the knowledge repository.

## **CIRDAP Way Forward**

The fact that CIRDAP has continued to perform its mandate for the last three and half decades is a reflection of its strength, the trust that CIRDAP Member Countries bestowed to the organisation and the commitment that each member countries that each member countries will share its experiences in the field of rural development with other CIRDAP Member Countries for the benefit of lower income group in the rural community of the Asia and Pacific region.

Despite its success, CIRDAP has now to deal with challenges in the Asia Pacific region that continues to adjust with the ever changing regional and global socio-economic and environmental change. Therefore, CIRDAP also needs to continuously search for better way to serve its member countries. For CIRDAP to achieve its goal of serving its member countries better, it has to deal with some of the most critical challenges.

Given the limited financial and human resources capacity that CIRDAP currently has, CIRDAP has to seriously identify its niche and develop its specialisation that matches its expertise. There has to be conscious efforts to develop CIRDAP's niche in the field of agriculture and rural development to



differentiate itself from other similar organisations. Niche specialisation implies a strategy of defining its expertise to the buyers of development related services. This kind of specialisation helps to give a unique characteristic to CIRDAP and set it apart from other similar organisations.

Climate smart agriculture, rural finance (micro credit and agriculture insurance), post harvest and micro, small food processing entrepreneurship and information and communication technology for agriculture rural women empowerment can be further developed as CIRDAP's niche.

### **Rural Development Related Servicing Regional Organisation**

CIRDAP is well positioned to act as servicing organisation for countries in the Asia and the Pacific in view of its multi-country experience; the ability to transfer knowledge, technology and resources from one sub-region to another and from one country to another and access to key rural development personnel and organisation in member countries.

#### **Possible Areas of Cooperation among CIRDAP Member Countries**

<b>Countries</b>	<b>Case-1</b>	<b>Case-2</b>	<b>Case-3</b>
Indonesia	Agro Food Micro and Small Entrepreneurs	Micro Hydro Power	Value Added Fishery Product
Malaysia	Post Harvest Agro-food Processing	Rural ICT	Vocational Training for Rural Youth
India	Rural Empowerment Scheme	Rural Renewable Energy	Rural Women Empowerment (SHG)
Philippines	Agriculture Food Cluster Areas	Agriculture Food Processing esp. Coconut	Land Digitalisation Record
Thailand	Agro-food Processing Horticulture Production	Horticulture Fruit Production	One Village One Product
Vietnam	Microfinance	New Rural Development Policy	Poverty Alleviation Poverty
Bangladesh		Rice Salinated Resilient Variety	Rural Empowerment

### **Strengthening Collaboration with Link Institutes and other Rural and Agriculture Organisations**

Establishing a strong communication link with Link Institutions and Contact Ministries is very important. Their support can spell success or failure of CIRDAP's programmes and projects in their countries. While the network has been very helpful in the past, it has to be looked at more closely especially the gap between the commitment expressed by the Link Institutes during the Technical Committee Meeting and actual support provided by CIRDAP Member Countries, if CIRDAP is expected to make substantial headway in achieving the organisational goal in assisting national action and promote regional cooperation in the Asia Pacific region relating to rural development (RD), with the aim of improving production, income and living condition of small scale farmers and destitute rural groups and encouraging their participation in social and economic spheres.



**Dr. Cecep Effendi**  
Director General  
CIRDAP



2.3 The newly elected Chairperson requested delegates to nominate the Vice Chairperson. The Chair explained that the next Vice Chair by tradition will host the next EC-31 and GC-21. Indonesia expressed inability to be the Vice Chairperson as the Government of Indonesia recently reorganised the Ministry of Home Affairs by separating the Directorate General of Community and Village Empowerment as a separate Ministry. Philippines delegate suggested Lao PDR to be the Vice Chair of the EC-30. In response Lao PDR expressed inability as Lao PDR will be having a new Ministry for Rural Development and shall be hosting the ASEAN Meeting. As there were no further suggestions, the Chairperson of EC-30 deferred the selection of Vice Chairperson for the next day.

2.4 In the next day, the Chair invited proposal for the post of Vice Chair. The delegate from Iran proposed Afghanistan which was seconded by the delegates of Pakistan and Afghanistan was elected as Vice Chair unanimously for the biennium 2016-17.

### **Agenda 3: Follow-up on the Recommendations and Decisions of EC-29 and GC-19**

3.1 The Director General of the Centre reported on the actions taken on the various recommendations and/or decisions during the previous EC-GC discussions in 2013, India. The Chair requested for comments on the report before its adoption.

Philippine delegate sought a clarification on status of the updating of the Operations Manual. DG informed that CIRDAP has 4 Operations Manual for which the Headquarters tried hiring a consultant to assist in updating it but the fee demanded was too high. It was explained that the FAO country representative in Bangladesh similarly could not provide the assistance. Philippine delegate further remarked that the CIRDAP Manual is obsolete that could affect the CIRDAP operation. Two decades is a long wait and it has to be revised making the Centre responsive and resilient. She asked if this one is incorporated in the PWB.

#### **Recommendation: 1/EC-30/2015**

The EC-30 took note of the actions taken by CIRDAP and recommended to GC-20 to approve the actions taken on the follow up with the following suggestions:

- The Operation Manual of CIRDAP should be updated within six months and present an updated version of the Operation Manual within February 2016 for consideration of EC/GC.



*Mr. J.K. Mohapatra, IAS, Chairperson of EC-29 and Secretary, MoRD, India delivering his speech in EC-30*



#### **Agenda 4: Consideration of the Report of the 29th Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Technical Committee and Report of the Regional Workshop**

4.1 A detailed report on the actions taken based on the recommendations and decisions made during the meeting of the TC in Hanoi, Viet Nam. The Chair invited the delegates if they have any comments. Having no further comments, the Chair informed the DG for the body's acceptance of the TC-29 Report.

Likewise, the Workshop Report on the Efficacy of Initiatives/Programmes on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation: A Way Forward" held in Islamabad, Pakistan during 5-8 May 2015, instead of TC-30 as decided in TC-29 Meeting was presented.

##### ***Recommendation: 2/EC-30/2015***

EC-30 recommended to GC-20 for approval of the followings:

- The follow-up actions taken by CIRDAP on the suggestions of TC-29.
- The organisation of the Workshop on the "Efficacy of Initiatives/Programmes on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation: A Way Forward" in Islamabad, Pakistan on 5-8 May 2015, instead of TC-30 as decided in TC-29 Meeting, may be approved.

#### **Agenda 5: Selection of Members of TC in accordance with CIRDAP Agreement Par. 3. Art. VII**

5.1 The Chair requested the Director General of the Centre to report on the Agenda. He informed that same IRD expert shall be appointed for the next year after having served two years. There was no disagreement on the matter.

##### ***Recommendation: 3/EC-30/2015***

EC-30 recommended to GC-20 for approval of the followings:

- It is recommended that Dr. Somporn Hanponpanth be reappointed as IRD expert of CIRDAP for next two years, 2016-17.
- It is recommended that renowned institutions in Asia-Pacific Region including Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD) from India, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and TFNet be invited as observers in the TC meetings of CIRDAP.
- Newly constituted Ministry of Village Disadvantaged Region and Transmigration of the Government of Indonesia may be included in the list of TC Members in place of the DGCVE.

#### **Agenda 6: Director General's Report**

6.1 The EC Chairperson requested the Director General of the Centre to present the CIRDAP performance report from August 2013 to July 2015. Before moving on, the DG thanked again the Government of Fiji for hosting the EC-GC Meetings. He mentioned that it will be his second and last report as the Centre's DG. He gave a brief review on the core functions of the Centre and reported on the results of the various initiatives undertaken parallel with its future collaboration projects explaining the sharing of resources as a strategy in enhancing regional cooperation.

The DG of CIRDAP concluded his report advancing the critical issues that confront the Centre such as CMCs' contribution, salary of the staff, the need for updating the CIRDAP Operations Manual. He remarked that DGs will come and go but the commitments for regional cooperation will last forever.

EC-30 members appreciated the DG CIRDAP's report for the comprehensive presentation.

The Chairperson encouraged the delegates to comment on the report notwithstanding the concerns that the DG mentioned will be taken up in the next number of agenda. There being no comments, the DG's report was accepted.



#### ***Recommendation: 4/EC-30/2015***

EC-30 members commended the Report of the Director General, CIRDAP to the GC-20 for approval.

#### **Agenda 7: Consideration of the Report on the Audited Final Accounts of the Centre for the 2012-2013 and the Interim Accounts of 2014**

7.1 Accounts of 2014 were presented. Indonesia delegate proposed to present the summary of the Audit report. The full report is otherwise available for every CMCs. DG CIRDAP presented a brief background on the audit report for the covered fiscal period, year 2013. The 13 key audit observations were presented.



*EC-30 in progress*

The Audit Report for the Interim Audit covering the 18th Biennium was also presented narrating the 12 key observations as well.

The Philippine delegate inquired about the policy on ceiling for roaming, cash advances, etc., based on the Operations Manual policy. On the preparation of PWB, what are the outputs and outcomes? Every time there is the request for country contribution, increase in salary and benefits but do we have the resources? Clarify the budgetary requirements or annual projections indicating impacts, tangible results of the work done.

DG explained further about the admin concerns, such as recruitment of Head of Admin and Finance, house rent where cost of rent became too high which the expatriates of CIRDAP were moved out of the expat zone risking their security.

DG CIRDAP explained that the issues and concerns will be discussed in the next agenda. Partnerships helped in organising collaboration with CMCs and a few development partners. DG explained in advance about the agenda on PWB 2016-2017 and the Corpus Fund. He mentioned that if it is not about increasing CMCs contribution but rather take on the issue about payment of contribution. He emphatically remarked that hiring CIRDAP professional and mentioned that four interviews were conducted for the Head of Admin but repeatedly declined due to far difference in terms of remuneration which is far below in scale. He proposed that the Admin and Finance be restored as an equal post with the current professional post. He informed the EC Members that he deliberately downsized the number of staff, asking the Director ICD to have additional charge of Director training and concurrent Admin and Finance.



DG CIRDAP remarked that “We have done our best within our capacity to mobilize resources that is with the services provided through the conference halls rent”. Own income will manage to catch up with the administrative support needed at the headquarters. He commented on the use of roaming, car, I don’t want dramatics but need to mention, he intimated that on a number of occasions the car broke down several times amidst jams and helped by Bangladesh security officers, including upgrading computers that are obsolete. We assure you that we are not wasting money.

Afghanistan delegate expressed his views and the desire that CIRDAP be fully facilitated to deliver the commitments which the policy making bodies of CIRDAP are proposing. He explained further that the DG should have the facility to make the Centre going. He likewise remarked, “For us we are working in the government which we access support that in the same manner; CIRDAP should get it for the significant role it plays. Let us find good mechanisms to address these concerns. I did not receive the communication on time, but we are not criticizing CIRDAP but rather supporting CIRDAP.”

The Chair remarked that the body is already encroaching on the next agenda and call for the acceptance of the audit report. The Malaysian delegate mentioned to take note of the comments. Philippine delegate further asked why each time there is the request for the re-consideration of PWB getting revised. The Chair remarked “That you may educate us on the matter.” Director Leones remarked that the government cannot do the way CIRDAP is doing. If it is always charged to tradition then by all means there should be a break on these traditions. The Chair commented apparently there is the need for new ways of doing things. Could these be considered by the technical committee? No further remarks were given, hence the Chair called for CIRDAP to present the next agenda.

#### ***Recommendation: 5/EC-30/2015***

The Auditors Report of the Centre along with the Statement of the Final Accounts for the biennium 2012-2013 and the interim report for 2014 were noted and be recommended to the GC-20 for approval with following propositions:

- The excess amount of house rent beyond the ceiling for Professionals at P4 level i.e. from USD 350 to USD 450 as approved by DG CIRDAP may be allowed out of the balance in the House Rent Allowance (HRA) provided by Host Country as the last increase was in 1993.
- Children Education Grant may be allowed to be paid in two installments, i.e., in January and July of a calendar year instead of quarterly.
- Countries which have not yet paid annual contribution may pay the arrears.
- Roaming facilities for DG’s mobile may be allowed with a ceiling of USD2,000 per annum.
- Replacement of the 20-year old car of DG CIRDAP by a new car may be approved.

#### **Agenda 8: Consideration of the Revised Programme of Work and Budget for the Eighteenth Biennium [2014-2015]**

8.1 The Revised Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2014-2015 was presented by Director General, CIRDAP. There were no comments on the matter.

#### ***Recommendation: 6/EC-30/2015***

The EC-30 recommends to GC-20 the approval of the Revised PWB for the Eighteenth Biennium [2014-2015].

#### **Agenda 9: Proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the Nineteenth Biennium [2016-2017]**

9.1 The Chair requested the DG of the Centre for the presentation of the proposed PWB for 2016-2017. The DG informed that he emphasized the need to undertake partnership development, i.e., the



Innovation for Poverty, U.S.A along with the Islami Bank in Bangladesh for the action research on zero interest microfinance. Likewise work with SAARC to build knowledge exchange between CIRDAP Southeast CMCs to South Asia regarding agro-processing, and the LOGIN-SDC initiative similar to what was recently held in the Philippines about governance.

DG further explained again taking note of the remark of Vietnam that buying sim card nowadays is easy but experienced otherwise in some other countries, e.g., Indonesia it is easy, some countries would ask for so many documents. He explained again the increased on salary by 15 percent; PBAX replacements, supply of materials, etc., on budget. DG explained that many things need upgrading incrementally such as computers, communication system too obsolete, etc.

DG intimated that he had stayed in Bangladesh for the last three years which 50% from the CICC goes to the operations of CIRDAP which the CMCs should be providing. The other 50% goes to the Corpus Fund from the CICC considerable income. It is unfair that the Government of Bangladesh bears all these costs. The Chair remarked that the equipment in CIRDAP must have been aged that the Headquarters can liberally replace all these which need not be discussed here. Afghanistan delegate mentioned about expertise on water management, disaster management, climate change, assessment across CMCs, mentioned PRC, 1.5 USD on rural development, impact of livelihoods, how to make research evaluation on the impacts of the various programmes. The Chair suggested that these issues will be brought at the CIRDAP Regional Policy Dialogue. On the issue of Afghanistan sharing rural development experience, he personally agreed and supported the idea that RCF be used for an Afghanistan initiative.

Philippine delegate commented that the comment of Thailand regarding the cost for the supplies, that it is greater than the cost of equipment, hence it should be reviewed.

The delegates have given their views on the proposed collaborative projects and have generally supported the listed programme and so with the budgets. The DG of CIRDAP further explained the key major concerns that were previously included in the recommendations from EC GC plenaries in India and presented afresh in the EC-30. There were no comments on the agenda.

#### ***Recommendation: 6/EC-30/2015***

The EC -30 recommends to GC-20 the approval of the Proposed Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the Nineteenth Biennium [2016-2017].



*Rural Development Report – 2013 was released in the EC-30 Meeting*



## **Agenda 10: Regional Cooperation Fund and Corpus Fund**

10.1 DG CIRDAP explained about the two funds. He informed that the collaboration activities undertaken were mostly with development partners, the CMCs' counterpart, and trying to work more with other organisations. He then explained about the RCF that CMCs voluntarily gave its contribution. He reported that nine countries have contributed. Further, DG explained what activities are covered under RCF. He reported that RCF was also used to augment CMC's counterpart resource. He presented the status of the RCF with its current balance. The DG mentioned about the various initiatives undertaken using the fund. Likewise, he informed the EC-30 of the enhancement of the RCF Guidelines so as to improve regional cooperation effectiveness.

The Chair opened the discussion on the agenda. However, no comment was given. The Chair kindly request the other CMCs to give as well while they are not compelled as the contribution is voluntary.

DG continued with the discussion on Corpus Fund. He commended the Host Country Bangladesh for having built the CIRDAP International Conference Centre that generated considerable amount of income that tide over the day-to-day activities of the Centre. He informed the body that the CICC is the only source for the Corpus Fund. He recalled the technical paper prepared and presented by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, a former governor of the Bangladesh Bank. From the opening balance of USD102,000 [Tk249,683 equivalent to Taka], which only the accrued interest can be used. There is no other source putting up the Corpus Fund.

He then asked the delegates to give guidance how to generate more resources for CIRDAP. He suggested that the CMCs may give one time fund contribution which could be paid incrementally. He reiterated the need for the Corpus Fund that could sustain the Centre.

The Chair opened the discussion and reiterated the explanations given by the DG. He further remarked that it is not fair that resource of CIRDAP solely come from the host country. The Chair expressed his hesitation seeking support for the Corpus Fund as there are still pending receivables from other CMCs to pay annual membership contribution.

The recommendation is to table the agenda to the GC regarding CMCs' one time contribution payable in a period of five years. Malaysia clarified whether it would be again voluntary and informed that Malaysia may not be able to give. Vietnam delegate suggested deferring it and having it noted for the GC for future discussion.

**Proposition:** *Defer the agenda to the next meeting or take the agenda for discussion to the GC.*

Pakistan delegate remarked to move the agenda to the GC. The body went into voting. The consensus was to move the agenda of one time contribution for the consideration of GC. DG straightforward reported the CMCs' annual contribution.

Further, DG CIRDAP presented the status of Corpus Fund and the proposed Guidelines for its utilisation.

**Recommendation:** *7/EC-30/2015*

The EC-30 recommends to the GC-20 to note the need for the payment of one time contribution towards Corpus Fund over the defined period of time to be determined by the next GC (GC-21).

## **Agenda 11: Collaborative Programmes/Projects**

11.1 The DG of CIRDAP gave an overview of the policymaking bodies' processes of CIRDAP. He emphasized that India provided support for the greatest number of capacity building across the CMCs. He explained that it was in TC that collaboration activities are basically determined during its meeting. The DG presented the list of proposals given by the TC members. He mentioned about Indonesia's proposal



but there is no budget for travel cost; Pakistan's case, thanked DG NCRD for hosting the workshop; generally, there is a gap given between the TC and the Ministry where the Headquarters absorbed the blame for leaving the commitments undelivered.

#### ***Recommendations: 8/EC-30/2015***

EC30 recommends to GC 20 to support collaborative programmes proposed in TC Meetings.

#### **Agenda 12: Expansion of CIRDAP Membership**

12.1 The DG informed that Bhutan and Maldives are the two remaining countries that have not yet joined CIRDAP. He reported about his recent visit in Bhutan which in principle agreed to join CIRDAP. Likewise Cambodia informed that membership issue has to be informed to the head of State. CIRDAP has only two mechanisms, either one is a member or an observer. He suggested that engagements of other organisations could be under associate membership which they may pay half of the membership fee.

The Chair agreed with the presentation of DG CIRDAP, i.e., encouraging the mentioned countries are part of CIRDAP.

#### ***Recommendations: 9/EC-30/2015***

EC-30 recommends to GC-20 to approve a review of the Membership structure to enable CIRDAP to broaden its membership base.

#### **Agenda 13: Consideration for the Increase of CMCs' Contribution**

13.1 Director General expressed his hesitation of talking about increasing CMCs' contribution but rather about payment of the member's contribution.

The Chair encouraged the CMCs to pay their outstanding membership fees, and see how the organisation can move forward. Bangladesh remarked that Iran is a big country that is financially capable and should consider paying their contribution. Iran delegate explained what confronts the country about bank transaction but committed to have the arrears for three payments shall be paid.

The Chair requested the CMCs to give their views. Lao PDR delegate mentioned that it has requested the Foreign Minister to approve as they have a new Ministry of Rural Development. The Afghanistan delegate mentioned about the scarcity of resources and hence, requested that the previous unpaid contributions be condoned but will consider future fees from 2015 onwards, as a special case.

#### ***Recommendations: 10/EC-30/2015***

EC-30 recommends to GC-20 to approve the waiving of the outstanding dues of Afghanistan up to 2014.

#### **Agenda 14: Administrative Matters**

##### **14.1 Review of CIRDAP Employees' Salary and Benefits**

Director General briefly recalled that when CIRDAP was established, pay scale was based on UN scale.

DG presented the proposals simultaneously for consideration of the EC-30. However, the agenda 14.4 has been dropped for the time being. The agenda 14.1 and 14.2 were combined together in a package having two options as follows:

- Option 1: Salary increase by 10%, CPF by 3% and COLA 5% with 4 Nos. professional staff positions to be filled-in.
- Option 2: Salary increase by 15%, CPF by 3% and COLA 5% with Head of Admin and Finance position to be filled-in.



***Recommendation: 11/EC-30/2015***

EC-30 recommended to GC-20 for approval of:

Salary increase by 15%, CPF by 3% and COLA 5% with effect from 2016.

**14.2 Management of CIRDAP Conference Facilities**

The Director General likewise informed the EC-30 about the refinement on the standard operations and procedures in managing the facilities at the headquarters making sure that the management of the facilities that give income to CIRDAP will be taken care of.

Director General likewise informed the EC-30 about the accumulation of Long Term Service Award for the staffs whose length of service reached ten years and

***Recommendation: 12/EC-30/2015***

EC 30 approved in principle the Guidelines of CICC.

**14.3 Staff Welfare Fund**

The DG dropped the welfare fund after having received favorable approval on the various requests.



*The Delegates during a field visit to the Farm Fresh Pure Fiji Honey*

**Agenda 15: Other Matters**

**15.1 Re-designation of the position Head of Admin and Finance**

***Recommendation: 13/EC-30/2015***

EC-30 recommended to GC-20 for approval of:

The post is reverted to the position of Director of Administration.

**15.2 Consideration for increase the House Rent for Professional Staff and introduce the house rent for General Staff**

Director General proposed that the ceiling for house rent for P4 be raised from USD350 to USD500 within the amount of Bangladesh Housing Grant. Further, DG requested the Bangladesh to update the status of the request to increase HRA and similarly introduced the same for General Staff.



Bangladesh delegate assured that the matter will be taken up with the GoB as it is under active consideration. He requested the CIRDAP Secretariat to send a revised proposal for submission to the GoB building on the previous consideration in Delhi, India in 2013.

***Recommendation: 14/EC-30/2015***

EC-30 recommends to the GC 20 that the ceiling of HRA for professionals in P4 level be increased from USD 350 to USD500 but limited to within the amount of Bangladesh Housing Grant.

***Recommendation: 15/EC-30/2015***

EC 30 recommends to GC 20 to endorse CIRDAP Secretariat to send a revised proposal for submission to the GoB to increase the House Rent of other professional staff and introduce the house rent for General Staff

**15.3 General Staff Term**

The DG informed the EC-30 about the General Staff of CIRDAP who already retired from CIRDAP but still paying gratuity/pension due to incapacity of CIRDAP to pay the lump sum during their retirement. He also mentioned that the salary of G1 and G2 staff will be transferred from General Fund to the Auditorium Fund.

The Chair opened the discussion. Philippine delegate suggested looking at the issue on a long view and being strategic in approach by doing a review on the matter. Afghanistan delegate considered the issues as part of human resource management, hence require thorough review of staffing pattern. He then re-phrased his proposition and subscribed with putting limitation on tenure. Develop a framework for the review to be presented during the TC in Malaysia. Further, Bangladesh delegate clarified what is the common practice among other international organisations. The DG CIRDAP explained the difference between CIRDAP and other organisations on tenure.

***Recommendation: 16/EC-30/2015***

EC-30 recommended to GC-20 for approval of:

CIRDAP Secretariat may formulate a framework to strategise the process after thorough review of the CIRDAP rules and procedures, service condition, benefits etc, as well as the procedure of the other international organisations and present for discussion in the next Technical Committee Meeting in Malaysia.

**Agenda 16: Dates and Venue of the Next Meeting**

16.1 The Vice Chair announced that the next venue will be in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2017

The session was adjourned for lunch and shall resume at 4:00 pm for the adoption of the resolutions of the meeting.

***Recommendation: 17/EC-30/2015***

EC-30 recommends to GC-20 to accept the proposal to hold the next EC and GC meetings in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2017.

**Agenda 17: Adoption of the Report of EC-30**

17.1 The EC-30 expressed its high appreciation to the Government of Fiji and through the Ministry for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Government of the Republic of Fiji Islands for having successfully hosted the meeting with the finest Fijian hospitality and courtesies accorded to all the country-delegates and guests.

The Committee unanimously adopted the EC-30 Report on its concluded regular meeting. There being no further concerns, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair of the EC-30 Meeting.



## Twentieth Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-20)

The Twentieth Regular Meeting of the CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-20) was held on 20 August 2015 in Hotel Tanoa International, Nadi, Fiji. Delegates from all the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) except Myanmar and Sri Lanka attended the Meeting.

The inaugural session of the meeting was held on 20 August 2015. H.E. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, President of the Republic of Fiji was the Chief Guest. The inaugural programme began with the ceremonial rituals of Fiji to receive the Chief Guest and the honourable delegates of CMCs. After the ceremonial functions, the President delivered an inspiring speech and gave guidance to CIRDAP to play a significant role for the benefit of the member countries.

The Chief Guest reiterated that CIRDAP is promoting regional cooperation to support development for its member countries and also promote partnership such as South-South and Triangular Cooperation to hasten development and solidarity within the region. After the inaugural speech, the President handed over appreciation awards to the delegates of Indonesia, Philippines and Fiji for their contribution to the programmes of the Centre.



*EC-GC Members with the Chief Guest, H.E. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, President of the Republic of Fiji*

The following were the discussions and decisions by the GC-20:

### **Agenda 1: Adoption of Agenda and Time-Table**

1.1 The Chairperson of GC-19 placed the provisional agenda and the time-table before GC-20 for adoption. The Committee unanimously adopted the agenda and the time-table.

### **Agenda 2: Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson**

2.1 The Chairperson of GC-19 invited nominations for the post of next Chairperson. The delegate from Bangladesh proposed Fiji as the Chairperson of GC-20 and it was seconded by the delegate from Pakistan. Fiji accordingly was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of GC-20.

2.2 The delegate from Iran proposed Afghanistan as the Vice -Chairperson of GC-20 and was seconded by Malaysia. Afghanistan was unanimously elected as the Vice-Chairperson of GC-20.



2.3 Mr. Birendra Singh, the outgoing Chairperson congratulated the newly elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and thanked the GC Members for their support and cooperation during his term of office.

2.4 The newly elected Chairperson Lt. Col. Inia Seruiratu thanked the house for electing him unanimously. He said that the responsibility is now on his shoulders to take the mandate of CIRDAP forward which he will try to fulfil during his tenure. He appreciated the efforts of the outgoing Chairperson from India.

2.5 The newly elected Vice-Chairperson Mr. Mukhtar Ghafarzoy also thanked the house for electing him unanimously. He also said that he will try his best to upscale the mission and vision of CIRDAP. He assured all out cooperation to the Chairperson.

### **Agenda 3: Director General's Report on the Activities of CIRDAP**

3.1 At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Director General (DG) of CIRDAP presented the activities of CIRDAP for consideration of GC-20. Director General, CIRDAP mentioned that since his joining in 2012, he has been emphasising on three aspects, i.e. networking with national and international organisation, trying to reach out to every member country, and organising exposure-cum-workshop/symposium etc.

3.2 The GC Chairperson invited comments/suggestions from the house on DG's Report.

3.3 In response, the delegate from Thailand appreciated the Director General of CIRDAP for his comprehensive and pragmatic presentation and suggested to work out a road map for CIRDAP to promote fruitful cooperation among international and national organisations. The delegate emphasised on a work plan having common goals of CMCs which would provide opportunity to increase its niche. The delegate emphasised on looking into the internal management to find out some room to strengthen the capacity of the Centre. He also suggested that member countries should have active involvement in strengthening CIRDAP as a relevant regional organisation.

3.4 Bangladeshi delegate mentioned that CIRDAP has done tremendous activities in the last two years and member countries are looking forward to having more access to the best practices through CIRDAP's interactive workshops/ seminars etc. However, the Centre is facing financial constraints due to non-paying of the arrear contribution of the member countries. Member countries should consider paying the contribution on regular basis.



*H.E. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau inaugurating the GC-20 Meeting as Chief Guest*



3.5 The delegate from Lao PDR noted that the Centre is really facing financial problem. Under the present circumstances, it is not easy to find resources. Development partners are looking at alternatives due to their changed focus. So, CIRDAP management should find out alternative solutions by re-examining its mandate and should try to prove its uniqueness to the CMCs and the International Organisations.



*GC-20 in progress*

3.6 Since there were no other comments, the Report of the DG was adopted.

#### **Agenda 4: Adoption of the Report of the Executive Committee (EC-30)**

4.1 The Director General presented the Report with recommendations of the EC-30 meeting before the GC-20. The Chairperson called upon the delegates to offer their comments and suggestions.

4.2 In response, the Lao PDR delegate suggested implementing the recommendations of EC-30, but a review/evaluation should be undertaken by CIRDAP. DG, CIRDAP responded that an evaluation was undertaken in 2009 which was submitted to GC-18. It was only noted and recommended to be published. DG suggested this report as base for evaluation. The suggestions/ recommendation of the evaluation will be submitted in the next TC meeting for consideration which if approved can be implemented step by step.

#### ***Decision: 1/GC-20/2015***

GC 20 adopted the Report of the EC-30.

#### **Agenda 5: Appointment of the Director General, CIRDAP for the Period 2016-2020**

5.1 The Chairperson requested the Vice- Chairperson to conduct appointment procedure as Fiji has a candidate in the shortlist.

5.2 The Vice-Chairperson presented the entire selection process and procedure adopted for appointing the new Director General.

5.3 The Vice-Chairperson invited suggestions thereon. He informed the house that three candidates were selected by the Selection Committee on merit basis from Bangladesh, Fiji and India. He informed that the candidate from India was withdrawn by the Government of India. The Vice-Chairperson sought opinion from the house whether it can go for open or secret ballot. It was suggested to go for secret ballot.

5.4 The Thirteen Member Countries casted votes in the Meeting. The counting was done by the Vice-Chairperson and Thailand delegate was the witness. Out of thirteen votes, 11 votes went in favour of Fiji candidate and two in favour of Bangladesh candidate.



5.5 As majority of the votes went in favour of Fiji candidate, the Chair declared the Fijian candidate, Mr. Tevita Gadrulevu Boseiwaqa selected as next Director General of CIRDAP for the period 2016-2020.

**Decision: 2/GC-20/2015**

The candidature of Mr. Tevita Gadrulevu Boseiwaqa for the post of Director General, CIRDAP for 2016-2020 was unanimously endorsed.

**Agenda 6: Statement by Governing Council Members on Rural Development in their Respective Country**

6.1 The Chairperson of GC-20 requested the honourable members to present their country statements.

**Agenda 7: Any Other Matters**

7.1 The Chair invited the delegates to place any other matters for discussion.

7.2 The delegates from Afghanistan and Lao PDR expressed their desire to place on record the contribution of Dr. Cecep Effendi. They highlighted the qualities of Dr. Effendi and mentioned that his thoroughness in all affairs and the qualities to go into details is exemplary. He has perfect command over all situations as exhibited in various meetings.

7.3 The Chairperson also echoed the opinion of the delegates and expressed that he was also impressed with Dr. Cecep Effendi's character, attitude and positive thinking. They wished him all the success in life.

**Agenda 8: Dates and Venue of the Next Meeting**

8.1 The Vice-Chair of the GC-20 reiterated the offer to host the EC-31 and GC-21 in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2017.

**Decision: 3/GC-20/2015**

GC-20 accepted the offer to hold the next EC and GC meetings in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2017.

**Agenda 9: Adoption of the Report of GC-20**

9.1 The GC-20 expressed its high appreciation to the Government of Fiji and the Ministry for Agriculture, Rural & Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Government of the Republic of Fiji for successfully hosting the meeting with the finest Fijian hospitality and courtesies accorded to all the country-delegates and guests.

The Committee admittedly adopted the GC-20 Report on its concluded regular meeting. The Chairperson invited the Vice-Chairperson to say few words. The Vice-Chairperson expressed his satisfaction for successful conduct of the meeting. The Lao delegate proposed vote of thanks on behalf of all delegates and thanked the host country for organising the meeting successfully by offering excellent support services and ensuring a pleasant stay at Nadi.

There being no further concerns, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair of the GC-20 Meeting.



*EC-GC Members enjoying the cultural event in Fiji*



## *Research*

- Rural Development Report – Efficacy of Initiatives/Programmes on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation
- Regional Workshop on Efficacy of Initiatives on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation
- Seventh Regional Policy Dialogue
- Designing Fellowship Programmes
- Building Partnership and Organising Collaborative Programmes

### **Focus Areas**

- Rural Income
- Poverty Alleviation
- Agro-processing





CIRDAP research studies focus on the dynamics of the socio-economic changes in the rural societies, with a concern for the rural poor. The major aims of the programmes are to identify and analyse the causal factors affecting the rural disadvantaged groups; provide guidelines to policy makers; formulate follow-up activities leading to further research -- action research/pilot projects and training. These attempt to promote a symbiotic relationship among the three different programme divisions of the Centre, and also facilitate policy making, planning and implementing rural development programmes/projects in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) through use of the research findings.

The recent focus of research programme covers several priority areas within an integrated approach to promote structural transformation of the rural society and ensure higher living standards particularly for the rural poor. A brief review of research activities covered during the year 2015 is presented below:

### **New Project Initiated by CIRDAP on Efficacy of Initiatives/Programmes on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation: A Way Forward**

Asia and the Pacific region experienced a major drop in poverty from 2005-2008, people living under the extreme poverty line of \$1.25 per day were 753 million in 2008, which is 22% of the total regional population (Asian Development Bank Institute, 2015). The reduction in poverty took place mainly in South-East Asia. Progress towards halving the number of people who suffer from hunger was more modest during the last decade.

Over the last three decades, the region has experienced an unprecedented economic transformation. Although, many parts of the region gained, others were by passed by the "economic miracle". Further, the region has experienced huge changes in its demographics, environment and socio-political situation that might have significant implications for future economic growth and poverty reduction. In the last three decades, regional economic growth has been high, with the gross domestic product (GDP) of East and South-East Asia growing by 7-10% annually and the economies of South Asia growing by 4-6%. Also, the region achieved a significant rise in income during 1975-1995, gross national income (GNI) per capita raised by 4.4% in South-East Asia and the Pacific, and 1.4% in South Asia.

The rural incomes as well as livelihoods of poor rural households are diverse across the countries. Livelihoods of the region are derived from smallholder farming including livestock production and fisheries, agricultural wage labour, wage or self-employment in the rural non-farm economy. While some households rely primarily on one type of activity, most seek to diversify their livelihood base as a way to reduce risk. Apart from agricultural income, non-farm income sources are increasingly important across regions, and income gains at the household level are generally associated with a shift towards more non-agricultural wages and self-employment income (IFAD, 2011).

In this context, CIRDAP Research Division initiated a new project for the biennium 2014-15 titled "Efficacy of Initiatives/Programmes on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation: A Way Forward" following the suggestion of the 29th Technical Committee (TC-29) Meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam last year. The study is expected to provide a guideline to the policy makers of CIRDAP Member Countries in the future rural development initiatives following experiences of the past decade with the appropriate modifications. CIRDAP prepares biennial report on Rural Development for each member country based on contemporary and demand driven thematic areas suggested by the Technical Committee (TC) of CIRDAP. The proposed Rural Development Report (RDR) for the current biennium (2014-15) was prepared as suggested by the last Technical Committee (TC-29) Meeting held in Hanoi during 15-19 September 2014.



## Regional Workshop on Efficacy of Initiatives on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation held in Pakistan

CIRDAP in collaboration with Akhter Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD), the CIRDAP link institute in Pakistan organised a regional consultation workshop on “Efficacy of Initiatives on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation: Way Forward” followed by a seminar on “Interest-Free Micro-Finance for Sustainable Livelihood” from 5-8 May 2015. In this workshop the country experts presented their country reports prepared on the above mentioned title. This consultation workshop is a part of the programme of CIRDAP Research Division suggested by the Twenty Ninth Technical Committee (TC-29) Meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam in September 2014. As follow up activity the country reports are being synthesised and will be published by CIRDAP as Rural Development Report 2015. The report is expected to provide a guideline to the policy makers of CIRDAP member countries to redesign the future rural development initiatives and sharing knowledge among them.

Eleven countries out of fifteen CIRDAP member countries, namely Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam prepared country reports. However, seven country experts have presented their findings in the consultation workshop. The findings of the regional consultation workshop would be discussed in the forthcoming Seventh Regional Policy Dialogue in August 2015 in Fiji where policy makers of CIRDAP member countries will meet in a biannual meeting of CIRDAP.

The national seminar on “Interest-Free Micro-Finance for Sustainable Livelihood” was organised to demonstrate the findings of a successful programme being implemented by a number of philanthropists on interest-free microfinance for sustainable livelihood of the poor called “Akhawat”.

Dr. Amjad Saqib, founder of the “AKHUWAT”, highlighted the concept of interest-free microfinance as an offshoot of personal experience in the government and later has taken initiative for a larger goal of brotherhood, bond of solidarity with the marginalised people. He thanked AHKNCRD and CIRDAP for giving the opportunity of this knowledge sharing and mutual learning. Akhuwat has some innovative projects: Microfinance, Health, Volunteers, Sira Support, Clothes Bank, Dreams, Institute of Social Enterprise and Management, Internship and Fellowship Programme, Incubation Center, Akhuwat University etc.

In the seminar the organiser showcased e-learning platform of Taleem Foundation operated/telecasted simultaneously over eight remote locations using PBX EDUCAST in Baluchistan demonstrating how video conference could be a bridge to learning. On the final day of the consultation workshop there was a field visit for all participants in Rawalpindi where the participants had a practical experience on interest free micro-finance operation.

The summary of the country reports presented in the workshop is given below:

### Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh had taken Structural Adjustment Policy in 1980s and trade liberalisation policy in 1990s. The progress in reducing income poverty got momentum in 1990s and achievement in reducing human poverty in terms of reducing deprivation in education and having good health were remarkable. Congenial condition for participatory role by men and women in every sphere of social and economic life increase the empowerment of women through reducing poverty. Bangladesh is now in a takeoff stage to be a middle income country. The efforts of government for developing human capital needs to be strengthened by giving technical skill that have demand in the high productivity sector. Policy and technical supports for value adding activities of agricultural



products need special attention. For reaping the demographic dividend due to increased size of labour force the policy should be advocated for increasing saving, increasing human capital and increasing domestic demand. Health insurance should be popularised to give benefit of the increased household income at the grassroots level. Nevertheless, good governance is essential component for serving the people in a better way.

## **Fiji**

Government of Fiji has been continuously improving their strategies of intervention so that that the programs have become more relevant to the changing needs to the Fijian society. With the initiatives implemented so far, the recipients (individuals, organisations, communities and other stakeholders) agree that creative changes are happening in Fiji, which are timely, relevant and pro-poor. In addition, the Government is setting a good example of how productivity and thinking outside the box helps to design creative and high-impact initiatives and policies. However, instead of just up-skilling communities to sustain welfare and supplementary cash family incomes, the Government should promote trade potential from these activities. It is recommended for dealing with potential mis-match of objectives and priorities between the Government and development partners, promotion of trade potential in income generation projects, increased stakeholder consultations, use of expert advice to support creative policy making in. It is also recommend that the Government must collaborate with the donors and other NGOs to continue with the current programmes, identifying and dealing with the loopholes that hinder their success and relevance to the society.

## **India**

The rural economy in India has been shrinking in terms of income since the 1970s. Employment growth in rural India has been slower than in urban India. There are three specific initiatives for poverty alleviation: (a) Wage employment programmes of Government of India, specifically Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Programmes (MGNREGA), (b) Self Employed Programmes of Government of India, specifically the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), and (c) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programmes of Corporations. One of the problems of development strategies in India is that vulnerability is not focused. Households to a greater or lesser extent are exposed to risk and as consequence are vulnerable. This discussion is never part of the computation of poverty statistics. Hence anti-poverty programmes do not have strong long term impact. NRLM may do better if it includes skill training than MGNREGA. The institutions of the Panchayats or local administration such as the Gram Sabhas are being used to ensure optimum implementation of such schemes. The primary reason for low levels of empowerment of women and the consequent high moral hazard cost is the near absence of their financial independence. However the unintended consequence of the women's participation in MGNREGA is that it incentivises them to attend Gram Sabha meetings in order to ensure that the scheme is adequately implemented as well as reducing the anomalies associated with the payment of the wages. The Indian companies have attempted to address concerns for issues in rural development by engaging several partnerships with civil society organisations, local governing bodies and community members.

## **Indonesia**

The problem of poverty in Indonesia until now is still a problem that must be taken seriously, so the poverty alleviation programme and increase incomes of the poor people in rural is a priority and an integral part of economic development. The government has been much effort to alleviate poverty and increase income of through programmes for the various aspects, such as increased production and productivity of the agricultural sector through innovative technology, and strengthening of rural small



business capital, capacity building and skills poor people in the business, community development, and issued various regulations to encourage economic development in the community. However, in some poverty alleviation programmes and increase incomes of the poor there are still obstacles in achieving success. In the future important issues should be considered in poverty reduction are: (a) shared commitment between the executive and the legislative as well as the whole society in poverty alleviation, (b) mobilisation of resources to achieve the goal of poverty reduction necessary to devote attention to both funds, human resources, capital resources and political will, (c) location specific planning can be implemented, (d) implementation of programmes need to be consistent, and (e) development of models of poverty reduction need to improved based on experience.



*Participants of the workshop*

## Malaysia

Although Malaysia's economy is stable and growing, the issue of poverty is still the main concern and given a high priority by the government. The government of Malaysia has formulated a range of national development policies, programmes and initiatives and mostly addressed the issues of poverty. The New Economic Policy (NEP) that covered the period of 1971-1990 had two specific strategies. The first strategy was to reduce absolute poverty. The second was to restructure the society to correct economic imbalance so as to eliminate the identification of race with economic function. The National Development Policy (NDP) succeeded the NEP to attain balanced development focused on the eradication of hardcore poverty and relative poverty. Under this policy, the government creates more employment opportunities and increases the participation of the Malays in the modern sectors of the economy. The NEP and NDP were complemented by the vision 2020, which is a long-term objective of becoming a fully developed nation by 2020. Nevertheless, there are still rooms for improvement: there is a real need for peaceful and harmony environment and close cooperation among ethnic groups. Technology is one of the efficient tools for the transformation of agricultural to become a dynamic, modern, innovative and competitive sector. The commitment of stakeholders is one of the most important key success factors for programme implementation. Improving the distribution of income and narrowing income imbalance should be improved between and within ethnic group, income groups, economic sector, regions and states. Intensifying efforts should be employed to improve the quality of life.



## Myanmar

In Myanmar, several measures are being done for poverty reduction. The country is reforming step by step in its political, economic, and social dimensions in a momentum by implementing the integrated rural development initiatives. A number of positive developments have occurred in rural development process for poverty alleviation in Myanmar. The government has launched economic and sectoral policy reforms and begun the market liberalisation. The democratisation process in the country led to emerge civil society organisations (CSOs) consequently broadened economic and agricultural and rural policy debate. It can be seen that there is greater community participation in every rural development programmes and projects in every stages of the project. In future, considerations of effectiveness and sustainability require some issues and areas. One way focusing is to target assistance in particular sub-sectors with strong linkages to poverty reduction. Another is to target assistance on classes of poor people with common characteristics such as sectoral-focus, geographical focus which is recently practicing, a greater access to ICT, greater nutritional programmes, rural development fund harmonisation.

## Nepal

The economy of Nepal is dominated by agriculture which contributes to one-third of GDP and offers employment to two-third of the population. Since the agricultural growth was sluggish and fluctuating for a long time its contribution to poverty reduction has been modest. The current 13th Plan (2013/14-2015/16) with the long term goal of upgrading Nepal into a middle income country by the year 2022 has been in implementation. It is expected that at the end of the 13th Plan the poverty level will reduce to 18 per cent from the existing 23.8 per cent in 2012. The recent earthquake devastation (April 25, 2015), however arises fear that it may bring bottleneck to graduation to the middle income country by pushing down more of the population below the poverty line. Several macro and micro initiatives have been in operation, some are broad based policy instruments and some are targeted initiatives. The institutional mechanism and effectiveness of the implementation of the initiatives/programmes are weak and good governance was far from the reality. Some specific recommendations are: promotion of enabling environment to economic growth. Targeted programmes should be expanded. More investment and pursue pro-poor policy in agriculture are needed. There should be provision for non-farm employment opportunities. Improvement of governance is necessary for all the initiatives.

## Pakistan

More than two-thirds of Pakistanis live in rural areas where the poverty rate has consistently remained high compared to the urban areas. The Government of Pakistan and the Provincial Governments have established dedicated departments like Zakat and social welfare to provide social protection to the vulnerable communities. Rural support programmes figure prominently which have helped in community development and have mobilised resources for the poor. Along with this income generation programmes by the government, NGOs and the donors have also launched programmes for increasing the economic opportunities and improving the income levels. Akhuwat stands out as a successful programme that aims to alleviate poverty by empowering socially and economically marginalised segments of the society through interest-free micro-finance. On a broader level the attempts at poverty reduction should be addressed in holistic manner whereby not only efforts are made to increase economic opportunities for the poor but at the same time efforts are made to improve their education and health profile. The government needs to be consistent in its macro-economic policies and should strengthen community development initiatives in association with the rural development programmes. A strong monitoring and evaluation mechanism is prerequisite to protect the rule of law. There is an ardent need to invest and strengthen the agriculture sector. Depending upon the different poverty bands different programmes should be developed. The high quality education in rural areas, particularly the technical education and improvement in health indicators are necessary.



## Philippines

In the Philippines, poverty consists of multiple deprivations and vulnerabilities. The official poverty measures are income-based, and these include the headcount, income gap, poverty gap, and severity of poverty gap ratios. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) is the national agency that formulates and coordinates all social and economic development plans. To strengthen the impact of poverty alleviation programmes, the government promotes public-private partnerships and NGO participation. Based on NEDA's review and the initial implementation of the Philippine Development Plan, there is a need to employ spatial and sectoral strategies to address the uneven nature of growth and development. Interventions are not making substantial improvement toward reducing the number of people living in poverty. Nevertheless, the country has made significant advancements in basic education and child health, and these investments are expected to reduce poverty in future generations. Some of the constraints that need to be addressed are: (a) weak responsiveness of poverty to growth; (b) unfinished agrarian reform; (c) government under spending; (d) underperforming agricultural sector; (e) lack of competition in key sectors; and (f) negative impact of climate change to welfare status.

## Sri Lanka

Despite of the growth and economic development, poverty reduction in Sri Lanka has been slow due to widening inequalities among income groups and across regions, sectors and groups, since growth is concentrated in key urban areas of the Western Province. The expenditure on education, health, social welfare programmes and projects is declining as a percentage of GDP. The rehabilitation of the people whose livelihoods have been devastated by the war and the large number of children, displaced persons subject to physical injuries and mental trauma requiring medical attention and welfare pose serious challenges. Prioritisation of social expenditure along with economic infrastructure development is imperative. On the other hand, economic growth is achieved neglecting the social welfare of the country. Three policy thrusts are needed to improve the country's poverty conditions. First, the strategy and process of economic development should be more pro-poor oriented and focused on areas of development such as agriculture, education, information technology, small and medium entrepreneurship expansion and health supports that would benefit the poor. Second, there must be much higher expenditure on social infrastructure and recurrent social expenditure on agricultural technology, agricultural insurance, natural resource management, renewable energy, women empowerment and emerging needs of natural disasters, climate changes and calamities. Third, funds expended on social welfare must be better targeted to reach the justifiable in provinces, regions, districts or communities and there is a need to increase the allocation of investment on research and development.



*Discussion in progress*



## Vietnam

Vietnam has made great achievements in poverty reduction, however, the absolute number of the poor is still great (about 1.8 million poor households). Poverty is concentrated in rural, mountainous areas where majority of ethnic minorities live. Particular policy should be developed on poverty reduction for mountainous areas, the most vulnerable ethnic minorities. Flexible finance mechanisms should be developed in mobilising local counterpart funds, especially for the poor areas where it is really difficult to mobilise funds. Supports for poor households should be diversified in order to meet the needs of different beneficiary groups: no land, non-agricultural activity, or migrants, etc. Solutions should be designed based on the conditions and characteristics of each type of poor households. Policy supporting the impoverished should be separated and become social security policies. Supports on production should not be given to the impoverished. Policies should be developed supporting the near poor, the households who have just escape from poverty in a way that they continue to get benefit from policies on credit, extension and vocational training; so that they have sustain capacity to escape poverty, stay away from the poverty threshold, and avoid falling back into poverty when facing the risks.



*Participants interacting in a mosque with the loan borrowers of Akhuwat in Rawalpindi*

## Workshop Recommendations and Way Forward

In the recommendation session of the workshop the participants selected three Thematic Areas under them key recommendations as well as way forward have been suggested. The Thematic Areas along with the recommendations/way forward are as follows:

### ***Thematic Area 1: ICT in Enhancing the Efficacy of Initiatives and Programmes for Rural Development***

#### ***Recommendations:***

- Develop a national ICT Department for Rural Development Policy, Strategy and Model;
- Identify key rural development issues in every theme/sector;
- Identify and implement relevant best practices to address those issues;
- Undertake buy-in of government and other stakeholders;
- Scale up initiatives through collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders;
- Empower rural population;
- CIRDAP and such other organisations should facilitate countries to identify and upscale such initiatives; and
- Encourage regional level ICT applications development and deployment.



### *Developing National ICTD Policy:*

- A coherent national ICT policy for rural development should be formulated.
- A corresponding national level implementation plan with time lines should be formulated.
- Government would be responsible for policy which should also involve external stakeholders.

### *Implementation:*

- Development Consortium
- Regional level ICT applications developmen

### ***Thematic Area II: Sustainable and Marketing Agriculture for Small Holders***

- Promote cooperative societies as a mechanism to combine products so as to enhance competitiveness of smallholder producers;
- Facilitate farmers to identifying better products and promotional needs to be provided by government;
- Rural Transformation Centers a One Stop Shops for farmers in rural areas to provide better services such as marketing intelligence, access to finance, agricultural testing services, extension and other advisory services, learn best practices, skills required for marketing, receive advice where farmers have complaints.
- Identify a mechanism to promote south-south cooperation for technology transfer, appropriate for small holders;
- Framers' Caucus groups need to be created and registered for creating their credibility and sustainability.
- Promotion of informal information sharing hub through CIRDAP;
- Promotion and importance of high value agriculture value addition including value addition among small holders; and
- Government back up required for quality assurance to farmer.

### ***Thematic Area III: Rural Financing for Poverty Alleviation***

#### *Options:*

- Loans/Micro Finance
  - Interest free loans for agro-inputs
  - For livestock
  - Group loans
  - Value chain financing
- Alternative to middle man – cooperative etc.
- Insurance
  - Crop insurance
  - Livestock Insurance
- Small and medium enterprise loans
- Social protection mechanism
- Community based financing (to support bulk buying, marketing of agro-products, infrastructure, inputs etc.)



### *Mechanism:*

- Sources of funds
  - Tax, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), philanthropy, dedicated taxation
- Processes/mechanisms
  - Government, community based, cooperatives, CSOs, networking
- Outputs/utilisation
  - Crop, farms, livestock, agro business, infra structure

### **Seventh Regional Policy Dialogue of CIRDAP (RPD-7)**

The Seventh Regional Policy Dialogue on the theme ‘An Outlook on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation in Asia and the Pacific and International Workshop on Climate Change’ was organised at Hotel Tanoa International in Nadi, Fiji in August 19, 2015 coinciding with the Thirtieth Executive Committee and Twentieth Governing Council Meeting of CIRDAP. The purpose of holding the Regional Policy Dialogue was to engage the policy bodies of CIRDAP in deliberations on emerging policy issues on rural development and poverty alleviation and addressing them through regional cooperation among CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs).

The dialogue was organised by CIRDAP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Government of Fiji. The objective of this dialogue was to disseminate the study findings on “Efficacy of Initiatives on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation: Way Forward” conducted during 2014-2015 biennium following the suggestion of the 29th CIRDAP Technical Committee held in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2014. The Seventh Regional Policy Dialogue has special significance as it was organised along with an international workshop on climate change where Fiji’s experiences on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction were demonstrated. Dr. Zafar Iqbal Kader, Director General, AHK NCRD, Pakistan moderated the whole day programme.



*RPD-7 is in progress*



The following four presentations were delivered in the Policy Dialogue:

- i. Regional Workshop on “Efficacy of Initiatives on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation: Way Forward” and successful best practice in Pakistan on “Interest Free Microfinance - Akhuwat”.
- ii. “An Outlook on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation in Asia and the Pacific” by Director (Acting), Research Division, CIRDAP.
- iii. “Fiji’s Experience on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction” by Fijian Experts.
- iv. “Randomised Control Trials and Evidence informed Policy Making” by Innovation for Poverty Action (IPA), USA.

### **CIRDAP Post-Doctoral Fellowship Programme**

The Research Division of CIRDAP designed a new programme, “Post-Doctoral Fellowship”, for outstanding young researchers in CIRDAP member countries in the fields of a) Agricultural Post-Harvest Value Chain, b) Microfinance, and c) Empowerment of Rural Women.

Agricultural Post-Harvest Value Chain is currently being emphasised because it is indeed the essential part of the food security of a nation and livelihoods of the small holders in the region. It also focuses on a broad spectrum of operations and stakeholders in traditional and modern marketing systems. The ultimate goal of the system is to deliver high quality safe food to consumers.

For the better and sustainable growth in on farm or off-farm activities microfinance is one of the key element for facilitating inputs of the rural people. Microfinance facilitates credit to individuals or groups who would otherwise have no other means of receiving financial services. The goal of microfinance is to provide low income people an opportunity to become self-sufficient. Therefore, microfinance activities are holistic approach to development, by helping to build livelihoods, boost consumption, and improve access to arrange of social services.

In most Asian countries, women participation is still neglected or not-recognised in rural development activities. The gender discrepancy needs to be minimised through women empowerment for sustainable rural development in Asia. Rural women make essential contributions to the rural economy of all developing countries. However, their access to productive resources and employment opportunities is limited, which holds back their capacity to improve their livelihoods and to better contribute to the economic growth, food security and sustainable development of their communities and countries.

Initially these three fields have been chosen and subsequently the centre will work on some other areas depending on the needs and in line with the activities of the centre. It is expected that a number of students will get the opportunity to work in CIRDAP on short-term basis and will be able to rewrite their research findings into CIRDAP publications. Details of the scheme will be circulated shortly after getting approval from the CIRDAP Policy Bodies.



Ms. E.T.S. Madhubhashini, Lecturer, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, participated in the conference sponsored by CIRDAP on “Managing Rural Transition at Urban Fringe toward Sustainability” organised by the Rural Research and Planning Group (RRPG) during 28-29 September 2015. The conferences facilitated her to share knowledge in the scientific group gathered from around the world. The conference was held in a grand respectable manner and the keynote speakers as well as the RRPG committee members provided a detailed description about the current situation of the rural population livelihood.



*Participants of the 6th International Conference*

The discussions about the respective studies were not just an official talk. The environment provided for discussion allowed the participants to make a good comparison of the rural development strategies in several countries. Since each and every oral session represented participants from different countries and regions, there was a wonderful diversity within the scientific crowd. Furthermore, the studies were not limited to a single area. There were several studies related to social science, geography, fisheries, food science, environment management

as well as the economics aiming the rural community development. The conference management managed all the sessions efficiently in terms of time and interaction among the participants.

Initially the participants went to a small scale mushroom farming industry and a representative of the village briefed about the processing technique of mushroom culture and how this industry has been involved in rural income development. Several ladies in the village are currently involved in this process and they are getting a considerable income and benefits. The participants were taken to several vegetable farms that are using organic fertilizer and natural pesticides. It was really nice to see that they are using the trees that are available in their village area as insect repellents. Although they are not using any synthetic pesticides, there was no difference of the harvests between the farms of using natural and synthetic pesticides.

The method of collecting the organic fertilizer was very amazing. This society collects the garbage from the whole village and they separate the decaying and non-decaying matter. The non-decaying matters such as plastics are sold to the recyclers and they get a considerable income. The newspapers and polythene bags are used by the village women to prepare several kinds of handicrafts such as bags, plates, vases etc. The decaying matter and the dung of the goats, sheep and cows that are cultured are used to make compost. This compost is not only used in villagers' own farms but they are sold to the outsiders for a considerable price.

The third item of the agenda was visiting to tea plantation areas. The hilly areas are used by the villages for tea plantation. A representative of the tea planters explained the process of tea plantation, plucking and initial processing activities with the experienced working women. These villagers are only involved in initial processed of tea processing and the dried tea leaves are sent to the companies located in distant places for further processing. Since the operational cost is too much high the tea factory in Punjak is not operated at present.



Although Punjak community has implemented several strategies to develop the livelihood of the villagers however there are several problems which the people have not been able to overcome. The major problem is the land encroachment by the outsiders and illegal villa constructions. Although some of them are already demolished still there are some of the villas remained. Furthermore the area is being degraded by the pollution of terrestrial as well as the aquatic environment. It is very essential to study about the problems faced by these rural communities and finding the solutions for them. The conferences such as the 6th international conference and field study have shown the way forwards towards the sustainable rural community development while preserving the environment. The contribution and support of RRPg and CIRDP for organising this conference have been highly appreciated.

### High Level Delegation visits Indonesian Agro-processing Industry

A high level delegation led by Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDP visited small agro-processing industry in Indonesia from 09 to 12 October 2015. The delegation included Dr. Azeem, Director General, National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), Pakistan, and Dr. M.A. Matin, Director General, Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra, Bangladesh.

The purpose of the visit was to gain practical knowledge on how the smallholders are contributing towards the agro-processing industry in Indonesia. Agro-processing in Indonesia is contributing around 20 to 30 per cent in GDP. The delegation made several field visits to agro-processing centre to see production and processing of value-added product from banana roots, spinach, betel leaves etc. The team also acquired knowledge on the best technologies used in agro-processing industry including fruit-chips and corn flake making industry in Malang, Indonesia.

It may be mentioned here that CIRDP in collaboration with the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) developed a project and going to submit to the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) for funding to promote small scale agro-processing for the smallholders in South Asia region in light of the experiences of the South-east Asia.



*High Level Delegation visiting Agro-processing Industry in Indonesia*



### SAARC and CIRDAP Meeting to renew MoU and initiate Collaborative Programme

In 2007, CIRDAP and SAARC signed a MoU for three years to collaborate in various fields of mutual interests. The term of the MoU ended in 2010. Recently, both the organisations showed willingness to renew the MoU for mutual collaboration in rural development and allied fields. Delegates from SAARC Secretariat and SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) led by Mr. MJH Javed, Director, Agriculture, Rural Development and SAARC Development Fund, had meeting with DG, CIRDAP and other professionals on 19 May 2015 to discuss on the renewal of MoU between two organisations and to initiate probable collaborative programmes.

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) is one of the 11 regional centres of SAARC having the similar mandates with those of CIRDAP. It will work jointly under the MoU on some common issues such as rural development and poverty alleviation.



*Meeting with Delegates from SAARC Secretariat and SAARC Agriculture Centre*

The following decisions were taken in the meeting:

- The previous MoU should be revised and a new draft of MoU will be prepared by both SAC and CIRDAP. Then it will be sent to the SAARC Secretariat for review. Once final it will be signed by CIRDAP and SAARC Secretariat.
- A joint programme on “Agricultural Insurance in South Asia for Rural Development” or other topics will be conceptualised and submitted for approval to the both of the organisations’ authority.
- SAC and CIRDAP may develop any joint project proposal on agro-processing for action research through pilot project with the aim of establishment of micro, small and medium agro-processing enterprises in the region. The proposal will be submitted to the SAARC Development Fund (SDF).
- Both SAC and CIRDAP can take initiative for manpower development in the field of agro processing. (e.g: making chips from jackfruit, mango etc, ice-cream from banana skin, poppadum from livestock by product, chips from vegetables like bitter gourd, betel vine leaf etc).
- SAC and CIRDAP may organise seminars on common issues/topics.



## Meeting with SAARC Agriculture Centre

Director General, CIRDAP visited the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka on 12 March 2015 to discuss and explore the common issues/agenda for Agriculture and Rural Development in South Asia. Director General, CIRDAP briefly described the activities of CIRDAP and urged SAC to identify common platform where both the organisations can collaborate jointly. CIRDAP is working off-farm agriculture in South Asia except Maldives and Bhutan. In this connection, the meeting has identified the following several issues in agriculture and rural development for further collaborative programmes by SAC and CIRDAP in SAARC Member Countries. The identified issues are:

- Crop insurance for risk coverage
- ICT in agriculture development
- Value addition of the agricultural commodities
- Climate change adaptation in agriculture/climate smart technologies
- Quality seed/seed issues
- Cooperative system in Agriculture development
- Homestead gardening of the farmers
- Livestock and fisheries development
- SME development, and
- Solar energy.

Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP and Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Director, SAC led the meeting from the respective organisations while professionals from SAC and CIRDAP also attended. The meeting decided that Dr. Ibrahim Saiyed from CIRDAP and Ms. Nasrin from SAC will take initiatives to prepare one concept note from the identified issues as priority area for the Ninth Governing Body Meeting 2015 for kind approval. It was also decided to jointly organise a seminar within June 2015.

## DG, CIRDAP meets the SAC Governing Body

CIRDAP and the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) have prepared some collaborative programmes and a project which have been placed before the 9th SAC Governing Board Meeting for approval which was held from 17 to 20 October 2015. In this connection, Director General, CIRDAP, Dr. Cecep Effendi together with Acting Director (Research Division), Dr. Ibrahim Saiyed met the SAC Governing Body in the meeting on 19 October 2015 at SAC.

Dr. Effendi addressed and expressed his gratitude to the GB members and officials from SAARC and SAC for taking the initiatives and cooperation for the proposed joint programmes and project. He mentioned that the South Asia would be benefitted with the collaborative programmes/project, especially in the area of small scale agro-processing. He also presented some documentary videos of Indonesian small scale agro-processing.





## SAC celebrates 31st SAARC Charter Day in association with CIRDAP, FAO, IRRI and CIMMYT

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) in association with CIRDAP, FAO, IRRI and CIMMYT organised a programme to celebrate the “31st SAARC Charter Day and International Year of Soils-2015” at Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council in Dhaka on 8 December 2016, where Professor Dr. MS Swaminathan delivered a keynote lecture. He said though the SAARC region is experiencing satisfactory economic growth, hunger and malnutrition, particularly among women and children are widespread. Nutrition is fundamental for providing human beings with opportunities for a productive and healthy life and the SAARC region should show the way by integrating agriculture with nutrition and health, he added.

Professor Swaminathan said that the SAARC region is registering satisfactory economic growth. Nevertheless, hunger and malnutrition particularly among women and children are widespread. This is often referred to as “SAARC enigma”. Agriculture is one of the most important professions in the SAARC countries and rice is the most important food crop. The prevailing hunger in the region is caused by three factors, viz, inadequate consumption of food, protein deficiency and hidden hunger caused by the deficiency of micronutrients like iron, iodine, zinc, vitamin A, vitamin B12 etc. Also, to achieve the zero hunger challenge we will have to give concurrent attention to all the three forms of hunger, particularly under-nutrition leading to calorie deprivation. The zero hunger challenge of the UN Secretary General has five major components, viz, 100 per cent access to adequate food all year round, zero stunted children less than 2 years of age, all food systems are sustainable, 100 per cent increase in smallholder productivity and income and zero loss or waste of food. An economical and effective method of achieving zero hunger is applying agricultural remedies to the prevailing nutritional maladies. For this purpose, SAARC countries can reorient the existing farming systems by including the dimension of nutrition. Such Farming System for Nutrition (FSN) should be supported by the Genetic Garden of Bio-fortified Plants and Community Hunger Fighters, well versed in the causes as well as cures for the high malnutrition burden.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said the government is open to agricultural innovation, but is also cautious whether they might harm the environment. In his presentation, FAO Representative in Bangladesh Mike Robson said Bangladesh has made good progress in food security but it is slowing down.

In technical session, four professionals presented their papers on ‘Remediation and adaptation for sustainable land use, Carbon sequestration and climate change, Soil resources of Bangladesh - Potentials and challenges, and Soil organic matter dynamics and modeling sustainable soil environment’. From CIRDAP, Dr. Ibrahim Md. Saiyed, Director Research (Acting) presented the paper on ‘Soil organic matter dynamics and modeling sustainable soil environment’.



*Dr. Ibrahim Md. Saiyed, Director Research (Acting) presenting his paper in the programme*



## **CIRDAP and SAARC sign MoU to foster Rural Development in the Region**

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to foster collaboration between two organisations in mutually agreed areas.

SAARC comprises Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as its members, while CIRDAP consists of six SAARC countries (except Bhutan and the Maldives) as well as Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The headquarters of the CIRDAP based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. SAARC Secretary-General Mr. Arjun B Thapa and CIRDAP Director-General Cecep Effendi inked the MoU at the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu on 02 December 2015, replacing the erstwhile MoU that was signed in 2007 and expired in 2010.



*CIRDAP DG exchanging MoU with SAARC Secretary-General at the SAARC Secretariat*

The new MoU stands to open up a vista of opportunities for both the organisations to complement each other's efforts in rural development and implement joint projects. The prospective areas of cooperation outlined in the MoU include rural development and women empowerment through agro-processing, promoting inter-regional trade in agricultural products, adopting techniques of climate smart agriculture, generating user-friendly database on rural statistics, establishing a virtual and multi-stakeholder supported rural development information system, formulating and implementing strategic action plan for rural development in the region and adopting an Integrated Rural Development Policy for South Asia.



# *Pilot Projects*

- Innovation Challenge to Poverty Eradication for Rickshaw  
Pullers: Interest-Free Microfinance and Zero-Carbon Footprints
- Up-valuing and Empowering MSMEs Women Entrepreneurs  
in Food Processing Community Level Best Practices on RD and PA
- Organic Agro-industry Development Leadership
- Networking and Partnership Development with APO,  
OECD-Korea Policy Centre, IPA, UNESCAP, World Bank and  
a few Financial Institutions and the Academe in Bangladesh

## **Focused Areas**

- Interest-Free Microfinance and Zero-Carbon Footprints
- Agro-industry Development Leadership
- Small and Medium Enterprises
- Food Processing





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). However, with the absence of sufficient fund to implement pilot projects, the Division has devoted much of its time to begin afresh a new phase, i.e. mobilize resources by initiating a good number of institutional talk-through to bring in new development partners to CIRDAP. The primary objective is to draw out potential discussions for policy advocacy that may facilitate proposal-making for pilot projects. Hence, PPD succeeded gaining support from relevant organisations.

The major project activities conducted during 2015 are as follows:

### Collaborative Knowledge Sharing on Bamboo Value Chain

Pilot Projects Division (PPD), CIRDAP in collaboration with the Department of Planning and Cooperation (DoPC) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Lao PDR organised a “Knowledge Sharing Workshop of Best Practices on Bamboo Value Chain in selected CMCs” from 07-08 July 2015. A total of 35 stakeholders participated in the workshop. Deputy Director, International Cooperation Division, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Forestry chaired the inaugural session while DG, DoPC, MAF welcomed the participants as a host. Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director, PPD, CIRDAP delivered the message from CIRDAP and explained the objectives and expected outputs of the workshop.

This programme was conducted in line with a follow-up action that emanated during the 28th Technical Committee Meeting of CIRDAP held in May 2013, Indonesia which DoPC made a presentation on “Approaches, Lessons and Innovations on Bamboo Value Chain in Lao PDR.” Accordingly, Department of Planning and Cooperation (DoPC) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry had agreed and confirmed to host a seminar/workshop in collaboration with CIRDAP on Bamboo Value chain in January 2015.

Plenary session started with the leveling of expectation as facilitated by Ms. Tuzon from CIRDAP. The workshop aimed to broaden opportunities for the rural communities in Lao PDR in the field of micro-small bamboo industry. Mr. Sounthone Ketphanh, Deputy Director, Forestry Research Center of



*Participants of the workshop*



the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) presented the bamboo status of Lao PDR which is commonly found in different forests at its natural state of production or in traditional plantation usually in home garden of few species. Accordingly, Lao had planted some for shoot production in last decade. Mr. Sounthone reported that bamboo is not yet optimised in terms of uses which admittedly there is much wastage of the natural resource. Most of the areas are still in open access, i.e., shoots and canes harvesting. He mentioned that IDRC supported taxonomic studies in 1992-1994 that there were 52 specific species and 15 genera.

Other studies were also conducted with the cooperation from FoF, GRET, WWF and the GIZ. The Government of Lao PDR issued a policy on the annual quota for shoots and canes between 2009 and 2013 which accordingly these quotas were quite far from the potential of supply. The real uses would be up to 90% more in the country. Bamboo was recognised as non-timber forest product which requires support on proper management and sustainable harvesting. It has multi-purpose uses within Lao such as food, tools, shelter, prevention of soil erosion and carbon sequestration.

Mr. Souvannpheng Phommasane, Director of the Agro-Forestry Consultant Co. Ltd. (AFC) shared about a Case Study on Bamboo Value Chain from Sangthong District, Vientiane Capital. Apparently AFC is a development partner that supported various initiatives on bamboo and biodiversity in Lao including for the conduct of the knowledge sharing-workshop. Its main activities involves Value Chain Study and identified key necessary interventions such as group formation and stakeholder mobilisation, product and market development, inventory and forest management plan/governance, micro-finance link-aging, gender development and policy advocacy work for the creation of an enabling environment and infrastructure support needed.

The presentation on “Innovative Learning Process for Building Sustainable Bamboo Value Chains”, the case of the Bamboo Project in Houaphan Province was presented by Mr. Bounnyasith Saengmany, Assistant Project Coordinator, Groupe de Recherche Et D’Echanges Technologiques (GRET)/Professionals for Fair Development. Mr. Bounnyasith explained the achievements in the Houphan province and the bamboo potentials. Accordingly, there were four up-valued products such as handicraft development for domestic market, slats and sticks for exportation to Vietnam, Fresh bamboo shoots for local market, and dried bamboo shoots both for local consumption and Vietnam market. Mr. Linh then explained the method for extracting bamboo fiber [from alkaline treatment, rolling, scratching] which is further characterised in terms of getting the long fiber and meshed into shorter fiber. The technology is from Japan. Its cost is USD3 per kilogram to produce the product output.

The presentation was continued by Mr. Hector Porbounmixaithor, Forester, GRET. He presented the Huaphan Bamboo Strategy 2011-2015 with support of the Bamboo Project. The bamboo project plays a role of “facilitator” of the collective learning since 2010 in Laos. He shared about the value chain framework which polices resources management [forest identification/PLUP Securing Land] and business is made synchronised or linked. Further, he explained briefly the five components: Land Management, forest management, plantation, business and trade, and enabling environment wherein apparent were a comprehensive collaboration between and among stakeholders are being undertaken and well promoted. Accordingly, the business component of the project was supported by the Smart Development Works (SVN).

The experts from Vietnam and Philippines shared their knowledge on bamboo value chain based on best practices which involves production, management and marketing. Expert Dr. Nguyen Pham Linh from the Polymer Centre, Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST), presented his paper entitled “Bamboo Resource in Viet Nam and Their Use in Polymer Composite Materials”. He informed that the bamboo as a natural resource in Vietnam is a very good input material for industries replacing synthetic materials. There are already many ways to extract bamboo fiber based on various investigations and have established chemical treatments being applied to get the high properties of bamboo.



Further, the expert from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (DENR-ERDB), Philippines, Mr. Gregorio E. Santos, Junior, Senior Science Research Specialist presented his paper presentation was entitled “Bamboo Propagation and Plantation Management in the Philippines”. He spoke about the best practice on bamboo value chain in the Philippines as supported by a policy framework for bamboo development, i.e. Executive Order No. 879, May 14, 2010 that prescribes to prioritize the product development, promote and market access of bamboo products in the country. The bamboo demand addresses for various industries in Agriculture sector with estimate of 74 million culms. He mentioned that if the estimated harvestable culms of 21 M as projected in 1990 will not be augmented through plantation development, large supply deficits are expected. Even if demand is grossly overestimated, the figures reveal some shortage in bamboo supply.

Mr. Santos presented the general types of Bamboo Stands in the Philippines. He explained that bamboo as a plantation material: i) Natural Stands found in forests, cutting is prohibited and ii) Planted Bamboo Stands or stands in plantation. Further, Mr. Santos recalled that in 1974 research outputs are not read, so the importance of knowledge sharing likes this one. Hence, he applauded CIRDAP and DoPC for hosting the workshop. Let us be very serious about sustainable development. He emphasized the need for knowledge sharing, understanding the chain, including the importance of agencies like DENR-ERDB, HUST, the Lao PDR MAF and its development partners, etc. He mentioned too that the bamboo is a great opportunity for the Mekong River.



*Participants during a field visit*

Research and information are the most critical in investment or bamboo business. Hence, the inventory is critical. Regional partners are very generous in knowledge sharing.

After the presentations, Ms. Tuzon, briefly synthesised the day’s discussions and presented the suggested planning template using a results chain analysis format. She explained the matrix to the participants. The participants were divided into two groups: policy group and business group. Using results chain framework, the participants have prepared and presented two sets of action plans that focused on Policy and Business.

A field-visit to an association in Ban Napo under Sang Muong district, Lao PDR that was into micro-bamboo furniture industry enabled the participants to see the bamboo products that provided income to the communities using traditional practices and low cost tools as up valuing process.

### **Financial Inclusion Initiative Mainstreaming Interest-Free Microfinance: Zero-Carbon Footprints-Rickshaw Pullers Innovation Challenge to Poverty Eradication**

A team from Pilot Projects Division led by Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General of CIRDAP met Mr. Md. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury, Founder and President, ASA on 22 December 2015, where senior officials of ASA were also present in the meeting. ASA is one of the leading Microfinance Institutions in Bangladesh that has expanded its operations at the international level.

Dr. Effendi expressed his admiration to ASA and its staff members for significant contribution to poverty alleviation and education. He said ASA Model can be replicated in the CIRDAP, SAARC and ASEAN member countries. ASA also expressed its willingness to collaborate with CIRDAP on the proposed pilot project titled “Financial Inclusion Initiative Mainstreaming Interest-Free Microfinance:



Zero-Carbon Footprints-Rickshaw Pullers Innovation Challenge to Poverty Eradication” in Keraniganj and Savar, Dhaka as initial areas of operation for the project.

Mr. Mohammad Ashraful Haque, Acting Country Director, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) made a presentation and shared IPA’s research results on microcredit studies and explained Randomised Control Trial (RCT) as a research methodology that is being used in promoting evidence-informed policymaking. He concluded his presentation by emphasising the importance of partnership between CIRDAP and ASA.



*Meeting in progress*

In the meeting, it was agreed that CIRDAP, IPA and ASA will discuss further about the initiative to prepare the project concept describing methodology and institutional arrangements. IPA was tasked to prepare the project proposal which will be shared to ASA.

#### **Meeting with Senior Officials of IBBL**

A team comprising of Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director, PPD, CIRDAP, Mr. David Hilton, Assistant Programme Officer, CIRDAP, Mr. Mohammad Ashraful Haque, Acting Country Director, IPA and Research Associate of IPA met Mr. Md. Siddiqur Rahman, Executive Vice President and Head of Research and Development Division, Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd. (IBBL) at Head Office of IBBL in Dilkusha, Dhaka.

Islami Bank expressed their willingness to build partnership with IPA and CIRDAP on the proposed pilot project, subject to further discussion with top management and departments of the bank.



*Meeting with IBBL Officials*



## Hands on Training on Agro-Processing for Women Entrepreneurs – A Practical Application on Productivity and Income

PPD, CIRDAP in collaboration with International Finance Investment and Commerce Bank Limited (IFIC Bank) Bangladesh organised the Hands-on Training of Agro-processing for Women Entrepreneurs – a Practical Application on Productivity and Income on 10 – 11 June 2015. Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG, CIRDAP and Mr. Shah A. Sarwar, Managing Director, IFIC Bank Ltd. were present during the Inauguration Programme. Both officials viewed that through these small initiatives the women entrepreneurs can really improve their food processing business. Likewise, Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director, PPD, CIRDAP briefly explained about the objectives of hands on training programme and expected this collaboration would continue further for the women entrepreneurs through the network on SMEs created by Bangladesh Bank, IFIC, CIRDAP and other development partners like HORTEX etc. She thanked IFIC Bank for the financial support which was extended along with CIRDAP's technical collaboration (e.g. preparing proposal and implementation of the activity).

Mr. T.I.M. Rawshan Zadeed, Executive Vice President and Head of SME Division and Green Banking, IFIC Bank, spoke at the programme and thanked CIRDAP authority for hosting this collaborative training. Ms. Novianti Adrial (Yanti), an Indonesian expert who lives in Dhaka, had conducted practical training courses at CIRDAP International Conference Centre with demo-kitchen facility for preparing chips using non-traditional crops such as bitter melon, betel leaf, banana flower and carrot. There were selected 15 women food business entrepreneurs from all over Bangladesh. At the end of the programme they were awarded certificates by Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG, CIRDAP for successful completion of the hands-on training course.



Further, the trainees have expressed common interest for follow up support from IFIC and CIRDAP to provide technical assistance on product packaging to up- value their products. The management of CIRDAP and IFIC have taken note of the participants' remarks.



## Seminar on Empowering SME Women Entrepreneurs in Food Processing: Diabetic and Functional Foods

Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) under Bangladesh Bank, Protina HM Food Products in collaboration with CIRDAP organised a seminar on “Empowering SME Women Entrepreneurs in Food Processing: Diabetic and Functional Foods” at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) on 30 May 2015. Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor of Bangladesh Bank graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Representatives of commercial banks and leading four companies dealing with SMEs were present at the seminar. Ms. Eva Binita A. Tuzon, Director, Pilot Projects Division (PPD), CIRDAP was one of the members of the Coordination Committee of the organisers.

On behalf of DG, CIRDAP, Ms. Tuzon briefed the involvement of CIRDAP in greater SME Network in Bangladesh and other selected CIRDAP member countries. CIRDAP is in process of exploring the convergence of initiatives across sectors like agriculture, banks, micro-finance and other relevant sectors. CIRDAP with Bangladesh Bank and other relevant organisations have been working together to establish the SME Advocacy Network for policy makers. Women entrepreneurs should focus on innovative food businesses for higher business growth like diabetic confectionary items due to its immense potential in Bangladesh, analysts said in the seminar. In the keynote paper the message was that there is demand for diabetic and functional food, gradually increasing with greater health awareness as opined by Mr. AK Obidul Huq, Assist. Professor, Dept. of Food Technology and Nutritional Science, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University. There was an exhibition of displaying some sample of diabetic foods made by some women entrepreneurs at CICC which was visited by some enthusiastic participants.



## Launching Ceremony of IFIC Bank's- 'Krishi Shilpo' (Agri. Industry) and SME Loan Disbursement Programme

IFIC Bank, Bangladesh introduced a loan product namely IFIC 'Krishi Shilpo' (Agri. Industry) for providing financial support to entrepreneurs in Small and Medium enterprises (SMEs) and disbursed loans of Tk. 200 million among 25 SME entrepreneurs. Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor, Bangladesh Bank and chief guest of the programme formerly launched the products and disbursed the loan in a simple ceremony in 'Purbani' a local hotel in Dhaka on 24 February 2015. Presided over by Managing Director and CEO of IFIC Bank Mr. Shah Alam Sarwar, the programme was addressed, among others, by Director General of CIRDAP Dr. Cecep Effendi, Executive Director of Bangladesh Bank Mr. Nirmal Chandra Bhakta, General Manager.

The disbursed loan to 25 entrepreneurs received in the field of agro-industries like a) aromatic rice b) bakery c) tea processing d) mustard oil processing etc. The SME products SME that IFIC Bank introduced are: a) 'Krishi-Shilpo' (Agri-Industry), b) 'Parntya Nari' (Marginalised Women), and c) 'Subarna Gram' (Golden Village). At present with the leadership of Governor, Bangladesh bank has been given lot of importance to Agriculture and SME sector in the light of 'inclusive growth'. Terming IFIC Bank's move a timely one; Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman said Bangladesh Bank will always support



agriculture and SME entrepreneurs. He also said the central bank devised programme and implemented the same on priority basis for creating new entrepreneurs in those sectors.



*DG with other guests in the launching ceremony*



*DG CIRDAP addressing in the programme*

DG, CIRDAP, Dr. Cecep Effendi expressed his satisfaction that CIRDAP being a regional and inter-governmental organisation is associated with Bangladesh Bank with development of SME in Bangladesh and learn from 'best practices' from other CIRDAP Member Courtiers (CMCs). Agro industry as he opined create employment and create contribution to rural economy. MSMEs are treated as backbone of the economy in countries like Indonesia, Malaysia or Thailand in Southeast Asia. One statistics from World Bank shows that to make business easy, Bangladesh is ranked 173 out of 200 countries whereas Indonesia stands 114 but Malaysia ranked 18. So there is lot of scope to work on business sector by focusing on SME sector in Bangladesh as Bangladeshi people are hard working and land is fertile with soil and water as he opined. Farmers has problem of marketing due to less competence in value addition. DG CIRDAP made a presentation on home based agro industries like preparing snacks from 'betel leaf' run by couple of women in small scale as home based simple agro processing technology. This could be a good replication model by women entrepreneurs for rural women in context of 'zero' waste which has been practised in counties like Indonesia.

It was revealed in the meeting that at present, Small and Medium Enterprise sector is playing a vital role in creation of new generation entrepreneurs and 'Entrepreneurs Culture' in the country. To facilitate SME sector of the country, IFIC Bank, Bangladesh provides collateral free credit facilities to the small and medium entrepreneurs across the country with the 'Pro-SME' policy of Bangladesh Bank as it was reiterated in the 'Launching Ceremony' by different speakers from IFIC and Bangladesh Bank.

### **Pre-Conference Session Meeting with CIRDAP on Optional Protocol-3**

There was a meeting at CIRDAP on pre-conference session meeting on Optional Protocol-3 on 15 March 2015. The Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on a Communications Procedure (OP-3 CRC) sets out an international complaints procedure for child rights violations. It entered into force in April 2014, allowing children from states that have ratified to bring complaints about violations of their rights directly to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child if they have not found a solution at national level.

DG, Acting Director, Research, CIRDAP along with other relevant organisation's representatives (e.g. SOS, Terre des hommes, Bangladesh Shishu Adikher Forum, EDUCO, Ain O Salish Kendra and SOS Children's Village International in Bangladesh) were present at the meeting. The agenda of the pre-conference session meeting were: a) Objective of the seminar/consultation, b) Child Rights situation and implementation mechanism in Bangladesh, c) Importance/ justification of ratification



of Optional Protocol-3, d) What will be the strategy/approach to influence policy makers for ratifying OP-3 and role of the organisations who are working on this issue, and e) Next step/way forward after the consultation.

At the beginning of the meeting, all the participants were welcomed and also requested to Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG for chairing the meeting. Dr. Md. Enamul Haque, DND, SOS Bangladesh facilitated the meeting and briefed the background of the meeting. After self-introduction, Mr. Abdus Shahid Mahmood, Director, BSAF described about BSAF activities and then the objective of the meeting. He told that Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum since its inception has been working with the Government on CRC issue, after the ratification of UNCRC by Bangladesh Government. BSAF is currently advocating for the ratification of Optional Protocol-3 by the state. He also explained the importance of ratification of OP-3. BSAF is planning to invite the Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to be present as special guest and CD of Terre des hommes Netherlands, DG of CIRDAP and National Director of SOS Bangladesh will be present as guest of honour and BSAF chairperson will chair the seminar. A key note paper will be prepared by an expert.



### **Exposure-Study-Visit to the Rural Development Academy, Bangladesh**

Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director, Pilot Projects Division, CIRDAP along with Mr. David Hilton, Assistant Programme Officer made a field-study-visit to the Rural Development Academy (RDA) Bogra, Bangladesh from 15 to 17 November 2015. RDA was established on 19 June, 1974 as a specialised rural development institution for training, research and action research. The Academy is an autonomous body officiated with the Rural Development and Co-operatives Division (RD CD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD&C), where as CIRDAP also operates with RD CD in the same Ministry of Bangladesh.

The objective of the field visit was to have practical knowledge from the livelihood project, some successful action research models and agricultural demonstrations of RDA. Part of the itinerary to the few selected communities under the Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) of RDA was to have ocular-learning and assessment for potential CIRDAP-RDA joint action-research initiative for Char communities in Bangladesh.

### **Char Livelihoods Programme (CLP), Sarikandi Upazila, Bogra**

Chars can be transformed into a viable production zone and at the same time linked to the market within the district. The area is endowed with fertile soil. The Making Markets Work for the Chars (M4C) is introduced to the communities that are settled along the rivers of Jamuna, Padma and Teesta. M4C project aims to reduce poverty and vulnerability of char households in ten districts of northern Bangladesh by developing market systems that create opportunities for employment and income generation.

During the site-visit to char villages such as Maizbari Bazer, Upazila Boltali under Saikandi Upazila (sub-district) at Char Island located on the mid of the Jamuna river, the RDA team led by Engineer M. A. Matin, DG, RDA along with other project stakeholders of M4C were with us. The area is approximately 40 square kilometers which about 40,000 to 45,000 households are residing with average



family members of 5, i.e., at least 20,000 people per Char village. Populations vary as residents are forced to relocate due to flooding and soil erosions.



*Discussions with project officials and beneficiaries in Maizbari Bazer*

The visiting team had focus-group discussions with different smallholder groups, livestock service providers, fodder producer, input and output market actors, and dairy entrepreneurs. They found that beneficiaries who received milk cows covered by CLP are accordingly able to improve their socio-economic condition by selling calf and raw milk. The CLP project facilitates the community members LSPs earning about Tk.8,000 to Tk.11,000. They provide on-call veterinary services to the members who are into cattle fattening activity.

The team also visited a few milk supply points where buyers from Pran Dairy, Milk Vita and Arrong come and buy raw milk from the producers/villagers. The communities need various technical supports such as communication system, storage facility and capacity building on dairy product development.

M4C project serves as a supplemental activity for char livelihood project, which is a five year project, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, and implemented by Swisscontact and Practical Action in collaboration with the Rural Development Academy, Bogra. The Making Markets Work under M4C portfolio includes agriculture/farming sectors such as maize, chili, jute, onion, services as cross-cutting sectors.

The team also met a women micro-credit group in Laxmikola village in Bhohali Union, run by a NGO, namely, Gram Unnayan Karma (GUK), working this char area as local development partner with Swisscontact and RDA for social mobilisation and community development.

The visiting team has observed that GUK microcredit programme has facilitated the community women accessed to loan. Apparently, BRAC, Grameen and ASA are not yet working in these river island. Most beneficiaries opined that milk cow or beef fattening are the profitable source of income as the char areas are good grazing lands.

### **Comprehensive Village Development Programmes**

The team also visited Aminpur Old Colony in order to see a Comprehensive Village Development Programmes (CVDP) site under Sherpur Upazila, Bogra. The objective of this visit was to observe the impact of the programme on women members and the team found that women members are well organised and have skills on making handicraft products

The members informed that they have limited access to the market. In this regard Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon shared the best experiences/success stories from Philippines/Thailand up-valuing the products through cooperative measures for marketing. RDA faculty Mr. Habibur Rahman, Project Director, CVDP /Deputy Director, RDA took note of the cooperative's areas for livelihood improvement and sustainability.





*Comprehensive Village Development Programmes (CVDP)*

### **Visit to Various Action Research Models of RDA**

The team visited various research projects/models of RDA. Mr. Md. Arif Hossain Jewel, Assistant Director of RDA briefed them about the Farm Technology, Irrigation and Water Resources Management, Multi-storied Agriculture with Solar Power Irrigation Model as a Green Innovation Pilot Project, and Dairy Farm run by RDA.

They enriched their knowledge by seeing the RDA's integrated-farming system producing outputs such as dairy, bio-gas and organic fertilizer. They also visited the "Community based Biogas Plant" established in 2002 as an action research by which RDA is able to supply cooking gas to the RDA residents.



*Multi-storied Agriculture with Solar Power Irrigation Model and Dairy Farm in RDA*

### **Agro-Food Processing of RDA**

The team made a short visit to Agro-processing, Preservation and Marketing Unit of RDA in Bogra. Food Processing Expert and Assistant Director of RDA Engineer Monirul Islam said that this unit could be a hub for joint collaboration among RDA and CIRDAP and other partners like Banks, APO etc.

### **Parbhavanipur Community Bio-gas Sub-Project**

The team also visited the sub-project in Sherpur Upazila, Bogra. Community people under the sub-project get services like bio-gas, water supply and cattle treatment using mobile apps for an expert opinion. While talking with properties of this partnership business model Md. Fazlul Haq Sarker this integrated project can supply dairy milk, bio-gas, organic manure etc. which we found quite successfully run and organised by community people in technical collaboration from RDA, Bogra.



*Veterinary treatment using mobile apps by a livestock worker*



## Renewed Partnership with Asian Productivity Organisation

Coordinating with the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), Pilot Projects Division of CIRDAP arranged a meeting with APO-Secretariat, Tokyo and NPO-Bangladesh held on 28 December 2015 in CIRDAP headquarters with a view to discussing the programme on 'Organic Agro-industry Development Leadership Course in Asia' to be held in the Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra, Bangladesh from 28 May to 03 June 2016. This collaborative project will be implemented in collaboration with the National Productivity Organisation (NPO), Bangladesh and sponsored by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM), Germany, CIRDAP and RDA.

A team from CIRDAP headed by DG CIRDAP Dr. Cecep Effendi participated in the meeting where Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Hossain, Programme Officer, APO-Secretariat, Md. Abdul Musabbir, APO Liaison Officer for Bangladesh NPO Office, Mr. Abdul Baqui Chowdhury, Joint Director, NPO-Bangladesh took part. CIRDAP discussed the operation modality of the training course with APO and NPO Officials where Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Hossain briefed about the 'Project Notification' of the course.



It was discussed that the collaborative project will include a total of 29 participants (e.g. 18 from overseas, two from APO and six from Bangladesh). International air tickets will be provided by APO and local hospitality will be covered by RDA and CIRDAP based on mutual understanding and agreement. Since the venue will be RDA and some participants out of six from Bangladesh will be chosen by RDA in association with CIRDAP and NPO-Bangladesh. CIRDAP needs further discussions with one of its link Institution RDA, Bogra. This will help CIRDAP, as Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG revealed to the meeting that it would assist us to find out the outlines on operational strategy and detail (e.g. food and lodging, transportation, local expert, receive and see of for 18 overseas participants, local travel like Dhaka-Bogra-Dhaka etc.) for successful implementation of the above mentioned training programme.

In this connection Dr. Tanveer requested to start communication regarding APO-CIRDAP programmes to be held in Indonesia (Training Course entitled Productivity Tools and Techniques for Improving Productivity of Micro and Small Agro food-processing Business) and in the Philippines (Workshop on Agricultural Insurance, and Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference: Greening the Food Supply Chain). In response, DG CIRDAP already informed the update and assured to follow-up subject to agree by CIRDAP's Link Institutions since CIRDAP needs to involve them as key stakeholders. Also, Dr. Tanveer requested Director (PPD) of CIRDAP, Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon to assess the cost per person for seven days for above mentioned training to be held in RDA since non-CMCs Countries' participants would not be paid by any means by CIRDAP as opined by DG, CIRDAP.

Dr. Tanveer reminded CIRDAP APO needs at least four months time for any inception of a project/training (e.g. 3 months for choosing/coordinating candidates from various member countries in proper channel and 1 month for logistic arrangements). Lastly Dr. Tanveer expected DG, CIRDAP will be present at APO Secretariat, Tokyo and will meet APO Secretary-General, Mr. Mari Amano and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CIRDAP and APO for collaborative programmes on 26 January 2016 which was endorsed by DG, CIRDAP.



## Staff Participation

- DG CIRDAP along with Director and APO (Pilot Projects Division) met Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus during the business session of the 116th Social Business Design Lab programme organised by Yunus Centre held on 17 September 2015 at Grameen Bank Auditorium, Mirpur, Dhaka. DG expressed to Prof. Yunus about the idea of promoting entrepreneurship and transferring technology (Southeast Asian countries to South Asia countries) on agro-food processing in CIRDAP Member-States as these manifest as one of the ultimate results of various development interventions being provided by governments and non-governments, e.g., Grameen. The idea may be done through social business and regional cooperation which was noted by Prof. Yunus who likewise enthusiastically recalled his recent visit to Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, India where he presented a lecture on Entrepreneurship Motivating Indian Youth for Social Business that was coordinated and facilitated by CIRDAP on 01 September 2015.
- DG, CIRDAP along with Director and APO from PPD attended a meeting for collaboration on 22 November 2015 in the First Security Islamic Bank, Head office, Gulshan, Dhaka.
- Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director, PPD, CIRDAP participated and made a brief presentation in the Asian Public Governance (APG) Conference held on 26 November 2015 in Seoul, Korea.
- A three day-long National Conference on "Enhancing the Role of Mass Media Practitioners in Knowledge Transfer to Improve Agricultural Productivity" was attended by Dr. Cecep Effendi (Director General), Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Dr. Ibrahim Syed and Mr. David Hilton from CIRDAP which was held from 20-22 September at the Hotel 71, Dhaka. In the conference, Dr. Cecep Effendi inspired the participants to support the growth of agro-food processing in Bangladesh using crops planted by small growers. Further, a luncheon meeting among CIRDAP-APO-NPO was also held there.
- Director, PPD attended UNESCAP Conference on "Big Data and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Achieving the Development Goals in the Asia and the Pacific Region" held in Bangkok, Thailand from 14-15 December 2015.
- APO (PPD) and Librarian CIRDAP attended a national seminar on "Cross-talk of Digital Resources Management: Steps towards Digital Bangladesh" organised by Bangladesh Association of Librarians, Information Scientists and Documentalists (BALID) in collaboration with CIRDAP held on 22 August 2015 at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre.
- David Hilton, APO (PPD) participated in a Training of Trainers (TOT) titled "Build Back Better in Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction: Perspectives from the Academic and Science Community" which was held from 26-27 October 2015 at University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- APO (PPD) participated in three-day long workshop on "Disaster Recovery Planning" organised at CIRDAP International Conference Centre, Dhaka from 25-27 May 2015 by the Institute of Strategic Recovery Studies for Disaster Resilience and Research (ISRSDRR), International Recovery Platform (IRP) and UNDP, Dhaka in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Bangladesh.



# Training

## Regional Programmes

- Sustainable Rural Livelihoods
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Application for Rural Development
- Micro Hydro Power for Rural Development
- Networking Local Government Training Institutions in CIRDAP Member Countries
- Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development
- Local Governance and Delivery of Services
- Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and the New Theory

## Exposure Visit

- Indian Officials to Bangladesh on Micro-finance

## Post Graduate Diploma Programme

- Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (Batch -X: 2015-16)

## Internship Programme

- CIRDAP Internship Programme for NIRD&PR 8th Batch PGDRDM Students

## ITEC Fellowships for the Year 2015-16

- Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Fellowships to CMCs for the year 2015-16

## Focus Areas

- Sustainable Rural Livelihoods
- Microfinance
- Micro Hydro Power for Rural Development
- Sufficiency Economy Philosophy
- ICT for Rural Development
- Networking Local Government Training Institutions
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Local Governance and Delivery of Services





Training Division has been working hard to fulfil the mandate of CIRDAP and to cater training needs of CIRDAP member countries since its inception in 1979. The Division has a clear focus to assist the member countries in their efforts towards human resource development and capacity building of senior and mid-level functionaries. The training programmes are focused, thematic and covering topical interest. The themes covered during 2015 were Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, Microfinance, Micro Hydro Power for Rural Development, Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Networking Local Government Training Institutions, Social Business, Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development, and Local Governance and Delivery of Services etc.

## Regional Programmes

### **CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Sustainable Rural Livelihoods**

With a funding support under grants-in-aid to CIRDAP by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, for the year 2014-15, and as a kind gesture for regional cooperation for sharing experiences among CIRDAP member countries of Asia-Pacific, the International Training Programme on Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, India was organised at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India for 10 days duration from 05-14 January 2015.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. M.V Rao IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, Hyderabad in January 05, 2015 followed by a brief address delivered by Dr. K. P. Rao, NIRD on how best to improve the quality of life of the rural people by creating assets for employment and ensuring their sustainability. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director Training, CIRDAP highlighted the programme objectives and gave a presentation on the status of CIRDAP member countries on various parameters to understand how the member countries fare in the development parameters, and sustainable rural livelihoods case studies from member countries so that the member countries can learn from the experiences of each other.





There were country presentations by the participants which gave a glimpse of various livelihood programmes in their respective countries. Session on Rural Livelihoods Promotion: A New Paradigm was delivered by G. Bhargava, NRP; Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture by Dr. Das Gupta, Scientist, ICRISAT; Promotion of Rural Livelihoods through Self Help Group (SHG)-Bank Linkage by Mr. I.R.C Reddy, SERP; Impact of MGNREGA on Sustainable Livelihoods by Dr. G. Rajanikanth, Associate Professor, CWEPA; Sustainable Livelihoods through Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) by Dr. K. P. Rao, Head, CSERE/Director, NRLM (RC); Sustainable or Respectable Rural life through Ecological Farming (Ecological Agriculture: A Tool to Sustain Rural Life) was delivered by Dr. Rupela, Scientist, ICRSAT; Promotion of Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises by Dr. Madhuri, Asst. Prof., NIRD; Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods through CBOs by Mr. C.S. Reddy, CEO, APMAS; Promotion of Sustainable Rural Enterprises by Dr. Y. Gangi Reddy, Associate Professor, CRI, NIRD.

Besides the class room sessions, there were field visits to Swami Ramaswamy Tirtha Rural Training Institute, Nalgonda district which imparted skill training to the rural youth. They also visited the Handloom Textile Park, Pochampally where they got to know the various processes involved in textile weaving and production. The participants also visited Raja Rajeswari SHG, Pochampally-Mulkanur Dairy, Karimnagar and had interaction with the SHG members.



*Participants during field visits*

On 09 January 2015, Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP, addressed the participants and shared the good practices of agriculture from around the world and made special mention about the unique farming system in Thailand where their farm lands were divided into four sections conducive for vegetable garden, pond, paddy cultivation and a portion for growing cash crops and every single farmer had to join a cooperative so as to benefit the farmer in the long run. The Thai government worked hand in hand with the farming communities and standardised their products according to the product quality sensitising the farmers to negotiate with buyers. He remarked that governments need to focus on how to improve income by focusing on the strengths of the community but with growth and preservation at the same time. He thrust upon the idea that policy makers or representatives of the government should be responsible to define and pave the way for our farmers to have a decent livelihood as very few farmers can articulate their demands and when development happens, do we prepare our farmers, in what way we can have a situation where both sides win. That we need smart officials to bring about change and learn from the experiences of member countries and a collective action in our fight for rural development. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director Training, CIRDAP and Dr. K. P. Rao, NIRD.



## **CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on ICT Applications for Rural Development**

CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Applications for Rural Development was held from 9-18 March 2015 at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, India. There were 18 participants in this training programme from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. M.V. Rao, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, who highlighted the impact of application of ICT in rural areas in developing countries. Since ICT application in different countries for the development of rural areas are not known to other countries, he mentioned this kind of training programme will facilitate sharing and learning of good practices in ICT applications for rural development. He urged the participants from different countries to learn from India's experience and also share with India about the best practices of developments in their countries with regard to ICT applications. The course coordinators Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran and Dr. Satish Chandra then briefed about the programme which was followed by country presentations.



The technical sessions of the training programme began with a session on 'Learning Solutions for Mass Education' and the highlights of the session were as follows:

- e-Learning applications to reach the mass people
- Adult educations, vocational educations and distance learning through ICT enabled applications
- Learning management systems implementation for e-Governance in educations sector
- The applications of vikaspedia, crowdsourcing, m-agriculture academy, e-shiksha.com, mKrishi etc. for knowledge sharing to reduce the digital divide

There was a session on 'ICT Applications in Agriculture' and the highlights of the session were as follows:

- Rice knowledge management portal
- Web-portals for agriculture development, applications of green chips to knowledge transfer to the farmers, remote sensing pest control systems, GIS based data processing applications for agriculture, GSM based remote control of pump
- Virtual learnings for knowledge sharing around the globe for developing Agriculture



There was also a session on e-Governance and the highlights of the session were as follows:

- Government services provided to the rural people through ICT enabled applications like:
  - One stop service centre for rural people for all kinds of government services like e-Seva;
  - Unique identity based various allowances distribution;
  - Transparency in payment and monitoring systems for rural people employment generation like MGNREGS;
  - SMART card based payment distribution systems; and
  - Social Informatics applications for bridging the rural and urban people.

There was a session on ICT applications in Women, Child and Health. The highlights of the session were as follows:

- ICT initiatives for nutrition and child development services like e-Sadhana
- Health and nutrition tracking systems for pregnant and lactating mothers in the rural areas
- Tele-medicine services

The field visits of the training programme were organised to the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad; National Data Centre (NIC), Hyderabad; Remote Sensing Pest Control Systems; International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad; Software Technology Park of India, Hyderabad; Care Foundation, Hyderabad for telemedicine applications.

This is the first time a resource person from outside India, namely, Professor Dr. Alvin W. Yeo, Director, Institute of Social Informatics and Technological Innovations, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia was served as resource person. Dr. Alvin took the sessions on Best Practices of Malays i.e. on e-Bario as well as Rural Transformation Centre's Role in Rural Development in Malaysia which was a great learning for the participants, NIRD faculty members and students of PGDRDM. The learnings from this training programme for rural development in respect of ICT in CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) are:

- The overall scenario of CMCs in the field of rural development, economic and demographic conditions
- Competitive analysis of the CMCs of ICT applications in rural development
- Orientation on some good practices in rural development using ICT in CMCs
- Geo informatics applications in rural development

DG, CIRDAP, Dr Cecep Effendi giving the valedictory speech on 18 March 2015 urged the participants to apply their learning in this training programme for the benefit of the poor in their countries.



*Participants during a field visit to the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management in Hyderabad*



## International Training Programme on Micro Hydro Power for Rural Development

Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC), Jakarta, Indonesia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia and CIRDAP organised the above mentioned international training programme during 24 to 31 March 2015 at Padang, West Sumatera, Indonesia. As per the MoU signed between NAM CSSTC and CIRDAP, NAM CSSTC requested CIRDAP to depute a resource person specialised on Micro Hydro Power to deliver lecture in the training programme. CIRDAP deputed Mr. Madhusudhan Adhikari, National Advisor, Community Electrification Sub Component, National Rural and Renewable Energy Programme, Alternative Energy Promotion Center, Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal.

There were 17 participants from nine developing countries, namely, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cuba, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand. The participants were from the government institutions, universities, non-government organisation and state enterprises working on energy-related activities.

The objective of the training programme was to provide participants with basic knowledge of micro hydro power and its implementation to support rural development. The training programme covered the following subjects:

- Introduction to Renewable Energy
- Basic Knowledge of Micro Hydro Power (MHP)
- Technical Engineering of MHP
- Financial Aspect of MHP
- Community Development (Social, Economic and Institutional)
- Environmental and Sustainability Aspects of MHP
- Productive Use of Electricity
- Successful Case of MHP Plants in West Pasaman District
- Field Study to the Supporting Workshop of Pro-water for MHP Plant
- Field Study to Three MHP Plants (Lembah Derita, OMPP and Rimbo Batu) in West Pasaman District

Participants were requested to prepare and present their country reports covering problems and potentials of renewable energy development, especially of micro hydro power. Their knowledge and experiences were shared during the class and field sessions.





As part of the programme, there was a field visit to the best practices of micro hydro power plants was intended to see how micro hydro power plant works to generate electric power and give benefits to local communities as the beneficiaries. In the case of MHP Plants of Lembah Derita, OMPP and Rimbo Batu, the beneficiaries are also the owners. Factually there are seven MHP Plants developed in the same river bank operated by the respective local communities' groups. They have altogether established an Association of Tuah Sakato



*Class Session at the Grand Zuri Hotel, Padang*

Cooperative which the members are the local communities represented by the community groups to sit in the Board of Association. The Association officially and technically controls the MHP Plants managed by the seven respective community groups, namely Lembah Derita, OMPP, IMPP, Koto Patagak, Rombo Batu, Kampong Sejati and Banjar Durian Gadang. During the field study, the participants also exercised some practical works.

### **Workshop on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and the New Theory held in Thailand**

The Workshop on "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and the New Theory" was held from 25-29 May 2015 at Bangkok and Petchaburi Province, Thailand. The programme was co-ordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC), Government of Thailand (GoT) and organised by CIRDAP. The workshop discussed the concept and various facets of Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and Chang Hua Mua Royal Initiative Project. Field visit was organised to Chang-Hua-Mua Royal Initiative Project to have hands on experience about the implementation process and understand the ground realities. Seven participants attended the workshop from various CIRDAP countries.

#### **The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy**

Sufficiency Economy is a philosophy based on the fundamental principle of Thai culture. It is a method of development based on moderation, prudence and social immunity, one that uses knowledge and virtue as guidelines in living. Significantly, there must be intelligence and perseverance which will lead to real happiness in leading one's life.

#### **Benefits of the New Theory**

- The people can live moderately at an economical level without having to starve, and can be self-reliant according to the 'Sufficiency Economy' philosophy.
- In the dry season when is scarce, the water stored in the pond can be used to grow vegetables that can thrive on a small amount of water without having to rely on the irrigation system.
- In years when it rains in season with rainwater available all year round, the New Theory can earn income for the farmers who do not have to worry about expenses.
- In case of floods, farmers can recuperate and help themselves to a certain degree without needing much assistance from the government, a save on the budget in a way.

Field Visit to Chang-Hua-Mun Royal Initiative Project Initiated by the King Bhumibol Adulyadej back in 2010, the Chang-Hua-Man Royal Project originally consisted of a 250-rai plot of land that demonstrated how economically viable crops can be grown without the need for chemical fertilisers. Later on, a dairy farm was established with fields to raise cows. This was done to encourage the local farmers to expand into dairy farming. The royal project is aimed at improving the lives of farmers in Phetchaburi and other nearby provinces.



Two day field work to the Chang-Hua-Man Royal project where one can learn about the traditional life of Thai farmers over the years, as well as about organic farming and some of the many fruits that are grown in the kingdom; such as, bananas, papaya, pineapple and dragon fruit was organised. There was also a demonstration on how green energy can be created by harnessing wind power.

Chang-Hua-Mun Royal Initiative Project is an initiative project of His Majesty the King of Thailand who graciously donated his own treasury to buy land about 250 rai at NongSua Reservoir, Ban Nong Kho Kai, KhaoKraPuk Sub-district, Tha Yang District, Phetchaburi Province. At that time, this land was dry and decadent. The area was used for establishing a sample royal project in agriculture and collecting economic crops in Tha Yang District, Phetchaburi Province and nearby area. The King graciously assigned Dr. Dissathorn Watcharothai, Deputy Secretary General and Acting Director of the Bureau

of the Royal House, to cooperate with government and private sectors and start developing this land in July 13, 2009.



*Participants during a field visit*

In the first period, they improved the land to plant the crops, constructed the entrance road and the roads surrounding the project area, excavated a pond, constructed the office buildings and a royal guesthouse, installed an electrical system, bored an artesian well and etc. As a result, they could adjust the degraded area as a land for experimenting the plantations of economic crops such as various gardening

vegetables, fruit trees such as coconut, Phet Sai Rung rose apple, lime and various kinds of banana and farming crops such as pineapple and corn. Moreover, rice fields and rubber tree and Alatus plantations were also demonstrated. The sweet tamarind trees were seeded by the King and given to the project for planting. The King inaugurated the project in August 1, 2009.

### ***The Wind Farm***

The wind farm is a green energy site used for producing electricity and costs 1,000,000 baht per wind turbine. They can produce about 50 KW of electricity for selling to the Provincial Electricity Authority. Moreover, the production of 50 KW of electricity from solar energy is sold to the Provincial Electricity Authority as well.

### ***The Chang-Hua-Mun Dairy Farm***

The dairy farm herd has 36 dairy cattle. There are 26 dairy cattle and 10 calves. The 17 dairy cows can produce about 270 kilograms of milk to sell at the Cha-am Dairy Cooperative for 17 baht per kilogram. At present, the project is constructing the factory for producing pasteurised milk.

### ***The Fruit Tree Garden***

In the fruit tree garden, bananas are planted for use as a sunshade for the saplings. Bananas can also keep the moisture in the soil and they can be sold while waiting for the fruit yield. The fruit

tree garden has many kinds of fruit trees as follows:

- Milk jujube trees were planted by Toyota Motor Thailand Co. Ltd.
- Mayongchid (sweet yellow Marian plum) is a favorite fruit of the King. Therefore, the project has brought Mayongchid from NakhornNayok Province to grow in the project area.
- Seedless grapes, PhetPakchong custard apple, KimJu guava and Tabtimchan rose apple have also been planted.



About 40 species of vegetables have been planted in the garden. It is a plantation in crop rotation to avoid diseases and insects. These vegetables are chemical-free vegetables harvested every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. They are taken to the Golden Place store as the supplier. Every Wednesday, the project arranges vegetable baskets to give to the King.



*Members of local farmers' society explaining their activities*

### **Forward Linkages**

- The Agricultural Product Packaging Building was built by the Department of Agriculture.
- The Japanese yam garden can be harvested when yams grow for about 120 days. They are sweeter than Thai sweet yams and are supervised by affiliates of the Thai Beverage Public Co. Ltd.
- The lime garden which is sponsored by the Ban Rai LuangLime Group, grows limes on big lime stumps by planting big limes about 1 year old and then stabbing the lime on the top.
- The Mushroom House of the project can grow three kinds of mushrooms; black fungus, Yanagi mushroom and Abalone Mushroom.
- Alatus is a perennial plant which grows to about 30-40 m tall. The wood can be used to make furniture; the wood oil can also be used to make to a torch. However, this garden grows Alatus for preservation and is controlled by the Huay Sai Study Center.
- The rubber tree garden grows a JVP 80 specie rubber trees planted by affiliates of the Charoen Pokphand Group. The characteristic of this rubber tree is a short bush tree but it can produce good rubber for up to 36-40 years.
- The Fertilizer House can produce fertilizer from organic waste. It was taken from Maejo University, Chiang Mai Province.
- Deep water rice farming is a new concept of rice planting that can plant rice and feed fish in the paddy field to use fish as an eliminator of agricultural pests.
- The laying hen farm of the project has brought 1000CP Brown hens from CP to feed in the farm. Each day they can lay about 900 eggs.
- University, Chiang Mai Province. It is under the concept of one rai one hundred thousand baht that means how to sustainably invest using 1 rai and one hundred thousand baht. There are 11 models, such as a sufficiency economic model, a fresh vegetable model and lime growing in the pot model.

### **Workshop of Local Government Training Institutions**

Capacity building for local governance involves a variety of actors, one of which is training institutions that provides capacity building support. Local Government Training Institutions (LGTIs) may be government, semi-autonomous or autonomous institutions.

There is a tremendous opportunity for peer learning between the institutions in the region on areas of mutual interest, including capacity building strategies, training methodologies, curricula, good practices and experiences related to capacity building.

In 2014, Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Asia-Pacific (CIRDAP), an intergovernmental institution spanning 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region discussed collaboration with LOGIN to benefit from LOGIN's experiences in building networks for knowledge exchange and learning, and to bring into the fold LGTIs from LOGIN member countries that are not a member of CIRDAP.



Subsequently in the Second General Assembly of LOGIN in December 2014, it was discussed among members, who expressed their interest in learning and knowledge exchange event that may potentially strengthen the network of training institutions in the region for continued exchanges on capacity building programmes and strategies for local governance. The learning offer from LOGIN therefore featured in the Annual Plan 2015.



*Group photograph of the participants of the workshop*

The learning offer was eventually conceptualised as a dialogue workshop of LGTIs. It was delivered jointly by LOGIN and CIRDAP in collaboration with the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG), University of Philippines, Diliman, Manila, from 28 July to 30 July 2015 and facilitated by Dr. Cherian Joseph.

Dedicated LGTIs have been established in several countries by the government to address capacity needs of local governments. Each of these institutions have developed comprehensive capacity building strategies, detailed curriculum (for literates and neo literates) and roll out a plethora of training programmes targeted at local government representatives as well as state functionaries working with local governments. While the rubric of training programmes is common in many cases, they are adapted contextually to address local needs.

The workshop of LGTIS proposed to enable:

- Pooling of experiences, good practices and training materials for Local Government Training Institutions to access; and
- Learning on innovations in extension and training (especially e-enabled).

It expected to result in:

- Identification of the potential for mutual learning and support in the future; and
- Exploring the scope for future exchange and collaboration in a network mode.

The workshop drew participants from senior faculty of LGTIs from member countries of CIRDAP and LOGIN. Twenty-one participants from twelve countries took part in the workshop.

In first day of the workshop on 28 July 2015, all participants who had travelled to Philippines from different countries were welcomed by Ms. Jayapadma, Learning Facilitator LOGIN, who then invited Ms. Rosalina L. Bistoyong, Undersecretary of Special Programmes and AR Stakeholders Relations, Department of Agrarian Reforms, Govt. of the Philippines to formally inaugurate the workshop.



Dr. Maria Fe Villamejor-Mendoza, Professor and Dean, National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines Diliman, Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director CIRDAP also briefly addressed the participants, welcoming them to the workshop and emphasising the importance of mutual exchange and learning.

### **Getting to know Each Other**

Dr. Cherian Joseph, the workshop facilitator, conducted a micro lab to enable participants to get to know each other. Different groups were formed by calling out instructions at brief intervals. These groups were asked to talk about various things related to the participants – ranging from the self, their institutions, reforms in local governance in their countries, types of capacity building work undertaken, etc. The rapid rounds of introductions over 45 minutes ensured that most participants in the room knew each other, where they came from and what they were engaged in. Participants then came together in the plenary and shared their expectations, which were clustered as – Learning, Sharing and Networking.

Dr. Joseph then introduced the objectives of the workshop and the structure over three days, checking against the expectations articulated by the participants. Following this, the plenary was divided into three groups who discussed in detail about the institutions they represent. The discussions were based on the preparatory note shared with participants prior to the workshop. Subsequently, representatives of institutions prepared presentations on charts and prepared display of materials on their institutions.

A virtual tour of institutions was carried out. Brief presentations by each institution were followed by a question and answer session, providing insights into institutional competencies and strategies. Seven institutions shared their work on Day 1.

The second day of workshop on 29 July 2015 saw a continuation of the virtual tour of institutional presentations. Following this, participants reflected on some of the key insights they had gained from the presentations by Local Government Training Institutions of different countries and discussions. These are summarised as below:

- Diversity in training – Types, Content, Methods, Reach
- Diversity in structures of local governments
- Difference in thematic focus
- Government policy is an important factor (this seems to be shifting in some)
- Most South Asia institutions are state mandated
- There are more connections with academia via Universities in Philippines and Thailand
- The approach of IPDN, Indonesia is unique, among all LGTIs
- Training institutions influence LG policy formulation
- High demand on services of LGTIs
- Institutions began at different points in time
- Revenue models are different

### **Capacity Building and Good Practices**

Dr. Cherian Joseph made a brief presentation on approaches to Capacity Building. He shared that much of our understanding of capacity building has focused on transfer of knowledge from the expert to the learner.

Another mode of learning emerges from the vast experience of social sector organisations, particularly in the third world. This focuses on mutual/ collaborative learning between peers. This happens through



sharing of experiential knowledge and applied learning, and is evidenced both between grassroots communities and experts. Reference was made to the Horizontal Learning Process (HLP) in Bangladesh and to the Structured Learning Visit (SLV) popularised by the Mekong Institute, Thailand, as examples of such peer to peer learning approaches.

These approaches were discussed with the group to enable them to look at their own experiences in capacity building of local governments and locating their approaches visa-a-vis appropriateness and effectiveness.

<i>Approach</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
<i>Transfer of knowledge</i>	Expert	Learner
<i>Mutual/Collaborative Learning</i>	Peer Sharing from Experience of Doing and Reflecting	Peer Reflecting Questioning Adapting

Based on these reflections participants worked in the three groups where they shared and discussed good practices in capacity building and related indicators, based on their institutional experience. These were then shared and discussed in the plenary. This session provided institutions with insights on strengths of different institutions and the potentials for mutual learning and collaboration.

### Current Challenges of LGTIs in Capacity Building

In the next session, participants individually wrote cards on the challenges in capacity building and these were collected and clustered, whereby it emerged that key challenges, faced in common by LGTIs include:

- Constraint in budget and funds
- Limited human resources and opportunities for enhancement of internal capacities
- Limited autonomy
- Mismatch between needs and response, and
- Demand supply gap



These were followed by a brief discussion on institutional strategies to address the challenges. Based on the discussions among institutions and shared understanding participants were encouraged to identify their priority learning needs from other institutions, which would be shared the next day. In the final session, brief presentations were made about LOGIN and CIRDAP.

In the third day of the workshop on 30 July 2015, the following steps were addressed:

#### Step 1 - Identifying institutional learning needs

As discussed the previous day, each institution reflected upon what they wish to learn from others, based on the reflection and sharing in the workshop. They were asked to list down - what they would like to learn, why and from whom.

#### Step 2 - Institutional learning offer defined

Following this, each institution considered and defined what they feel they would like to put forward as



learning offers to others. Each institution made a brief presentation on the learning offers they were prepared to share with other institutions.

### **Step 3 - Clarifying learning needs**

Forming pairs of persons from different countries/ institutions, the facilitator encouraged them to go for a Reflection Walk. During the walk, each person would share with the other their learning needs and priorities.

### **Step 4 - Review learning needs and demands against institutional offers and identifying other critical learning needs**

After a review of their individual learning needs and demands, participants placed their learning demand cards against institutional offers that were earlier made. In the process other key learning needs were also articulated.

**The learning offers (Step 2) and learning demands (Step 1 and 4) were summarised as follows:**

Offers	Demands
<b>India</b> Kerala Institute of Local Governments <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Decentralised planning in Campaign mode</li> <li>2. Child friendly local government</li> <li>3. Institute owned by local government</li> </ol> National Institute of Local Govt and PR <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Institutional Training Programs in LG Decentralisation</li> <li>2. Cascade mode of training</li> </ol>	Campaign mode (Cambodia) LG TO LG Training (Mongolia) Child friendly LGs (Philippines and Pakistan) Establishment of autonomous LGTIs
<b>Bhutan</b>	Gross National Happiness (Pakistan and Philippines)
<b>Pakistan</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local Governance System in Pakistan</li> <li>2. Best Practices and Success stories by Local Govt</li> <li>3. Fiscal Decentralisation for Local Governments in Pakistan</li> <li>4. Gender based budgeting and strategic planning</li> <li>5. Monitoring mechanism for anti-dengue campaign by local govt.</li> </ol>	Cascade training (JICA)
<b>Mongolia</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Master of Public Administration</li> </ol> Short term trainings: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Leadership for learning organisations through ToT for local government (SIDA/ SECO)</li> <li>3. Local financial development (related to needs of elected officials or for local executive officers)</li> </ol>	Training of Trainers (Laos) Leadership for learning (Pakistan) Local finance management (Pakistan)
<b>Laos</b> District Development Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Services/ Information</li> <li>- Criteria - Poverty/ ethnic minority/ poor / women/ low income/ poor infrastructure/ living under the poverty line</li> <li>- Training - District officials planning, project writing/ budgeting</li> <li>- District officials - Participatory planning approach based on potential of the area and need assessment</li> <li>- Project - bridge/ School. Clean water supply - Implementation/ Maintenance/ Follow-up/Monitoring</li> <li>- Outcomes - Government-Better service delivery/ Good governance; Community-Sustainable development/ high ownership</li> </ul>	Coordination between local governments (Bangladesh)



Offers	Demands
<b>Bangladesh</b> NILG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training Networking System (creation of resource pools of trainers at different levels)</li> </ul>	Laos
<b>Cambodia</b> Coaching Practise Programme Geared towards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants can learn and remember</li> <li>- Easy to provide</li> <li>- Promote initiative</li> <li>- Policy Development Division, NCDD</li> </ul>	Coaching Practise Program Laos/ Bangladesh
<b>Indonesia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of Minimum Service Standard at the local level -health and education sectors</li> <li>- National insurance coverage for all citizens at local level</li> <li>- Promotion of tourism at local level - role of local governments</li> <li>- Implementation of Shariah based law in Secular state</li> </ul>	Insurance coverage (Pakistan) Sharing learning (Bangladesh) Islamic systems in secular state (Philippines)
<b>Philippines</b> Innovations in Local Governments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Galig Pook Award</li> <li>- Seal of Good Housekeeping</li> </ul> Climate Change DRR Collaboration on start-up/ emerging research/ work on open data' government for citizen participation	Courses related to LGs (Bhutan) Evidence based participation (Bhutan/ Laos) Climate Change DRR (Indonesia) Collaboration on start-up/ emerging research (Myanmar) Legal framework (Myanmar)
<b>Myanmar</b> Social Accountability Bottom up participatory planning (village body)	
<b>JICA Bangladesh</b> LG Capacity Development through development funds allocation to Local Government Institutions	
<b>Thailand</b>	Reward based system (Bhutan/ Pakistan)
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Training of trainers (Pakistan)

## Feedback on the Programme and Closure

In the final session participants shared their appreciation of the workshop, the discussions and space for dialogue with peers. Mementos were exchanged between the co-organisers. Formal feedback of the workshop was collated through a concurrent survey administered by LOGIN Secretariat.



## **CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development held in Lao PDR**

With the support from the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India as a kind regional cooperation gesture for sharing experiences among CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs), CIRDAP and the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) jointly organised the above mentioned training programme in association with the Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Lao PDR which was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 26 October to 04 November 2015. There were 16 participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Kham Phalakhone, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Lao PDR at the Conference hall of the Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Lao PDR. Among others Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP; Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Training Division, CIRDAP and Dr. V. Suresh Babu, Programme Coordinator from NIRD&PR spoke during the inaugural session. After the inaugural session there were film shows on CIRDAP and NIRD&PR. There were also question answer session and discussion on CIRDAP and NIRD&PR. After the CIRDAP and NIRD&PR film shows, DG, CIRDAP took a session on comparative agricultural sector's contribution in the GDP of CMCs. He analysed the agriculture's role in CMCs.

Then the session of country presentations started with the presentation from Nepal. Accordingly Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Malaysia, Iran, Lao PDR and Vietnam presented their countries presentation on Sustainable Agriculture in Rural Development. There was lively discussion on each country presentation.

In the programme, a session on Status of Sustainable Agriculture among Small and Marginal Farmers in CIRDAP Member Countries was presented by Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran.

The programme schedule for the training programme on Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development included sessions on Constraints of Sustainable Agriculture and Strategies Adopted by Small and Marginal Farmers; Integrated Watershed Management System (IWMP) for Sustainable Farming System; Post Harvest Technologies for Value Addition; Agro-Enterprise for Sustainable Agriculture; Livestock based Farming System in Asia-Pacific Countries; Status and Concept of Dry Land Farming; Organic Farming for Sustainable Agriculture; Integrated Pest Management for Sustainable Agriculture; Horticulture Farming System for Sustainable Agriculture; Organic Farming System in Asia-Pacific



*Participants with Mr. Kham Phalakhone, DDG, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR*



Region – A Case Study of Small Farmers; Agro-Forestry Management System in Laos and Agro-Forestry Research and Development in Laos; Integrated Nutrition Management for Sustainable Agriculture; and Integrated Coastal Management for Sustainable Agriculture.

On 31 October 2015 the participants were taken for a field visit to Banthaxang Village Group Farming System in Vientiane Capital Province to show the ground realities and gain hands-on experience on Integrated Organic Farming System. During the field visit Mr. Somsavat, Group Leader of the Farming System explained the participants about the various aspects of his farming system. There are 69 families are the members of this group. Initially this was started with 8 families. This group was established on 25 October 2015. They have 49 hectares of land and 20 families got certificate for organic farming. The group produces 25 categories of vegetables and they market their products at Vientiane. Their organic products are more costly than non-organic products and there is high demand in the market.



*Participants were taken to field visits*

In November 01, 2015 the participants were taken to various sights seeing and historical places in and around Vientiane, such as, Xiengkuan Buddha Park, Phrathatluang Museum, Pathuxay Monument. In the afternoon the participants left for Tulakum District of Vientiane Province.

In the morning of 02 November 2015 there was a presentation by Mr. Patchai Soukchai, Technical Officer, Department of Agricultural Mechanisation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on Conservation of Agriculture and Direct-seeding Mulch-cropping System (DMC) in Laos. After lunch the participants visited Small Holder Development Project under Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry funded by the Asian Development Bank at Banbungphao village of Tulakum District, Vientiane Province. Mr. Phongsamut, head of the organic farming group explained the participants about activities of his project. The participants asked various questions to Mr. Phongsamut and explained every ins and out of his project.

Later on, the participants visited Lao Agro Industry Co. Ltd. at Bankeun district of Vientiane Province. The officials of the agro-processing industry welcomed the participants and they showed the activities of this industry. This industry produces caned corn, corn milk and sugar preserved palm seed, and exports its products to Europe and other countries. The officials mentioned to participants that they produce 15 tons/day during November and December, 70 tons/day during July and August, and 50 tons/day to support the demand.

The participants were very much satisfied with the activities of this agro-processing industry. They thanked the officials of this industry to spare their valuable time for the participants. The programme was coordinated by Dr. V. Suresh Babu and Dr. S. Siddayya, Associate Professors from NIRD&PR, and Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Training Division from CIRDAP.



## CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Local Governance and Delivery of Services held in India

CIRDAP in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) and Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) organised the International Training Programme on “Local Governance and Delivery of Services” from 29 November to 08 December 2015 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad with a field visit to the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Kerala, India. The programme was funded by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.



The training programme was attended by 17 participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. There were renowned resource persons from Indonesia and India who delivered lectures to the participants in the training programme. First four days of the programme was organised at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad and the following sessions were held there:

- Participatory Planning and Delivery of Services by Women in Local Good Governance
- Planning for Village Development by Local Governments
- Convergence in Rural Development and Delivery of Services by the Local Governments
- Good Governance Initiatives in Telangana Province – Visit to Centre for Good Governance
- Government of India's Initiative for Local Good Governance
- Delivery of Citizen Service through eSeva – Visit to eSeva Centre
- How Central Government to Guarantee Local Government's Minimum Service Standard: The Experience of Indonesia
- Capacity Building of Local government Officials – Role of TSIPARD
- ICT for Local Governance and Delivery of Service

The field visit part of the training programme was held at Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) where participants gained hands on experience and ground realities on local governance. The participants were exposed to three-tier system of local governance in Kerala State of India.





The valedictory session of the training programme was presided over by Mr. S.M. Viyayanand, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India. Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP also attended the valedictory session and spoke to the participants. DG, CIRDAP thanked the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India to provide financial support to organise this training programme which is very important for the Member Countries of CIRDAP. The participants shared their experience learnt from the training programme. They were very happy to participate in this training programme as the training programme was very helpful for them to serve the grass-roots level local governments in their respective countries. In the valedictory session the participants were awarded with certificate.

## Exposure Visit

### Training-cum-Exposure Visit on Micro-Finance in Bangladesh for Indian Officials

Training Division, CIRDAP organised a Training-cum-Exposure Visit on Micro-Finance in Bangladesh for Indian Officials from 17 to 24 January 2015 in collaboration with Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, India. BIRD is a premier institute for providing training, research and consultancy services in the field of agriculture and rural development banking in India which was established in 1983 by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). CIRDAP and BIRD have been cooperating for many years. This time a total number of nine participants were senior bankers (e.g. from different provinces of India, who deal with Micro-finance).

The main objective of the programme was to sensitise and familiarise the participants with the approaches and practices adopted by the successful micro-finance institutions since Bangladesh is treated the birth places of micro credit through evolution from successful cooperative model like 'Comilla Model'. The delegates attended the briefing sessions on ASA, BRAC, Grameen Bank, BURO Bangladesh, Proshika, BRDB, Bangladesh Bank, MRA etc. to understand the micro credit operation in Bangladesh following a field visit with BRAC's micro finance and non-formal school.

On the first day of the exposure training programme, CIRDAP made an orientation programme by presenting the CIRDAP Video. Also, there was a discussion and sharing on CIRDAP and its activities in the countries of Asia and the Pacific region which was chaired by Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG CIRDAP and facilitated by Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, Training Division.

### Microcredit in Bangladesh

Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director Training, CIRDAP delivered a presentation on Microcredit in Bangladesh and informed that microfinance sector in Bangladesh is mature now and its assets constituted around 3% of GDP in 2010. Microcredit programmes in Bangladesh are implemented by NGOs, Grameen Bank, state-owned commercial banks, private commercial banks and specialised programmes of some ministries of the Government. In the microfinance sector as of June, 2013, total loan outstanding is around BDT 341 billion (including Grameen Bank BDT 84 billion), savings BDT 226 billion, the total clients is 33 million (including 8.04 million clients from Grameen Bank) that accelerates overall economic development process of the country. Credit services of this sector can be categorised into six broad groups: i) General microcredit for small-scale self employment based activities, ii) Microenterprise loans, iii) Loans for ultra poor, iv) Agricultural loans, v) Seasonal loans, and vi) Loans for disaster management. Loan amounts up to BDT 50,000 are generally considered as microcredit; loans above this amount are considered as microenterprise loans. She also informed that in Bangladesh there are mainly four types of institutions involved in microfinance activities: a) Grameen Bank (GB), b) NGO-MFIs having licenses from the Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA), c) Commercial and specialised banks, and d) Government sponsored microfinance programmes (e.g. through BRDB, cooperative societies and programmes under different ministries).



## **Institute of Microfinance (InM): State of Microfinance in Bangladesh**

A brief presentation was made by Professor M. A. Baqui Khalily, Executive Director, Institute of Microfinance (InM) and informed that InM is a non-profit organisation established primarily to meet research and training needs of national as well as global microcredit and related to poverty reduction programmes. Initiated and promoted by Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), InM started its operation on 1 November 2006. In his presentation, Professor Khalily briefed that Microfinance for the poor – a much focused approach which has reduced poverty by 50% in 15 years by 2015. It promotes women empowerment – participation in decision-making process, and control over financial and physical resources. But the challenges are as follows: a) development and diversification of MFI and changing behavior of MFIs create alternate pro-poor power base, b) Overlapping (multiple borrowing) –Evidence of higher demand for loans; c) Striking balance between ‘commercial’ and ‘development’ approach, d) MFIs under formal regulatory regime, and e) MFIs shift from small to higher loan size and reduce high interest rate.

### **Microfinance and PKSF’s Experience**

Md. Fazlul Kader, Deputy Managing Director, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) made a presentation on Microfinance and PKSF’s Experience to the visiting team at their headquarters, Dhaka. He informed that PKSF was established in 1990 by the Government of Bangladesh as a ‘not-for-profit’ company. The principal objective of PKSF is to provide funds to various organisations for their microcredit programme with a view to helping the poor who have no land or any credible material possession. This is a story of a unique organisation namely PKSF, first of its kind in the world that has played a key role in shaping the NGO-MFI sector of Bangladesh to its present stage. This regulated sector has now an outreach of about 25.0 million clients and a portfolio of about USD 4.00 billion (August 2014). PKSF provides assistance to the poor through different non-government, semi-government and government organisations; voluntary agencies and societies; local government bodies; groups and individuals. These organisations and institutions are largely called as Partner Organisations (POs). PKSF, as the leading apex microcredit and capacity development organisation in Bangladesh, has till date lent about US\$ 1534.16 million (at present value) to its 268 POs covering more than 8.23 million borrowers of which more than 91% are women.



*Indian officials at CIRDAP Headquarters, Dhaka*



## **Presentation on ASA**

Md. Fayzer Rahman, Executive Vice President, ASA made the presentation and mentioned that being a non-profit organisation, ASA (founded in 1978) realised the significance of microfinance for addressing the lack of access in capital for the underprivileged community particularly women. It led it in later stage to get transformed into an MFI. Now, ASA has emerged as one of the largest and most efficient (acknowledged by FORBES) Micro-Finance Institutions (MFI) in the world and has been working relentlessly to assist the poor. It functions as a donor free self-sustaining model. ASA also operates in eight countries as ASA International Holding Company Ltd. It is in the process to provide technical assistance to microcredit organisations in more than 18 countries. ASA has set a target to disburse loan amounting to Tk. 12000 Crores during 2014-15 among 5.5 million clients. ASA has allocated 10% of their surplus to CSR activities for 2014-15. There are four kinds of financial products offered by ASA like: a) Loans, b) Saving, c) Insurance, and d) Remittance.

## **Micro-Finance and Agrani Bank Limited**

Agrani Bank Limited is one of the largest State Owned Commercial Banks of Bangladesh as informed by Mr. Mobarak Hossain, General Manager and Head of ICC, Agrani Bank Limited during his brief presentation. The Agrani Bank emerged as a nationalised commercial bank with all asset and liabilities (Bangladesh territory) of former Habib Bank Limited and Commerce Bank Limited. Afterwards it came into being as a Public Limited Company on May 17, 2007. Besides commercial operations, Agrani Bank Limited also operates micro-finance activities like agriculture and rural credit. The objectives of micro-finance are: a) Food safety and nutrition, b) Poverty alleviation, c) Employment generation, d) Women empowerment, and e) Financial inclusion. The scope of micro-finance in Agrani lays three core farm activities which are: a) Crop, b) Fisheries, and c) Livestock.

## **Field Visits to BRAC Activities**

Korail is one of the largest slums in Bangladesh and is located just opposite the BRAC head office in Dhaka. Most of the people who live in Korail slum have moved to the city from some of the poorest parts of Bangladesh such as Jamalpur and Kishorganj. Korail covers an area of around 100 acres and is home to almost 30,000 residents. BRAC began its work in Korail in 1997 with the micro-finance programme and now offers many more services. The visiting team from India interacted with microcredit borrowers in Korail which were guided by Ms. Morsheda, Branch Manager to see the group level (V.O.) operations. The programme namely 'Dhabe' beneficiaries met together to collect installment. While talking with subgroup (five people due to shortage of space in meeting room), rest of the visiting team interacted with shop owner namely, Mr. Abul Kashem who migrated with his family in 1990 from the district of Bhola (a coastal southern district) to Dhaka city. Later her daughter became loan receiver of microcredit which helped him increase his capital. Eventually, later he switched to be small grocery shop owner at the slum which made him to earn a profit on an average Tk. 400 to 500. The visiting team was able to see one of the non-formal schools of BRAC which consisted of 30 students (e.g. class 3, 4 and 5). The students introduced themselves to the visiting team being divided into 5 groups. Each group has a specific theme on good practices like: a) wash your hand before eat; b) respect to the elders; c) everybody should do their homework; d) cut nail once a week etc. Later, the children recited educational rhyme by telling the name of the countries and the respective capitals which were appreciated by the visiting team.

## **Field Visit to ASA**

There was also an arrangement of visiting a branch office of ASA at Shamoly Sader in Dhaka. The visiting team was facilitated by Mr. Md. Abdus Samad, Joint Director, Operations and Md. Hasan Tariq, Operation Manager, ASA. After discussions, the visiting team divided into two groups to see the ASA



women micro-saving group. A team was able to visit to a place called 'BNP Slum' at Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagor. The team members interacted with the credit borrowers in ASA Group namely 'Gorai Group' which is consisted of 30 women members. The loan officer Mr. Faruque from ASA was found in the group meetings as he had came to collect outstanding loan. The team spoke with the president and cashiers, respectively, Ms. Naher and Taslima Lipi. The respondents shared their satisfaction with ASA loan, of which mostly they use in various IGA programmes (e.g. small business, shop and food business etc.). While interacting with the beneficiaries of ASA micro-credit group, the visiting team came to know that the group is satisfied with the flexibility and one stop service of ASA which make them to stick together in the same group for years.



*Indian Officials during a field visit*

### **BURO Bangladesh**

BURO stands for basic unit for resources and opportunities in Bangladesh as the presenter Mr. Pranesh Banik, Deputy Director of BURO Bangladesh explained to the visiting team. BURO Bangladesh is a national non-government social development organisation was established in 1991 intended to work for the poor and rural people to reduce poverty. It provides high quality flexible financial and social services to one

million low-income people, particularly the poor women. BURO Bangladesh currently serves 1.1 million poor women through its 632 branch offices which are managed by 5,500 full time work forces. BURO Bangladesh has three different kinds of customers in consonance with well defined criteria: a) Very poor/extreme poor, b) Moderate poor, c) Micro entrepreneurs and small and marginal farmers.

### **Proshaika: A Centre of Human Development**

The visiting team from India made a short visit to Proshika HRDC Trust which is a non-profitable learning organisation at Koitta, Satoria, Manikganj. Mr. Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Director, Human Development Training Centre delivered a presentation on Proshika and its activities highlighting micro-finance operation. The development process of Proshika, one of the largest NGOs in Bangladesh, started in a few villages of Dhaka and Comilla districts in 1975, although the organisation formally took its first step in 1976. Proshika's mission is to conduct an extensive, intensive, and participatory process of sustainable development through the empowerment of the poor. Microcredit programmes are as follows: a) Tk. 45,039 million loans disbursed to 6.50 million group members; b) 1.42 million projects implemented by the group members; c) 12.33 million employments and self-employments created; and d) 1.24 million households made poverty-free. Proshika savings scheme are: a) Tk. 54.71 million paid from the compensation fund of the PSS to the family members of 8,604 deceased group members, and b) Tk. 17.69 million distributed to 9,411 group members badly affected by various natural disasters.

### **Creating Hope for the Poor: The Experience of Grameen Bank**

Mr. ASM Mohiuddin, Acting Managing Director (CEO) delivered a presentation while the visiting team from India made a visit to Grameen Bank Headquarters, Mirpur, Dhaka. Grameen Bank (GB) has reversed conventional banking practice by removing the need for collateral and created a banking system based on mutual trust, accountability, participation and creativity. The objective of GB is exclusive focus on poor without any collateral which is direct challenge to exploitation of money lenders. Professor Muhammad Yunus, the founder of "Grameen Bank" and its Managing Director, reasoned that if financial resources can be made available to the poor people on terms and conditions



that are appropriate and reasonable, "these millions of small people with their millions of small pursuits can add up to create the biggest development wonder." Every borrower can take basic loan for any income generating activities. Duration of loan is as mutually agreed between the bank and borrower. GB loan products are: a) Basic loan, b) Struggling members programme, c) Housing loan, and d) Higher education loan recipient. For the income generating loan, GB has flat rate 10%, (20% declining balance method). For savings, there is 8.5% interest from GB.

### **Role of BRDB in the Realm of Micro-Finance in Bangladesh**

The presentation was made by Mr. Md. Kamruzzaman, Deputy Project Director (Credit), Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) and informed that BRDB is the prime government agency engaged in rural development and poverty alleviation. BRDB basically operates by organising the small and marginal farmers into cooperative societies for increasing agricultural production through improved means and by forming formal or informal groups of landless men and distressed women to promote income generating activities in the rural areas. It operates with 57 out of 64 district offices and over 476 sub-district (Upazila) offices across the country. Recovery rate is about 90% as stated by the presenter in the government sector. About loan disbursement, BRDB represents 32% in the government sector while others are 68%.

### **Microcredit Regulatory Authority**

Mr. Khandakar Muzharul Haque, Executive Vice Chairman of Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA) made a brief presentation on MRA. MRA has been established by the Government of Bangladesh under the "Microcredit Regulatory Authority Act 2006" to promote and foster sustainable development of micro-finance sector through creating an enabling environment for NGO-MFIs in Bangladesh. MRA is the central body to monitor and supervise microfinance operations of NGO-MFIs. License from the Authority is mandatory to operate microfinance operations in Bangladesh as an NGO.



*Senior Bank Officials of India taking notes*

### **Observations/Learnings/Insights**

Since the participants were senior bankers and representatives of NGOs, who deal with micro-finance in India, they were found very active during the training sessions and field visits. As part of the training programme, they also made SWOT analysis. They presented their analysis at CIRDAP on last day of their exposure visit to Bangladesh. The following strengths and weakness of MFIs in Bangladesh were mentioned during their presentation:

#### **Strengths**

i) Professionalised rural credit service; ii) Competition leads to better service and competitive interest rates; iii) Innovations in cost effective management practices; iv) Effective capacity building process leading to skill development; v) Service at the door; vi) Effective mechanisation; vii) Rigorous monitoring; viii) Repayment culture; ix) Credit plus approach and CSR activities back up credit supply; x) Social security through insurance; and xi) Collateral free.

#### **Weaknesses**

- Too much control gives insufficient scope for development of social capital and empowerment.
- Rigorous monitoring for repayment by way of night stay and sit down approach may not work in



long term, and it may lead to a fear psychosis and frustration in the mind of borrowers and their family members.

- Despite the availability of credit at lower interest rates in PSBs, the poor are still out of their reach on account of poor credit delivery mechanism. On the contrary, MFIs with higher interest rates are reaching out to poor.
- Repayment period of loan is not sufficient thus likely to lead over indebtedness in a panic to pay back loans.
- The concentration of financing by MFIs in general is limited to only select group of poor which creates ample scope of multiple financing to the same borrower leaving him/her over indebted. On the contrary, 50 per cent of the poor including ultra-poor are unreached by these service providers.
- Generally, MFIs are providing microcredit for productive purpose only. The consumption needs of the poor are one of the major reasons for their needs which are not taken care of, by these institutions. This has strong potential for the borrower to use this credit for consumption and other purposes.
- Volume of overdue and bad debt is increasing day by day.
- Branch security is dependent on local level surveillance in case ASA.
- Collection rather than systematic social capital development.
- Risk management is a serious concern.

## Post Graduate Diploma Programme

### One Year Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (2015-16) by NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, India, a CIRDAP's Link Institution in India, is conducting one year residential Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM). The 10th batch will commence in August 2015 and they are seeking nominations from member countries of CIRDAP. It is a paid programme. The objective of the programme is to develop committed and competent cadre of rural development management professionals and orient in-service officers and practitioners to various facets of rural development.

Under the regional cooperation, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, as a goodwill gesture has offered to sponsor five slots to CIRDAP member countries in this programme in order to develop capacities of rural development managers. The Ministry 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. The Ministry has entrusted CIRDAP to solicit nomination from its member countries, scrutinise on criteria suggested by the Ministry and NIRD&PR. On the basis of eligibility criteria and suitability of the candidature, nominations will be forwarded to NIRD&PR for consideration for admission in the programme.

CIRDAP has nominated candidates for the batches from 3rd to 8th. As per feedback from CIRDAP nominees, the course has been exceedingly useful to develop skills, knowledge and pragmatic perspectives on various facet of rural development management. This is highly encouraging. We would like that CIRDAP member countries should avail this opportunity to develop a cadre of committed rural development managers.

CIRDAP invited nominations from its member countries in March 2015 and received eleven nominations from Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The



nominees from these countries interviewed telephonically by CIRDAP and short-listed candidates recommended to the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India and NIRD&PR for consideration of admission in the PGDRDM, 10th Batch (2015-16). The primarily selected candidates are as follows:

1. Mr. Tara Prasad Joshi, Nepal
2. Mr. Herald Correa Hamto, Philippines
3. Mr. Yohanes Kowa Kleden, Indonesia
4. Ms. Tran Huyen Trang, Vietnam
5. Mr. Kyaw Zaww, Myanmar



Three students of PGDRDM 10th batch from CMCs with Director Training

## Internship Programme

### CIRDAP Internship Programme for NIRD&PR 8th Batch PGDRDM Students

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, India, is conducting one year residential Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) since 2008. This is a paid programme and the objective of the programme is to develop committed and competent cadre of rural development management professionals and orient in-service officers and practitioners to various facets of rural development.

CIRDAP organised an Internship Programme for the five top merited students of 8th batch, PGDRDM on rural development activities in Bangladesh from 02 March to 15 April 2015. They are the undergoing 8th batch PGDRDM students. They are: Ms. Hemangi Sharma, Ms. Pallavi Balaso Mane, Ms. Susmita Layek, Mr. Nishkarsh Mehra, and Mr. Kunal Singh.

The main objective of the programme was to sensitise and familiarise the students with the approaches and practices adopted by well known institutions in Bangladesh. As part of this internship





programme the students attached with Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla and Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra, for 15 days each.

The internees also attended briefing sessions at the following organisations:

- Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka
- Institute of Microfinance (InM)
- Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
- BRAC
- Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB)
- Daffodil International University
- PROSHIKA Human Resource Development Centre Trust
- Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB)
- National Institute of Local Government (NILG)
- Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)
- Media Professionals Group (MPG)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Bangladesh

The internees presented their internship report in Bangladesh on the last day of their internship at the presence of representatives of the organisations they visited and CIRDAP officials. The presentations by the internees were highly appreciated by the audience. They left Bangladesh on 16 April 2015 to begin with their remaining part of their study of PGDRDM at NIRDPR, Hyderabad, India. They will be completing their PGDRDM course on 31 July 2015.



In addition to above internees from NIRD&PR, an internee, namely, Ms. Nora Berger-Kern from



Goethe University, Germany also did internship with CIRDAP from 14 February to 27 March 2015. Ms. Nora presented her internship report on 25 March 2015. Ms. Margarita Lipatova from Russia working at Cluster of Excellence, Asia and Europe also joined CIRDAP as internee on 25 March 2015.

*The internees presenting their internship report*



## ITEC Fellowships

### Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Fellowships to CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) for 2015-16

As a kind gesture for regional cooperation in promoting human resource development of CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs), the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, Government of India (GoI) and the Chairperson of the GC-19 declared in the inaugural session of the 19th GC that Government of India would offer 20 Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) fellowships to CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs).

Under the ITEC programmes CMCs may avail the Civilian Training Programmes offered by various Indian institutes for the financial year 2015-16 (April 2015 to March 2016) (<http://itec.mea.gov.in>). The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI), will bear the international air travel cost, course fee, board and lodging and out-of-pocket allowance of the nominee(s). The application form is available at <http://itec.mea.gov.in> for your use/information. The relevant training programmes CIRDAP requested to MEA, GoI for CMCs offered by Indian institutes are as follows:

Sl No.	Name of the Courses	Duration/Date	Institute	No. of Slots
1	Communication Skills in English and Promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (EPMSMEs)	12 Weeks 10 August to 30 October 2015	NIMSME, Yousufguda, Hyderabad, India	1
2	International Training Programme on Solar Energy Technologies and Applications	3 Weeks 30 November to 18 December 2015	Solar Energy Centre, Gwal Pahari, Gurgaon	2
3	Climate Change and Sustainability	3 Weeks 05 to 23 October 2015	TERI, New Delhi	3
4	SMEs Financing: Approaches and Strategies (SMEFAS)	8 Weeks 16 November 2015 to 08 January 2016	NIMSME, Yousufguda, Hyderabad, India	4
5	Planning and Promotion of Agro and Food Enterprises (PAFE)	8 Weeks 25 January to 18 March 2016	NIMSME, Yousufguda, Hyderabad, India	5
6	Training of Trainers' in Entrepreneurship and Skill Development (ToTE-ESD)	8 Weeks 25 January to 18 March 2016	NIMSME, Yousufguda, Hyderabad, India	6
7	Participatory Rural Development Planning and Management of Rural Development Programme	4 Weeks 17 August to 13 September 2015	NIRD, Hyderabad, India	7
8	Diploma Course in Development Journalism for Non-aligned and Other Development Countries	17 Weeks 02 January to 30 April 2016	IIMC, ArunaAsafAli Marg, New Delhi	8
9	Energy and Water Use Efficiency	3 Weeks 04 to 22 January 2016	TERT, New Delhi	9
10	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	3 Weeks 15 February to 04 March 2016	TERI, New Delhi	10
11	Integrated Approach towards Sustainable Development	3 Weeks 28 March to 25 April 2016	TERI, New Delhi	11



The nominees may be advised to visit the website of ITEC (<http://itec.mea.gov.in>) and confirm about the date/duration of the respective programme. While nominating candidates, the following guidelines may be followed:

#### **Who can apply?**

- Employees and officials in Government, Private and Public Sector, Parastatals, Universities, Chambers of Commerce and Industry;
- Having 3 to 5 years minimum work experience;
- Applicants who are the age group of 25 to 45 years; and
- Who are medically fit.

#### **How to apply?**

- Nominated candidates' applications must be submitted in the prescribed ITEC Form to CIRDAP, 17 Topkhana Road, Dhaka 1000, GPO Box 2883, Bangladesh ([www.cirdap.org](http://www.cirdap.org)) through CIRDAP's Contact Ministry (CCM) and CIRDAP Link Institution (CLI) in respective CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). A copy of the application may also be submitted to the Embassy/High Commission of India in respective CMCs.
- CIRDAP will in turn forward the applications to the Embassy/High Commission of India, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

#### **Eligibility Criteria for Admission**

- Must have the required academic qualifications as laid down by the Institute for the selected course
- Must have working knowledge of English to follow the Courses

#### **Scholarship**

Government of India will bear the following expenses for the selected candidate:

- Return international air fare by excursion/economy class
- Course fees
- Accommodation – hostel (depending on availability, it could be on single or sharing basis) or hotel in case of non-availability of hostel accommodation
- Living allowance @Rs.25,000/- per month. Candidates are, among other things, expected to meet the expenditure for their meals from this amount

#### **General Information**

- Applications must reach CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh and the Indian Embassy/High Commission of nominees' country before 2/3 months of the commencement of respective course.
- Upon selection, the Embassy/High Commission of India will inform CIRDAP and CIRDAP will in turn inform the applicant.
- Selected candidates are required to fully familiarize themselves regarding living conditions in India and the Institutes through the websites of the concerned institute.
- Decision for grant of scholarship rests solely with the Ministry of External Affairs, India.

It is requested to select interested candidate(s) (middle/junior level) for the programme and send the nominations to CIRDAP three (3) months before the commencement of the training programme so that necessary formalities can be completed well in time.

CIRDAP will allocate one training programme to each CIRDAP Member Country (CMC) every year and the fellowship will be awarded on first come first serve basis. The matter may be given due attention and reply send at your earliest convenience.

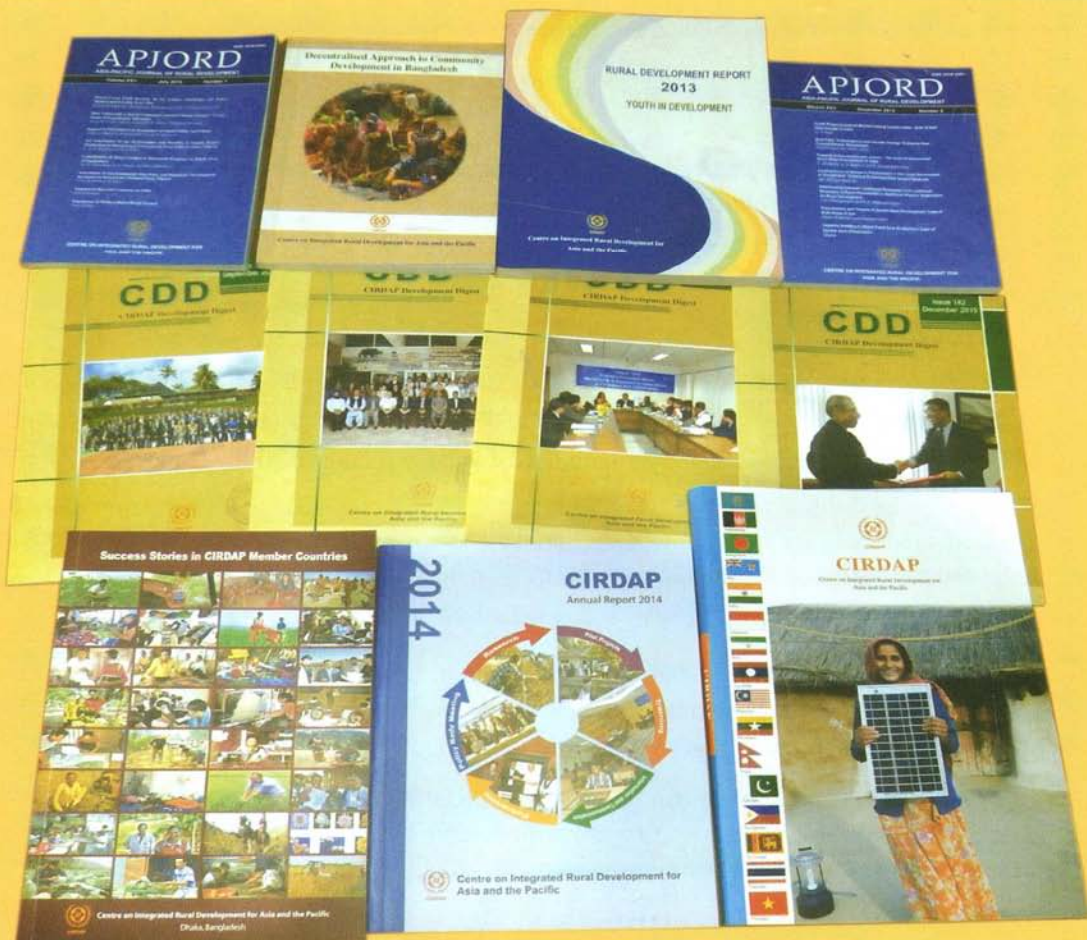


# Information and Communication

- Knowledge/information generation, management and dissemination
- ICT Support and Services
- Library Services
- Public Relations
- VLC and Geo-informatics Applications Centre
- Training, Workshops and Seminars
- Networking and building partnership with stakeholders

## Focused Areas

- Knowledge Generation and Dissemination
- Virtual Learning
- e-Communication
- Strengthening Public Relations





Being the focal point of knowledge generation and information dissemination for CIRDAP, the Information and Communication Division (ICD) played a key role during the year 2015. With a view to acting as servicing institution for rural development to its member countries, the division brought out various publications, maintained and ensured public relations, updated website, installed Wi-Fi facilities at the Centre, met various information requirements, provided library and IT services, organised seminars/workshops/trainings, strengthened collaboration and partnership with different organisations.

The division has also been coordinating and facilitating NIRD&PR to set up the Virtualisation Centre (VLC) and Geo-informatics Applications' Centre at CIRDAP Headquarters and preparing Online Booking Management Software (OBMS) for CIRDAP auditoriums and CICC. In addition, internship programme in ICD has now a strong demand to the young graduates from the field of information and library science as seen last year.

The activities of the division can be categorised under the following types:

- Knowledge/information generation, management and dissemination
- ICT Support and Services
- Networking and building partnership with stakeholders
- Training, Workshops and Seminars
- Library Services
- Public Relations

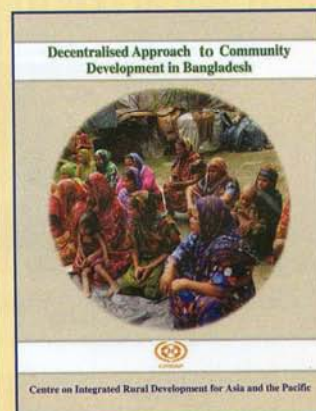
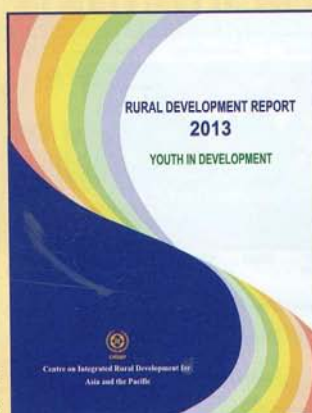
## Knowledge Generation, Management and Dissemination

In 2015, ICD strengthened its efforts to generate knowledge, its management and dissemination. The following publications were brought out last year by ICD:

- Rural Development Report 2013 – “Youth in Development”
- Decentralised Approach to Community Development in Bangladesh

ICD also brought out regular publications and other printing works that included reports/folders/posters for policy body meetings and CIRDAP member countries, which are as follows:

- Four issues of the quarterly **CIRDAP Development Digest** (CDD – 139, 140, 141 and 142)
- Two issues of **Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development** (July and December Issues of 2015)
- **CIRDAP Annual Report 2014**
- A compilation of **Success Stories in CIRDAP Member Countries**
- **CIRDAP Desk Calendar-2015**
- **EC-30 and GC-20 Working Papers**
- **Report of the 29th Meeting of the CIRDAP Technical Committee**
- Folders for Policy Body Meetings and Seventh Regional Policy Dialogue of CIRDAP
- A brochure on ITEC Fellowships to CIRDAP Member Countries for 2015-16





- Posters were printed for Policy Body Meetings
- **CIRDAP e-News**

In 2015, all recent CIRDAP news, events and activities were published monthly and disseminated to EC/GC/TC and other stakeholders by email. The CIRDAP e-News archive is also available at CIRDAP website.

## IT Services and Knowledge Dissemination

### Wi-Fi Facility at CIRDAP



Wi-Fi facility has been installed at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre and CIRDAP campus to provide internet facility to the clients and CIRDAP staff.

### InfoRD.org

CIRDAP has started an Info Rural Development portal which is a repository of information on rural development of CMCs in particular and in Asia-Pacific region in general.

Data, videos and best practices of CMCs find place here for sharing and learning from each other. This being a collaborative portal, contribution flows from the member countries. Thus the portal is the knowledge hub of CMCs. Visit the portal for latest information about rural development at [www.inford.org](http://www.inford.org)

### CIRDAP Website

All recent CIRDAP publications were uploaded on the CIRDAP Website. Pictures, news and press releases of latest CIRDAP events as well as announcements were regularly uploaded on the website. The site is visited by many visitors from around the globe as measured by the site monitor.



*A snapshot of CIRDAP website*





A snapshot of InfoRD.org



A snapshot of CIRDAP e-News

## VLC and Geo-informatics Applications' Centre at CIRDAP

With the support from the Ministry of Rural Development, India, the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) took initiatives to set up the Virtualisation Learning Centre (VLC) and the Centre on Geo-informatics Applications for Rural Development (CGARD) at the CIRDAP ICT Centre in Dhaka. Global tender was floated by CIRDAP on behalf of NIRD&PR. Tender Committee evaluated the technical bids and opened the financial bids. Comparative statement, accordingly, was prepared and sent to NIRD&PR for approval.

The committee found that total nine bidders had bought the tender schedule and five bidders participated in the tender. The tender process is now on the final stage and it has been sent to NIRD&PR for issuing work order. It is expected that the project will be completed within next 2-3 month.

## Online Booking Management Software for CIRDAP Auditoriums and CICC

CIRDAP has been preparing Online Booking Management Software (OBMS) since last year to facilitate clients for online booking and reservation for CIRDAP auditoriums and International Conference Centre. The software also includes the online payment gateway system. The online booking software developing process is going on and very soon it will be launched for clients.

## ICT Support and Services

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) wing of ICD efficiently and sincerely render its services to the centre and its member countries. Regular trouble-shooting work and supply of computer peripherals were maintained without any hindrance through the year. About 40 e-mail accounts of CIRDAP professional are being maintained. An anti-virus server is also being maintained to protect computers from viruses. Network switches and routers are being maintained to provide broadband internet connection to CIRDAP staff. CIRDAP operates its online set-up in collaboration with Google and BanglaNet Ltd. Video conferencing facilities are provided to different CMCs or CLIs via Skype, as and when required.

## Networking and Developing Partnership

### MoU between CIRDAP and BIID to empower Rural Communities in CMCs

Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director (ICD), CIRDAP met Mr. Md. Shahid Uddin Akbar, the Chief Executive Officer of the Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID) and discussed programmes on ICT for agriculture in Bangladesh, and invited him for discussion with DG, CIRDAP



and ICD Division for collaboration between CIRDAP and BIID. In this connection, a team from BIID led by Mr. Akbar visited CIRDAP on 25 May 2015 and discussed with the Director (ICD) on the possible areas of collaboration. They agreed to work cooperatively towards mainstreaming the concept of ICT for Development (ICT4D) to empower rural communities across the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs), and finally they signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CIRDAP. The identified major areas of collaboration are as follows:

- Work plans for each of the projects that will be developed and agreed upon between the parties when required.
- Each work plan will specify the details of the project activities, including time schedule, expected outputs, responsibilities of CIRDAP and BIID and funding resources.
- With the consent of the parties, work plans may be modified in the course of the project period.
- Plans and suggestions for future collaboration may be originated from either party, but will require the approval of all parties for implementation.
- It is mutually understood that this collaboration does not prevent either party to conduct its normal business without the obligation to contact the other party.



*CIRDAP DG exchanging MoU with Chief Executive Officer of BIID Mr. Md. Shahid Uddin Akbar*

The followings are the statements of mutual benefits and interests:

- The parties agree to collaborate in innovation and advancement of ICT4D to support sustainable agriculture, food security and socially-inclusive rural development.
- Generally, the collaboration between the parties shall be in planning and implementing the predetermined and mutually agreed sets of activities (hereinafter referred to as Projects) related to ICT4D.
- CIRDAP and BIID will jointly develop a cloud based online Knowledge Repository on rural development, primarily focusing on agricultural sectors.
- Facilitate an Advocacy Platform for communication and promotion for sharing knowledge and policy issues on ICT4D, rural development and e-Agriculture.
- Organise regular HR capacity building activities of relevant stakeholders (like workshops, training programmes and conferences on ICTD at local level and international forums like WSIS, ICT4D Conferences etc.).
- Support idea generation and research on ICT4D through Innovation Lab of BIID.



- CIRDAP will include BIID as a partner organisation on its website, and vice versa.
- CIRDAP will make known among its various development partners in Bangladesh about the services offered by BIID (In the field of ICT4D).
- BIID will use its various ICT projects to help rural needs for new content and to document local innovations.
- BIID and CIRDAP will promote distribution and use of the knowledge platform among its development projects, networks and local service providers among member states.
- CIRDAP member countries or any projects using any of the content hosted on the knowledge portal will provide regular feedback to BIID on usage.
- Any other areas which fits the mandate of CIRDAP, BIID and member countries.
- When there is a need for other forms of collaboration, these will be discussed, agreed upon, and implemented by the parties.

### Developing a Rural Development Knowledge Repository

Information and Communication Division, CIRDAP has taken initiatives to develop a cloud based common platform of knowledge sharing in the areas of rural development and agriculture. As a part of the knowledge repository development, digital contents will be pooled and collated, particularly audio-visual contents will be collected in the focus areas of poverty alleviation including agriculture, gender and nutrition. Through this project, CIRDAP, in collaboration with Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID), will organise a number of trainings and workshops to train and engage stakeholders; and to ensure maximum use of the knowledge repository.

A preparatory meeting of the project was organised in CIRDAP on 27 December 2015 to discuss strategies and approaches of the project. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director of ICD, CIRDAP, Md. Shahid Uddin Akbar, Chief Executive Officer of BIID, Sumaiya Nour, Programme Manager of BIID and M. H Kawsar Rudro, Asst. Information and Communication Officer of CIRDAP attended the meeting.



*Discussion in progress*

The project is expected to promote best practices, innovations in different areas of rural development emerging on regular basis which often fail to reach the target users on the right time due to effective knowledge management. Since the number of mobile phone users is increasing and spreading even in the remote rural areas, there is scope for better learning and knowledge sharing facility.

Member countries of CIRDAP are mostly based on rural economy in terms of

employment and GDP contribution, specifically agriculture is one of the core components of rural and economic development of these countries including Bangladesh. Therefore, the importance of agricultural extension and quality knowledge management is crucial to empower the livelihood of mass people. Various development projects and Non-Government Organisations develop numerous learning materials and run programmes which are focused on the project and are mostly managed in uncoordinated manner with huge issue of overlapping of contents. Most of the projects do not share their learning materials with others and waste a significant amount of resources for developing the same while some valuable contents are lost over time. At the same time, innovations are emerging on



regular basis which do not reach the target users or audience on the right time since they might not keep up with the modern technologies and services. There is, therefore, a huge potential in increasing the scopes of knowledge and contents sharing and there is need for adopting more cost-effective, innovative and modern approaches to knowledge management both in agriculture and other related fields such as gender and nutrition. The recent increase of mobile phone and other ICT enabled facilities (Internet, Social Media, Cloud based content management, Data sharing etc.) has also created new opportunity for the actors and stakeholders in this field to avail and share better learning and knowledge sharing facility.

A brief description about the project is as follows:

The collaborative project will focus on two core areas of activities -

- Develop a cloud based common platform of knowledge sharing in the areas of agriculture, particularly e-agriculture. As a part of knowledge repository, contents will be pooled and collated. Particularly, audio- visual contents will be collected in focus areas of agriculture, gender and nutrition.
- Organise Training and Workshops to train and engage stakeholders; and to ensure maximum use of the knowledge repository.

### **Objectives**

The underlying goal of this collaboration is building a long term partnership on ICT4D between two organisations.

Specific objectives of the pilot project are:

Collaborate in areas of ICT4D through innovation

- Enrich knowledge repository by sharing contents in electronic format and develop a hub of video contents on agricultural sector; and
- Inform and Engage stakeholders to disseminate information and best practices related to Agriculture and ICTs through workshop and training.

### **Strategic Advantage**

BIID has been engaged in private sector led development process since long and has already established landmark service brands built on collaborative relationship with various leading public sector, NGOs, INGOs, academia and private sector companies and associations. Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D) is the thematic area of focus of BIID which creates a unique proposition to carry out such initiatives. Also Entrepreneurship, Climate issues, Gender and Nutrition are cross-cutting areas where BIID has expanded its focus. BIID's working experience in global development domain is another strategic advantage to bring learning from other countries of Africa (Kenya, Tanzania) or South East Asia (Philippine's, Indonesia). As such the proposal stands in a unique position which has the following major advantages:

- BIID has long and rich experience on ICT4D
- CIRDAP is a leading regional initiative to foster rural development
- BIID in the process of establishing a Knowledge Repository which will work as the leading platform for knowledge management and sharing in agriculture, gender and nutrition
- BIID and CIRDAP has areas of mutual focus and interest in collating video contents in agriculture as the focus area
- Both the institutions work with partners and stakeholders in wide range of sectors which can bring mutual benefits and opportunities by using modern ICT solutions.



## Collaboration between CIRDAP and Ministry of Youth and Sports, Bangladesh

As a part of strengthening CIRDAP's collaboration with Ministries and Government Institutions, two separate meeting with the State Minister and the Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of Bangladesh, were organised. Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG and Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, ICD, CIRDAP met Dr. Shri Biren Sikder, State Minister of the Ministry on 6 October, 2015 to discuss possible areas of partnership between CIRDAP and the Ministry.

DG, CIRDAP expressed interest to work with the Ministry explaining the area of mutual interest where CIRDAP can partner with, and how CIRDAP can offer experience and expertise from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). The State Minister agreed on working together and requested to continue future discussion with the Secretary of the Ministry and Director General, Department of Youth Development, Bangladesh.

In a separate meeting, Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran met Mr. Nur Mohammad, Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports at the Secretariat of Bangladesh Government in October 15 to chalk out collaborative programmes and potential areas of cooperation. Mr. Nur Mohammad explained some initiatives taken by his Ministry targeting rural and urban youth and how these training have helped young entrepreneurs by mentioning some exemplary cases of entrepreneurs.

It was decided in the meetings that future programmes will be arranged showcasing the successful-youth led initiatives to inspire youths in Bangladesh and other CMCs. Mr. MH Kawsar Rudro, Assistant Information and Communication Officer, CIRDAP and Dr. Subhas Chandra Biswas, Personal Secretary to the State Minister, Ministry of Youth and Sports were also present in the meeting.

## Editorial Board Meetings of APJORD

The 47<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> Editorial Board Meetings of Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD) were held on 23 December 2015 and 25 June 2015 consecutively at the General Staff Meeting Room of CIRDAP headquarters. In the meetings, Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG, CIRDAP and Chairperson of APJORD was present as Chairperson, where Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director (ICD), CIRDAP and Editor, APJORD moderated the meetings. The 47<sup>th</sup> meeting discussed the agenda, where a total of 14 articles were reviewed by experts, of these seven articles were approved for APJORD Vol. XXV, No. 2, December 2015. In the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting, 11 articles were reviewed by board members, of these eight were finalised for APJORD Vol. XXV, No. 1, Issue: July 2015. It was proposed that articles already published in the renowned journals will be republished by CIRDAP with writers/publisher's permission.



*The 47<sup>th</sup> Editorial Board Meetings of APJORD in progress*



## Trainings, Workshops and Seminars

### Turning Unemployment to Entrepreneurship-Motivating Indian Youth for Social Business

Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank, early developer and implementer of the social business concept was in India along with his team at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) to conduct a “One-day Workshop on Social Business” on 1st September, 2015. He delivered the inaugural address on “Turning Unemployment to Entrepreneurship: Motivating Indian Youth for Social Business” to the prominent entrepreneurs and policy makers of India. This event was organised by RGNIYD in collaboration with Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), an Inter-Governmental Regional Organisation based in Dhaka, Bangladesh under the CIRDAP-RGNIYD MoU.

Being the apex youth catalyst Institute in India, RGNIYD extended the opportunity to the young entrepreneurs, young Heads of corporate social responsibility units to participate and benefit from this event. The participants of the workshop were given a platform to interact and discuss with Professor Yunus on how to nourish and scale up their social business and respond to impinging needs of our society. Nobel laureate and Grameen Bank founder Muhammad Yunus has never been an admirer of the top-down approach to business. Centralised planning and decision-making is far removed from the culture of social entrepreneurship and empowerment that this reputed economist has sought to promote.



*Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus addressing in the workshop*

Addressing the more than 500 member audience he said “Governments should create a culture of social entrepreneurship before rolling out the red carpet for global investors. Now, every attempt is focused on generating job seekers not job creators who can start a small business to solve problems faced by the community.” Yunus said attracting investments, either foreign or local, may be good for development of technology and growth, but the focus should be supportive to allow others to create.

Highlighting the success of Grameen Bank in building toilets, combating vitamin deficiency through selling seeds, starting eye care hospitals in rural areas to treat cataract, and setting up solar lights in Bangladesh, he said social entrepreneurship is the way forward. “There will be resistance. But we can seek the right answer and demonstrate success of social business to encourage others to follow.”

He exhorted students who assembled from different colleges, to start a business to solve a problem in the community. “I saw huge factories on the way to the campus. They all can start a tiny social business. They do not need their CSR funds, a small investment only will be needed to help the place they are in,” he added.





Yunus said there are opportunities in India for microcredit, but banking laws should be changed. “The current banking system is not for the poor. Now, loans are given only to people who already have money. They ask for collateral. An inclusive financial system needs to be created”, he added.

Prof. Yunus launched the new programme of offering master degree in Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation, at the Institute. Mr. Rajeev Gupta, Secretary of Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India received Professor Yunus. Imprint of both feet of Professor Yunus was ceremoniously taken on Plaster of Paris to display in the institute to inspire young students of the institute. Rajiv Gandhi Institute was founded in memory of Rajiv Gandhi at the place where he was assassinated. This is a special institute under the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India implementing programmes for youth all over India. The Institute announced a programme to turn unemployed youth into entrepreneurs through social business. The event was jointly organized by the Rajiv Gandhi Institute and CIRDAP, an intergovernmental organization comprising 15 countries, headquartered in Dhaka. Dr Cecep Effendi, Director General of CIRDAP and Dr Vasanthi Rajendran Director ICD came from Dhaka to be present in the ceremony and extend support from CIRDAP for follow up programmes out of Professor Yunus's visit. A team from Yunus Centre was also invited to conduct a workshop on social business for 50 participants including students and entrepreneurs at the institute as a first step towards longer term collaboration with Professor Yunus.

Prof. Yunus also visited Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai and interacted with Students in the Health Innovation Lab and Rural Incubation Centre.



*Imprint of both feet of Professor Yunus was ceremoniously taken on Plaster of Paris*



*Prof. Yunus and DG CIRDAP interacting with a student of Indian Institute of Technology*

In the evening, Professor Yunus delivered a special lecture at an event of industrialists and businessmen of Chennai, organized by TiE, the Indus Entrepreneurs and Villgro the largest social enterprise incubator in India. Around 300 top business people and entrepreneurs attended the lecture. Professor Yunus challenged the audience to use their power, and resources to try out social business to solve a problem that they care about. On the morning of September 2, Professor Yunus was received and



felicitated by the Governor of Tamil Nadu, His Excellency Mr. Konijeti Rosaiah at the Raj Bhavan. Mr. Rosaiah who was the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, was very interested to learn about the work of Grameen and the social business initiatives of Professor Yunus and its use in addressing the problem of youth unemployment in Tamil Nadu. In the afternoon, Professor Yunus delivered a lecture at an event organized by Young Indians, a group of young professionals and business people affiliated with the Confederation of Indian Industries, who work to engage young people in building ethical and moral leadership among the young and become more proactive in giving back to society.

### Workshop on eXe Learning Software

A day long training course titled “eXe Learning Software” was organised collaboratively by CIRDAP and BALID Institute of Information Management (BIIM) on 24 January 2015 at CIRDAP ICT Center, Dhaka. For the first time in Bangladesh, a good number of library professionals attended the workshop to be experienced with eXe learning software. ‘eXe learning’ is a freely available Open Source software authoring application to assist publishing of web content without the need to become proficient in HTML or XML. Through this simple software, the workshop participants will be able to create different self-learning module and exercises for their library users (e.g. Information literacy or e-resource management or others). This software is very helpful for the libraries where IT professionals are not included in the library team or the library gets less help from the IT department. The workshop was enabled as participants were able to personalise the entire training according to their organisational need and present their learning outcomes. This training programme was also attended by the Computer Programmer and Librarian from CIRDAP.



## Library Services

### CIRDAP Aziz-ul Haq Library (CAL) Services

#### Basic Library Services

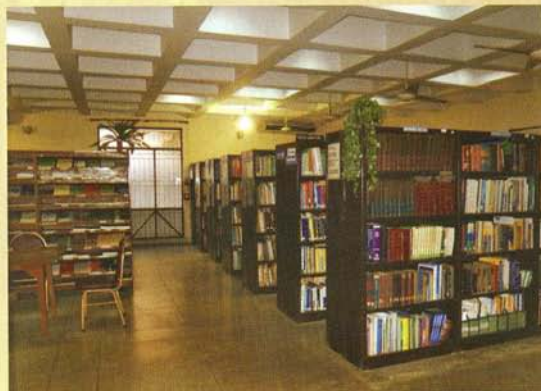
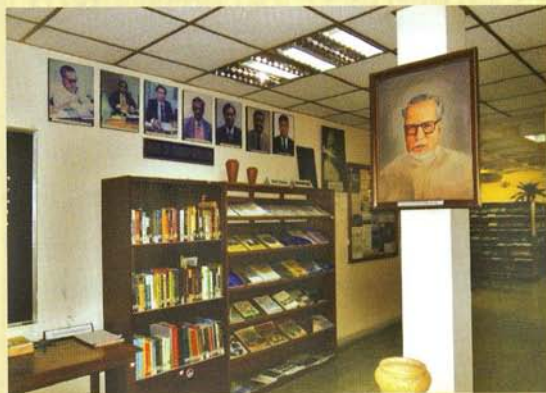
Current awareness services, selected dissemination of information, referral services, reference services, bibliography services, photocopy services, reading room services, library plan, budget and reports were carried out during the year 2015. Basic orientations and briefings to distinguished visitors and scholars were provided. Regular library activities (e.g. accessioning of library books and periodicals, process of library materials, entry and update of database, and shelving of books/periodicals/newspapers etc) were carried out.

#### CAL Newspaper Clippings

It is compressive information services for researchers and experts interested in rural area for poverty alleviation in Asian-Pacific region. Newspaper clippings mainly focused on agrarian development, institutional/infrastructural development, resource development (including human resources and employment) were accomplished.

CIRDAP Online Newspaper Clipping Services have been further strengthened. CAL newspaper clipping services are being sent to the professional staffs of CIRDAP in every month and hard copies are kept for all professionals. Some development news collected by CIRDAP Library has been published on CDD.





*CIRDAP Aziz-ul Haq Library*

New folders are maintained under the following topics: Climate Change and Global Warming, Poverty Reduction, ICT for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation, Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, Food Security and Nutrition, Rural Education, SME Development, CMCs Local Governance, Decentralisation and Good Governance, Water and Sanitation, Disaster and Risk Reduction, Rural Technology Development, Renewable Energy, Agriculture and Rural Development, Floating Agriculture, and Microcredit and Microfinance.

### **Success Stories from CIRDAP Member Countries**

CIRDAP Aziz-ul Haq Library (CAL) regularly collects success stories from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) related to rural development and poverty alleviation and disseminates by mail to the professionals. Compilation work of success stories has been published last year as book by CIRDAP.

### **D-space Software**

CIRDAP Library is developing Digital Institutional Repository which will connect CMCs through sharing resources, knowledge and information on integrated rural development and poverty alleviation. Digitisation of CIRDAP publications and archiving documents on the database will serve as Data Bank for information and knowledge sharing on rural development in CMCs and other countries of the world.

### **E-books Collection**

CIRDAP Aziz-ul Haq Library (CAL) regularly collects e-books related to rural development for enriching the library. More than 700 e-books have been added to CAL. CIRDAP staffs can access to those e-books through the local network of the office. It will gradually input in D-Space software.

### **Collecting Free Database, Journals and Library Websites**

CAL collects some of rural development related free databases which are available on various journal websites, for example, Social Science Research Network (SSRN), free library websites (such as, the World Bank Open Knowledge Repository (OKR), ADB Library, to disseminate rural development knowledge and information of latest resources for CIRDAP professionals are free of cost.

### **Publication Exchange Programme**

CIRDAP publication exchange programme has been expanded. More important institutes and organisations have been added to the list.

### **CAL E-abstract Services**

CAL E-abstract is a compendium of newly published articles (abstracts and citation) related to poverty reduction and rural development in the Asia and Pacific region.



CAL collects articles from received journals available in open source journals and subscribed journals, and makes them available through E-abstract Services for CIRDAP's staffs and professionals as well as CMCs' professionals. Articles are compiled quarterly and sending by mail for easy access of current literature on RD and PA for CIRDAP's staff and CMCs.

### Internship Programme

Librarian supervised four graduate students from the Department of Information Science and Library Management, University of Dhaka during their three-months long internship programme at CIRDAP from April 2015 to July 2015.

### CAL News Alerts and CAL Content Alerts

Through the 'CAL News Alerts' and 'CAL Content Alerts' initiative, CIRDAP staffs can read important and interesting news immediately as well as current Articles related to RD and PA which are published in Newspapers in CMCs. It has been send by mail in every week.

### New Databases

CIRDAP Library has created following databases for further easy access of library resources: New Periodicals List-2015, World Bank Publications, Study Series Training Series, Documentation, CIRDAP New Publications-2015, APJORD CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC), CIRDAP Governing Council (GC), CIRDAP Technical Committee (TC), Report, Working Papers, and Workshop Papers.

### Library Facebook Page

Library Facebook Page was opened for connecting people and for sharing information and resources related to library.



### Staff Participation

- Engineer Md. Waliul Hasnat, Computer Programmer of CIRDAP was resource person in a training programme which was organised by the Rural Development and Co-operatives Division (RDCD) under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh. He delivered his lecture on "Uses of LAN and WAN and File Sharing". from 10-11 June at the ICT Centre of CIRDAP in Dhaka.
- Dr. Usharani Boruah, CIRDAP Librarian participated in the Regional Library Networks in Bangladesh for exchanging information and knowledge sharing and dissemination. She also participated in various library programmes and workshops in Bangladesh which organised by various international and internal organizations, like United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Library Association of Bangladesh (LAB) and Bangladesh Association of Librarians, Information Scientists and Documentalists (BALID) and International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research Bangladesh (ICDDR,B).
- CIRDAP Librarian participated in a day-long workshop on "eXe Learning Software" jointly organised by BALID and CIRDAP on 24 January 2015 in the CIRDAP ICT Lab.
- Dr. Usharani Boruah also participated in the CIRDAP-BALID collaborative seminar on "Cross-Talk of Digital Resources Management: Steps towards Digital Bangladesh" on 22 August, 2015 at CIRDAP. Dr. Usha Rani Barua, Librarian, CIRDAP presented a paper on "Developing CIRDAP Institutional Repository for CIRDAP Member Countries."



- Librarian of CIRDAP participated in a workshop under the banner of UN Library Network in Bangladesh which was jointly organised by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Dhaka and Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) held on 26 November 2015 at IUB.
- She also participated in a training programme on Plagiarism and Reference Management Software Zotero jointly organised by BALID and North South University (NSU) on 19 December, 2015 at NSU.

### **Training on MS Excel for CIRDAP Staff**

ICD organised a training programme on MS Excel (Version 2010) for CIRDAP staffs on 25 May 2015 at the ICT Centre. Engineer Md. Waliul Hasnat, Computer Programmer of CIRDAP conducted the programme, where Director General and other staffs of CIRDAP participated.



### **ICD Internee's Presentation**

Nora Berger-Kern, a graduate from Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main served as Intern in CIRDAP for a duration of six weeks. During her internship she was trained to prepare posters on the outcomes of the International Training Programmes organised by CIRDAP in collaboration with NIRD&PR, India, National FAO Committeem Thailand etc. She also joined the five Indian PGDRDM student internees to visit prime institutes in Dhaka and also BARD in Comilla. Her presentation focused on the learnings from these experiences during her six weeks internship with CIRDAP. She was also given the responsibility to edit the Rural Development Report-2013 with the theme on "Youth in Development". She returned to Germany on 15 April 2015.



# *Administration and Finance*

## **Administration**

- Policy Body Meetings
- Appointment of Director General for the Period 2016-2020
- Human Resource
- Support Services

## **Finance**

- Auditor's Report





The main activities of the Administration and Finance Division are to provide administrative support services to the CIRDAP in achieving the Center's objectives in an effective and efficient manner. The services include arranging meetings of the CIRDAP Policy Bodies like Technical Committee (TC), Executive Committee (EC), and Governing Council (GC), and implementing the decisions of the aforementioned meetings related to the administration and financial matters. The Division also responsible to arrange recruitment/separation of staff, extension of tenure/increment of the staff members, procurement and maintenance of office premises/properties/campus, and residential accommodation for professional staff members, protocol duties, management of CIRDAP auditorium/cafeteria, liaison with Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, LGRD and Cooperatives, Housing and Public Works and other concerned departments for ensuring all diplomatic facilities and regular maintenance and renovation work of CIRDAP etc.

The Division recommends and administers financial policies/procedure and arranges interim and final audit work of the Centre. It prepares annual and biannual Programme Works and Budget (PWB), maintains and records expenditures of different projects, and reports in local and foreign currency.

## Administration

### Administrative and Financial Activities for EC-30, GC-20 and RPD-7

The Thirtieth Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Executive Committee (EC-30), Twentieth Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-20) and Seventh Regional Policy Dialogue (RPD-7) were held in Nadi, Fiji during 17-20 August 2015. High level delegations comprised of Ministers, Secretaries from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs), participants from non-CMCs and other distinguished guests attended the meetings. On the occasion of the above meetings, all kinds of administrative, logistic, protocol and financial activities were done by the Administration and Finance Division.

### Appointment of Director General for the Period 2016-2020

As per CIRDAP Agreement, the Director General of CIRDAP is appointed by the Governing Council for a term of four years. The tenure of the present Director General, Dr. Cecep Effendi will expire on



*Screening Committee Meeting in progress*



05 July 2016. In order to appoint the next Director General for the period 2016-2020, as per procedure, necessary steps were undertaken to send the vacancy announcement to all CIRDAP member countries (CMCs) by the Chairperson of the CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-19) held in New Delhi, India in 2013.

A four members Screening Committee (including a woman member) for appointment of the Director General (2016-20) was constituted as per the decision of the GC-19.

The first meeting of the Screening Committee for appointment of next Director General was held on 19 May 2015 at the CIRDAP headquarters. The committee examined, perused and evaluated the Personal History Forms, CVs, qualifications, present position and other available documents of all candidates to ensure the required qualifications as mentioned in the vacancy announcement. The committee also kept in mind the decisions of GC-11, GC-16, GC-18 and GC-19 meetings during the process to ensure the highest standard of efficiency, professional competence and integrity.

The Screening Committee met again on 22 June 2015 at CIRDAP headquarters and undertook interview of the six short listed candidates and recommended three candidates for appointment of the Director General to the GC-20.

Sl.	Name of the Candidate	Name of Country
01.	Ms. Rokeya Sultana	Bangladesh
02.	Mr. Tevita Gadrulevu Boseiwaqa	Fiji
03.	Mr. Madhav Lal, IAS	India

In the 20th Regular Meeting of CIRDAP Governing Council (GC-20) held in Fiji on 20 August 2015, Mr. Tevita Gadrulevu Boseiwaqa of Fiji was unanimously elected for the post of Director General, CIRDAP for the tenure 2016-2020.

### Appointment

Advertisement was made for the position of Director (Admin. and Finance) and the recruitment process was completed in December 2015 to comply with the decision taken in GC-20.

The following staff members were recruited during 2015:

Category	Name	Designation	Date of Joining
Professional	Dr. Ibrahim Md. Saiyed	Acting Director (Research Div.)	25.01.2015
General Service	Mr. M. H. Kawsar Rudro	Assist. Info. and Comm. Officer (ICD)	01.07.2015
Short Term	Ms. Bina Khatun	Assistant (Accounts)	21.04.2015
	Mr. Prodip Kumer Aich	Assistant (Library)	01.09.2015

### Separation

The following staff members were separated from the services during 2015:

Category	Name	Designation	Date of Separation
General Service	Mr. Md. Shahjahan Patwary	Secretary (PPD)	11.01.2015
	Ms. Rezia Begum	Messenger	01.10.2015
Short Term	Mr. Md. Khairul Hasan	Supervisor (Auditorium)	20.09.2015



## **Internship Programme**

Last year four students from Department of Information Science and Library Management, Ms. Smriti Biswas, student of Department of International Relations and Ms. Rumana Yasmin, Student of Department of Sociology, University of Dhaka completed their internships in the CIRDAP Aziz-Ul Haq Library, DG's Office and Research Division respectively. Administration and Finance Division provided necessary support to these interns.

## **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 of the staff members and other HR related matters. During 2015, seven PAC meetings were convened for confirmation, renewal and separation of services of CIRDAP staff members as per policy and procedures of CIRDAP with a view to ensuring transparency.

## **Protocol Support**

Administration provided required protocol support services e.g. arranging ticket and PTA, transportation to airport to receive and see-off the traveler, accommodation, food etc., maintaining liaison with embassies located in Dhaka and other CMCs for the visas for the traveler in connection with all the CIRDAP programmes held during last year. Protocol services were also extended to the expatriate staffs of CIRDAP in getting renewal of their passport/ visa, arrangement for accommodation along with required maintenance and renewal of agreements with the landlord for the tenancy of the Directorial staff etc.

## **Purchase and Maintenance Committee**

The Purchase and Maintenance Committee of CIRDAP considers the cost, quality, necessity etc. regarding any purchase/maintenance of property/equipment of the Centre and provides fair suggestion/ recommendation in order to take appropriate decision by the Authority and Management. In 2015, necessary recommendations for purchasing of different office stationeries, toners, toiletries, cleaning materials, office furniture, lawnmower, machine equipments and cookeries for the CIRDAP International Conference Centre and for repairing of Photocopy Machine, Generator and servicing of air-conditions of the Centre were also take as per the suggestions of the PMC.

## **Transportation**

Necessary repairing, maintenance, denting, painting and regular servicing work of all the vehicles of CIRDAP were arranged from Navana Toyota Service Centre. Arrangements for getting insurance of all the vehicles of CIRDAP were made in 2015.

## **CIRDAP Auditorium and CICC**

Necessary communications were made with Public Works Department (PWD) to ensure required painting and repairing works in the CIRDAP Auditorium. Necessary repairing/servicing works of the air-condition and PA system of the CICC were also done by the help of PWD.

## **Renovation/Maintenance Work**

Painting works of inside and outside of the CIRDAP Main building, front side of CIRDAP Auditorium building, inside of the CIRDAP Auditorium including necessary repairing works of cafeteria and mosque were done. Necessary measures were also taken for beautification of garden including cutting of grass and cleaning of garbage and preparation of beds for planting seasonal flower.



## Construction of Dormitory in CICC

CIRDAP being an international intergovernmental organisation conducts research and training activities in its headquarters. A number of national/foreign fellows, internee and trainees are required to work and reside in CIRDAP. But it becomes difficult to arrange work place and accommodation for them due to non availability of rooms. This problem was felt since long ago.

CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC) was constructed in 2013 with an approved plan of six storied dormitories with the financial and technical support from the Government of Bangladesh, but due to constrain of funds only up to three stories was completed in 2013. Now it is required to build one more floor (3rd floor) to meet our requirement mentioned above.

With a view to achieving the objective necessary communications were made with the Public Works Department (PWD), Ministry of Housing and Public Works, and as per our request PWD has submitted a proposal for an amount of Tk.183.15 lac to the Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh for approval.

## Finance

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

USD 1,648,159.16 was received as contribution & others out of which USD 1,176,474.48 was utilized efficiently for general/operating expenses to ensure effective support to the program for the year 2014-2015. Similarly USD 156,110.87 was utilized for programmatic purposes though only USD 117,429.04 was received from the donor countries/agencies.

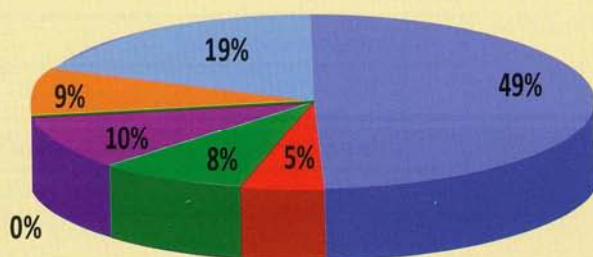
### Audit of the Accounts

The interim Financial Statements of the Centre for the year 2014 was audited by Mr. Eduardo Don Padernal, CPA, Senior Auditor from Commission of Audit (COA) Republic of the Philippines during May 18 to 30 May 2015. The auditor certified the financial statement as "True and fair view". The Audit for the 18th biennium (2014-2015) is in progress and the unaudited Financial information for the 18th biennium (2014-2015) has been furnished below:

#### CIRDAP Fund Status as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015

Sl	Name of Fund	Amount in US\$
1	General Fund	756,252.08
2	Trust Fund	70,538.77
3	Working Capital Fund	130,317.00
4	Depreciation Reserve Fund	148,351.89
5	Special Reserve Fund	3,113.09
6	Reg. Co-op. Fund (RCF)	141,087.80
7	Corpus Fund	299,847.21
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,549,507.84</b>



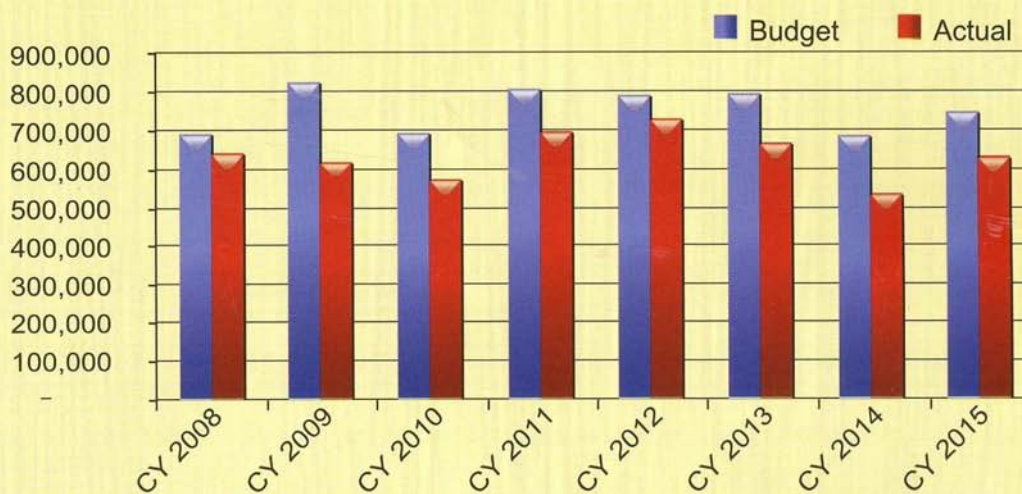


- General Fund
- Trust Fund
- Working Capital Fund
- Depreciation Reserve Fund
- Special Reserve Fund
- Reg. Cooperation Fund (RCF)
- Corpus Fund

### CIRDAP General Fund (General/Operating Expenses)

Amount in US\$

	Audited							Un-audited
	CY 2008	CY 2009	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	CY 2013	CY 2014	CY 2015
<b>Budget</b>	685,425	810,568	685,425	810,568	771,811	786,220	659,570	742,256
<b>Actual</b>	640,328	608,325	570,392	690,967	722,698	651,151	535,085	641,389





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

Consolidated Assets and Liabilities

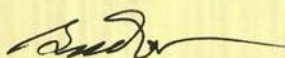
As at December 31, 2015

<b>Assets</b>	<b>Unaudited</b>	<b>Audited</b>
	<b>2014-2015 18th Biennium Amount in US\$</b>	<b>2012-2013 17th Biennium Amount in US\$</b>
Cash in Hand	2,159.47	1,370.89
Cash at Banks	516,284.18	449,662.46
Investment in Banks	444,232.64	396,596.23
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>962,676.29</b>	<b>847,629.58</b>
CMC Contribution Receivables	559,403.62	393,608.00
Advance to Staff	16,790.21	56,895.78
Prepayments and Deposits	4,188.75	3,640.21
Others Receivables	3,029.03	-
<b>Receivables</b>	<b>583,411.61</b>	<b>454,143.99</b>
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	59,895.13	70,455.45
Transportations Equipment (DRF)	68,315.53	75,598.32
<b>Other assets</b>	<b>128,210.66</b>	<b>146,053.77</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,674,298.56</b>	<b>1,447,827.34</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Advance Contribution Received	-	50,310.00
Other Accounts Payable/Accrued Liability	22,558.63	17,352.29
	<b>22,558.63</b>	<b>67,662.29</b>
Revaluation Reserve	102,222.09	102,222.09
General Fund ( GF )	756,262.08	532,582.83
Trust Fund ( TF )	70,538.77	109,220.60
Working Capital Fund ( WCF )	130,317.00	130,317.00
Depreciation Reserve Fund ( DRF )	148,351.89	186,235.29
Special Reserve Fund ( SRF )	3,113.09	3,428.09
Reg. Co-op. Fund (RCF)	141,087.80	186,635.36
Corpus Fund (CF)	299,847.21	129,523.79
<b>Total Fund</b>	<b>1,549,517.84</b>	<b>1,277,942.96</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,674,298.56</b>	<b>1,447,827.34</b>

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



Finance Officer  
Dhaka, May 10, 2016



Director Administration & Finance  
Dhaka, May 10, 2016



Director General  
Dhaka, May 10, 2016



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

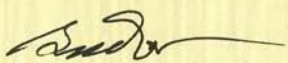
General Fund (GF)

Statement of Income and Expenditure  
For the biennium 2014-2015

Income	Unaudited 2014-2015 18th Biennium Amount in US\$	Audited 2012-2013 17th Biennium Amount in US\$
Add: Assets retained from DRF	36,000.00	-
CIRDAP Member Country Contribution	1,251,568.14	1,247,075.80
Miscellaneous Income & Others	360,591.02	139,332.45
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,648,159.16</b>	<b>1,386,408.25</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Professional Staff Salary	235,752.66	306,092.09
General Staff Salary	341,625.42	343,032.07
General Staff Overtime	5,055.59	17,938.83
Common Staff Cost	135,013.17	179,273.31
Official Travels	192,939.34	190,380.19
External Audit	8,069.00	8,286.60
General Operating Expenses	249,275.81	310,265.94
Supplies and Materials	8,743.49	18,579.81
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,176,474.48</b>	<b>1,373,848.84</b>
Interest Allocated to SRF	21,695.42	-
Member Contribution waived for 2014	17,122.00	-
Auditorium Income & Interest Allocated to Corpus Fund	140,085.71	129,523.79
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,355,377.61</b>	<b>1,503,372.63</b>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Income over Expenses</b>	<b>292,781.55</b>	<b>(116,964.38)</b>



Finance Officer  
Dhaka, May 10, 2016



Director Administration & Finance  
Dhaka, May 10, 2016



Director General  
Dhaka, May 10, 2016



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

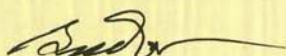
Trust Fund (TF)  
Statement of Income and Expenditure  
For the biennium 2014-2015

	Unaudited 2014-2015 18th Biennium Amount in US\$	Audited 2012-2013 17th Biennium Amount in US\$
<b>Income</b>		
Allocation From Special Reserve Fund	22,010.42	29,940.07
Contribution Received From others	2,283.30	53,626.21
Fund Allocated From RCF	-	8,466.83
Training Course Fee & Other Contribution	93,135.32	135,108.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>95,418.62</b>	<b>197,201.04</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>117,429.04</b>	<b>227,141.11</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Research Projects	8,798.11	6,809.89
Pilot Projects	4,862.00	17,851.32
Training Projects	118,185.99	160,546.39
Doc. & Information Projects	24,264.77	51,875.69
Other Programme	-	2,890.00
Donor Agency Contribution Refund	-	55,285.70
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>156,110.87</b>	<b>295,258.99</b>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Income over Expenses</b>	<b>(38,681.83)</b>	<b>(68,117.88)</b>

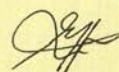
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Finance Officer  
Dhaka, May 10, 2016



Director Administration & Finance  
Dhaka, May 10, 2016



Director General  
Dhaka, May 10, 2016



# CIRDAP Staff Profile



**Dr. Cecep Effendi, Indonesia**

Master's in School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Ph.D. in School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Email: [dgcirdap@cirdap.org](mailto:dgcirdap@cirdap.org)

## Director General

Dr. Cecep Effendi has fifteen years experiences both as activist and as academician in the area of decentralisation and democratisation. Since 1999, started as chairman of Rector Forum in the West Java Province, he was responsible in ensuring a free and fair election in the province by employing 1000 university students to work as observers in Indonesia's first democratic election after the collapse of the New Order regime. Since then, Dr. Effendi has participated in various capacities to advise national and local government agencies both as professional as well as advisor to the House of Representatives, Regional Representative Assembly, Indonesia's Senate, the Association of Provincial Governments, and Minister for Home Affairs of Republic of Indonesia in formulating policies, drafting government laws and regulations.

Dr. Effendi served as partner of the Asia Foundation in initiating a new reform for local government, programme manager of decentralisation of UNDP and Senior Advisor of the German Technical Cooperation's Advisory Service Support for Decentralisation in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Indonesia. He also served as Deputy Principal Advisor of the German International Cooperation for Decentralisation as Contribution to Good Governance in the Ministry of Home Affairs as well as Member of the Advisory Group for Indonesia's Provincial Government Association. He was recipient of American Political Science Congressional Fellow to serve in the Sub-Commission on Asia and the Pacific, Commission of international Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington DC, USA and Parliamentary Internship Programme of the House of Representatives in Ottawa, Canada. As an academician, he also served Islamic University, Indonesia as President, Dean for the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, and Head for the Department of Political Science, for a decade, from 1995 to 2003. Dr. Effendi has assumed the position of Director General of CIRDAP from 6 July 2012.



**Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, India**

Master in Economics, University of Madras, India

Ph.D in Economics, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India; Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism and Communication, BVB, India

E-mail: [vasanthi@cirdap.org](mailto:vasanthi@cirdap.org); [vasanthi1359@gmail.com](mailto:vasanthi1359@gmail.com)

## Director, Information and Communication Division and Director a.i., Training 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 Counseling 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. Ibrahim Md. Saiyed, Bangladesh**

Post-Doc – University of Manitoba, Canada

Ph.D. in Bioenvironment Science – Tottori University, Japan

MS in Agricultural Science – Yamaguchi University, Japan

M.Sc. Agriculture (Genetics and Plant Breeding) – IPASA, Bangladesh Agricultural University

E-mail: [ibrahim@cirdap.org](mailto:ibrahim@cirdap.org)

#### **Acting Director (Research Division)**

Prior to joining in CIRDAP, he worked at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) as a Project Manager; at the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) as a Senior Programme Officer and then as Project Coordinator in a Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) funded project; as Cropping Systems Modelling Specialist (Consultant) at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) for ACIAR Project on Adaptation to Climate Change in Asia; at the University of Manitoba, Canada as a Research Associate; at the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute as Plant Breeder.

Dr. Ibrahim Saiyed has over two decades of working experience in different organisations and he gathered knowledge and skills on Research for Development and Policy in Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Management. In addition, he has skills in Project Management and Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation, Cropping Systems Modelling, Water Productivity and Adaptation to Climate Change. He is experienced in strategic planning, project development and resource mobilisation, organising consultation meetings, workshops, stakeholder meetings and trainings.

Dr. Ibrahim has published a number of scientific articles in different international journals, written a number of reports, and edited many articles, books and monograph. He has short and long term working experience on organising workshops and consultation meetings in different countries including Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Canada, India, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan. Dr. Ibrahim joined CIRDAP on 25 January 2015.





**Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, *Philippine***

[Doctor of Public Administration (completed course work),

University of the Philippines, Philippines]

M. A. in Community Development, University of the Philippines, Philippines

E-mail: [evatuzon@cirdap.org](mailto:evatuzon@cirdap.org); [angelic4112004@yahoo.com](mailto:angelic4112004@yahoo.com)

#### **Director, Pilot Projects Division**

Ms. Tuzon has a solid experience on agrarian reform, rural development and poverty reduction program implementation. She has been with the Department of Agrarian Reform since 1988 and had worked for the Land Tenure Improvement [LTI] and Program Beneficiaries Development components of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Likewise, her fields of expertise include research, project development and implementation, M&E, and takes interest on policy development and advocacy. Ms Tuzon worked in the CIRDAP as Programme Officer (Research) in 2004 to 2008.

Her introduction to Shanghai International Program Development Evaluation Training [SHIPDET] initiated her towards her professional involvement related to the principles of Managing for Development Results. She has contributed her knowledge and continues honing it as a development practitioner promoting the enduring global discussions on development goals for their fulfillment where results should happen most, rural communities. Ms. Tuzon takes pride having worked with the Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development where she enhanced her skills on social agro-enterprise development, sustainable livelihoods, and post disaster initiatives for affected agrarian reform communities. Ms Eva joined CIRDAP in 1st April 2015.



**Mr. Shafiqur Rahman, *Bangladesh***

Master's in Statistics, Dhaka University

Email: [srahman@cirdap.org](mailto:srahman@cirdap.org)

#### **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 modeling system; computerised information system; spreadsheet analysis using Lotus 1-2-3; 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, USA]

Email: dhilton@cirdap.org

#### **Assistant Programme Officer**

Prior to joining CIRDAP, he served as Training Officer for two years and later Research and Evaluation Officer for three years in World Vision of Bangladesh (an international NGO). 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. His areas of expertise include project feasibility, baseline survey, management, participatory monitoring and evaluation. Experienced as facilitator in Participatory Project Cycle Management and PRA exercises both at home and abroad. He also participated in several workshops, trainings at national and international level. Mr. David has joined CIRDAP in March 1998.



**Mr. Muhammad Shahadat Hossain, Bangladesh**

MBA (Finance) - East West University,

M.Com (Acct.), CA (cc)

Email: shahadat@cirdap.org

#### **Finance Officer**

Mr. Muhammad Shahadat Hossain has Joined CIRDAP as a Finance Officer on 15 April 2008. Previously he worked in a Multinational organisation named Asian Consumer Care (Pvt) Ltd (A joint venture of Dabur International & ACI Ltd), ACI Center, 245 Tejgaon Dhaka-1208, and he worked also PRAN-RFL group As a Assistant Manager (Accounts & Fund Management), PRAN-RFL group is one of the largest Local Food manufacturing company in Bangladesh. His total job experience in Accounts and Finance section is 12 years. He has intensive experience on Budgeting, Financial Planning and Reporting, Ratio Analysis, Fund Management, Company Law.



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

MBA (MIS), Prime University

M. Sc in Computer Science and Engg. (DIU),

B.Sc. in Computer Science and Engg. (DUET)

Email: hasnat@cirdap.org

#### **Computer Programmer**

**Mr. Md. Waliul Hasnat** joined CIRDAP as a Computer Programmer on 14 August 2008. He 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 softwares along with essential utility softwares. He has worked in a number of national intuitions/organisations. Before joining CIRDAP, he has worked in SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh 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 to prepare Specifications, Tender Documents and Procurement as per Public Procurement Regulation 2003 (PPR03). He has participated in several seminars, workshops and training programmes at national and international level.



**Mr. Safiul Azam, Bangladesh**  
B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc. in Statistics, Chittagong University  
Email: [sazam@cirdap.org](mailto:sazam@cirdap.org)

#### **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 has joined CIRDAP in March 1991.



**Dr. Usharani Boruah, India**  
Ph.D in Library Science, Moscow State University of Arts And Culture, Russia, Moscow  
Email: [usharani@cirdap.org](mailto:usharani@cirdap.org)

#### **Librarian**

Dr. Usharani Boruah served as a Librarian in various Organisations for more than 8 years. She worked as a Librarian in the Indian Embassy, Moscow and Indian International School Moscow, Russia. She worked as Librarian of the University of Development Alternative (UODA) Dhaka, Bangladesh and also as Medical Librarian in Apollo Hospitals Dhaka. Dr. Boruah has vast experience in Library Development Education Programmes, Community Development Education Programme, Ethnic Development Educations Programme through Library Education and Policy. Dr. Usharani Boruah joined CIRDAP in July 2007.



**M. H. Kawsar Rudro, Bangladesh**  
Master's in Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh  
[Master's in Development Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh]  
Email: [aico@cirdap.org](mailto:aico@cirdap.org); [mhkawsar@gmail.com](mailto:mhkawsar@gmail.com)

#### **Assistant Information and Communication Officer**

Prior to joining CIRDAP, he served as Assistant Manager in Strategy and Project Development Team in a non-profit organisation named Jaago Foundation where he designed and monitored several projects on Education, Good Governance and Youth Development funded by UNDP, US Department of State, US Embassy and Australian High Commission. He worked for several newspapers including



Samakal, New Age and Dhaka Tribune as Reporter, Staff Writer and Sub-editor respectively. He worked as Research Assistant in a research project on climate change under INSPIRE programme of British Council Bangladesh. He has newspapers articles on diverse issues including environment, education, economy, climate change, disaster management and human rights. Mr. Rudro joined CIRDAP in July 2015.



**Mr. Mohammad Abu Saleh Siddique, Bangladesh**  
M.S.S. and B.S.S. (Hons) in Mass Communication and Journalism,  
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Email: pa@cirdap.org

### **Publication Assistant**

Prior to joining CIRDAP, he worked for Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology as Publication cum Information Officer. He served as Sub-editor for the Daily Amader Shomoy, a wide circulated national daily newspaper in Bangladesh. He also worked at weekly magazine 'Shaptahik 2000', a sister organisation of the Daily Prothom-alo and the Daily Star in Bangladesh. He also involved with 'Centre for Media and Communication Studies (CMCS)' as well as 'Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC)' in a research project sponsored by UNESCO as Assistant Researcher. He has achieved inspirational awards and certificates in the areas of academic excellence, essay writing, sport and reciting. His areas of interest are ICT and Climate Change, Gender Equity, Film, Public Relations and Development Communications. He has participated in several seminars, conferences, workshops and training programmes at national and international level. Mr. Siddique joined CIRDAP in November 2014.



## Other Staff-Members

Mr. Samir Kumar Roy	: Senior Secretary (Training)
Mr. Nasim Al-Rashid	: Secretary (Research)
Mr. Shidhartha Sen Gupta	: Property and Supply Assistant
Mr. Md. Akram Ullah	: Cashier
Mr. Deba Datta Chakma	: Secretary to DG
Ms. Najma Yeasmin	: Personnel Assistant
Mr. Minhazul Bari Ahmed	: Computer Operator
Mr. Hari Pada Bhowmik	: Clerk-Typist
Mr. Md. Mustafa Kamal	: Typist
Mr. Shankar Ch. Das	: Technical Operator
Mr. Swapan Kumar Sarker	: Machine Operator
Mr. Md. Manzoor	: Driver
Mr. Shimul Barua	: Driver
Mr. Kallol Barua	: Driver
Mr. Biplob Kumar Dhar	: Driver
Mr. Bishu Chandra Das	: Janitor
Mr. Kazi Sharif Ahmed	: Messenger
Mr. Md. Jahangir Alam	: Bearer-Cook
Mr. Sujit Chandra Das	: Janitor
Mr. Md. Delwar Hossain	: Janitor
Mr. Martin Does	: Watchman
Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman Mollah	: Gardener

## Temporary Staff-members

Mr. Saiful Islam	: Medical Consultant
Ms. Bina Khatun	: Assistant (Accounts)
Mr. Prodip Kumer Aich	: Assistant (Library)
Mr. Md. Monir Hossain	: Electrician
Mr. Roman Khan	: Bearer
Ms. Parveen Begum	: Cook



## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AHKNCRD&MA	Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development and Municipal Administration	NAETC	Native American Employment and Training Council
AIT	Asia Institute of Technology	NAM SSTC	Non-Aligned Movement South-South Technical Cooperation
ALTA	Agriculture Landlord and Technical Act	NATP	National Agricultural Technology Project
ALTO	Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Ordinance	NGO	Non-Government Organization
APERDI	Agricultural Planning Economic and Rural Development Research Institute	NIMSME	National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
APJORD	Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development	NIRD	National Institute for Rural Development
BADC	Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation	NLTA	Native Land Trust Act
BARD	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development	NLTB	Native Land Trust Board
BIHCP	Basic Integrated Health Care Programme	NLTO	Native Land Trust Ordinance
CAPSA	Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture	NSP	National Solidarity Programme
CBPO	Capacity Building of People's Organization	OTOP	One Tamboon One Product
CDCs	Community Development Councils	PA	Poverty Alleviation
CICC	CIRDAP International Conference Centre	PGDRDM	Post-Graduate Diploma in Rural Development
CLIs	CIRDAP Link Institutions	PPD	Pilot Projects Division
CMCs	CIRDAP Member Countries	PPP	Public Private Partnership
CVDP	Comprehensive Village Development Programme	PRIs	Panchayat Raj Institutions
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension	RCCRC	Rice and Cash Crop Research Centre
DFID	Department for International Development	RCF	Regional Cooperation Fund
DFP	Directorate of Field Publicity	RD	Rural Development
DSCG	Dept. of Samurdhi Commissioner General	RDA	Rural Development Academy
EC	Executive Committee Meeting	RGNIYD	Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	RRDP	Regional and Rural Development Planning
FFS	Farmer's Field School	RSC	Rural School Children
FPSP	For Profit Private Service Providers	SAIC	SAARC Information Centre
GC	Governing Council Meeting	SAP	Social Action Programme
GDP	Gross Domestic Production	SDP	Skill Development Programme
GHGs	Green House Gases	SEARCA	Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture
GIS	Geographic Information System	SERD	Society for Education and Research Development
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	SOCSEA	Sub-Regional Office of CIRDAP in South-East Asia
HLP	Horizontal Learning Programme	TAG	Technical Advisory Group
ICD	Information and Communication Division	TD	Training Division
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	TFNet	Tropical Fruit Network
IEC	Information Education and Communication	UCV	Unimproved Capital Value
IJSG	International Jute Study Group	UP	Union Parishad
IPM	Integrated Pest Management	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IRD	Integrated Rural Development	USM	Universiti Sains Malaysia
IUs	Implementing Units	VOs	Village Organizations
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	WCARRD	World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
LG	Local Government		
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry		
MoRD	Ministry of Rural Development		
MoYAS	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports		
MSI	Management System International		



# REGIONAL IRD NETWORK

## Link institutions and Contact Ministries of CIRDAP

<i>Country</i>	<i>Link Institutions</i>	<i>Contact Ministries</i>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development (AIRD) Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Dev., Nela Bagh Street, Darul Aman Road, Kabul City	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Nila Bagh Street Darul Aman Road, Kabul City
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Kotbari, Comilla - 3500	Rural Development and Cooperatives Division Ministry of Local Govt., Rural Development and Cooperatives, Dhaka
<b>Fiji</b>	Provincial Development, Ministry of Provincial Development and National Disaster Management 1 Regional House, Knolly Street, Suva	Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management 1 Regional House, Knolly Street, Suva
<b>India</b>	National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Rajendranagar Hyderabad-500030	Ministry of Rural Development Krishi Bhavan New Delhi 1100 01
<b>Indonesia</b>	Directorate General of Rural Governance (DGRG) Ministry of Home Affairs Jakarta-12510	Ministry of Home Affairs Medan Merdeka Utara 7 Jakarta10110
<b>Iran</b>	Agricultural Planning Economic and Rural Development Research Institute (APERDRI), Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture No.5, Roodsar, Street, Aban Jonobi, Tehran	Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture 7th Floor, Jihad-e-Agriculture Building Taleghani Street, Tehran
<b>Lao PDR</b>	Department of Planning and Cooperation Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Vientiane	Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Government of Lao PDR P.O. Box 811, Vientiane
<b>Malaysia</b>	Institute for Rural Advancement (INFRA), Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, Lot 2A, Persiaran Institusi, 43000 Kajang, Selangor Darul Eshan, Kuala Lumpur	Ministry of Rural and Regional Development Level 30, No.47, Persiaran Perdana Precinct 4, 62100 Putrajaya
<b>Myanmar</b>	Department of Agricultural Planning Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Building 15, Nay Pyi Taw	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Government of the Union of Myanmar Building 15, Nay Pyi Taw
<b>Nepal</b>	Local Development Training Academy (LDTA) Jawalakhel, Lalitpur	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development Singhadarbar, Kathmandu
<b>Pakistan</b>	Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development and Municipal Administration (AHKNCRD&MA) Park Road, Chak Street, Islamabad	Establishment Division, Ministry of Establishment Block C, Pak. Secretariat Islamabad
<b>Philippines</b>	Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Department, Department of Agrarian Reform, 3rd Floor, DAR Building Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City	Department of Agrarian Reform 3rd Floor, DAR Building, Elliptical Road Diliman, Quezon City
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), 114 Wijerama Mawatha P.O. Box 1522, Colombo	Ministry of Agricultural Govijana Mandiraya, 80/5, Rajamalwatta Avenue, Battaramulla, Colombo
<b>Thailand</b>	National FAO Committee Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives 3 Rajadamnern Nok road Baan Panthom Pranakhon, Bangkok 10200
<b>Vietnam</b>	International Cooperation Department Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development 2, Ngoc Ha Street, Bach Thao, Hanoi	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development 2 Ngoc ha Street, Ba Dinh, Hanoi





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