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# CDD

**CIRDAP Development Digest**



**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 institution, established in 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. Its member countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host State), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The main objectives of CIRDAP 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 (IRD) through research, action research, pilot project, 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/ Infrastructural; 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; Gender issues; Governance issues; and Environmental concerns for sustainable rural development.

Operating through designated Contact Ministries and Link Institutions in member countries, CIRDAP promotes technical cooperation among nations of the region. It plays a supplementary and reinforcing role in supporting and furthering the effectiveness of integrated rural development programmes in the Asia-Pacific region.

## About CDD

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Cover photo shows exchange of MoU between CIRDAP DG Dr. Cecep Effendi and SAARC Secretary-General H.E. Mr. Arjun B. Thapa on 02 December 2015 at the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal.

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## CIRDAP and SAARC Sign MOU

### 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.



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.

### 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.





## Research News

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

A high level delegation led by Dr. Cecep Effendi, 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. 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 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.

### Professor Dr. Swaminathan's Lecture in Commemoration of 31<sup>st</sup> SAARC Charter Day

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) in association with CIRDAP, FAO, IRRI and CIMMYT organised a programme to celebrate the "31<sup>st</sup> 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'.



## Research Note

### Efficacy of Initiatives on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation: Way Forward

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. There were four presentations delivered on different themes. The summary of the presentation based on the country findings on "Efficacy of Initiatives on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation: Way Forward" conducted during 2014-2015 biennium following the suggestion of the 29<sup>th</sup> CIRDAP Technical Committee held in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2014.

CIRDAP organised a Regional Consultation Workshop during 5-6 May 2015 on "Efficacy of Initiatives on Rural Income and Poverty Alleviation: Way Forward" in collaboration with the Akhter Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD), Pakistan as per suggestion of the Twenty Ninth Technical Committee (TC-29) Meeting held in Hanoi, Vietnam in September 2014.

Eleven countries out of fifteen CIRDAP Member countries, namely Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam prepared country reports. However, seven country experts, except Fiji, India, Myanmar and Nepal, have participated the consultation workshop and presented their reports. The reports will provide information to the policy makers of CIRDAP Member Countries to reform the future rural development initiatives where necessary.

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.

The Government of Fiji has been continuously improving their strategies of intervention so that that the programmes 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 mismatch 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.

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 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.

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 given much effort to alleviate poverty and increase income through programmes for the various aspects, such as increased production and productivity of the agricultural sector through innovative technology, 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.

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.

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 leaded 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 sectorised-focus, geographical focus which is recently practicing, a greater access to ICT, greater nutritional programmes, rural development fund harmonisation.

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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 marginalized 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.

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 underspending; (d) underperforming agricultural sector; (e) lack of competition in key sectors; and (f) negative impact of climate change to welfare status.

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. Prioritization 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.

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 mobilizing local counterpart funds, especially for the poor areas where it is really difficult to mobilize 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.

In the recommendation session of the workshop the participants selected three thematic areas under which key recommendations as well as way forward have been suggested. The thematic areas are: (i) ICT in enhancing the efficacy of initiatives and programmes for rural development; (ii) Sustainable and marketing agriculture for small holders; and (iii) Rural Financing for Poverty Alleviation.





## Pilot Projects Update

### 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.

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. Siddiquir 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.





## 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 affiliated with the Rural Development and Co-operatives Division (RDCCD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD&C), where as CIRDAP also operates with RDCCD 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.

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.



*Discussions with project officials and beneficiaries in Maizbari Bazer*

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 Bhojali 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.



*Micro-credit group meeting at Laxmikola village in Bhojali Union (river island), Sarikandi Upazila*

## 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.

## 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.



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

## 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



*Veterinary treatment using mobile apps by a livestock worker*

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.



## Staff Participation

### • 1st Asian Public Governance Conference on Public-Private Partnerships



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. The conference opening remarks was made by Mr. Deok-Soo Park, Director General, Public Governance Programme (PGP), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Korea Policy Centre, and was followed with congratulatory remarks and a brief presentation of the achievements of the Public Governance Programme (PGP) for the last decade by the Director of PGP, Mr. Bum-Seok Kong.

In her remark, Ms. Eva mentioned about mainstreaming Public Private Partnerships in developing the new CIRDAP Strategic Framework for 2016-2020 for regional cooperation as a discipline deciding on what would work well, right and good. CIRDAP, accordingly, would have some self-conscious inquiries

which are as follows: How CIRDAP can contribute to evidence - informed PPP policy-making? How do we help governments or general constituents agree finding out which and what to transfer the risks to those that manage goods and services best?

Ms. Eva also expressed that based from the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Public Governance Programme, there were several opportunities for capacity building by which CIRDAP could consider seeking collaboration with and/or technical assistance from the OECD Korea Policy Centre's Series of International Symposium, Multi-country Study Mission, Asian Public Governance Forum, Capacity Building Programme and Constructive Partnership through strategic planning.

In fact, APG Conference provided an open and participatory platform for the Asia-Pacific countries that encouraged discussions on how to better facilitate public-private partnerships for the improved public service delivery. The presentations and floor discussions made participants have clear understanding of the current objectives, status and trend of public-private partnerships in OECD member countries and non-member countries in Asia and the Pacific. The conference exchanged knowledge on public-private partnerships including challenges and opportunities, issues, current practices, lessons learned and way forward.

- 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.

- Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, 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 from 14 to 15 December 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand.

## Help Enrich the CDD

### *An open invitation to contribute news and write-ups*

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is a regional, inter-governmental, and autonomous institution dedicated to the issues of rural development (RD) and the causes of poverty alleviation (PA) in the Asia-Pacific region. At present, its member countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Host State), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Devoted to promoting regional cooperation and assisting national action for RD, the Centre also acts as a servicing institution for its members by providing them with technical support, by fostering the exchange of ideas and experiences, and by encouraging collaborative activities for the broader goal of RD & PA.

CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD) is published four times a year (March, June, September and December). The purpose of the CDD is to highlight various facets of RD in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition to the regular news updates on the Centre's activities, CDD regularly publishes news items, viewpoints on various aspects of RD and related issues from around the region.

Rural Development Institutions, Practitioners and Academia are humbly requested to provide us with valuable feedback and also to send their views, news and thoughts on various aspects of rural development. CIRDAP would welcome such contributions to the CDD with proper accreditation. All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor ([infocom@cirdap.org](mailto:infocom@cirdap.org) or [vasanthi@cirdap.org](mailto:vasanthi@cirdap.org))





## Training Division

### CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development 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 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 produce 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.



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.

### Appreciation from Participants

*Many thanks for organising the CIRDAP-NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on "SARD" in Laos on 26 October to 4 November 2015. I have learned and exchanged knowledge and experience with all participants and key resource persons. On behalf of Lao participants I would like to thank all of you, especially CIRDAP-NIRD&PR who supported this training course. I hope that near future we will meet each other.*

Viengxay Photakoun, Lao PDR

*It was a great time in Laos. The newly built network through this training will be beneficial for all of us. Thank you again for your hard efforts in accomplishing the training.*

Deepak Dhakal, Nepal

*I am grateful and blessed having taken as one of the participant to a very informative and enlightening training and of course the very wholehearted accommodating training management.*

Nenita Ambal Dela Cruz, Dar-Barbd, Government of the Philippines

*Thanks you very much for providing all the facilities in Lao PDR. I am very much appreciating your cooperation. I enjoyed and learned a lot of new things from the training programme. I hope the training will particularly help to conduct research focusing on sustainable agriculture in Sri Lanka after gathering sound knowledge in this area.*

Prasanna Wijesinghe, Sri Lanka

*Once again my appreciation goes to CIRDAP, NIRD and Laos for every support, your kindness and opportunity for sharing knowledge.*

Renuka from Harti, Sri Lanka



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



- 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

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

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.

### Appreciation from Participants

*Resource persons are very resourceful in their respective fields. They have good command on their subjects.*

Mustafa Kamal Haider, Director General, National Institute of Local Governance, Bangladesh

*It is a good opportunity to learn experiential practices and exchange knowledges to replicate our organisations.*

Ei Ei Thwe from Myanmar

*I just spent a couple of more days in India, but since the time of leaving the country, I have been missing you all a lot. Firstly, really big thanks to the organisers who initiated and made things happen. Without you this was just a dream. Secondly, thanks and gratitude to the knowledgeable resource persons from different countries. It could not be that fruitful time without their contributions. Last and finally, also thanks to participants who ensure deep and broad discussions, ensure the quality of moments. All together this was a marvelous programme. These all will be a beautiful memory for the pages of our history for our brightening future.*

Htoi San Awng, Project Coordinator, SIDA, Myanmar

*On behalf of my Ministry I would like to convey my sincere gratitude and appreciation to you and to CIRDAP and NIRD&PR for having a very educational and great learning experience during the few days spent at the two organisations. You took good care of us all and we enjoyed every moment during our stay.*

District Administrator, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Western Division, Lautoka, Fiji





## Information and Communication

### 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.

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
- 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

### 47th Editorial Board Meeting of APJORD

The 47th Editorial Board Meeting of APJORD was held on 23 December 2015 at the General Staff Meeting Room of CIRDAP



headquarters. Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG, CIRDAP and Chairperson of APJORD started the meeting welcoming the honourable board members and participants, where Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director (ICD), CIRDAP and Editor, APJORD moderated the meeting. The Editor welcomed everyone and thanked the honourable board members for their valuable presence and support to maintain the quality of APJORD.

The meeting discussed the agenda and a total of 14 articles were reviewed by experts, of these seven were approved for publication in APJORD. Dr. Cecep Effendi, Chairperson of APJORD Editorial Board, concluded the meeting with a vote of thanks.

### Knowledge Exchange Programme between CIRDAP Library and Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat Library and Research Branch

A knowledge sharing programme was held on 16 November, 2015 to share idea and experience between CIRDAP Aziz-ul-Huq Library and Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat Library and Research Branch. A team from Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat Library and Research Branch, consisting of five staffs and officials including Librarian, Assistant Librarian and Cataloguer, visited CIRDAP Library and discussed possible ways of collaboration and resource sharing between the two libraries.

In the discussion programme, Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG, CIRDAP highlighted the importance of library and knowledge management saying that a modern and well managed library can contribute to the informative and constructive parliament discussions. He suggested that CIRDAP can help the parliament library in developing link with other parliament libraries of CIRDAP member countries. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, ICD proposed some possible ways of collaboration between two libraries by sharing online resources and regular idea-exchange programmes.

Mr. Sheikh Mohiuddin, Librarian, Bangladesh Parliament Library shared challenges faced by parliament library mentioning the need for training and technological upgradation. Dr. Usharani Boruah, Librarian along with other officials of





### Staff Participation

Dr. Usharani Boruah, Librarian, CIRDAP participated in a workshop under the banner of UN Library Network, which was jointly organised by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Dhaka and Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) held on 26 November 2015 at IUB auditorium, Dhaka, Bangladesh. A keynote paper on 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and COP21' was delivered by Mr. M. Aminul Islam, Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development, UNDP Bangladesh and a presentation on "Impact of ICT in Library and Information Services" was made by Dr. Mahady Hasan, Head of the Department of Computer Science, IUB.

Around forty library and information professionals from public, private, NGOs, academic and international institutions took part in the workshop.

Information and Communication Division, CIRDAP were also present at the discussion programme.

### 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.



### Wi-Fi Facilities at CIRDAP



Wi-Fi facilities have been installed at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre and CIRDAP campus to provide internet facility to the clients and CIRDAP staffs.

### Recent CIRDAP Publications

1. Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD), XXV, No. 2, December 2015.
2. CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD), Issue 141, Sept. 2015.





## Development News

### Climate Change Has Cost Pakistan \$20bn

The government estimated that Pakistan had, collectively, suffered losses to the tune of \$20 billion due to the adverse and increasing effects of climate change.

In a detailed report submitted before the National Assembly, the government also accepted – in so many words – that “Pakistan is among the countries which are most vulnerable to climate change, and has a very low technical and financial capacity to adapt to its adverse impacts”. The more immediate and pressing task for the country was to adapt itself to this climate change, the government said. In a written reply to a question put to the



*Pakistan is among the countries which are more vulnerable to climate change*

Ministry of Climate Change by PTI's Rai Hassan Nawaz Khan, the government stated that coastal and marine environment, dry land ecosystems, agriculture and livestock sector, forests, biodiversity and health were among the sectors that had been seriously affected by climate change.

It noted that the phenomenon also posed a major threat to food, water and energy security in the country, since it induced the melting of glaciers, cyclonic storm surges, tropical diseases and epidemics, flash floods, droughts and variable monsoons, which had become “an inevitable reality for Pakistan over the past many years”.

However, the government's lack of regard for the potentially devastating impact of increasingly erratic weather patterns is reflected in the fact that since the resignation of former climate change minister Mushahidullah Khan, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has yet to find a suitable replacement for him. The senator was asked to resign following a controversial interview with the BBC, where he is said to have commented about the army's alleged role in last year's PTI sit-in.

The report stressed that only by devising and implementing appropriate adaptation measures can the country ensure its water, food and energy security and minimise the impact of natural disasters on human life, health and property.

Mr. Rai Hassan had also asked if the government had conducted any studies to determine the negative impacts of climate change, but the reply only referred to an assessment of the changing weather patterns of Islamabad.

The assessment was carried out with the assistance of UN-Habitat, the Capital Development Authority and the ICT Administration and called the “Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment of Islamabad”. Launched on World Environment Day, June 5, the study revealed that the capital and its surrounding territories were exposed to a host of factors that accelerated the impact of climate change, such as marked changes in the intensity, frequency and variability of temperature, precipitation, floods, droughts and other weather systems.

“The extreme weather events recorded so far in Islamabad include the highest maximum temperature of 46.6 degrees Celsius in June 24, 2005, and lowest at -4.3 degrees in Dec 25, 1984. In 2001, the heaviest ever rainfall of 62.1mm was recorded over the course of 10 hours,” the report mentioned.

The study proposed well thought-out interventions to make Islamabad a climate change-resilient city, but none of these has been implemented yet. However, a number of cosmetic measures have been initiated in a bid to cope with the situation.

Realising the importance of the issue, government approved the National Climate Change Policy in 2012, but there has been no further progress on that front either.

*By Khawar Ghumman. The Dawn. November 9, 2015. Pakistan.*

### Cooperation the Key to Development for Laos

As Laos moves closer to poverty eradication and development, cooperation with other countries and all sectors concerned is essential in the effort to alleviate poverty.

Rural development and poverty alleviation has been prioritised by the government, with all relevant sectors and officials nationwide working to help Laos achieve the goal of poverty eradication by 2020.

The month of October 2015 was a good opportunity for Laos to refocus on the issues involved as the country hosted the ASEAN ministers' meeting on rural development and poverty eradication.

Officials from ASEAN countries shared their ideas and experiences on development and in so doing will contribute to the improvement of living standards.

This was a spur for Laos' poverty reduction strategy, which aimed to achieve fundamental poverty reduction and see the nation graduate from Least Developed Country status.



The poverty rate has fallen year by year and the number of individual households officially classified as poor has steadily declined. There are now 30 districts classified as poor out of the total 148, compared to 47 in 2010, according to recent report from the Lao National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication.

By the last year, it was predicted that the number of poor families might be dropped to 9 per cent after statistics showed that in 2010, 20.4 per cent of families were classified as living in poverty and by 2014 that had dropped to 10.57 per cent.

Of the total 1,138,287 families countrywide in 2014, some 92,328 families were in the low income bracket. In 2013 the number of poor families stood at 116,808. There were 8,514 villages in total, of which 1,966 were classified as poor in 2015. The number of so-called 'development' villages now stands at 3,095.

As Laos moves closer to eradicating poverty by 2020, assistance from the Poverty Reduction Fund is playing an important role in driving rural development and improving living standards.

The Poverty Reduction Fund was set up in 2002, initially financed by the World Bank. The Fund has carried out community-based activities in the provinces of Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Xieng Khuang, Luang Prabang, Luang Namtha, Huaphan, Savannakhet, Xekong, Saravan and Attapeu, covering 42 districts.

The objectives of the Fund were to help villagers to develop community infrastructure and gain improved access to services, build capacity and empower villagers in poor districts to plan, manage and implement their own public investments in a decentralised and transparent manner, and strengthen local institutions to support participatory decision-making and conflict resolution processes at the village and district level. This involved a broad range of villagers, including women, the

disadvantaged and ethnic groups. The Fund's activities have significantly added fuel to the government's efforts to reduce the number of poor families and eradicate poverty by 2020.

Beside this, the Party's Three Builds (Sam Sang) directive is another initiative driving rural development and improving living standards. The directive was laid down in the Resolution of the 9th Party Congress. It spells out how provinces are to be built up as strategic units, districts as comprehensively strengthened units, and villages as development units.

In recent years the government has spent 248 billion kip on 943 projects to boost infrastructure development and promote agricultural production among people in 109 villages of the 51 districts under Sam Sang initiatives.

The Resolution sets an ambitious goal to reduce the number of poor families to less than 10 per cent of the total population by 2015 and move Laos closer to graduating from Least Developed Country status by 2020.

*By Meuangkham Noradeth. The Vientiane Times.  
October 3, 2015. Lao PDR*

## Fending off Climate Change: Taking a Leaf out of Nepal's Book

As climate change becomes an increasing threat, food security concern has become a priority to policymakers. With unpredictable weather conditions, ranging from floods to heat waves, governments realise the need of introducing the modern techniques of farming, including drought-resistant practices.

For this, Pakistan can turn to its Himalayan neighbour Nepal and take cue from the methods adopted by its farmers to cope with changing climatic conditions.

### Nepal's Example

Erratic rainfall and shifting monsoon conditions have forced many farmers in the upland areas of Nepal to consider moving



*Challenges of climate change leave agriculture sector vulnerable*



from rice to other drought resisted crops like maize, wheat, millet and potatoes. A closer look at Nepalese farms reveals the situation of the country's agriculture community.

Farmers in Nepal are facing serious challenges while growing their crops, particularly paddy growers, due to significantly-delayed monsoon rainfall over the years. This has resulted in up to a 20% drop of paddy production during the current year, the major cash crop of Nepal.

The situation bares striking resemblance to the challenges experienced by farmers in the northern parts of Pakistan and the Potohar belt of Punjab.

In Nepal the government departments and some international development agencies have realised the importance of combating climate change and have taken several steps to counter its harmful effects.

"Over the past 10-15 years, we have been experiencing late monsoon rainfalls that are mostly delayed by one and a half month," said Mr. Badri Prasad Timilsina, a farmer from the Patelekhet village in the Kavrepalanchok district of Nepal.

Farmer Timilsina said traditionally farmers would plant paddy crops in April, however, due to the absence of rain they have to wait till June that disrupts the entire crop cycle. "I lost almost 25 to 30 per cent of my paddy production over the years due to the change in the rain pattern". "Previously, they used to grow three crops in a year and now we have reduced it to two," said Timilsina.

### Steps to Erase Threat

However, Nepalese government and other international organisations including the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and a local development organisation namely the Centre for Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED) have launched several adaptation interventions.

These agencies have launched pilot projects by establishing Climate Smart Villages (CSV) in various areas under the programme, Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP).

Before introducing climate smart interventions, a small field survey is conducted to study existing water management practices, cropping patterns, energy sources, nutrient and soil management. Farmers are trained on how to use climate-resistant seed varieties. Additionally, they are trained by local growers to prepare and use organic pesticides and bio-gas fertilisers, mixing them with leaves of trees, cow dung and animal urine to make them more productive and organic.

### Rice Crop

Local scientists in collaboration with these organisations have also developed rice farming techniques that require less water called the System Rice Intensification (SRI). "This method takes

less time to initially plant the paddy plant in nurseries then plant in the fields in time for monsoon rains," said Roshan, a researcher of ICIMOD.

Agriculture Extension Officer of the District Government Mr. Krishna Dhital said the country is trying to cope with the challenges of climate change and is taking steps to introduce modern technology. He added that farmers are being trained with new variety of seeds and bio-pesticide.

Pakistani expert Dr. Abid Hussain, who works for ICIMOD in Kathmandu, said that like Nepal, Pakistan also have similar challenges. He recommended building water reservoirs to harvest the rain water and introduce drought-resistant seeds. Besides, he also urged to formulate the much-awaited national food security policy at the earliest. The government might state that food security is its priority, but tangible steps in this direction are yet to be taken.

*By Peer Muhammad. The Express Tribune.  
October 26, 2015. Pakistan.*

## India's Bank for Rural Poor is Growing Fast

A bank targeting the rural poor has recently started its journey in India and has so far managed almost 100 per cent loan recovery rate. Known as Bandhan Bank, it started its journey in August 2015 as a commercial bank.

Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Managing Director, Bandhan Bank made a presentation on it and India's banking system at Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management in Dhaka.



As of now, Bandhan Bank has 598 branches in 27 states and about 80 lakh clients, among whom it disbursed Rs 11,390 crore. The tendency to take loans and not repay is less among the poor people, he said. "That is why Bandhan Bank has decided to give loans to poor people only. It does not grant loans to corporate or big businessmen. So, its loan recovery rate is almost 100 per cent." The bank strictly monitors where and how borrowers use the loans, said Ghosh, a former student of University of Dhaka.



About 70 per cent of the Indian population lives in villages, but only 37.73 per cent of bank branches are in rural areas, Ghosh said. And in just four months, Bandhan has brought 25,156 villages under its banking activities.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman said that Bandhan Bank began its operation with the twin objectives: women's empowerment and poverty eradication. "I feel quite happy to talk about a visionary man whose commitment for the poor is unparalleled. Starting from a tiny micro-finance institution, he made an incredible journey and now owns a private commercial bank."

"So far as my knowledge goes, Bandhan Bank is the first instance in India of a microfinance entity transforming into a universal bank". The bank is committed to opening over 71 per cent of the branches in rural India, with at least 35 per cent of them being in unbanked rural pockets, Rahman said.

As per BASEL-III norms, by March 31, 2019 banks will have to maintain a minimum capital adequacy ratio of 11.50 per cent. For that end, the Indian government plans to infuse Rs.70,000 crore equity into public lenders over four years to 2018-19, according to Ghosh's presentation.

In Bangladesh, the government has been providing Tk. 5,000 crore to the state bank for meeting capital deficit, which has faced many criticisms, Dr. Rahman said. On the other hand, India has been providing Rs.70,000 crore to state-run banks for capital purpose. Providing capital is not always bad if it is used for development of the banks, he added.

Ghosh said, as in Bangladesh, political consideration is the decisive factor when it comes to appointing bank directors in India. The directors are appointed by the finance ministry.

*The Daily Star. December 29, 2015. Bangladesh.*

## Vietnam Economy Grows at Highest Rate in Five Years

Vietnam's economy in 2015 grew at its fastest pace in five years, official figures showed, shaking off regional economic worries with strong exports, record foreign investment and buoyant domestic consumption.

The communist nation recorded a GDP growth rate of 6.68 per cent, easily surpassing the government's 6.2 per cent target with a figure that looks set to be one of Southeast Asia's strongest showings for the year. "This growth rate is very important for the Vietnamese economy in the coming years in the context of falling world oil prices and instabilities in the international financial markets," Nguyen Bich Lam, Director of the General Statistics Office said.

Many Asian economies have been rattled by troubles in China, where the world's second largest economy has suffered with its worst annual growth rates in a quarter of a century. While regional neighbours like Thailand have suffered, Vietnam has proved resistant to the slowdown of its giant northern neighbour, partly through state intervention.

The State Bank of Vietnam weakened the 'Dong' three times this year to spur exports after China depreciated the 'Yuan', dragging exchange rates lower across Asia.

Exports rose 8.1 per cent in the 12 months through December while imports climbed 12 per cent. Much of the growth has been fuelled by a flurry of international interest with disbursed foreign investment surging 17.4 per cent compared to last year with a record-high of \$14.5 billion. The strong showing is a significant jump on the last two years. In 2014 Vietnam's GDP growth was just under six per cent, while that of 2013 was only 5.42 per cent.



Senior economist Le Dang Doanh said that strong industrial growth also helped boost the economy as well as "lower oil prices in the world market which has greatly reduced the cost of imported raw materials for Vietnam".

Vietnam released data showing an annual inflation rate of just 0.63 per cent in 2015, the lowest in 14 years. Vietnam is now party to the recently sealed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the world's largest free trade deal between 12 nations, including the US and Japan.

As the poorest of the TPP nations, the pact is something of a coup for the country's Communist rulers, who will meet in January for a major gathering of senior officials to choose new leaders and decide the country's five-year economic plan.

*The Daily Star. December 27, 2015. Bangladesh.*

## Development Strategies within CIRDAP: A Comparative Analysis of ASEAN and SAARC

*This article is prepared by Mr. Felix Anderl, Research Associate, Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany, who served CIRDAP as internee from January-March 2014. The article analyses the understandings of development in CIRDAP's area of work, South and South-east Asia. For this, development plans in ASEAN and SAARC are compared. Furthermore, a discursive shift over time is shown in comparing the five year plans of India and Malaysia. The article argues that for organisations like CIRDAP, it is of great importance to have in mind that: a) the geographical differences in development approaches; and b) the historical change of development norms. Without such an analysis, the plan to create 'local' ways of development remains a flowery phrase.*

The Centre for Integrated Rural Development for the Asia Pacific (CIRDAP) is an organisation that bundles the practices of its staff members and its member countries in the attempt to formulate local ways to development. By doing so, it has an effect on the development discourse. While CIRDAP is occupied with facilitating discussions, and by that constructs some specific normative, discursive positions, this paper shows how the actors involved in the contestation are at the same time products of their original discursive circumstances. These circumstances ('context') vary over time and also from place to place within CIRDAP. It is thus of paramount importance to categorise different approaches to rural development according to regions and time. The development concepts have been changing in the last decades according to region, but also across regions. These discursive shifts shall be analysed in this paper.

As CIRDAP's two core regions are Southeast Asia and South Asia, this paper compares the approaches of the two regional organisations from these areas, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). By this, a spatial variation of approaches to rural development within CIRDAP is shown. In a second step, the paper goes one level deeper and analyses two of the member states of these organisations, India and Malaysia, two countries that arguably follow antithetic development routes, by comparing their development plans over time. By this, temporal variation of development concepts within the CIRDAP region is additionally highlighted. The study shall help understand how regional and over-regional development approaches such as in CIRDAP have to come to terms with sub-regional variation in order to formulate policies that are beneficial for their member countries and normatively acceptable for the respective populations.

### Regional Development Goals: ASEAN and SAARC

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) plays a significant role in the formulation of regional and national development policies in the CIRDAP region. Not surprisingly, however, many

member countries and regions have found them to be very broad and unspecific. There is a trend to emphasise localised development conceptions. As shown in the following, there is a division among South Asian and South-east Asian member countries, two regions which have their own regional organisations, SAARC and ASEAN. Both of these have specified regional treaties on reaching the MDG in a localised way, the "SAARC Development Goals" (SDG) and the "ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals". This phenomenon is called appropriation (Zwingel 2012 and Zimmermann 2014), which is stronger on the outset in South Asia. The SDG already suggest in their name that local traits were being added to the original MDG. 22 goals were formulated here, divided into the categories of livelihood, health, education and environment. ASEAN's approach is closer to the original MDG, with the main aim of the Roadmap being the formulation of suggestions for regionally appropriate tools on how to reach the MDG. It suggests its member states to "determine the reasons why the target is off-track [...]. Based on the evidence, determine what needs to be done to bring the MDG back on track" (ASEAN 2012: 10).

### ASEAN

However, also the ASEAN Roadmap entails ways of appropriating the development norm. The proclaimed purpose is to establish regional and national integration of goals in order to reach the MDG through facilitating "mainstreaming and localisation of the MDGs in ASEAN Member States," (ibid: 6). Therefore, the ASEAN secretariat supports national implementation strategies and appropriate operationalisation, for instance through the appointment of suitable authorities.

Generally, it is aimed for a coherence of national strategies and the MDG. ASEAN states proclaim "to alleviate poverty and narrow the development gap within ASEAN through mutual assistance and cooperation," (ibid: 1). Adding on the abolition of absolute poverty, which is coherent with the MDG, ASEAN therefore also sets the target of reducing relative wealth differences, which is an aim that the UN did not formulate in their goals. Concerning these, the Roadmap stipulates that, so far, remarkable progress towards the full achievement of the MDG would have been reached. For complete success, five fields of action are outlined.

First, "advocacy and linkages" are mentioned as fields of action, where the relevant national institutions shall be assigned, and guidelines for civil society participation are set up. Secondly, "knowledge" is picked up as a topic, probably the one most congruent with the work CIRDAP does: Regional knowledge sharing and distribution of best practices within, but also outside ASEAN, are proclaimed as strategies and "it is recommended

that ASEAN Member States make the data sets from development indicators, including the MDGs, widely available for utilisation by independent assessors in a timely manner after collection. [...] it is recommended that the data used by ASEAN could be made in line with the UN's data," (ibid: 8). The streamlining of data in common indicators, categories and measurements is a central aspect of installing homogeneity in programmes, even for the ones that were intended to be local, because success will be measured by global assessment strategies. Thirdly, "resources" summarise the topics on funding and human resources, where South-South cooperation (ibid: 10-12) is the next attempt to localise the MDG or their implementation with a regional perspective. The fourth category, "expertise and regional cooperation", highlights the strengthening of institutions and evaluation procedures. Suggestions for handling of data are provided. This seems to be of crucial concerns to the ASEAN secretariat, also with regard to human resources. Finally, "regional public goods"(ibid: 15-16) are introduced, taking the Mekong river as an example for the need for cooperation, and climate change as a field, where the ASEAN member states are asked to lobby for global support.

Despite the aim of creating accordance with measuring techniques and the broad goal of reaching the MDG as they are, ASEAN has adopted additional goals and targets, specific to their own particular circumstances. The most interesting two are that, firstly, internal disparities shall be reduced, also within states (ibid: 14-15) and secondly, that qualitative indicators shall be added (ibid: 14) to the global indicators, which are being criticised for staying mainly abstract and quantitative. Furthermore, deliberate localisation is proclaimed in the Roadmap: "It is recommended that ASEAN Member States consider providing incentives to promote localisation of the MDGs". Examples include "disbursements of funds to local government units based in part on adequate local development plans that incorporate the MDGs and progress, in terms of outcomes, towards achievement at the local level," (ibid: 7). Localisation in this reading means therefore mainly that local institutions shall create and implement global norms. The plans shall, however, be adequately local, which can be understood in two ways: Adapt the local so as to achieve what are the global guidelines, or appropriate the global guideline to local circumstances. It gets less equivocal when reading how this should be done: It is recommended that ASEAN increase involvement of civil society in activities related to the achievement of the MDGs in the region where appropriate; and that ASEAN Member States also, where appropriate, maximise their partnerships with civil society (ibid: 7). Local stakeholderships is therefore at the core of the Roadmap, which does not deviate strongly from the MDG, but has a focus on implementing in local ways. To summarise, the Roadmap delivers strategies for local implementation of the MDG. There is emphasis on local agency in this process, also provided by the civil society. Furthermore, the MDG are criticised for not delivering any qualitative measurements (especially the examples education and water are mentioned), which is perceived as a shortcoming that shall be adjusted locally. Finally, the focus on fairness in terms of distributional justice is added to the norm of what it needs to develop.

## SAARC

In contrast to the Roadmap, SAARC established a list with own development goals. Yet, these are closely connected to the MDG and are directly inferred from the regional success or failure of achieving progress with the MDG, which makes them a regional specification with poverty eradication as its absolute priority. The 22 goals that are formulated can be seen as both ends in themselves and tools for reaching an end of poverty. The paper first assesses SAARC's progress in accordance with the MDG in order to formulate own goals subsequently, which are logically derived from the success or shortcomings in a specific field. Two exceptions can be detected. Firstly, the last MDG, creating a global partnership for development, is not translated into own action but fuels a tough criticism towards international donors who are lambasted for the decline in Official Development Assistance (ODA). Furthermore, the global economic interdependence is alluded to, situating the self in a broader context that is not simply overcome by own strategies: "External debt remains a major impediment to development in some SAARC countries," (SAARC 2005: 4). This attitude is much more rebellious than everything that can be extracted from the Roadmap.

A contestation of global development norms or at least an ample circumvention of them is to be observed in the failure of taking up measures to reach the third MDG, gender equality. As the other goals, it is briefly analysed concerning its success or failure. In contrast to the others, there are, however, no further moves to operationalise this aim. Exceptions can be seen in the goal to reach maternal health (SDG 9) and an inclusion of women into the group of especially vulnerable (SDG 6) and special groups in need of participation (SDG 8). A general will to work on the equality of men and women is, however, not evident and even less so are there references to more progressive conceptions of gender. This is a deviation from the global norm that can be described as cutting away parts of the global norm, because a specific type of the development norm is not coherently followed up regionally.

Without going into the details of the 22 goals that were agreed by the SAARC countries, it is informative to analyse the introductions into the respective policy fields - livelihood, health, education and environment, where the main rationales for choosing these goals are outlined. Especially the first two (see a and b below) are of concern here, because the latter two are congruent with what we find in the MDG and formulated in general terms.

1) Concerning "livelihood" (ibid: 4-7), three guiding ideas are proclaimed by SAARC: The first guiding principle is that "nobody is left behind" when it comes to poverty eradication. Especially, nobody shall have to live in hunger. Secondly, it is highlighted that this is "never a one step change", but a process, "which is more akin to a ladder within which distinct milestones have to be crossed". Third, it is emphasised that growth is the tool for the aspired process, however with a deliberate emphasis on the "equity consequences of growth". All of the three guiding ideas are metaphors of movement with a clear direction.



Summarised, it could be said that the SAARC countries have to grow in order to collectively climb a ladder, while 'upstairs' is clearly better than 'downstairs'. The way of formulating these aims is in line with what Halliday and Matthiessen (2004: 93) call "theme plus rheme": In the theme, which stands in the beginning of an utterance, we find what is already known or given, so as to build the well-established basis for the content to follow. Only in the rheme, which is mentioned secondly, the real content is issued (which is up for discussion as it is meant to be the content or the actual statement). In the case of the livelihood goals of the SDG, we can observe such a style in formulation: While the focus of the three "rationales" (ibid: 4) lies on the comprehensiveness of the gains from growth, establishing a new rheme of distributional justice, which could be analysed as an alteration of the global development norm, they obliterate that all of these start with the theme of an obviously unchallenged fact that growth and progress towards a predetermined direction are the tools for that endeavour. Therefore, concerning this part of the SDG, which on the first glance looks like a clear localisation of the development norm, the main observation to be made is that, even in the attempt of challenging the global norm through the formulation of own goals, the core normative basis is maintained. This normative basis contains that progress is reached through a long-term process of growth which resembles the climbing of a ladder "from being poor to non-poor" (ibid). The critical attitude of the paragraphs, highlighting equity and the guarantee of "leaving no one behind", as well as the negative formulation ("never a one-step change") conceal the influence of the development-as-modernisation norm, which, considering the ladder-metaphor, comes close to Rostow's (1960) classic stages of economic growth. This claim of mine is substantiated in the respective goal formulations, for instance in Goal 4, where "pro-poor growth" is not intended to be reached by re-distribution, but by "access of the poor to credit, training and technology" (ibid: 6).

2) The health SDG (ibid: 7-9) follow a similar style of argumentation with respect to the fields of reproductive health and health care; hygiene and nutrition. Highlighting the cross-cutting quality of nutrition, it is added that "many of the goals here are universal in nature", which is in line with the MDG. The distinct value of the SDG shall be to "put the spotlight on some of the critical process dimensions". This is outlined with the example of sanitation which is, similarly to the improvements in livelihood above, "not a one-step affair but is more a graduated transition whereby there is a sequence starting from open space, closed space but non-sanitary, semi-sanitary and finally sanitary," (ibid). Again, the "graduated transition" is highlighted, whereby the SDG play the role of defining this process. This accentuation of process is again reminding of the stages of economic growth, which lie at the core of modernisation thought. Furthermore, it meets with the paper's interest in the process of appropriation. Drawing on the insights of the SDG, it is fair to sum up that there is indeed a will to appropriate the global development norm, firstly through its application to local circumstances; secondly, through the pruning of specific parts of the norm (gender mainstreaming); and thirdly, through emphasising new fields of action (distributive justice). The main character of the norm, however, rests with the idea that there is a modernisation process

to be set up, which goes into a predetermined direction (the West), and is measurable in the indicators of global organisations (or indicators derived from them).

Taken together, we see the aim of localising the MDG in ASEAN and SAARC. However, the first mainly provides ways of locally implementing the MDG and suggests modest alterations such as a focus on fairness. In SAARC, we see an even stronger will to appropriate the norm. Within the attempt of operationalising this, it is observable, however, that despite modest modifications, the underlying norms and thought structures are not overcome. When measured against the attempt of SAARC to formulate 'own' goals, this is a primarily rhetorical undertaking. ASEAN does not explicitly set the goal of own norms, but understands localisation rather in the attempt to engage local actors in the process of implementing globally set goals. It is remarkable, however, that both regional organisations do formulate such documents, which work as a public statement, claiming 'we have own goals and instruments'.

### National Development Goals over Time: India and Malaysia

While the last sub-chapter was a direct follow-up of CIRDAP's division into two blocks that were found in the field work for this article, the following paragraphs shall illuminate the importance of time and historical change, a factor which is difficult to overstress. The appropriation that was sketched above mobilises past experiences in the practices of the studied actors. Additionally, it is of interest to see whether over time a variation in this practice occurred, or whether we can assume a more or less stable pattern. Therefore, this sub-chapter compares sub-regional development strategies and the norms by which these have been guided over a long-term period of approximately sixty years (after independence). As a proxy, national development strategies (five year plans) are analysed. The data for this endeavour is unfortunately not available for many of the countries. However, it is informative to look at Malaysia and India as representatives of two oppositional ways to development. While Malaysia has followed a clear modernisation strategy since after the World War II, India had an alternative past after decolonisation, moving towards what Bayly (2007, 98) calls "a domain of socialist post-coloniality." They can be seen as extreme cases of either delineation from 'Western' discourses (India) and compliance with the modernisation norm (Malaysia). Therefore, the other CIRDAP member countries can be assumed to be situated somewhere in between these two countries.

Methodologically, it is not easy to trace historical change. Statistical analysis, for instance, has a problem, because "even if we had data collected in exactly the same way over several decades, the comparability for every item in the survey might not persist over time. Language is not static but evolves; therefore, words change their meanings, and new terms come into fashion," (Wolf and Boehle 2012: 2). So while these approaches try to model time as a 'context variable', circumventing these difficulties, it is the strength of a qualitative approach to look for these very changes in terming in order to detect underlying

normative changes. Wolf and Boehle use “negro”, “black”, and “African-American” as an example for changed phrases for the same ‘meaning’. Such a change is not primarily a difficulty for analysis (although it can be), but it is in fact a crucial discursive sedimentation as it portrays changed normative expectations in respect to what is ‘appropriate’, and in this process also ‘meaning’ gets altered. In this case, the changed terming is a practice that is co-constitutive with the racial equality norm. The clumsiness in finding appropriate terminologies for delicate objects (or the relations towards these objects) is in itself a remarkable process, which can usually not in itself explain causalities, but does signify changed discursive context. For analysing development in India and Malaysia, two approaches will therefore be utilised.

Firstly, it is traced what in the 5-year plans is treated under the headline of development by retrieving the main topics of concern (mostly in a chapter on ‘strategies for development’ or ‘the development agenda’). Secondly, they are hermeneutically analysed with a focus on change or stability in terming. For reasons of space, some relevant results are presented here instead of reconstructing how the concepts evolved in detail.

In the following, three arguments are made on the ground of comparing India’s and Malaysia’s five year plans from 1950 to 2012. First, the development plans and the concepts that fall under the development agenda get increasingly diversified over time. Secondly, Malaysia is much closer to the development logic of the modernisation discourse, while India integrates critical and idiosyncratic elements to its plans. Both are, however, influenced by global discourses. Thirdly, and this shall be the core point, India started its development approach as opposed to western discourses and credited much more emphasis on redistributive and ‘socialist’ means. Over the time, the plans have been moving into the direction of the hegemonic development discourse with its market logic and modernising impetus. Yet, this discourse also changed and moved from pure growth logic to taking into account more diversified ‘human development’ norms. In that, the Indian approach and the global development discourse approximate and partly converge over time, while the Malaysian approach seems to simply follow the global development logic. This, in turn, means that also the Malaysian and the Indian plans become more similar over time.

The first sentence of India’s first development plan from 1951 reads as if it was totally in line with what we would expect from the global development discourse: “The central objective of planning in India at the present stage is to initiate a process of development which will raise living standards and open out to the people new opportunities for a richer and more varied life.”. There is, however, a variety of contradictions to this notion, for example in chapter ten of the second plan (1956), where it is stated that “our socialist pattern of society implies the creation of large numbers of decentralised units, both in agriculture and in industry. These small units can obtain the advantages of scale and organisation mainly by coming together. The building up of a co-operative sector as part of the scheme of planned development is, thus, one of the central aims of national policy”. This chapter on ‘cooperation’ introduces to the central theme of

Indian development thinking of the early decades, rural cooperatives, which has been losing in importance since, but still plays a vital role in today’s development approach. Instead of a focus on individuals, villages are seen as communities which are supposed to bundle their forces and gain together through cooperation and shared means.

As a next step, some examples will be given on how the Indian development plans have been becoming increasingly similar to the global development norm. Starting with women, they were only included in 1980. Since then, they have been treated as a special group of concern for development. Since 1997, the word “empowerment” is used, a clear reference to the global development discourse in which the capability approach became dominant in the 1990s. The problem of food and nutrition is present from the start of Indian development planning, but we can observe a change in terminology. It is since 1997 that “food security” has been used as an overarching slogan. Within global organisations, hunger eradication has been labelled with food security since the 1974 World Food Conference. The mainstreaming of the term began with the World Summit on Food Security in 1996. The first Indian use of the term one year later is a relatively unambiguous link to global discourse (see FAO 1996). As with the global economic trend, there is also a movement to focus on services in addition to industrial production. This happens only after 2002. Within the industrial sector, there is also an interesting twist in terming, ranging from “agricultural labour/village Industries” (1960s) to “village and small industries” (1970s) and a focus on SMEs in the years after 2002. The focus on SMEs is congruent with CIRDAP’s current practice and goes along the interventions of the big global development agencies, which are heavily involved in this economic issue. The eleventh development plan (2007-2012) covers a number of topics that strengthen the hypothesis of a stronger proximity to global norms. While these plans were originally understood in the real sense of the word, as socialist planned economy, nowadays the concepts moved towards liberal development strategies. For example, consumer protection found its way into the plan, as well as a rights-based approach to children-policies. Furthermore, the term ‘good governance’ was picked up instead of ‘public administration’. The section on ‘family planning’ is called ‘family welfare’ since 1985. Through these terms, the Indian plans increasingly resemble UNDP’s Development Reports, based on Amartya Sen’s rights-based, liberal approach.

At the same time, the global development norm became slightly more ‘Indian’ over time<sup>3</sup>. Its strategies to focus on the people, food security and cooperation, instead of top-down measures, are already written down in the early development plans of India. These plans were very specific and could, in their focus on the rural level, be called a blueprint for the decentralised approaches of today’s global development norm. Foremost the Indian system of cooperatives in agriculture and community development can be seen as early examples of ‘empowerment’ and decision-making on the ground, items that were added to the global development norm only in the 1990s, after the Rio Summit (1992) and Amartya Sen’s approach. References to

participation were already present in the Indian plan from 1961. In that sense, the Indian planners were pioneers and many of these concepts are now at the heart of the global development norm. The Indian and the global development norm have therefore moved towards each other.

Despite the increasing proximity to global development norms, India still highlights its idiosyncratic concepts for development. For instance, since 1997, the Indian system of medicine and homeopathy is mentioned as a strategy for health. Starting in 2002, there is a special chapter on "Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy" and one on "Bharat Nirman and Flagship Programmes". Bharat Nirman is a concept for rural development, which comes very close to CIRDAP initiatives in stressing the integrated mission of infrastructure, population planning and sanitation. The term 'flagship programme' suggests that concepts like these have a dual significance, as a tool for reaching their inherent goals, and as a symbol for the own strength and singularity.

So far, the paper mainly referred to India, because it is the more interesting case. The Malaysian 5-year plan is an example of a typical growth-based modernisation process that has been aspired from the start. The aims were quite simple with growth at the heart of its tools, flanked by issues like education, employment, health and social welfare. Later, goals like environmental protection are added (1976). Already in 1971, tourism gets its own chapter. Women, on the other hand, only become a matter of concern in 1990. In general, the plans become more diversified over the years, which do not come as a surprise. Interestingly, however, the 'human turn' of the global development discourse is not reflected in a different language, which stays rather technical and economic. In the latest years, features like biotechnology and information technology receive a big deal of attention, implying technical solutions for problems and using a language, which is interesting when comparing it to the Indian reports, where singularity and humanism is stressed.

In contrast to that, Malaysia plans, and thereby portrays itself, as a dynamic and economically vibrant industrialising country from the start. The most relevant factor that we can gain from this historical perspective is Malaysia's reaction to the inner crisis from 1969, where a wave of violence from Malay people against ethnic Chinese resulted in riots in which about 6,000 Chinese homes and businesses were destroyed and close to 200 were killed. It is after this incident that references to nation building and "national unity" (1981) ascent in the plans and are called for as development targets. In general, however, Malaysian development practice did not diverge far from the global development discourse, not to say it was set up by global norms.

## Conclusion

CIRDAP is exposed to a strong internal variation. This holds geographically, with South Asian states generally stressing their individual development norms, and Southeast Asian states being rather adaptive concerning global development norms. CIRDAP policies and statements often represent compromises of negotiation processes that are continuously fought over within the organisation. With this in mind, there is a strong need for a discussion about the goals of CIRDAP. Aiming at the networking of member countries and formulation of local development strategies, the question is: What does local actually mean? Besides the geographical variation that was illustrated with the comparison of ASEAN and SAARC development goals, there is a historical variation, which was exemplified with the cases of Malaysia and India. Malaysia has been adapting to the changes in the global development discourse (symbolised in the MDG) and mainly focused on 'modernisation' and growth. Lately, also India has been slowly moving towards this. However, also the global development norms approximated towards the Indian model. While this article could not prove India's influence on the global discourse, it is apparent that the current focus on human development with its multidimensionality is getting closer to the ideas in the early Indian five-year-plans.

## Invitation for Articles

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

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

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

Articles are invited for publication in APJORD. All articles are subject to peer review. Articles between 4000-5000 words are preferred. Articles should be sent by e-mail to [apjordan@cirdap.org](mailto:apjordan@cirdap.org). Notes to Contributors is available on CIRDAP website: [www.cirdap.org](http://www.cirdap.org)

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

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





## Building Bridges

### CIRDAP to Collaborate with OECD Korea Policy Centre



Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director, PPD, CIRDAP participated and made a brief presentation in the Asian Public Governance (APG) Conference on “Public-Private Partnerships: Enhancing the Understanding of Innovative PPPs” held on 26 November 2015 in Seoul, Korea. She mentioned in the Conference that mainstreaming PPP as one of the policy agenda to be considered in shaping the CIRDAP New Strategic Framework for 2016-2020. The participation of Ms. Tuzon emanated from an earlier discussion and proposal on Capacity Building Programme, which was submitted by CIRDAP to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development KOREA Policy Centre (OECD-KPC) in September 2015.

The APG Conference created an opportunity for an exploratory meeting between OECD-KPC and CIRDAP to discuss how an alliance could be made possible in promoting PPP as a mechanism in promoting public service delivery. The meeting likewise clarified that the capacity building programme could enlighten CIRDAP on many potential development models that are followed by Korean government, and which could be articulated in the CIRDAP Strategic Framework.

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. Director General of CIRDAP, Dr. Cecep Effendi highlighted the importance of building regional partnership to address the emerging global challenges. He proposed to the delegates about possible ways of sharing action programmes, and collaborative efforts to disseminate knowledge and information among the countries of Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Bumsuk expressed his aspiration that the meeting outcome will result to build cooperation between the two organizations. Further, Research Officer of OECD KPC Ms. Kyung Ae Lim said the knowledge exchange will help

both organisations as they have common goals.

Mentioning Korea’s success in using ICT for development, Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director of Information and Communication Division requested the delegates to share Korea’s ICT model that can be replicated to foster rural development in CIRDAP member countries as well as the Korean development model ‘Saemaul Undong.’ Mr. Bumsuk, 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.



## ***Calendar of CIRDAP Activities during January – June 2016***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Venue</b>
21-27 February 2016	Capacity Building Programme (CBP) on Korea's Experience in Rural Development	Seoul, Korea
29 February to 09 March 2016	CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on ICT Applications for Rural Development	NIRD&PR Hyderabad, India
2-5 April 2016	Pilot Project on Capacity Building Development Phase: Up-Valuing Agro-Food Enterprises of Selected Bank-Assisted Women's Group	Daffodil University Savar, Dhaka
April 2016	SAARC – CIRDAP Joint Mission to Nepal for Post-Disaster Restoration of Agriculture in Nepal	Nepal
28 May to 03 June 2016	Collaborations with APO/NPO-CIRDAP-RDA: Organic Agro Industry Development Leadership Course in Asia	RDA, Bogra Bangladesh
June 2016	CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Social Audit – The Indian Experience	NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India
June/July 2016	Retrospection of Rural Development in the SAARC Countries: A Basis for Transforming Rural Development`	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, India

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