

Issue 143  
March 2016

# CDD

**CIRDAP Development Digest**



**CIRDAP**

**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

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 IRD in the Asia-Pacific region. Any uncredited article or information appearing in the CDD may be reproduced without prior permission but with due acknowledgement and a copy to the Editor. The designations employed and the presentation of materials in CDD do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of CIRDAP concerning the legal status of any country, city or area, or of its authorities or boundaries. News items, viewpoints on IRD and related issues are welcome. All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor.

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Cover photo shows exchange of MoU between CIRDAP DG Dr. Cecap Effendi and APO Secretary-General Mr. Mari Arano on 26 January 2016 at the APO Secretariat in Tokyo, Japan.

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Printed by: Gonomudran Ltd, Savar, Dhaka





## Building Bridges

### MoU signed between CIRDAP and OECD Korea Policy Centre to Foster Collaboration

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) KOREA Policy Centre to foster collaborative programmes in common areas such as local



governance, capacity building and cross-cutting issues of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General of CIRDAP and Mr. Park Deok Soo, Director General, Public Governance Programme of OECD Korea Policy Centre signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organisation for three years terms at the OECD Korea Policy Centre in Seoul, Korea on 22 February, 2016. This new framework of cooperation between the two organisations is to support integrated development effort in the Asia-Pacific Region through organising training, research and pilot projects.

The collaboration between two organisations is expected to open up a vista of opportunities for both the organisations to complement each other's efforts in rural development and implement joint projects building bridge between East Asia and South-Asia region.

### Meeting with KOICA

Director General of CIRDAP met Mr. Hyojung Lee, Agricultural Specialist, Rural Development Team of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and discussed related to collaboration on 25 Feb, 2016 at KOICA Headquarters.

### CIRDAP signs MoU with Asian Productivity Organisation

CIRDAP and Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to foster collaboration between two organisations in mutually agreed areas. Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General of CIRDAP and Mr. Mari Amano, Secretary-General of APO signed the MoU at the APO Secretariat in Tokyo, Japan on 26 January, 2016.

This new framework of cooperation between two organisations is to support integrated development effort in the Asia Pacific Region through organising training, research and pilot projects. A number of projects will be co-hosted this year by the CIRDAP and APO under the framework of this MOU and implemented in cooperation with other partners. A course on organic agro-industry development leadership to be held in Bangladesh in May, a workshop on agricultural insurance systems, a productivity training course

targeting women in micro and small agro-food-processing businesses, and a regional conference to discuss the greening of food supply chains will be organised as a part of the partnership.





## DG CIRDAP attends FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific held in Malaysia

Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG, CIRDAP attended the thirty-third Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific held on 7-12 March 2016 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The Regional Conference was focused on the opportunities and challenges in the region and priority areas of work to improve food security and nutrition, increase agricultural productivity, raise the standard of living in rural populations and contribute to sustainable economic growth.



Hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture & Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia, the conference was attended by ministers from member countries across Asia and the Pacific, and representatives from international non-governmental organisations, intergovernmental organisations, United Nations organisations, civil society organisations and the media.

Discussion was held on the state of agriculture across the region, including future prospects and emerging issues in the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); revitalising the rural economy through enhanced linkages between small-scale agricultural production and value chains; and 'blue growth.'

## DG CIRDAP attends Asian Food Agribusiness Conference in Indonesia

Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG, CIRDAP attended the Asian Food Agribusiness Conference: Strengthening PPP for Sustainable, Competitive Agribusiness held in March 2016 in Bandung, Indonesia.

The conference, which was organised by the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), brought together policymakers, industry leaders, CEOs from the private sector, NGOs, scientists, and consultants to discuss current and emerging topics that have great importance to advances in agriculture, agribusiness, and food industries in Asia. The theme of the conference was Strengthening Public-Private-Sector Partnerships (PPPs) in Developing Sustainable, Competitive Agribusinesses.

The conference had a number of plenary thematic sessions with experts' presentations, country case models, panel discussion sessions, and site visits. The tentative themes for the different sessions included sustainable agribusiness, enabling environment for PPPs to achieve competitive agribusiness, PPP models in agribusiness value chains etc.

## DG CIRDAP visits Centre for South East Asian Studies, Kyoto University, Japan

Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General of CIRDAP visited Centre for South East Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University Japan to explore possible ways of collaboration with the centre. CSEAS is a research focused centre that pursues comparative research on areas within and transcending the boundaries of Southeast Asia, as well as on regional information systems integrating and coordinating different research project in collaboration with other organisations.

DG CIRDAP had meeting with Prof. Yasuyuki Kono, Director of CSEAS, Kyoto University, Japan along with former CIRDAP Expert Prof. Dr. Yoshi Kaida, Professor Emeritus of Water Management of Kyoto University and Prof. Dr. Lukman Hakim, Chairman of Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), an apex body of research organisations in Indonesia under the Ministry of Research and Higher Education.







## Research News

### CIRDAP signs MoU with InM

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share knowledge, exchange experiences and undertake cooperative actions for strengthening the development objectives in rural areas in the Asia-Pacific region. Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General of CIRDAP and Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri, Executive Director of InM have signed the MoU at the InM Office in Dhaka on 15 March, 2016.



This new framework of cooperation between two organisations is to support mutually agreed areas such as social mobilization and rural infrastructure, financial inclusion, productive employment generation, local governance etc. and capacity building through organising training, research and pilot projects.

### Professor Emeritus, Amrita University visits CIRDAP

Dr. S. Banerji, Professor Emeritus, School of Business, Amrita University visited CIRDAP during 16-19 March 2016 to discuss a joint collaborative programme titled SAARC-CIRDAP-Amrita University Expert Consultation Meeting on "Assessment of Role of Agro-processing as a Key Component of Rural Mass Employment and Rural Development Models" to be held during 28-30 July 2016 at Amrita University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. Dr. Banerji also briefed CIRDAP Officials about the social development activities of AU.



### Research Note

#### Saemaul Undong in South Korea paved the way to establish Modern Development

Saemaul Undong is one of the most significant achievements in modern history, attesting to the people's constant belief in the movement. As a behavioural philosophy, it practices diligence, self-help and cooperation. Its ultimate goal is to establish social welfare through the development of friendly and cooperative neighbourhoods, pleasant surroundings, a healthy society and a proud country. Overall, Saemaul Undong brought about revolutionary changes in the agricultural base of Korea by expanding agricultural roads, restructuring arable lands, building bridges, and developing agricultural water supply systems. It also contributed to the continued increase in farming household income by raising agricultural income and expanding non-agricultural income sources. In the 1960s South Korea was one of the least developed countries having GNI per capita US\$87, poverty ratio was 34% in absolute term. Improved housing and kitchen facilities in agricultural and fishing communities helped construct a more pleasant living environment. Wider entry roads, streamlined local roads, newly opened farming convenience facilities, and the increased opportunities to use public facilities allowed rural residents to enjoy more convenient lives.

Rural Saemaul Undong is a movement of loving country and people, sacrificing private interest and devoting to the welfare of the nation was launched in the early 1970s. The aim of the programme was to achieve stability and prosperity through hard



work and cooperation. Rural Saemaul Undong was dedicated to rural development and matched the desire of the rural population for a better future.

The model had five principal components: ignition and stimulation through material supply, project selection by village assembly, community participation in planning and execution, the development of community confidence, and pride and empowerment. The effort has visibly contributed to progressive changes as well as sound lifestyles in society.

Each village elected its own men and women as leaders to motivate and aid the community. Construction of village roads, small reservoirs, channels, communication networks and village halls in 18,633 villages exceeded all targets. Gross investment totaled 2.8 billion; community contributions accounted for 49 per cent.

Samuel Undong movement now spread over in other countries, such as, Mongolia, Nepal, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Uganda and Tanzania under the technical assistance of Samuel Undong Technical Centre.

## Staff Participation

- Mr. Md. Shafiqur Rahman, Assistant Programme Officer (Research Division) attended a seminar on "Contemporary Bangladesh: Society and Culture" organised by ASA University, Bangladesh on 11 February 2016 as Special Guest. Professor Dr. Dalem Ch. Barman, Vice Chancellor of ASA University was the Chief Guest while Dr. Badrul Alam Khan, Professor, International Relations and Social Behaviour, Western Sydney University, Australia was the keynote speaker.

He also participated in the Capacity Building Programme 2016 - "Korean Rural Development Experience for the Member Countries of CIRDAP" organised by OECD Korea Policy Centre held during 22-26 February 2016, Seoul, Korea.

## 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))





## Pilot Projects Update

### Development of MSMEs in Bangladesh: Sharing Asian Experiences

A two-day long international conference entitled “Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Bangladesh: Sharing Asian Experiences” was organized by Southeast University (SEU) in cooperation with CIRDAP which was held from March 5-6, 2016 at the Permanent Campus of SEU at Tejgaon in Dhaka. Other stakeholders like Bangladesh Bank, BIBM, InM and MSME related banks and financial institutions also collaborated to implement this conference. Vice Chancellor of Southeast University Professor Anwar Hossain presided over the programme, while CIRDAP Director General Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management Dr. Toufic Ahmad Choudhury, Executive Director of Institute of Microfinance (InM) Mr. Mustafa K. Mujeri also spoke on the occasion as special guests.

CIRDAP brought regional experts/paper presenters on MSMEs in the international conference from the CIRDAP Member Countries such as Dr. Sompron Hanpongpanh from Thailand, who is IRD Expert and former DG of CIRDAP presented a paper on “The Success Story of The Thai OTOP Project”, and Mr. Haridas Fernando from Sri Lanka, DGM-Agri Business, Cargills Ceylon Plc, presented a paper titled “Moving Market to

Threshold: Cargills Strategic Business Model to Empower Rural Economy” as part of sharing best practices to Bangladesh. Also, Dr. Sompron chaired the Panel Discussions of Session-7, where 8 panelists participated. A total of 20 papers were presented at the conference by a number of representatives from seven



different countries. International delegates, national experts, teachers, students and officials of different universities, banks and financial institutions were present at the programme.

CIRDAP DG, Dr. Cecep Effendi said in his remark that “Non-farm activities especially household-based industries are potential opportunities in Bangladesh as agriculture is not enough to support the population as a whole.” There were seven Business Sessions during the conference, where the DG, CIRDAP chaired the Session-6 on thematic area titled “Clustering Financing, Subcontracting and Incubation Centre”.

An MSME Fair was also organised as a side event at SEU premises, represented by 35 banks in Bangladesh. The closing ceremony was graced by the State Minister for Finance and Planning M. A. Mannan, MP was present at the program as Chief Guest, while Vice Chancellor of SEU Prof. Anwar Hossain was in the Chair. Further, Dr. Cecep Effendi said that most of the Asian successful countries have achieved development goals contributed by the MSME sector that broadens the opportunities for the agro-industry sector and job creation.

Mr. Md. Shafiqur Rahman, Assistant Programme Officer (Research Division) and Mr. David Hilton, Assistant Programme Officer (PPD) also participated in the conference.





## Pilot Project on Up-Valuing Agro-Food Enterprise of Selected Bank-Assisted Women's Group

Pilot Project Division of CIRDAP organised a meeting on 7 February 2016 with different stakeholders like Daffodil International University (DIU), IFIC and BASIC Banks. The meeting was held for the discussion on "Capacity Development Phase of Up-Valuing Agro- Food Enterprise of Selected Bank-Assisted Women's Group which is scheduled to be held from 2-5 April 2016 at the permanent campus of DIU in Ashuliya, Savar, Dhaka. Another stakeholders' preparatory meeting on the pilot project was held on 21 March 2016 at DIU Conference Room, Dhaka.

CIRDAP is going to bring two Resource Persons/Trainers on food processing from Indonesia as part of regional cooperation on best practices. BASIC Bank, IFIC Bank and DIU are providing local hospitalities and other support services for organising this four day-long programme for 30 women entrepreneurs on food processing business whom we expect to be

collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), Japan is organising the programme which is scheduled to be held from 28 May to 03 June 2016 at RDA, Bogra. The meeting was attended by the representatives from NPO-Bangladesh, Ministry of Industries, RDA, Bogra and CIRDAP PPD staffs. The agenda



eligible to get loan from participating banks to run their small food processing business. The key objectives of capacity building phase was to build awareness on "zero" waste philosophy on food production processes where raw materials are abundant in their communities that can be up-valued as source of agro-based livelihood.

## International Organic Agro-Industry Development Leadership Course in Asia

A preparatory stakeholders meeting with collaborative partners, such as National Productivity Organisation (NPO), Ministry of Industries, Rural Development Academy (RDA) and CIRDAP, was held on 25 February 2016 at CIRDAP Headquarters for the discussion on the programme "International Organic Agro-Industry Development Leadership Course in Asia". CIRDAP in

of the meeting were: a) Project Notification and b) Draft Circular on Project. It was decided that communications, discussions through emails/phones among stakeholders will further be carried out to make the programme successful.

## Staff Participation

The World Bank (WB) invited for abstract submissions on September 3, 2015 for the 17th Annual WB Conference on Land and Poverty, "Scaling up responsible Land Governance". Accordingly WB received almost 700 abstracts this year and informed Ms. Tuzon on December 8, 2015 that her paper on "Big Eyes, Big Data: Progressive Lens on Land M&E" has been accepted. The WB acknowledged the full paper on January 15, 2016 which was presented in March 17, 2016 for the session on Using Administrative and Spatial Data in Innovative Ways. It was chaired by Mr. Pushpam Kumar of the UNEP, Kenya.







## Training Division

### CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Application of GIS for Rural Development held in Hyderabad, India

Funded by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, CIRDAP in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) organised 10-days-long international training programme on “Application of GIS in Rural Development” which took place

#### General:

- To promote effective networking among the relevant institutions in the countries of the region and to address common natural resources challenges, mitigation and issues and promote information sharing and for South-South cooperation;
- To present case studies on application of the GIS in Rural Development areas for dissemination at the regional level; and
- To strengthen capacity building efforts of member countries through training so as to accelerate application of GIS in Rural Development in the region to achieve MDGs.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP and Ms. Chandra Pandit, Registrar and Director (Administration), NIRD&PR. There was experience sharing session related to

Geographical Information System (GIS), Global Positioning System (GPS) innovative and best practices in rural development. The participants were taken to a number of organisations to give them hands on experience which are dealing



from 04-13 January 2016 in Hyderabad, India. A total of 16 participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam participated in the programme.

The objectives of the training programme were as follows:

#### Specific:

- To examine the linkages between policy and practice in development in the countries of the Region, review current use of the spatial technologies like the GIS in Rural Development, and identify the potential areas where the GIS applications can play an effective decision support, analysis, monitoring, modeling, mapping tool; and
- To exchange ideas and experiences in formulating and implementing the GIS technologies, assess the feasibility of meeting the regional needs based on existing manpower, software, hardware and data availability and assess the training needs and resources requirements at the country level in Rural development.





with GIS and GPS like Telangana State Remote Sensing Applications Centre (TRAC), Disaster Support Centre/ Potential Fishing Zone Advisory for Bay of Bengal Countries at INCOIS.

As a part of the training programme, the participants were taken to Bangalore and Mysore of Karnataka State of India for field visit where the participants had sessions on 'Use of SATCOM Satellite based Technologies in Interactive Training Programmes' at the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Mysore,

Karnataka; Role of Remote Sensing and GIS for Soil Survey and Land Use Planning in Agriculture at the National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Hebbal, Bangalore; Remote and GIS Based Initiatives and Applications in Agriculture and Horticulture in Watersheds Implemented in Karnataka State at KSRAC, Bangalore and Geo-Spatial Technologies for Planning and Management of Watersheds and Minor Irrigation Tanks at the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

### Appreciation from Participants

*I would like to take this opportunity once more, and on behalf of my country and my ministry thank to CIRDAP and NIRD&PR for arranging such a wonderful training program and a series of exposure visits. It was a great experience for me. Everything was great including the trainings, the visits, the hospitality, the company. Thank you for all of them. Please arrange more such trainings in the future but with a little bit longer period.*

Niaz Zaki, MIS Manager, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Kabul, Afghanistan

*I am appreciating the quality service provided by CIRDAP and NIRD&PR and their staff during 03-14 January 2016. Our team has been able to understand "High Technology of India" from the series of site visits. I got idea from the training programme for the development of my new center namely "Agricultural Center for Climate Resilience". I believe that we have to continue our association through networking.*

Chanseng Phongpachith, Deputy Director, Agricultural Center for Climate Resilience\National Agriculture and Forest Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR

*Thank you all for kind support and knowledgeable GIS training program. It was very fruitful programme for us. I have discussed with senior official (Jaya sir) regarding ICT Training programme at LDTA as we discussed and he is very positive.*

Ram Hari Khatri, LDTA, Nepal

*The training was very useful for me. I gained huge knowledge which makes my work better. Now I am sharing this knowledge with my colleagues. I would like to thank for fruitful training and warm hospitality to them who were involved with this training. I am very grateful and never forget NIRD&PR and CIRDAP.*

Khilprasad Subedi, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, Government of Nepal

*On behalf of my beloved country the Philippines and the institution I am working, I would like to extend my warmest gratitude to CIRDAP and NIRD&PR for making me a part of this important training programme. The knowledge and information that I was able to avail during the lecture sessions and field visits are truly valuable for me and for my institution. Let me also take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the professors, lecturers and staff of the NIRD&PR and CIRDAP for handling the training programme and for the hospitality throughout the period while I was there. No amount could ever compensate the learnings and experiences that I gained during the training programme.*

Nereo T. Tierra, Agrarian Reform Programme Officer, Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development - Department of Agrarian Reform, the Philippines

*My heartiest thanks to you all especially for the care and kind cooperation with us during the training programme. We are very happy to be a part of this programme.*

Ms. I.S.A. Hewapathirana, Sri Lanka

*It was great pleasure to have the company of very competent resource persons who did a great job in the event. It was truly a nice experience which will help us in using GIS in our future work. I am also thankful to the NIRD&PR and CIRDAP staff for treating us in such a nice way during the programme. My humble gratitude goes to you once again for allowing Sri Lankans to be a part of this valuable programme.*

Chinthaka Jayasooriya, Research officer, HARTI, Sri Lanka

*Thank you so very much for everything related to this training programme. I think the programme is very useful and it will help me much for my job.*

Vu Van Quan, Vietnam



## OECD Korea Policy Centre - CIRDAP Collaborative International Capacity Building Programme on Korea's Experience in Rural Development



the Asia-Pacific region in (a) disseminating the OECD's work on public governance in the region, (b) strengthening the understanding of Asia-Pacific societies on the OECD's public governance research and analysis, and (c) fostering peer review in the field of public governance.

The following topics were covered during the training programme:

- Experience of Korean Economic Development
- Rural Development
- Introduction of Saemaul Undong
- Agriculture Development and Strategy
- Local Administration and Finance
- Human Resource Development and Management
- E-Government and Govt. 3.0

In order to strengthen the cooperation and gain lessons from the Korea's development experiences by the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs), CIRDAP and OECD Korea Policy Centre signed MoU on 22 February 2016 in Seoul, Korea for three years terms. Following the MoU signing, under a joint collaboration with CIRDAP, OECD Korea Policy Centre organised an international Capacity Building Programme on Korea's Experience in Rural Development for government officials of the selected CMCs with the objectives to assist capacity development in their interested area and spread the public sector governance policies and best practices of Korea.

A total of eight participants from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and CIRDAP Professionals participated in the programme.

The programme was established in 2005 as the Asian Government Innovation Centre to carry out policy research on human resource management, administration reform, public service ethics and local finance, and disseminate the results throughout the Asia-Pacific region, in cooperation with the OECD. The programme works with all levels of central and local governments in

- Local Administration and Finance
- Human Resource Development and Management
- E-Government and Govt. 3.0

During the programme, two field visits/studies were organised to the Saemaul Museum, and Chungnam Agricultural Research and Extension Services and Nonsan Strawberry Experiment Station.



## CIRDAP – NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on ICT Application for Rural Development held in India

With a funding support under grants-in-aid to CIRDAP by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, for the year 2015-16, as a kind gesture for regional cooperation for sharing experiences among CMCs, the above mentioned training programme in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) was organised at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India from 29 February to 09 March

2016, and participated by 18 participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The objectives of the training programme were to examine the linkages between policy and practice in development, particularly in the context of ICT application for rural





development among the CMCs, review the current use of ICT in rural development, and identify the potential areas, where ICT related applications can play an effective role; to strengthen the networking mechanism among the institutions in the region and to address their common rural development issues and promote information sharing for South-South cooperation; to showcase, some important case studies on application of the ICT in specific sectors such as health, primary education, agriculture and e-governance for dissemination at the regional level.

In the programme, there were various sessions on ICT and its application to rural development, and the participants had hands on experience on the subject and exposed to the ground realities on the application of ICT in rural areas of India.

Well-known experts from various organisations of India delivered lectures as resource persons on ICT for Rural Development in CMCs; ICT for Monitoring of RD Programme – National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS); Mahatma Gandhi Women and Child Development through ICT Interventions; Why Community Media? Principles and Practices Community Media and Social Change in the Asia-Pacific Region; Mobile Telephony in Social Change: Case Studies Wrap-up Concluding Reflections/Discussion; Geo-Informatics Applications in Rural Development; and e- Marketing of Agricultural Products.

During the conduct of the training programme the participants had field visits to the Rural Technology Park (RTP) of NIRD&PR; Demonstration of RD Programmes/Projects and Data Centre: Visit to National Informatics Centre (NIC), Hyderabad; Wireless Sensor Networks based Pest and Disease for Warning Model: Visit to Farm – Narkoda; Farmer Driven ICT Innovations in Semi-Arid Crops: Visit to International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, Hyderabad; and Software Technology Parks in India and its Role: Visit to STPI.

There were evaluation and valedictory sessions on 09 March 2016. It was revealed from the evaluation of the training programme that 66.7% of the participants mentioned lectures delivered by the resource persons

were very effective. Most of the participants (80%) were satisfied with the field visits of the training programme, where they gained new knowledge on the application of ICT in rural development. 86.7% of the participants rated the training programme very useful to their job.

The participants expressed their high regards to the sponsors of the training programme, namely, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India; NIRD&PR and CIRDAP. The training programme concluded with award of certificates to the participants.



### Appreciation from Participants

*Thank you very much for inviting me to join this programme. I attained interesting knowledge from discussion sessions and visited places. The relationship among participants was very nice. I enjoyed staying at Hyderabad and the activities' planning was very excellent.*

Nor Asmida Binti Hassan, Assistant Chief of Information Technology, Kedah Regional Development Authority, Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, Malaysia

*Thank you very much for your all support for developing our mind to positive thinking, knowledge and experiences, and commitments to help rural people.*

MHVHL Samarajeewa, Sri Lanka



## Training of Trainers (TOT) Programme for Agricultural Extension Services in Myanmar

As an agro-based country, agriculture is a key sector of Myanmar's economy. The agriculture sector, including livestock and fisheries, represents (31.4%) of GDP and about 70 per cent of the country's population is highly dependent upon agricultural productivity. It is found that there is room for improving Agricultural Extension services to increase farm incomes, crop productivity and lifting livelihoods of grass root level farmers. Given the context, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI) of Government of Myanmar requested CIRDAP to organise workshop on Training of Trainers (TOTs) for Agricultural Extension in Myanmar has requested CIRDAP to facilitate the program.

The workshop is expected to be held in Nay Pyi Taw engaging the mid-level extension officials from Department of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research, Department of Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management, Department of

Planning and Yezin Agricultural University. The proposed duration of the programme is five days.



## One Year Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (2016-17) by NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, India

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, India, a Link Institution of CIRDAP in India, is conducting one year residential Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM). The 12th Batch will commence in August 2016 and they are seeking nominations from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs). The objective of the programme is to develop committed and competent cadre of rural development management professionals and orient in-service officers and practitioners to various facets of rural development.

Under the regional cooperation, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, as a goodwill gesture has offered to sponsor five slots in this programme in order to develop capacities of rural development managers. The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, is kind enough to cover course fee (US \$2500), board and lodging charges (US \$1500), subsistence allowance, and to and fro air travel by shortest route in economy class from respective countries to Hyderabad, India. The Ministry has entrusted CIRDAP to solicit nomination from its member countries, scrutinize on criteria suggested by the Ministry and NIRD&PR. On the basis of eligibility criteria and suitability of the candidature, nominations will be forwarded to NIRD&PR for consideration of admission in the programme.

The eligible criteria for the programme are as follows:

- The member countries may nominate suitable in-service officers, who are engaged in rural development and allied sector. The officer must have minimum two years of experience.
- Must have a Graduate degree in any discipline.
- Proficiency and knowledge of English and Mathematics equivalent of Class-XII (A level) is must.
- The candidate must be willing to travel extensively and stay in the villages with minimum facilities during field study and one and half month long rural organisation internship/field attachment, as a part of the curriculum.
- The candidate should not be more than 45 years of age.
- This is a one year fast track teaching programme, not training, therefore, the candidate should have aptitude to learn, undergo and cope with the rigours of the requirements of the course.
- Monthly salary and other emoluments of in-service candidates should be borne by his/her employer. Neither CIRDAP nor NIRD&PR will pay any salary and other emoluments of in-service candidates.
- The programme has 22 courses of 52.5 credit points. It is compulsory to pass in all subjects in the trimester examinations to obtain certificate.
- Medium of instruction is English.

Five sets of filled in online (submitted) application should be submitted to CIRDAP along with a copy of the relevant documents, namely, academic certificate, medical certificate, photo copy of passport, short CV, etc.

The nominees from member countries will be interviewed telephonically by CIRDAP and short-listed candidates will be recommended to NIRD&PR for consideration of admission. The last date for receiving the applications is 30 May 2016.



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

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

Under the ITEC programmes CMCs may avail the Civilian Training Programmes offered by various Indian institutes for the financial year 2016-17 (April 2016 to March 2017) (<http://itec.mea.gov.in>). The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, will bear the course fee, board and lodging and out-of-pocket allowance of the qualified nominee(s). The application form is available at <http://itec.mea.gov.in>.

The relevant training programmes CIRDAP suggested to MEA, GoI for CMCs offered by Indian institutes are as follows:

Sl No.	Name of the Courses	Tentative Duration/Date	Institute	No. of Slots for CMCs
1.	Communication Skills in English and Promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (EPMSMEs)	12 Weeks 10.08.2016 to 30.10.2016	NIMSME, Yousufguda, Hyderabad, India	2
2.	Participatory Rural Development Planning and Management of Rural Development Programme	4 weeks 17.08.2016 to 13.09.2016	NIRD, Hyderabad, India	2
3.	Climate Change and Sustainability	3 weeks 05.10.2016 to 23.10.2016	TERI, New Delhi	2
4.	SMEs Financing: Approaches and Strategies (SMEFAS)	8 Weeks 16.11.2016 to 08.01.2017	NIMSME, Yousufguda, Hyderabad, India	2
5.	International Training Programme on Solar Energy Technologies and Applications	3 weeks 30.11.2016 to 18.12.2016	Solar Energy Centre, Gwal Pahari, Gurgaon	2
6.	Diploma Course in Development Journalism for Non-aligned and other Developing Countries	17 weeks 02.01.2017 to 30.04.2017	IIMC, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi	1
7.	Energy and Water Use Efficiency	3 weeks 04.01.2017 to 22.01.2017	TERI, New Delhi	2
8.	Planning and Promotion of Agro and Food Enterprises (PAFE)	8 Weeks 25.01.2017 to 18.03.2017	NIMSME, Yousufguda, Hyderabad, India	2
9.	Training of Trainers in Entrepreneurship and Skill Development (ToTE-ESD)	8 Weeks 25.01.2017 to 18.03.2017	NIMSME, Yousufguda, Hyderabad, India	1
10.	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	3 weeks 15.02.2017 to 04.03.2017	TERI, New Delhi	2
11.	Integrated Approach towards Sustainable Development	3 weeks 28.03.2017 to 25.04.2017	TERI, New Delhi	2

The dates/duration of the above training programme are tentative. The nominees may be advised to visit the website of ITEC (<http://itec.mea.gov.in>) and confirm about the date/duration of the respective programme. ITEC Training Calendar 2016-17 publish in March at <http://itec.mea.gov.in>. While nominating candidates, the following guidelines may be followed:

Who can Apply?

- Employees and officials in Government, Private and Public Sector, Parastatals, Universities, Chambers of Commerce and Industry



- Having 3 to 5 years minimum work experience
- Applicants who are the age group of 25 to 45 years
- Who are medically fit

#### How to Apply?

- The applicants should submit their applications through online <https://www.itecgoi.in/meaportal/registerApplicant>
- The applicants should take a print out of the online (submitted) application and put signature and seal wherever it is applicable. Then the original copy (hard copy) of the application should be sent to CIRDAP through CIRDAP Contact Ministry and/or CIRDAP Link Institutions in CMCs.
- Applications must be submitted in the prescribed ITEC/SCAAP Form (printed copy on-line submitted application) to the Ministry of State Secretariat, Technical Cooperation Bureau, as the Nodal Government Department/Agency to nominate candidates.
- The Nodal Department/Agency will in turn forward the applications to CIRDAP for onward submission to the Embassy/High Commission of India at Dhaka, Bangladesh.

#### Eligibility Criteria for Admission

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

#### Scholarship

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

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

#### General Information

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





## Information and Communication

### Partnership Development between ICD, CIRDAP and Knowledge Management Division, InM

A meeting between ICD, CIRDAP and Knowledge Management Division of the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development



(InM) was held on 31 March 2016 in CIRDAP Headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, ICD.

The meeting discussed some areas of mutual interest where CIRDAP and InM can collaborate including joint publications, organising discussion workshops on relevant issues, exchange of data, research findings and library resources.

### Staff Participation

1. Engr. Md. Waliul Hasnat, Computer Programmer and Mr. Mohammad Abu Saleh Siddique, Publication Assistant, CIRDAP



participated in a seminar on "SMART Water and Sewer Solutions and Geospatial Solutions by Bentley Systems Inc. USA held in March 22, 2016 at A.S. Mahmud Seminar Hall, the Daily Star, Dhaka. Mr. Karthik Sundaresan, Application Engineer, Hydraulic Modeling and GIS Software, Bentley Systems Inc. USA was the key speaker and delivered presentations on Water Supply, Sewer

Design and Hydraulics Modelling - Best Practices; Water, Sewer Utilities Operations by Owner/Operators; Emerging Trends in GIS/Mapping Technology; Property Tax Management System, Land Records Management System; and Reality Modeling Solutions.

2. MH Kawsar Rudro, AICO, CIRDAP participated in two-day long policy dialogue on 'Social Enterprise: Impact and Opportunities' organised by British Council Bangladesh held from 24-25 February



2016 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He shared CIRDAP's experience and initiatives to foster entrepreneurship and employment generation. The policy dialogue had sessions on Health, Agriculture, Creative Industry, Technology, Impact Measurement and Communication participated by national and international experts on Social Enterprise.



## Opinion Article on Rural Development and SDGs

An opinion article on importance of linking rural development with Sustainable Development Goals by Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General of CIRDAP was published in the Daily Star, the most read English daily in Bangladesh.

The article titled "Linking Rural Development with SDGs" discussed about the key challenges for localising SDGs as per the need and context of different regions and countries arguing that rural development has not lost value as a development agenda in the age of urbanisation and industrialization since the new agenda clearly recognises the centrality of rural development as it binds 8 out of 17 goals together.

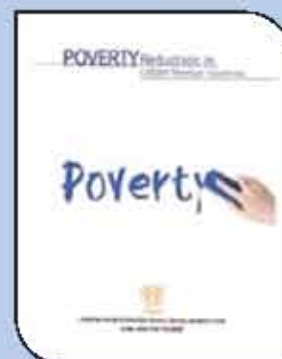
The article was republished in several international news agency, newspapers and portals in different countries. The article can be read online at <http://goo.gl/VHmPd2>.

### Linking rural development with SDGs



## Recent CIRDAP Publications

- Dynamics of Poverty: Cases from CIRDAP Member Countries
- Annual Report 2015
- CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD) 143
- Report on EC 30 and GC 20



## ICT Success Stories from CMCs

### Innovative New Mobile Service to give Farmers Access to Climate Information in Nepal

The signing ceremony of the Letter of Agreement (LoA) between the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) for PFCR's Building Resilience to Climate-related Hazards Project- Agriculture Management Information System (AMIS) Project and Nepal Telecom (NT) was held on 31st December 2015 at MoAD, Singh Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal. This agreement is an effective partnership to contribute timely delivery of agro climatic and weather information under the Early Warning System (EWS) in support of farmers and farming communities for increasing agricultural productivity and reducing losses from climatic hazards. Furthermore, the AMIS Portal stores agricultural information from different sources for Agro-met advisories by establishing two-way communications for informing farmers on agricultural issues. Under this LoA, agro-climatic and weather information will be disseminated using the Information Communication Technology (ICT) to agricultural communities for on-farm decisions. This LoA describes the scope of work and roles of the two parties, establishes operational arrangements to increase agricultural productivity and at the same time reduce the losses triggered by climate hazards.



*ICT can deliver useful information to farmers to mitigate the risks inherent to farming*



The project's main objectives are to diminish the impacts of extreme climate related events, protect lives and assets, support agricultural livelihoods by establishing multi-hazard information and early-warning systems, upgrade the existing hydro-met and agricultural information management systems, and improve the accuracy and timeliness of weather and forecast for farmers. He further shared that delivering KISAN SIM cards will not only distribute efficient agro climate and weather information to farmers and agricultural communities but also help farmers to make the right decision at the right time increasing the agriculture production thereby reducing the adverse impacts of climate change.

The partnership is a service-oriented partnership rather than a profit-oriented partnership because NTC is going to provide services to farmers at subsidized rates rather than government rates.

The project team aims to increase ICT services for agriculture pertaining to Early Warning Systems, Agro-market information, cultivation practices, and insect-pest and disease management.

*Source: Ministry of Population and Environment, Government of Nepal.*

## Mobile money in Bangladesh

### Will it revolutionise banking for poor women?

In a recent Bloomberg interview, Bill Gates shares: "Banking is more fundamental than I realised. There have been attempts (at banking for the poor) by microfinance groups, cooperatives, but the transaction fees were always too high. Until we get those services down with very low fees and in digital mode, banking will only be for those who are better off." In Bangladesh, where 95% of the populations have access to mobile phones but only 20% have a formal bank account, the significance of such an opportunity for a banking revolution is even more pronounced. Indeed, since 2011, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has made over \$21 million in grants and equity investments in bKash.

Bangladesh has seen one of the world's fastest growing mobile money ecosystems develop in the past two years. This growth has propelled bKash to become the second largest mobile money provider in the world, only behind Kenya's mPesa. Ideally, this growth in digital money is also an opportunity for pro-poor financial service providers such as microfinance institutions to significantly expand financial access.

We are only to look at Kenya's M-Shwari, that gives users instant access to short-term credit and secure savings for inspiration. As of 2015, one in five Kenyan adults are active M-Shwari customers. With the use of mobile money picking up here in Bangladesh, it is fast turning into an opportunity to ensure that everyone can enjoy the full benefits of banking products. Mobile money fees in Bangladesh, when comparing small transactions such as Tk400, are among the lowest in the world.

Yet for all the adoption of mobile money we have seen in Bangladesh, there remains one key segment of the population that has yet to embrace it - women, especially poor women living in rural areas. Despite the rich history of women's participation in microfinance and savings groups, when it comes to mobile money, over 80 percent of the mobile money users turn out to be men. What explains this lag and what can we do about it? Especially when poor rural women can benefit immensely from access to such services that would enable easier remittances, create new savings mechanisms, and even make purchasing airtime hassle-free.

Since 2014, through the Gates Foundation-funded Innovation Fund for Mobile Money, BRAC has been piloting different projects in providing digital financial services for the poor. This experiment with mobile money aims to see how existing BRAC services can be transformed into more effective and valuable solutions for the poor. Over the past one-and-a-half years, these experiences ranged from providing digital microfinance in remote communities to offering flexible school fee payments that allows low-income parents to pay in small installments. Overall, the projects have targeted women and girls, focusing on their needs in products and financial education.

However, as we have found from the pilots, it is not easy for a rural woman to master mobile money. These women often report that they are satisfied with the ability to simply receive calls and may lack the basic numeracy skills required to navigate the mobile money menus. This has prompted us to begin providing financial education, where we provide basic numeracy skills and develop financial





management skills. In places like remote Hatiya, where literacy levels are low, it can take three to six months of financial education before a woman feels confident carrying out her own transactions.

While this is a lot of work, it is easy to assume that women are lagging behind in adopting mobile money because of an information gap. Certainly, limited information and literacy create challenges, but in fact, the barriers to adoption go much deeper.

A recent exploration of the problem using human-centered design techniques solidified these convictions. One of the central comments heard repeatedly from women is that they do not identify themselves with becoming users of mobile money, which is the domain of the businessman. Additionally, many women lacked confidence in their ability to use the service preferring to use cash instead. This shows that, like most of us, they are present-biased and seek to avoid the immediate difficulties associated with learning to use the service even though it would bring them greater benefit in the future. By simply relying on agents their basic needs were being met and many commented on carrying out transactions with agents as "fine". Fortunately, these issues can all be addressed, but not through traditional financial education. Instead, this requires more creativity from mobile money providers and NGOs on how they design their services.

What inspires BRAC the most is the increasing number of women from Hatiya to Panchagarh who, despite all of these issues, are now expert mobile money users, confidently buying airtime, making deposits into their savings accounts, and managing their remittances. Their needs superseded their unfamiliarity and fear of technology. Many received significant support from BRAC's staff and/or local bKash agents, who they trust and can access as needed. Given the challenges of reading the English menu, many used rote memorisation through mnemonic techniques to make these transactions.

Ultimately, necessity drives innovation. Till date, despite the potential present, womens' demand for mobile money in Bangladesh has not been activated. Reaching these women is a must, if a banking revolution is to be ignited for the poor through mobile money.

*By Hitoishi Chakma and Maria A May. The Dhaka Tribune. February 15, 2016. Dhaka.*

## Potato to web: Internet outsourcing in Pakistan's mountainous north

When a landslide created a huge, turquoise lake that cut them off from the world, the farmers of Gulmit were left destitute and unable to sell their potatoes. Their solution: to drag their Himalayan valley in Pakistan's far north into the Internet age.

In the village, which is nestled between two peaks approaching 8,000 metres high, farmers scramble to grow the produce as their ancestors did. But just a few metres away Karim Aslam is hammering at a keyboard on a computer connected to a giant satellite dish.

He downloads audio files sent from the US: English-language recordings of patients' diagnoses sent from Tennessee, which he transcribes before sending back, acting as a long-distance secretary.

It was a step change for Gulmit, an idyllic village of some 3,000 people with stone walls and potato crops that stretch out over the majestic fields of northern Pakistan, near the China border. "Potatoes are seasonal. You cannot live with that the whole year, but I can live (on) my transcription job," explains Karim, who took English classes at school and found the work over the Internet by contacting a Karachi-based company that deals with US clients.



He soon found his stride with the recordings. At first, he managed around 30 minutes per day, but now, he says "I am doing at least 120 to 150 minutes per day". The transcripts earn him around \$400 per month, a small fortune compared to the meagre wages farmers make.

Since the late 1990s, South Asia, with its large numbers of youths educated in English, has been home to an outsourcing boom, particularly in customer call centres. But until a spectacular landslide in 2010, this village perched 2,400 metres above sea level had remained untouched by modernity. Hemmed in by the landslide, water from the river Hunza began to rise creating the artificial Attabad lake, cutting off Gulmit from the rest of the villages of the north.

The only way to cross was by hiring barges - but the cost of doing so saw the potato industry collapse. Forced by economic necessity, Gulmit was finally



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connected to the web, driven by ambitious village youths eager to tap in to the digital economy and the endless possibilities of outsourced work.

The only problem was of infrastructure: deprived of the phone network, the village did not have Internet access. So European donors, via a local NGO called Kado, funded the creation of digital training centre with 700 trainees in the surrounding area of Gojal, as well as the purchase of laptops and the installation of a satellite connection. In mid 2012, Gulmit went online.

"It was amazing for us," recalls Anila Hakim, an 18-year-old villager training in IT. "At that time, we were not aware of what the current issues are all about and what is going on inside our country, or outside, so being connected to the whole world was glorious."

But the internet gold rush may be ebbing - financing for the Kado project has ended. Karim's internet connection is the only one still working in the village. But his satellite subscription costs a small fortune: between \$150 - 200 a month. "It's far too much," he says. If connectivity was less of an issue, "I would have trained lots of guys, and we would have done lots of work from the US or Canada," he says, wearing a fake leather jacket to protect him from the autumnal cold as he leans over his keyboard.

There is hope Gulmit will stay in the internet age - the NGO Kado is looking for new foreign financing to provide new satellite web services, pending the arrival of landline connections, explains Abdul Waheed, the project's director. The potato farmers, for their part, are smiling again. This year, thanks to Chinese investment, construction on a tunnel bypassing the lake has been completed, re-connecting Gulmit to the rest of the country.

"We were producing potatoes, then we were earning money through the Internet. This was only an alternate option... now we will go back to potatoes," said Waheed. But he hasn't lost all hope of utilising the World Wide Web. He adds: "We will market the potatoes through Internet."



*Mr. Abdul Waheed, the project director of an e-facility center speaking during an interview in the village of Gulmit, Hunza Valley, Northern Pakistan*

*The Express Tribune. November 18, 2015. Pakistan*

### **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.





## Development News

### FAO, DA launch Drones for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Philippines

Drones were launched to officially mark a joint undertaking by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the Department of Agriculture (DA) to use the technology for disaster risk reduction in the agriculture sector.

FAO representative José Luis Fernández said the adoption of modern technologies in agriculture, such as the use of drones or unmanned aerial vehicles, can significantly enhance risk and damage assessments and revolutionize the way people prepare for and respond to disasters that affect the livelihoods of farmers and fishermen.



*FAO country representative José Luis Fernández and Department of Agriculture field operations service director Christopher Morales launching drones to monitor farms.*

Improved capabilities to generate timely and accurate data are becoming more vital amid climate change that is evident in stronger typhoons, flooding and drought. Drone missions can help gather necessary information that can support the preparation of early warning systems and advisories for farmers and fisher folk, and even the government's disaster response.

"With the use of a drone, a team of technical specialists can assess up to 600 hectares in one day, significantly accelerating the process of projecting the extent of damage that an incoming hazard may cause in agricultural areas, and quantifying actual damage after a disaster," said Director Christopher Morales of the DA field operations service.

Aside from this, data generated from drone flights will also be useful in the design of agricultural infrastructure support projects as well as environmental monitoring.

The FAO-DA initiative includes the use of drones equipped with photogrammetric and navigation equipment to allow rapid and reliable assessments.

These will be operated by DA and FAO technical specialists, including agronomists, agricultural engineers, mapping and information technology specialists and data science experts.

"This initiative is a pivotal development that is fully aligned with our national strategy for disaster risk reduction and management for agriculture," Morales said.

The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world according to studies, but it is also one of the most advanced in shifting from reactive emergency response to proactive risk reduction.

FAO and DA earlier tested the drone-based methodology through a project funded by the European Commission Human Aid and Civil Protection Department, which aimed to facilitate the consolidation of capacities for disaster risk reduction in agriculture in Southeast Asia.

*The Philippine Star. March 18, 2016. The Philippines.*

### Climate Change: More Funding Needed to Combat Challenges in Pakistan

More frequent extreme weather events further intensifying global and regional instability, hunger, poverty, and conflicts which could lead to food and water shortages and disputes over natural resources.

In Pakistan, climate change-related extremes are on the rise, hazards intensity and frequency is increasing, vulnerabilities and exposures on the growing which needs for disaster risk financing.

These were the views of climate change experts at the 'Mainstreaming Climate Change in Punjab's Growth Strategy and SDG Plans' workshop, organised by the Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Pakistan at a local hotel.



*More frequent extreme weather event further intensifying regional and global instability.*



## The Organic Approach in Laos

Women in Lao PDR villages are producing and jointly marketing a surplus of organic vegetables, increasing their family income while improving consumer health and environmental sustainability.

In the northern Lao province of Xieng Khouang, nearly 30 women produce organic vegetables for sale in a dedicated, twice-weekly organic market in the provincial capital of Phonsavan. Sales are brisk, with each producer selling out her produce in just a few hours of morning trading. Total sales volumes reach upwards of 15,000,000 kip (about A\$2,665) per month during the peak season.



*Mrs. Khamdta (right) has turned her garden into a model of integrated organic farming*

For most families, income from organic vegetables was unanticipated but is highly valued, allowing important investments in the family's future. Education costs for children, capital costs and health care are among the top-mentioned expenses covered by this extra income. So beneficial have been the outcomes that the women formed their own organic vegetable producers' association and are spreading the word across the district about the good health and environmental protection possible through organic production.

The farmers' own outreach efforts are supported by a Vientiane-based non-government organisation, Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SAEDA), with funds from donors including Oxfam and Bread for the World. While activities are not designed to focus exclusively on women, more than 75% of members are women and the association's management and board are almost all women.

Together, the farmers, the local agriculture office and SAEDA have reached hundreds of farmers who have been taught helpful techniques for growing organic vegetables in Xieng Khouang's unique high-altitude environment (greater than 1,000 metres above mean sea level). Farmers have also engaged in marketing activity, cultivating consumer interest in the locally produced organic vegetables.

Despite the support and interest generated over more than a decade, the association faces a major limitation. The number of farmers selling organic produce – and getting markedly better prices than conventional markets – is stagnant at about 30 producers.

Ms. Buachanh, the elected president of the association's board of directors, expresses disappointment with this lack of growth. "The association has a goal of helping as many people as possible eat organic food to promote the health of people and the land," she says. "But if less than 30 people produce organic vegetables for sale, then most of the people in Xieng Khouang are still consuming conventional produce."

According to the provincial agriculture office, more than 10 tonnes of vegetables is sold in the markets every week; the organic market sells less than that over six months.

To bump up the number of people who can buy and consume organic produce, Ms. Buachanh wants to expand the number of association members that market organic vegetables.

*By Michael J Jones (Adjunct Research Fellow), John G Connell (Adjunct Senior Research Fellow) and Professor Peter C Case, College of Business Law and Governance, James Cook University.*

**Source:** Excerpts from the Partners Magazine, ACIAR



## ***Calendar of CIRDAP Activities during April – August 2016***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Venue</b>
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
8-12 May 2016	Regional Workshop on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and "One Tambon One Product (OTOP) to CIRDAP member countries"	Bangkok and Ayutthaya Province, Thailand
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	SAARC – CIRDAP Joint Mission to Nepal for Post-Disaster Restoration of Agriculture in Nepal	Nepal
July 2016	Retrospection of Rural Development in the SAARC Countries: A Basis for Transforming Rural Development	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, India
July 2016	CIRDAP - NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Human Resource Development for Rural Development	NIRD&PR, Hyderabad India
July 2016 to August 2017	Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) (Batch - XII) for 2016-17 organised by NIRD&PR and sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India	India
August 2016 to March 2017	Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Fellowships to CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) for 2016-17 organised by different organizations in India and sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India	India

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