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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

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Cover photo shows Honorable Dato' Alexander Nanta Linggi, Deputy Minister of Rural and Regional Development, Government of Malaysia (seated in the centre), who was in the inauguration session of the Thirty First CIRDAP Technical Committee Meeting (TC-31) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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Thirty First CIRDAP Technical Committee Meeting (TC-31)

The Regular 31st CIRDAP Technical Committee meeting was held on 25 May 2016 in Hotel Primera in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Delegates from all CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) except Afghanistan and Vietnam attended the meeting. Observers and representatives from the development partners were also present.

The inaugural session started at 8:30 a.m. with the inaugural speech delivered by the Chief Guest, Honorable Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi, Deputy Minister of Rural and Regional Development, Government of Malaysia. The Director General of CIRDAP, Dr. Cecep Effendi while welcoming the Chief Guest, expressed his gratitude to the Government of Malaysia for hosting the TC-31 meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The Director General of AHK-National Centre for Rural Development, Ministry of Establishment, Pakistan, and the Chairperson of TC-30 also rendered his message.

In his inaugural address, the Honorable Dy. Minister expressed his appreciation for the proactive role of CIRDAP. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, he renewed the commitment to share the concerns of CIRDAP and its member countries. He officially declared the TC-31 open.

Adding value to the opening ceremony was the launching of the latest publications of the Centre titled “Dynamics of Poverty: Cases from CMCs” and “Arsenic in Drinking Water: A Case Study in Bangladesh” and the CIRDAP’s Online Digital Depository Service to enhance knowledge sharing across the CMCs.

The Director General of CIRDAP while proposing the vote of thanks expressed his gratitude to Malaysia and reiterated the high competitiveness which Malaysia had achieved. The DG Dr. Effendi requested the Chair of the TC-30, Mr. Khalid Hanif to preside over the meeting.

The following agenda were discussed in the technical session of the TC-31:

Agenda 1

Adoption of the Agenda and the Time Table

1.1 The TC-31 unanimously adopted the provisional agenda and the time table.

Agenda 2

Election of the Chairperson

2.1 The Chairperson of TC-30 invited nominations from the members for election of TC-31 Chairperson.

2.2 The delegate from Indonesia proposed Malaysia as the Chairperson which was seconded by the delegate from India. Malaysia was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of TC-31. The outgoing Chairperson congratulated the newly elected Chair and thanked the TC members. The newly elected Chairperson expressed her gratitude for being elected as Chairperson of TC-31. She hoped that the TC members would continue to extend full cooperation to her to strengthen the activities of CIRDAP.

Agenda 3

Report on the follow-up actions on the suggestions of TC-29

3.1 The report on the follow-up actions on the suggestions of TC-29 was presented by the DG, CIRDAP.

3.2 The Philippines delegate viewed that it was necessary to get clarifications on items 14 and 15 as per TC-29 suggestions. She sought clarification on the standard template



Members with the Chief Guest of the TC-31, Honorable Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi, Deputy Minister of Rural and Regional Development, Malaysia

for documenting the best practices and the terms of reference of the focal person for compiling the Rural Development Report-2015 including the required logistical support. DG CIRDAP explained about the compilation and the ToR of the expert Dr. Mujeri who was contacted to complete the report

as he was a former professional staff of CIRDAP notwithstanding his credentials.

3.3 On the issue of expanding CIRDAP membership, the DG CIRDAP informed the TC invited members that South-Pacific countries such as Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and other neighboring nations were invited to be engaged with the Centre which the next DG might want to follow up since he is from the same region. Likewise, he proposed that SOCSEA be revived through Government of Indonesia. The DG informed the delegates that he had visited Bhutan and was informed by the Minister of Agriculture that the decision to become a member is pending with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also mentioned that he had discussed with the Ambassadors of Cambodia and Brunei regarding joining to CIRDAP.

3.4 Dr. D.P. Paudyal, the former DG of CIRDAP, informed the forum that RCF was created for the purpose of capacity development of the CLIs. It was also expected to strengthen



TC-31 in progress

the relationship between the host country and CLIs and to minimize the operational cost of research through exchange of faculty among CLIs.

3.5 Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa, the incoming DG opined that the engagements of CIRDAP are at the regional level and need to be taken up at the international level. He also suggested that the evaluation of CIRDAP be taken up every 4 years at the end of the tenure of a DG.

3.6 The delegates suggested the following for further action:

Suggestion: 1/TC-31/2016

- a. CIRDAP should prepare a standard template for documenting the best practices.
- b. CIRDAP may write a letter to the Government of Iran to pursue with the ECO Secretariat to draw members from West and Central Asia.
- c. The next DG may follow up the membership from Pacific region since he is from the region. Likewise, it was proposed that SOCSEA be revived through the Government of Indonesia.
- d. CIRDAP to undertake 4-year evaluation corresponding with tenure of a DG.

Agenda 4

CIRDAP Director General's Report October 2014 - May 2016

4.1 DG CIRDAP expressed that this report to TC-31 meeting would be his final as DG. He presented what are the challenges of the Centre. He emphasized that CIRDAP is facing funds crunch but continues to be vibrant. It needs increased fund support. He expressed his appreciation of the efforts of the former DG, Dr. Durga Prasad Paudyal to seek the host government's support in constructing the CICC. The CICC is generating income that provided as buffer fund both for the core functions and staff welfare. The DG likewise reported the financial status of the Centre. He further explained the various funds viz. RCF and the Corpus Fund.

4.2 Moreover, he explained about the option of building new partnerships where various initiatives were undertaken: with GIZ, OECD-KPC. He mentioned about jointly organized activities: NAM-CSST, similarly bringing experts; NCPAG-LOGIN-SDC, APO-Japan, which requires counterpart fund, i.e. local hospitality. He emphasized the need for partnership development.

4.3 Dr. Effendi emphasized that the Centre was established as a platform for regional cooperation. After 37 years, it was observed that quite a few countries do more while others do less, notwithstanding the uniqueness of each member-country. Looking back, India had provided great support to the training

programmes of the Centre; Thailand also has given a programme every year. The Centre is also losing the flavor of an “international” organization due to more “local” number of local staff members against the number foreign professionals.

4.4 DG also informed about the changes in Indonesia, the restructured link institute renaming as DG of Governance, which limits the responsibility of DG of Governance only to building capacity of rural apparatus and conducting M&E of their performance. The establishment of the Ministry of Rural, Development of Backward Region and Transmigration which in many ways have many similarities with the mandate of CIRDAP as an international organization.

4.5 Due to the sanctions as mentioned by the I.R. Delegate and by Director General of CIRDAP, Iran may consider holding workshops for CMCs based on the recent MoU between CIRDAP and SFIDA. Time, venue and procedures for these workshops would be determined through negotiation among CIRDAP, SFIDA and APERDRI.

Suggestion: 2/TC-31/2016

- a. It should be proposed in the next EC/GC meeting that the Word “Voluntary” be removed from contribution to RCF and make it obligatory so that the CMCs can persuade with the Ministry of Finance. CIRDAP to generate revenue through consultancy on the best practices of CMCs to non CMCs and through AARDO to its member countries to ease its’ financial crunch.
- b. Iran to open the option of sharing its expertise in kind as a sort of resource sharing, goodwill.

c. MARDI offered its expertise on technology transfer in agro processing.

d. CIRDAP to consider the establishment of partnership with the new Ministry of Rural and Development of Backward Regions in reviving SOCSEA in the coming years and request the new Ministry to take responsibility in reviving the SOCSEA in partnership with the Ministry of Interior Agriculture and Foreign Affairs of Indonesia.

e. CIRDAP should design its own proposals and approach the ASEAN, where a member-state, like Indonesia may take this up through the ASEAN Secretariat.

f. CIRDAP may undertake pilot projects that can be scaled up.

g. AARDO and CIRDAP being two twin organizations, which may organize jointly programmes to benefit their member countries.

Agenda 5

Presentation on the Recommendations of the EC-30 and Decisions of GC-20

5.1 DG CIRDAP presented Recommendations of the EC-30 and Decisions of GC-20.

Suggestion: 3/TC-31/2016

- a. The TC-31 members were requested to give their decision on the programmes proposed by the respective countries during the TC-29. The decision of the TC members is as follows:

Sl.	Country	Theme	Decision
1	Afghanistan	Promoting Local Governance for Community Development	No decision as member was not present
2	Bangladesh	Micro Saving: One House, One Farm	Agreed to organize it in August/Sept. 2016
3	Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PNPM (Local Government)• Village Enterprises• Appropriate Rural Technology Fair	The Indonesian delegate suggested discussing with the rural ministry.
4	Iran	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting fund for Investment in Agriculture Sector, or• Rural Management: Rural Islamic Council"	The implementation of the proposed will be determined by the discussion among CIRDAP, SFIDA and APERDI.
5	Lao PDR	Small Holder Farmers	Will take up the issue with the Dept. of Extension.
6	Malaysia	Enhancing Rural Tourism through Home Stay Programme (Oct. 2015)	Agreed to organize the programme in mid-2017
7	Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interest Free Microfinance for Sustainable Livelihoods• ICT for development• Disaster Management (DRM, DRR & Disaster Risk Insurance)	Agreed to organize the programme on Disaster Management in June 2016.
8	Philippines	Lessons from Philippines: Agro-Enterprise Clustering Development Programme	Will take up with the new administration.
9	Sri Lanka	Module for Agricultural Economics	Agreed to organize in March 2017

- b. It was suggested that besides the operation procedures of CICC approved by GC/EC, CIRDAP must regularly prepare the statement on income generated and ensure that it is audited.
- c. CLIs should provide boarding and lodging and local logistic facilities for the programmes that CIRDAP will organize with its partners like APO.
- d. CIRDAP should focus on women empowerment as a priority agenda.



CIRDAP publications were released during the TC-31

Agenda 6 **Presentation on the CIRDAP Strategic Framework**

6.1 While presenting the proposed CIRDAP Strategic Framework, Dr. Cecep Effendi explained the background and reiterated what he had already mentioned following some of the key recommendations of the Sub-Committee recommendations. He elaborated on how the strategic planning processes will be undertaken and indicated a few propositions.

Suggestion: 4/TC-31/2016

- a. An expert assisted by the former Director Generals i.e. Dr. Durga and Dr. Somporn may be hired to prepare the strategic framework for CIRDAP.
- b. Pakistan delegate offered its e-platform created with support from AARDO to CIRDAP to enable discussions with the CMCs on strategic framework of CIRDAP.
- c. Dr. Durga and Dr. Somporn expressed their willingness to be evolved the new strategic framework.
- d. Some benchmarking on how similar regional bodies are operating to be done so the Centre can best position itself by shaping the road map it wants to pursue.

Agenda 7

Discussion on the approved programmes in the PWB 2016-17 and the roles of CMCs in the implementation

7a: Dr. Cecep Effendi presented the approved PWB 2016-2017 and provided an update report on the progress of implementation after the GC-20 meeting in 2015, Fiji.

7b: Discussion on collaboration in light of the new partnership initiatives and other proposals: APO, OECD, IPA-JPAL, InM, BIRD, RGNIYD, BIID, MARDI and SAARC.

Suggestion: 5/TC-31/2016

The delegate from India offered to host four programmes of APO in 2017-18.

Agenda 8 **Selection of theme for the CIRDAP Rural Development Report-2017**

8.1 DG presented the proposed 5 (five) themes for RDR-2017 as follows:

- i. Impact of Climate Change on Rural Livelihoods
- ii. Financial Inclusion Initiatives for the Overall Development of Livelihood Strategy for the Rural Poor
- iii. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) as a Tool for Poverty Alleviation
- iv. Livelihood Enhancement of the Small Farmers through Small Scale Agro-Business focusing on Value Chain Development
- v. The Role of ICT in Rural Development

8.2 The floor was opened for discussion. Pakistan delegate viewed that Impacts of climate change on rural livelihoods may be proposed. The theme was agreed by majority of the countries. Nepal likewise opined the same and further emphasized the need to include disaster risk reduction management.

Suggestion: 6/TC-31/2016

- a. The theme of the CIRDAP Rural Development Report-2017 will be "Impacts of Climate Change on Rural Livelihoods". As suggested by the delegate DRRM will also be covered in the report.
- b. CIRDAP Secretariat will prepare the detailed outline and methodology for consideration of the CLIs.

Agenda 9 Other Matters

9.1 DG CIRDAP presented briefly about the status of the Corpus Fund which he reported that unless the CMCs provide for the required seed money CIRDAP will not have any funds for conducting activities.

Suggestion: 7/TC-31/2016

Bangladesh delegate suggested to convey to the Governments through Contact Ministries to pay the seed money.

Agenda 10 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

10.1 DG CIRDAP proposed that the delegates consider hosting TC Meetings as per alphabetical order so as to pre-list the schedule to enable the governments to allocate budget after TC-31 hosted by Malaysia. The following schedule was agreed:

Sl.	Country	To host the TC meeting during the year
1.	Bangladesh	2017
2.	Fiji	2018
3.	India	2019
4.	Indonesia	2020
5.	Iran	2021
6.	Lao PDR*	2022
7.	Malaysia	2023
8.	Myanmar*	2024
9.	Nepal*	2025
10.	Pakistan	2026
11.	Philippines*	2027
12.	Sri Lanka	2028
13.	Thailand	2029

* Will confirm after consultation with their respective government.

Suggestions: 8/TC-31/2016

It was suggested if a new country join, they will be the host of the TC meeting after completing the above schedule.



TC-31 Members on a field visit to Home Stay, a best practice of Malaysia

Agenda 11 Adoption of the Report

11.1 The report was unanimously adopted by the TC members.

11.2 Director General, CIRDAP thanked the host country for hosting the meeting and other TC member for their active support.

11.3 The Chairperson of TC-31 on behalf of the host country thanked the TC Members and observers for the useful suggestions and for the successful organization of the TC meeting. She also thanked CIRDAP Secretariat for the support to conclude the session.

11.4 As the TC-31 host, the Chairperson expressed her gratitude that Malaysia has given the opportunity and trust from all member countries to become the Chairperson of TC-31. She extended thanks to all delegates for their endless support and Malaysia would like to reiterate its resilient commitment towards CIRDAP.

11.5 The Chairperson wished that CLIs should extend further collaboration among member countries. She believed that with the strong ties among the countries can achieve greater success. She expressed her deepest gratitude to Dr. Cecep Effendi and the two former Director Generals, Delegates of the CMCs and distinguished observers from various reputed organization for their wonderful participation.



Research News

CIRDAP Development Forum at Kuala Lumpur

CIRDAP in collaboration with the Institute for Rural Advancement (INFRA) and Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, Government of Malaysia organized a two-day long programme on 'International Knowledge Exchange on Rural Development Best Practices of Malaysia's Experiences' from 23-24 May 2016 at Hotel Premiera, Kuala Lumpur. Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP and Mr. Dato' Mohd Arif bin Ab Rahman, Secretary General,



Ministry of Rural and Regional Development welcomed the delegates. The Chief Guest Mr. Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, Honorable Minister of Rural and Regional Development inaugurated the function on 23 May 2016.

Mr. Datuk Haji Ahmad Jazlan bin Yaakub, Honorable Deputy Minister for Rural and Regional Development, Government of Malaysia and Mr. Meleti Bainimarama, Chairperson of CIRDAP Executive Committee were also present. The Chief Guest in his speech emphasized that CIRDAP should strengthen its network to exchange views and best practices and explore vista of opportunities among the entrepreneurs through market access. He also urged CIRDAP to come up with short training courses with low-cost but high impact, especially for ToT grassroots level change agents.

The Forum discussed a few topics to provide context to the sustainable development goals 2030 by sharing Malaysia's best practices, such as:

- a) Rural Development and Nation Building by the Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA)
- b) Linking Rural Business in Urban Areas by the MARA: Council of Trust for the Bumiputera

- c) Renewable Energy as an opportunity to Rural Business by University College of Technology Sarawak (UCTS)
- d) Success Story of VIAS Halal Food Industry
- e) Tourism and Sustainable Rural Development by Sabah Tourism Board
- f) Innovation and Technology in Rural Development "Turning Waste into Wealth" UNIKL.
- g) Tele-Centers for Remote and Rural Communities (e-Barrio)

In the international knowledge exchange programme, the delegates from the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) presented their papers on the relevance of SDG: Poverty and Rural Development to CMCs. CIRDAP development partners also presented their reports, for instance, on Green Productivity by APO, Japan and Evidence based Policy Making by JPAL-Innovation for Poverty Action (IPA).

Discussion on Rural Development Report-2017

Dr. A. Atiq Rahman (Prominent Environmentalist, Climate Expert, Scientist and Development Expert), Executive Director, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and Chairman, Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) visited CIRDAP

Headquarters on 27 June 2016 and had a meeting with CIRDAP DG Dr. Cecep Effendi. Discussion took place in the meeting on Rural Development Report-2017.

Meeting with Delegates of SAARC Agriculture Centre

CIRDAP and the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) will be organizing collaborative programmes on "Assessment of role of agro-processing as a key component of rural mass employment and rural development models" to be held from 16-20 August 2016 at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, India. With a view to discussing the programme and making it successful, Dr. Tayan Raj Gurung, Senior Programme Specialist (Natural Resource Management) along with Dr. W.A.R.T. Wickramaarachchi, Senior Programme Specialist (Priority Setting and Programme Development), SAC visited CIRDAP on 12 June 2016 and had a meeting with Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG and other Senior Officials of CIRDAP. In the meeting it was also discussed SAARC inclusion in the projects co-hosted this year by CIRDAP and the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) under the framework of MoU between CIRDAP and APO which will be implemented in cooperation with other partners.



Pilot Projects Update

Organic Agro-industry Development Leadership Course in Asia held in RDA, Bangladesh

Organic Agro-industry Development Leadership Course in Asia was conducted from 28 May to June 3, 2016 at the Rural



Development Academy (RDA) Campus, Bogra, Bangladesh. This week-long international programme was co-organized by CIRDAP and Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in collaboration with RDA and National Productivity Organization (NPO)-Ministry of Industries, Bangladesh. Likewise, it was supported by the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM) – Organics International and the International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture (ICCOA).

Honourable State Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mr. Mashiur Rahman Ranga, MP graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Mr. Md. Habibar Rahman, Honorable Member of Parliament (Bogra-5) was present as Special Guest.

The objective of this course were to broaden participants' knowledge and skills in promoting and leading the organic agriculture for improving the productivity and sustainable organic agro-industry in the region of Asia and the Pacific; enhance familiarity with recent and emerging developments in global organic agribusiness; and provide opportunities for

networking and sharing of best practices in the areas where organic agriculture is not yet introduced and scaling up of the known Organic Agriculture models.

During the class session the participants presented country reports briefly on Promoting Organic Agro Industry Development Leadership in Asia based on experience from their respective countries. The country papers included: a) Main organic businesses, b) Successful organic agro-industry enterprise, c) The nature of the business activity and the core products and services it produces, and d) The best management practices of the enterprise that contributed to its success.

The modules covered during the course are as follows: i) Organic agriculture principles, ii) Organic advocacy, iii) Sustainable organic value chains, iv) Organic guarantee systems, v) Research and advocacy, and vi) training

needs. Field visits, related with organic farming and bio-gas, were organized for the participants.

Total 24 participants from Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Bangladesh joined in this leadership course. The participants were awarded certificates on the last day at the concluding session of the programme.



In brief we may say that to capture sustainability in agro-industrial sector through organic farming will require significant structural changes in many of the participating countries in addition to technological intervention, farmer-to-farmer linkages and to enhance farmer-to-agro industry-to-consumers harmony. The required initiatives should come from social participation to activate political will and decision-makers (e.g. policy interventions etc.) to be supportive for sustainable agricultural development in national and international level. Interested countries may come up with agro-industrial leadership to assure “safe food for all” through organic producing and marketing the products into their domestic and the global market. Regional cooperation on ‘best practice/success stories’ may be useful (considering the country context) among the participating member countries leading to sustainable agro eco-system and better farming community across the country.

International Capacity Development Programme on Up-Valuing Agro-Food Enterprise of Selected Bank-Assisted Women's Group in Bangladesh

CIRDAP organised four-day long international capacity development programme on "Up-Valuing Agro- Food Enterprise of Selected Bank-Assisted Women's Group" in collaboration with Daffodil International University (DIU), IFIC, BASIC and Trust Banks held from 2-5 April 2016 at the DIU campus, Dhaka. The inauguration programme on 02 April was attended by Md. Sabur Khan, Chairman, Board of Trustees, DIU, Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP, Prof. Dr. Ahmad Ismail Mustafa, Dean, DIU, Mr. T. I. M. Rawshan Zadeed, EVP and Head of SME Division, IFIC Bank Ltd, Mr. Renanti Talukder, Senior Vice President,

Trust Bank Ltd., and Mr. Abdul Qayum Mohammad Kibriya, Deputy Managing Director, BASIC Bank Ltd.

In the programme, Dr. Cecep Effendi emphasized on the value addition of agricultural products in Bangladesh and briefed about the importance of agro-processing. He reiterated CIRDAP's commitment of bringing best practices to Bangladesh from selected CIRDAP member countries on agro-food processing.



Director PPD, CIRDAP, Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon briefly discussed the objectives of the course and expected fruitful outcomes. She also presented a 'Plan of Action' and 'Quick Evaluation' done by participants as follow-up and way forward. She handed over the action plans to the sponsoring agencies for basic information.

In his remarks, Md. Sabur Khan, DIU Chairman said, "We spoil too much food around us simply due to lack of appropriate knowledge on how to transform them into processed products." He also mentioned that with the help of the banks DIU will further support the participants to move forward to reach bigger markets for their processed food products.



The technical/practical demonstration sessions were facilitated by three Indonesian trainers. They made demonstrations and interactive presentations as methods of learning for the 35 selected women-participants. The participants were given copies of the recipes as to they could practice in their countries/homes. Mr. David Hilton, APO, PPD, CIRDAP was in DIU campus in Ashuliya to coordinate the programme.



Training Division

Regional Workshop on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and One Tambon One Product to CMCs held in Thailand

Organised by CIRDAP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand, the Regional Workshop on "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and One Tambon One Product to CIRDAP Member Countries" was held from 8-12 May 2016 at Bangkok and Ayutthaya Province, Thailand. Five delegates from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Fiji, and five representatives of Thailand attended the workshop.

This year, the regional workshop directly focused on three main components which are mentioned below:

- The Royal Ploughing Ceremony
- "Koe Koet Royal Folk Arts and Craft Center" and Village Master Sufficiency Philosophy
- Community Development based on Self-sufficiency Economy

The Royal Ploughing Ceremony

This ceremony is a ritual programme of Thailand which is considered as Buddhist ceremony initiated during the reign of King Rama (IV) the Royal house of Chakri. This year, the ceremony started in the morning of 9 May 2016 at Phra Meru Ground in front of the Grand Palace where the King and Queen presided over the function.

The ploughing ceremony and ancient Brahmanic rite can be traced back to the Sukhothai period. The two Royal ceremonies are related to each other. They are aimed at bringing propitiousness to the nation's crops, boosting farmers' morale as well as heralding the rice-growing seasons to begin. In addition, these ceremonies provide foreigners with an opportunity to appreciate the country's fine culture and traditions.

"Koe Koet Royal Folk Arts and Crafts Center" and Village Master Sufficiency Philosophy

The Queen has focused on the professional development of people in the country, especially in the field of handcraft in order to create occupations

and income and have a better life for people. Moreover, it would also help preserve the arts and culture of the heritage. The establishment of the new center for handcraft, arts, and culture was then initiated by the Queen so as to provide training for Thai people in the area of Kao Koet, Ayutthaya. The Center has a total area of 2,028 Rak, being allocated for four sections i.e. agricultural section, museum, training center, and village master sufficiency. Up until now, Kao Koet Royal Folk Arts and Craft Center has been a symbol to provide knowledge and improve the quality of life of the people, following the strategic plan.

The Government has set out policies to implement the pilot projects in developing approximately 19,000 villages nationwide, based on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. It aims to apply Sufficiency Economy as a roadmap for national development to improve the people's living conditions.

Sufficiency Economy is a philosophy imparted by the King and has become Thailand's approach to development strategies and policies. Consisting of three components - moderation, reasonableness, and a self-immunity system - Sufficiency Economy will help lead to well-balanced and sustainable development. The model village system of the philosophy is implemented successfully in Thailand and it is extending all over the country.

Community Development based on Self-sufficiency Economy

One of the major goals for rural development in Thailand is to search for ways to uplift the people's well-being. This



entails developing the community to become strong so that the people can be self-reliant. However, the efforts must be conformed to the conservation and development of environmental resources in a sustainable and beneficial manner. Also, modern, simple, correct and economically viable knowledge and technology should be promoted.

The philosophy of Sufficiency Economy has always been the underlining idea for all the Royal Development projects although the term was first mentioned and introduced by the King in 1997 when Thailand faced a severe economic crisis.

Agricultural Development under Royal Development Project

The king's principle for agricultural development is to offer the farmers the modern but simple and applicable techniques to improve their agricultural productivity. The techniques introduced also incur low investment and fit with the topographical and sociological conditions of the locality. Importantly, the knowledge transferred intends to educate the people to gradually progress from one step to another and to use rationality in making decision. The plant species suitable for the soil types on the farm, the crops that meet the demand of the family and also the markets. This also involves the cultivation of energy crops such as physic butts. These energy crops can be extracted for oil which can be used with farm engines. This subsequently enables the farmers to reduce the family expenses of fuel and lessen the dependence of the country on others.

The assistance of the royal development projects also involves acknowledging the farmers to eliminate risks related with farm management e.g. changes in weather and price fluctuations. The royal development projects help study ways to reduce the household expenses and rely on nature as much as possible. Cattle should be used in farming more than machinery. Rotation crops and leguminous plants should be grown for soil improvement. Natural fertilizer and compost made from farm produce should be applied instead of chemical fertilizer to save the costs and for health reasons. Biogas is recommended for use in cooking because it can be produced from lefts-over from the farm and animal waste. Lastly, the farmers are urged to consider all the factors involved in any operations and take up a supplementary occupation to earn extra money enough to enable them to live happily. All this not only makes the farmers achieve self-sufficiency but also promotes sustainable development.

Philosophy of Self-sufficiency Economy, the middle Path

Our team consisted of five country representatives and five officers of Thailand. All of us tried to find the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and their application of it. We received a vast of theoretical and practical knowledge about the Royal

Development Project. The instructors and coordinator of this Workshop have tried to impart all-round knowledge regarding the above philosophy. Economy Philosophy for self-sufficiency at household level is very clear. First, the king gave them wisdom of promoting self-help community development activity. Especially the model village system in Thailand is implemented successfully and it is extending all over the country. At first, it was new to the people but after several years' people understood the situation and now it is very familiar with Thai people.



This Workshop on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy is a very common system for the CIRDAP Member Countries like and others in the Asian region. Therefore these kinds of projects are very useful for CMCs rural development activities. As Researcher the participants from CMCs understood the basics of this project and using this knowledge and philosophy, they will try to introduce this kind of project to their countries as a model village system.

Exposure Visit to Indonesia for Indian Official

Organised by CIRDAP in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Indonesia, an exposure visit to Indonesia from 02-09 April 2016 was attended by the Director (International Cooperation), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India (GoI) and a Representative of EC Member of CIRDAP and Secretary (RD), GoI. The main objective of this exposure visit was to gain hands on experience and ground realities on best practices of Indonesia so that those practices may be implemented in other CIRDAP member countries. The exposure visit covered the following:

- Ubad Retreat, economic productive rent villa
- Merta Sari I, economic business of handicraft
- UD Wahana Lestari, economic business of agriculture

- "Wisma Ayu Ukir" Stil Bali
- Integrated Agriculture System 376 (SIMANTRI 376)
- "UDAKA" kerta laba
- Kantor Perbekel "Desa Bebandem"
- BUMDes Bandem Jagadhita
- UD Pelita Hati



He visited Integrated Agriculture System 376 at Takmung Village, Sub-District Banjarangkan, Klungkung Regency and found that this project focuses activities of Simantri 376 to the integration of economic business of Agriculture and economic business of animal husbandry. In this project, urine from animal husbandry is processed as bio-gas, bio-urine, organic fertilizer and bio-pesticide.

During visit to the Village Owned Enterprises (Bandan Usaha Milik Desa/BUMDes, BUMDes Kerta Laba "UDAKA" Dawan Keler Village, Dawan Sub-District, Klungkung Regency), he saw and learned the processing of mineral water etc. He also visited Bandem Jaadhita - Bebandem Village Karang Asem Regency, which deals in micro-credit and revolving funds for the business activities being developed by the community groups and social activists. During his visit to "UD, PELITA HATI", he observed the processing and packaging of product and had interaction with the Head and members of UD, PELITA HATI.

The exposure visit was concluded by hosting a farewell lunch by Mr. Made, Representative of Government of Bali Province, Indonesia. Mr. Made thanked Director (IC), MoRD for showing his interest in the community activities of the Government of Bali Province, Indonesia. He also thanked the team members from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Indonesia, for all support to conduct the exposure visit successfully. Director (IC), MoRD thanked the Government of Bali Province, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Indonesia and CIRDAP for arranging this exposure visit in Bali, Indonesia, which is very useful to replicate in Indian context.

Candidates selected for One Year PGDRDM Programme of NIRD&PR from CMCs

Sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India and conducted by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, India, five candidates were selected from CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) by CIRDAP and recommended to MoRD and NIRD&PR for consideration to admit them to the forthcoming 12th Batch (2016-17) of One Year Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) Programme of NIRD&PR.

The selected five candidates are:

1. Ms. Panida Thatujirangkul, Agricultural Extensionist, Office of the Agricultural Extension and Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, **Thailand**
2. Mr. Mohammad Kabir Monir, Quality Assurance Analyst, Monitoring and Evaluation Department, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), **Afghanistan**
3. Mr. Jone Selala, Clerical Officer, District Office Tavua, **Fiji**
4. Ms. Naw Hser Gay Paw, Deputy Programme Officer, Department of Agricultural Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, **Myanmar**
5. Mr. Le Van Thiem, Kim Trung, Kim Lu, Soc Son, Hanoi, **Vietnam**

ITEC Fellowships for 2016-17

As a kind gesture for regional cooperation in promoting human resource development of CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs), the Honorable Minister of Rural Development, Government of India 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). 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 applicants may be advised to visit the website of ITEC (<http://itec.mea.gov.in>) or the website of CIRDAP (www.cirdap.org).



Information and Communication

TOT on Women ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI)

As a follow up of Director ICD's participation in the 10th Anniversary of United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (UN-APCICT/ESCAP) and launch of the Women ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI) from 9-10 June 2016 at Incheon, South Korea, and based on discussions with the Director of UN-APCICT, the following two proposals were proposed for consideration of collaboration with the APCICT:

1. The Technical Committee (TC) of CIRDAP comprising of the premier national institutions working in the field of agriculture and rural development in the member countries can serve as a platform for organizing Training of Trainers (ToT) on WIFI in each member country. These institutes then can use the expertise of the Trainers to train the target beneficiaries, i.e., women entrepreneurs at the grassroots level.

CIRDAP and APCICT can jointly organise such ToTs, for which APCICT can provide resource persons for conducting ToT courses and CIRDAP can fund the local organizational costs. International travel cost and honorarium of resource persons may be supported by APCICT.

2. As CIRDAP's GC comprises of Ministers and EC comprises of Secretaries, we propose that the Model of WIFI for Government Policy Makers may be organized jointly by CIRDAP and APCICT, wherein the Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Development and Secretaries of Agriculture and Rural Development, who are policy makers in the respective countries can be oriented to the WIFI, so that it can be a part of the policy of the countries. This can be done during the regular meetings of EC and GC, which is usually organized once in two years. The next EC and GC (Secretaries and Ministers) meetings will be held Afghanistan in mid-2017. It is proposed that one or two days can be devoted to orientation on WIFI Model to the 15 EC and GC (Secretaries and Ministers) to facilitate the policy adoption of women empowerment entrepreneurs using ICT as part of the Regional Policy Dialogue that is organised during our EC and GC Meetings.

CIRDAP Aziz-ul Haq Library to partner with SAARC Secretariat Library

CIRDAP Aziz-ul Haq Library (CAL) is proposing to partner with SAARC Secretariat Library to strengthen collaborative efforts in information dissemination in the Asia-Pacific region through possible ways of resource sharing and exchanging e-resources between two libraries.

CIRDAP gives priority to dissemination of information generated in-house as well as in CIRDAP Members Countries. Given the mandate, the Centre has developed a well-resourced library where readers can access a wide range of books, journals and periodicals and other type of publications related to rural development and poverty alleviation. CAL also collected many open access e-Resources on different topics related to Poverty, Agriculture, Community Development, ICT, Food Security, Global Warming and Climate Change, Economic Development, Women Development, Good Governance, Land Issues, Micro Credit etc. It also developed CIRDAP Digital Institutional Repository (<http://dspace.cirdap.org:8080>) to connect with our CIRDAP member countries and other research organization for exchange of e-Resources using D-Space software so that anybody can access these resources easily. SAARC Secretariat can access to all CIRDAP e-resources by visiting as part of the partnership.

It is believed that this partnership will enrich both of the libraries and help researchers, scholars, development practitioners and other library users; and thus contribute to mutual vision of prosperous and thriving Asia.

CIRDAP develops Digital Institutional Repository

CIRDAP has developed a Digital Institutional Repository with a view to connecting with CIRDAP member countries through sharing resources, knowledge and information on integrated and sustainable rural development and poverty alleviation with the D-Space Software. It is an online archive for collecting, preserving and disseminating digital copies of documents and publications of CIRDAP. It provides open access to all institutional documents and creates global visibility of CIRDAP's scholarly research, reports and publications or any documents in digital format.

Through Digital Institutional Repository of CIRDAP anybody can access the following CIRDAP Publications:

- Asia Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD)
- Rural Development Reports
- CIRDAP Development Digest (CDD)
- Annual Reports
- News Clippings from CMCs
- Books
- Collected E-Books
- CIRDAP E-News

- Highlights of CIRDAP
- CIRDAP Video
- CIRDAP GC Reports
- CIRDAP EC Reports
- CIRDAP TC Reports

CGARD Centre at CIRDAP

With the support from the Ministry of Rural Development, India, the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) took initiatives to set up the Virtualisation Learning Centre (VLC) and the Centre on Geo-informatics Applications for Rural Development (CGARD) at the CIRDAP ICT Centre in Dhaka. As a follow up of these initiatives, global tender was floated by CIRDAP on behalf of NIRD&PR to set up CGARD Centre. Tender Committee evaluated the technical bids and opened the financial bids. Comparative statement, accordingly, and work order were issued and the equipments have been installed successfully. The installed products are AO Scanner cum Plotter, A3 Printer, A4 Scanner, B/W Laser Printer, Handheld GPS with Cameras, Laptops, RGPS and Total Station. The main objectives of establishment of CGARD Centre are:

- To establish a state of the art infrastructure for Geo-informatics Applications Centre at CIRDAP, Dhaka consisting of Hardware, Software, Internet/Web Map Server (Spatial Data Server);
- To generate all digital data from maps, satellite data, GPS/DGPS and field data and from other Government, national and international sources and keep uploading for use at CIRDAP Geo-informatics Data Centre through Internet Map Server for wider applications across the CIRDAP Member Countries (CMCs) and dedicated networking, assessment, monitoring and guidelines and policy formulation in rural development sector through convergence;
- To develop technically qualified manpower for handling Geo-informatics applications in rural development sector in the CMCs on a sustained basis; and
- To document and share best and innovative practices on Geo-informatics Application among the CMCs for evolving country and region specific models, for optimum and efficient management.

The 48th Editorial Board Meeting of APJORD held

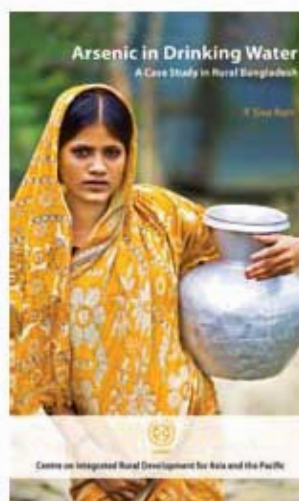
The 48th Editorial Board Meetings of the Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development (APJORD) was held, with a view to selecting articles for the issue of July 2016, on 20 June 2016

at 11.30 a.m. at AVS Reddy Conference Hall (General Staff Meeting Room). Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG, CIRDAP and Chairperson of APJORD started the meeting welcoming the honourable board members and introduced Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulan, the Designate Director General of CIRDAP to the external members. Several agenda regarding APJORD were discussed in the meeting.

A total of 11 articles were reviewed by experts, of these, 6 (six) were approved for publication for the issue of July 2016. The meeting expressed condolence over the death of Editorial Board Member Dr. Mahabub Hossain who passed away on 4th January, 2016. Dr. Cecep Effendi requested the board members to propose name of new member for the Editorial Board. The name of Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri, Executive Director, Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM) and Former Director (Research), CIRDAP was proposed in the meeting and the board members unanimously agreed to include him. Editor, APJORD shared a proposal regarding partnership between SAGE publications and CIRDAP for marketing of APJORD and CIRDAP publications. She also made a presentation on the proposal detailing the terms and conditions of the proposal. The Board Members suggested examining pro and cons of the proposed agreement. Dr. Cecep Effendi, Chairperson of APJORD Editorial Board concluded the meeting with a vote of thanks.

Recent CIRDAP Publications

1. Arsenic in Drinking Water: A Case Study in Rural Bangladesh
2. Climate Change Vulnerability - Cases from CIRDAP Member Countries





Other News from CIRDAP

CIRDAP celebrates 37th Founding Anniversary with Lecture on "Barefoot College"

CIRDAP celebrated its 37th Founding Anniversary with a Foundation Day Lecture on "The Barefoot College: The 21st Century Gandhian Model to Sustainability" by Mr. Sanjit Bunker Roy, the Founder of Barefoot College in India. The Founding Anniversary was observed on 28 June 2016 at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC), Dhaka.

Engr. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, MP, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD&C) of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest in the programme. Dr. Prosanta Kumar Roy, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division of the Ministry of LGRD&C and Mr. Md. Anwarul Islam Sikder ndc, Chairman, Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) attended the programme as Special Guests. Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua, President of Bangladesh Solar and Renewable Energy Association (BSREA) was also invited.



Engr. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, MP, in his remarks, praised CIRDAP saying that over the last 36 years, CIRDAP has been playing an important role in bringing about meaningful collaboration among policy makers, with intensified advocacy on integrated, systematic and relevant knowledge development and dissemination in the area of rural development and poverty alleviation. It has been

functioning as regional level think tank for its member countries. He assured that Bangladesh, as the host state, will continue its support to explore possibilities and optimise the benefits that could be reaped through close cooperation, involvement and interaction with CIRDAP member countries. He hoped that CIRDAP will take the lead in fostering these successful efforts to the member countries to gain benefits from these models of development.

"Bangladesh is committed towards poverty reduction and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the last few years, Bangladesh through its multi-dimensional, coordinated and people oriented development efforts have made remarkable progress in the various aspects of economic and social development", he added. The Minister also said, "Bangladesh's successful experimentation with Non-Formal Primary Education, Oral Rehydration Therapy, Interventions in Micro-Savings, One House One Farm Project (Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar Prokolpo), Government and NGO collaboration in the field of rural development and poverty alleviation, social mobilization and empowerment of women have emerged as models for many other countries of the world."

The Minister appreciated Mr. Roy for his inspiring works through Barefoot College mentioning that it is a best practice which can be adopted by other developing countries like Bangladesh.

Dr. Prosanta Kumar Roy, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Ministry of LGRD&C shed light on various efforts taken by the Ministry highlighting the importance of renewable for rural development. In his remarks, Dr. Roy said, "the Government of Bangladesh has been implementing various

programmes for the rural poor. The programme being implemented widely is the "One House One Farm (Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar)" to infuse dynamism in the rural economy by turning every family into economically self-reliant. The main purpose is to develop each household of Bangladesh as an ideal agro farm, trained up rural people on Agriculture, home gardening, fish culture, poultry, livestock and other income generating activities".

Dr. Prosenjit Kumar Roy, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Ministry of LGRD&C shed light on various efforts taken by the Ministry highlighting the importance of renewable for rural development.

In his lecture, Mr. Roy shared the story of Barefoot College which educates and trains underprivileged and semi-literate rural Indians, primarily women from the poorest villages, teaching them various skills such as installing, building and repairing solar lamps and water pumps by their own resources. He said that the college focuses on water and irrigation to empowerment and sustainability and provides them training as paramedics for local medical treatment. The college didn't just fix the problem of poverty and inequality; it brought the rural people into the solution by teaching them how to empower themselves and giving them an opportunity to become literate and further their knowledge in practical areas. Mr. Roy expressed his interest on initiating a pilot project in Bangladesh with the help of CIRDAP and UN Women to promote remote villages of Bangladesh using solar energy through empowerment of local women in the community. He sought help from Bangladesh Government in this regard.

He introduced some of Bangladeshi women who were trained by the Barefoot College saying that women participation in every sector must be ensured for sustainable development.



Mr. Sanjit Bunker Roy along with DG CIRDAP and DG CIRDAP (Designate) met Engg. Khondker Musaharraf Hossain, MP, Minister for LGRD&C of Bangladesh to discuss replication of Barefoot College in Bangladesh



Mr. Roy along with DG CIRDAP and Director ICD had a meeting with UN Women Country Director in Bangladesh



Mr. Sanjit Bunker Roy delivering his lecture

Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua, President of Bangladesh Solar and Renewable Energy Association (BSREA) delivered a felicitation speech stating the initiatives and efforts by the private sector in scaling up solar and renewable energy in Bangladesh.

The programme started with Welcome Speech by Dr. Cecep Effendi, Director General of CIRDAP. In his speech, Dr. Effendi briefly mentioned about the activities and projects conducted by CIRDAP to promote integrated rural development in the region. "CIRDAP has implemented about 480 projects covering several areas such as poverty alleviation, gender, institutional and infrastructural development, agrarian development, participatory approaches, GO-NGO collaboration, decentralised governance and local governance system, local resource mobilisation, micro-credit, GIS, M&E mechanism, environment and natural resource development and food security", he said. He also mentioned that CIRDAP has signed MoU with several regional organisations like SAARC, APO, OECD, BB, InM, VIT, etc. for mutual cooperation. Dr. Effendi also thanked the Government of Bangladesh for providing its generous support to the Centre as the host country.

Mr. Tevita Gadrulevu Boseiwaqa Taginavulu, Director General (Designate), CIRDAP thanking the guests and



Meeting with H.E. Harsh Vardham Shringla, High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh

participants said that CIRDAP earnestly accept the challenge in promoting best practices of rural development to member countries. He assured that CIRDAP will work very closely with the Ministry of LGRD&C, Bangladesh to reinforce efforts of CIRDAP for poverty alleviation and rural development in the Asia-Pacific region.

The programme was attended by high level Diplomats from different countries, Government Officials of Bangladesh, Development Workers, Business Leaders and Scholars from national and international organisations and institutions.

Mr. Tevita Gadrulevu Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Designate DG joins CIRDAP

As per the decision of the 18th Governing Council Meeting (GC-18) that the newly selected DG of CIRDAP in order to be familiarized will join office one month before the expiry of the tenure of the outgoing DG. Accordingly, Mr. Tevita Gadrulevu Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Director General (Designate) joined CIRDAP on 06 June 2016.



CIRDAP bids farewell to outgoing DG and welcomes new DG

Professional and General Staff of CIRDAP bade adieu to outgoing DG Dr. Cecep Effendi and welcomed to new DG Mr. Tevita Gadrulevu Boseiwaqa Taginavulau in a ceremony which was organized on 26 June 2016 at the CIRDAP International Conference Centre (CICC), Dhaka.

All professional and general staff expressed their views, relationship and memories regarding outgoing DG. They recalled and appreciated his contribution and crucial role during his tenure at CIRDAP. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director (ICD) mentioned ten qualities of a leader, of which all are found in outgoing DG; and wish him all more success in the years ahead. Ms. Eva Benita A. Tuzon, Director (PPD) reminisced the memory with the outgoing DG and said he will be with us all the time.

In his remark, Designate DG expressed heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the outgoing DG for providing a good network and platform of CIRDAP and requested him to stay connected with CIRDAP in future saying that four years experience in leadership position is very precious and useful for CIRDAP. Following the path of the outgoing DG, Mr. Taginavulau hoped that we can take this organization forward.

Outgoing DG Dr. Cecep Effendi paid tribute to all of CIRDAP professional and general staff thanking them for their nice support and cooperation. He said the Centre has performed successful programmes and projects in national and international level and signed several important MoUs during four years mentioning that these would not have been possible without their support, guidance and enthusiasm. He said, "I am very sorry and regretful for my failure that I could not have achieved as I promised at the begging". He wished CIRDAP will continue to reach new milestones in the coming years.



In honour of outgoing DG and Designate DG, an iftar party was organized. Employees of CIRDAP honoured the outgoing DG, his wife and son with farewell gifts and wreath of flowers. They also welcomed Designate DG with wreath of flowers.

CIRDAP Award Giving Ceremony held

An award giving ceremony of CIRDAP was held at AVS Reddy Conference Hall (General Staff Meeting Room) on 30 June 2016. Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG, Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, DG (Designate) and other professional and general staff of CIRDAP were present in the ceremony. Awards were given in three categories as follows: a) Performance Award-2015, b) Long Term Service Award, and c) Special Award. Best Performance Award has been rewarded to Mr. Shinnul Barua, Driver, Mr. Md. Mustafa Kamal, Typist, Mr. Minhazul Bari Ahmed, Computer

Operator, Mr. Samir Kumar Roy, Sr. Secretary (Training), and Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director, ICD and Training a.i. For long term service at CIRDAP Mr. Samir Kumar Roy and Mr. Akram Ullah, Cashier were also awarded. Special Award was handed over to Mr. Md. Shah Jalal.

Iftar Party of CIRDAP observed

CIRDAP hosted an iftar party on 14 June 2016 at CIRDAP Cafeteria where DG Dr. Cecep Effendi, Designate DG Mr. Tevita Gadrulavu Boseiwaqa Taginavulau along with their wives and other professional and general staff of CIRDAP participated. The programme followed a discussion on CIRDAP internal works and activities. A prayer was offered before breaking the fast seeking peace, progress and prosperity of CIRDAP, CIRDAP member countries and CIRDAP's employees.



Staff Participation

1. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director (ICD), CIRDAP participated in the Regional Forum on ICT Human Capacity Development and the Launch of the Women ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI) organized by the United Nations



Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (UN-APCICT/ESCAP) held from 9-10 June 2016 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. She also discussed with Dr. Hyeun-Suk Rhee, Director, UN-APCICT/ESCAP regarding collaboration between CIRDAP and UN-APCICT/ESCAP for implementing the WIFI module for the benefit of CIRDAP Member Countries.

2. Publication Assistant of CIRDAP Mr. Mohammad Abu Saleh Siddique participated in a workshop on "Efficient Project Management and Proposal Writing" organised by the Dhruvotara Youth Development Foundation (DYDF) in collaboration with EMK Center held on 19 May 2016 at EMK Center, Dhaka.



3. Mr. MH Kawsar Rudro, Assistant Information and Communication Officer, CIRDAP participated in a focus group discussion on Sustainable Development Goals under the theme "Linking youth with Sustainable Development Goals: Shaping roadmap to achieve the goals" organised by UNDP and Stride Bangladesh held in May 30, 2016 at the United Nations country office in Dhaka.

Help Enrich the CDD

An open invitation to contribute news and write-ups

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 or vasanthi@cirdap.org)



Building Bridges

CIRDAP signs MoU with VIT University, Malaysia

CIRDAP signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the VIT University to promote the agriculture and rural development through research initiatives, knowledge sharing and best practices from the various countries. Director General of CIRDAP Dr. Cecep Effendi and VIT's Chancellor Mr. G. Viswanathan inked the MoU on 25 May 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in the presence of TC Members.



CIRDAP signs MoU with BSREA

As follow up of discussions with Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua, President, Bangladesh Solar and Renewable Energy Association (BSREA), CIRDAP has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BSREA to foster collaborative programmes in mutually agreed areas such as sustainable rural development using solar energy in the countryside areas.



Mr. Barua, Mr. Data Magfur, Managing Director, BSREA, Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG CIRDAP, and Mr. Tevita Gadrulavu Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Designate DG of CIRDAP signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations on 30 June 2016 at AVS Reddy Conference Hall, CIRDAP Headquarters.



*DG CIRDAP met H.E. Ambassador Nur Ashikin Mohd Taib
High Commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh*

DG CIRDAP Participation

- DG CIRDAP Dr. Cecep Effendi attended the 58th Session of Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 19-21 April 2016. The three-day annual event of APO was attended by 45 delegates from 19 member countries and observers from six partner organizations of APO also participated: the Center on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP); International Labour Organization (ILO); Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); Pan African Productivity Association (PAPA); Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA); and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The inaugural session on 19 April was presided over by the Minister of Manpower Mr. Hanif Dhakiri of the Government of Indonesia as the Guest of Honor.
- As invited by Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon, Head of Delegation of the European Union in Bangladesh, CIRDAP DG Dr. Cecep Effendi attended the gala ceremony of 'Europe Day' held on 09 May 2016 at the Westin Hotel, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.
- CIRDAP DG Dr. Cecep Effendi attended the gala ceremony of "BIMSTEC Day-2016" organized by the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) held on 05 June 2016 at the BIMSTEC Secretariat, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.



Development News

Weaving offers Hope for Destitute Families in Lao PDR

Although many people have different skills with which to earn a living, it's not too difficult to improve living standards with patience and a willingness to learn. People in remote areas may struggle to make changes and benefit from opportunities, but this is not the case for Mrs. Singthong's family in Nayang Neua village, Nambak district, Luang Prabang province in Lao PDR. For many years they have grown crops and also woven textiles.

Mrs. Singthong said her family combined rice cultivation and weaving in 1996, but their efforts were not enough to change their living standards for the better. In 2008, they decided to borrow 10 million kip from the Agriculture Promotion Bank to invest in their weaving activities. They bought four looms and hired other people to help, so that they were able to produce 400 metres of fabric and earned more than 14 million kip a year from the sale of their textiles. Mrs. Singthong thought this was the best way for her family to earn money so she could produce more items, and also learnt new designs. She quickly added to her body of experience and gained more skills. Her family found success with this line of work and were able to improve their standard of living.

By 2011, their textiles had become very popular in Nambak district so district officials supported Mrs. Singthong's application to become a member of the Lao Handicraft Association in Luang Prabang province. She learned how to mix natural colours before dyeing cotton which enabled her to make even more attractive products. In 2012, Nayang Neua village became a model for the Party's Three Builds (Sam Sang) directive. Officials from the province, district and village discussed ways to develop the community.



Weaving textiles for sale boosts incomes for rural families. PC: Fishbio.com

They decided that weaving was a productive occupation and would boost people's incomes so officials helped families to set up a weaving group. Initially there were 40 families in the group but the number increased to 58 families, with Mrs. Singthong as the head of the group. The members divided up to make skirts, fabric, tablecloths and scarves and everyone received training to make sure products were of good quality.

The Agriculture Promotion Bank gave the group two loans, the first for 390 million kip and the second for 860 million kip. This fired up the group's members and they worked to produce as many items as possible, boosting their incomes even further.

Mrs. Singthong said that one year her family made 180 skirts which they sold for 27 million kip, as well as 6,000 metres of fabric that brought in 252 million kip, while the sale of tablecloths and scarves earned them 270 million kip. When all costs were deducted, they made a profit of 75 million kip. She realises that weaving is the family's path to success and a better life so she plans to continue the work and make more garments.

Everyone in Nayang Neua village has learnt from her family and has been inspired to also work towards better living standards and in the process help Luang Prabang province to move closer to eradicating poverty.

With the government having set 2020 as the target date for poverty eradication, people nationwide are seeking to improve their living standards the same as in Luang Prabang province, as they climb the ladder to prosperity. It was recently reported that the number of villages in Luang Prabang province classified as poor is now 58.2 percent, while the percentage of poor families stands at 41.2 percent.

*By Meuangkham Noradeth. The Vientiane Times.
May 7, 2016. Lao PDR.*

Indonesian President launches e-Commerce for Farmers

The government is introducing an online marketing system (e-commerce) for farmers, as part of the 'Synergized-Actions for the People Economy' programme that will be launched by President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo in Brebes, Central Java.

Communications and Information Minister Mr. Rudiantara said e-commerce would assist farmers in marketing their agricultural products, as well in cutting the long distribution chains of the agricultural products from the farmers to consumers. "It will make the prices cheaper," he said.

Meanwhile, Trade Minister Mr. Thomas Lembong said his ministry had estimated that the online system would benefit farmers and consumers. He announced an optimistic projection that the farmers would see a 15 per cent increase in their agricultural product profit margins.



Farmers harvest cabbage in Bokor village, one of main producers of vegetables in Malang, East Java.

As for the consumers, he continued, they would see at least a 15 per cent decline in the prices of agricultural products. "To see the more exact impact, we will conduct periodic evaluations," he said.

The Jakarta Post. April 11 2016. Indonesia.

Pakistan praised for improving Economy and Food Security

The Government of Pakistan has taken a historic step towards improving the country's economy, food security and the livelihood of its farmers by approving an agricultural technology that will help them produce more using fewer resources, said CropLife Pakistan Executive Director Dr. Muhammad Afzal.

Briefing the media regarding the recent decision of the Ministry of Climate Change and the Ministry of National Food Security and Research to allow farmers to choose genetically enhanced corn seeds that would help them to produce better crops and reduce their impact on the environment.

This landmark decision was taken after a rigorous process spread over seven years. It involves extensive regulatory assessments which reaffirmed the safety of a technology that has been successfully grown alongside other crops globally for 20 years. The approval process involved monitoring of field trials and evaluation of risk assessments submissions by designated committees of the government as required by the country's Bio-safety laws.

Dr. Afzal said it is encouraging to see that the present political leadership in Pakistan supports a proven technology to improve the country's food security and economic development. The Government's leadership, he added, ensured that Pakistan's farmers and economy would not be left behind as more countries across Asia turn to GM technology to feed their growing populations and improve farmer livelihoods. Almost all of corn, soybeans, canola and cotton GM varieties planted worldwide are demonstrating value that farmers continue to see in technology even during tough seasons, he added.

"The government's approval of insect protected and herbicide tolerant corn seeds will not only boost the corn farmer productivity, it will also encourage future local and international investment in Pakistan's agricultural sector," he claimed.

By Salim Ahmed. The Pakistan Observer. May 22, 2016. Pakistan.

Negros Island takes spotlight in Agrilink 2016

The country's largest and most influential trade exhibit on agriculture, food and aquaculture will focus on the Negros Island region this year, highlighting the island's resilience in the face of ASEAN competition. Slated to run on Oct. 6, to 8, the exhibit with the theme "Negros, a Model of Agribusiness Resiliency, will be held at the World Trade Center.

Agrilink 2016 will showcase the strength of the agricultural industries of Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental through an improved and integrated focus on the chain of agribusiness activities - from production inputs, the use of new and appropriate technologies; value adding, market diversification, strategic product development, retailing, and marketing.

Negros Island posted gains in terms of the value of production of milkfish, tilapia, prawns, white shrimp, catfish, grouper, oyster, mussel and seaweed. Inland municipal fisheries have seen stable value and an increase in production of eel, mullet and spade fish as well as blue and mud crabs. Its commercial fisheries have also seen steady production, particularly for big-eyed scad, frigate and yellow fin tuna, Indian mackerel and sardines, threadfin bream, rounds cad and squid.

Antonio V. Roces, President of the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development, said, "Agriculture employs around 30 per cent of the whole workforce for each province, so a robust agricultural industry is essential.

It is a means of enhancing competitiveness and innovations in research and development, and generating employment and income that underpin sustainable livelihood for the farmers and fisherfolks.

Agribusiness has been identified in the island region as a focal area for infrastructure support, trade promotion and investment. The island region is a major producer of sugar, accounting for two thirds of the country's total output. Complemented with over 12 milling facilities, distilleries and refineries, the regions' sugar industry has also diversified into various value-added products such as acetylene, which is used in heavy industries, as well as fertilizers, bio-plastics, ethanol, beauty products, rum, molasses and vinegar.

Another of its by-product, bagasse, is currently utilized by many milling facilities such as those from First Farmers Holdings, Hawaiian Philippine Co., Victorias Milling Co. and Universal Robina Corp.

The island is also at the forefront of organic agriculture. According to the Department of Agriculture's national organic agriculture program, over 16,000 hectares of land are already being utilized to produce organic products, from the famous Mt. Kanlaon coffee to gourmet rice, muscovite sugar, mango, papaya, squash fruit, lettuce, pork cuts and various herbs. To support the industry, the DA has earmarked P207 million, with P7 million already planned for production support services such as market development, training and education, and distribution of organic fertilizer as well as rice and vegetable seeds for lowland and upland areas in both regions.

The three day event will provide a venue for the biggest gathering of high level leaders of the local and international agribusiness and food sectors that will attend as participants or resource persons.

The Philippine Star. May 29, 2016. The Philippines.

Thousands to find Jobs on 122 Projects Nationwide this Year: MRRD Minister

Thousands of people would find jobs on 122 projects worth 434 million Afghanis to be executed across Afghanistan during this solar year, the Rural Rehabilitation and Development Minister said.



Mr. Nasir Ahmad Durrani said that the projects included the construction of retaining walls, canals, water-channels, bridges, water supply schemes and digging of wells. The schemes would be completed with financial support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), UNICE, SARC and government budget, the Minister said.

He said the projects would protect farm fields from floods and help improve Agriculture and provide clean drinking water for many families. Of the schemes, 90 projects were aimed to prevent floods in Balkh, Baghlan, Badakhshan, Ghor, Parwan, Bamyān, Takhar, Paktia, Faryab, Jawzjan, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Samangan, Kunar and Sar-i-Pul provinces. The water supply projects including digging of 54 wells with water pumps would be executed in Khost, Bamyān, Paktia, Kabul, Baghlan, Daikundi, Faryab, Takhar, Samangan, Parwan and Helmand provinces, Durrani added. In addition to benefiting thousands of people, the projects would also provide work opportunities for more than 250,000 people during the current year, he said, adding he had signed contracts of the schemes with private companies.

The Daily Outlook Afghanistan. April 11, 2016. Afghanistan.

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. Notes to Contributors is available on CIRDAP website: 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. For further details please contact the Editor, APJORD.

Calendar of CIRDAP Activities during July 2016 - March 2017

Date	Activities	Venue
16-20 August 2016	Retrospection of Rural Development in the SAARC Countries: A Basis for Transforming Rural Development	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham India
29 Aug - 02 Sept 2016	Training of Trainers on Agricultural Extension in Myanmar	Myanmar
26-28 October 2016	International Conference on Asian Food and Agribusiness Conference: Greening the Food Supply Chain, organized by CIRDAP in collaboration with APO (Japan), Ministry of Mangrove, R.L. and Ministry of Village, Disadvantaged Areas Development and Transmigration (MVDADT), Indonesia	Indonesia
1-10 November 2016	CIRDAP-NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Social Audit – The Indian Experience	NIRD&PR, Hyderabad India
7-11 November 2016	CIRDAP-APO (Japan) and NIRD-India Collaborative International Programme on Women on Productivity Tools and Techniques for Improving Productivity of Micro and Small Agro-Food Processing Business	India
28 November to 02 December 2016	International Programme on Agricultural Insurance Systems, organized by CIRDAP in collaboration with APO-Japan and DAR under Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development (BARBD)	Philippines
March 2017	CIRDAP-NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Human Resource Development for Rural Development	NIRD&PR, Hyderabad India

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